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PROSPERITY GOLD-COPPER MINE PROJECT
CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT REGISTRY \#09-05-44811
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FEDERAL REVIEW PANEL PUBLIC HEARING PURSUANT TO:

SECTION 34 OF THE CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ACT

## PROCEEDINGS AT HEARING

TOPIC-SPECIFIC SESSION
April 30, 2010
Volume 33
Pages 6730 to 7087

Held at:
Pioneer Complex
Room 119
351 Hodgson Road
Williams Lake, British Columbia

Mainland Reporting Services Inc. courtreporters@shawbiz.ca

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TOPIC 5: SOCIO-ECONOMICS (CONTINUED):

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Ms. Patt Larcombe ) Symbion Consultants
MININGWATCH CANADA EXPERT PANEL:
Ms. Joan Kuyek ) Formerly of MiningWatch
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FRIENDS OF NEMAIAH VALLEY EXPERT PANEL:
Dr. Marvin Shaffer ) Simon Fraser University
Mr. David Williams ) Friends of Nemaiah
TRANSPORT CANADA EXPERT PANEL:
Mr. John Mackie ) Transport Canada
Ms. Linda Sullivan ) Transport Canada
SHARE THE CARIBOO-CHILCOTIN RESOURCES SOCIETY:
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## APPEARANCES (cont'd)

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Mr. Jason Ryll ) Chamber of Commerce

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MR. MIKE BIRD ) Personal capacity

MS. VERHAEGHE ) Personal capacity
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Chief Marilyn Baptiste )
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| TOPIC 5: SOCIO-ECONOMICS | (CONTINUED) : |
| Ms. Patt Larcombe (Presentation) | ) Symbion Consultants (For TNG) |
| Mr. Steve Nicol (Presentation) | ) Lions Gate Consulting (For Taseko Mines) |
| Ms. Linda Sullivan (Questions) | ) Transport Canada |
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| Ms. Joan Kuyek (Presentation) | ) MiningWatch Canada <br> ) (Formerly of) |
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| Dr. Marvin Shaffer (Presentation) |  |
| Mr. Ramsay Hart (Questions) | ) MiningWatch Canada |
| Ms. Beth Bedard (Questions) | ) Esketemc First Nation |
| Mr. John Mackie (Presentation) | ) Transport Canada |
| Ms. Linda Sullivan (Presentation) | ) Transport Canada ) |
| Ms. Amy Crook (Questions) | ) Tsilhqot'in National <br> ) Government. |
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TOPIC 5: SOCIO-ECONOMICS (CONTINUED):

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```
                                    INDEX OF PROCEEDINGS
    DESCRIPTIONPAGE NO.
```

OPENING REMARKS BY THE CHAIRMAN

```6739
```

TOPIC 5: SOCIO-ECONOMICS (CONTINUED):
TSILHQOT'IN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT ..... 6740
EXPERT PANEL:
MS. PATT LARCOMBE - SYMBION CONSULTANTS
PRESENTATION BY TSILHQOT'IN NATIONAL ..... 6740

```GOVERNMENT, BY MS. PATT LARCOMBE:QUESTIONS OF TSILHQOT'IN NATIONAL6799GOVERNMENT BY TASEKO MINES LIMITED:
```

QUESTIONS OF TSILHQOT'IN NATIONAL ..... 6817 GOVERNMENT BY THE FEDERAL PANEL:
CONTINUED PRESENTATION BY TASEKO MINES ..... 6823
LIMITED ON TOPIC 5: SOCIO-ECONOMICS:
EXPERT PANEL:
MR. STEVE NICOL, LIONS GATE

```CONSULTING
```

PRESENTATION BY MR. STEVE NICOL: ..... 6823
QUESTIONS OF TASEKO MINES LIMITED BY ..... 6848

```TRANSPORT CANADA, BY MS. LINDA
SULLIVAN:
QUESTIONS OF TASEKO MINES LIMITED BY 6855
TSILHQOT'IN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT, BY
MR. TONY PEARSE:
QUESTIONS OF TASEKO MINES LIMITED BY6861
THE FEDERAL PANEL:
PRESENTATION BY MININGWATCH CANADA, BY 6868 MS. JOAN KUYEK:
```

```
QUESTIONS OF MININGWATCH CANADA BY
TASEKO MINES LIMITED:
QUESTIONS OF MININGWATCH CANADA BY
SHARE THE CARIBOO-CHILCOTIN RESOURCES
SOCIETY, BY MR. BILL CARRUTHERS:
QUESTIONS OF MININGWATCH CANADA BY THE 6909
FEDERAL PANEL:
PRESENTATION BY FRIENDS OF NEMAIAH
VALLEY:
EXPERT PANEL:
    DR. MARVIN SHAFFER, SIMON
    FRASER UNIVERSITY.
PRESENTATION BY DR. MARVIN SHAFFER: 6913
QUESTIONS OF FRIENDS OF THE NEMAIAH 6921
VALLEY, BY TASEKO MINES LIMITED:
QUESTIONS OF FRIENDS OF THE NEMAIAH 6927
VALLEY BY MININGWATCH CANADA, BY
MR. RAMSEY HART:
QUESTIONS OF FRIENDS OF NEMAIAH VALLEY 6928
BY ESKETEMC FIRST NATION, BY MS. BETH
BEDARD:
QUESTIONS BY THE FEDERAL PANEL: 6929
PRESENTATION BY TRANSPORT CANADA: 6933
EXPERT PANEL:
    MR. JOHN MACKIE
    MS. LINDA SULLIVAN
PRESENTATION BY TRANSPORT CANADA, BY
MR. JOHN MACKIE:
QUESTIONS OF TRANSPORT CANADA BY TASEKO 6964
MINES LIMITED, BY MR. BELL-IRVING:
QUESTIONS OF TRANSPORT CANADA BY THE
6 9 6 9
TSILHQOT'IN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT, BY
MS. AMY CROOK:
```

```
QUESTIONS OF TRANSPORT CANADA BY THE 6978
TSILHQOT'IN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT, BY
MR. TONY PEARSE:
```

QUESTIONS OF TRANSPORT CANADA BY THE 6981
XENI GWET'IN FIRST NATION, BY CHIEF
MARILYN BAPTISTE:
QUESTIONS OF TRANSPORT CANADA BY THE 6983
FEDERAL PANEL:
PRESENTATION BY SHARE THE 6990
CARIBOO-CHILCOTIN RESOURCES SOCIETY, BY
MR. BILL CARRUTHERS:
QUESTIONS OF SHARE THE
6998
CARIBOO-CHILCOTIN RESOURCES SOCIETY BY
THE XENI GWET'IN FIRST NATION, BY CHIEF
MARILYN BAPTISTE:
QUESTIONS OF SHARE THE
CARIBOO-CHILCOTIN RESOURCES SOCIETY BY
THE ESKETEMC FIRST NATION, BY MS. BETH
BEDARD :

PRESENTATION BY WILLIAMS LAKE AND DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE:

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MR. WALTER COBB
MR. JASON RYLL
PRESENTATION BY WILLIAMS LAKE AND 7005 DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, BY MR. WALTER COBB:

PRESENTATION BY WILLIAMS LAKE AND DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, BY MR. JASON RYLL:
(VIDEO PLAYED)
7006

QUESTIONS OF WILLIAMS LAKE AND DISTRICT
7009
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BY MININGWATCH
CANADA, BY MR. RAMSEY HART:

```
PRESENTATION BY MS. TITI KUNKEL: 7011
QUESTIONS OF MS. TITI KUNKEL BY SHARE 7024
THE CARIBOO-CHILCOTIN RESOURCES
SOCIETY, BY MR. BILL CARRUTHERS:
QUESTIONS OF MS. TITI KUNKEL BY THE 7025
FEDERAL PANEL:
QUESTIONS OF MS. TITI KUNKEL BY 7027
ESKETEMC FIRST NATION, BY MS. BETH
BEDARD:
PRESENTATION BY MR. MIKE BIRD: 7028
PRESENTATION BY MS. VERHAEGHE 7041
(ACCOMPANIED BY CHIEF FRANCIS LACEESE,
CHIEF MARILYN BAPTISTE, AND CHIEF JOE
ALPHONSE)
RESPONSE TO TOPIC-SPECIFIC SESSIONS BY 7058
TASEKO MINES LIMITED:
(CLOSING DRUMMING CEREMONY)}708
(PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED AT 7:48 P.M.)
(PROCEEDINGS TO RECONVENE ON SATURDAY,
MAY 1, 2010 AT 9:00 A.M., SAME
LOCATION)
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THE CHAIRMAN: Good morning, Ladies and Gentlemen, I would ask you to take your seats, please, and we'll reconvene the hearing.

## OPENING REMARKS BY THE CHAIRMAN:

THE CHAIRMAN: Good morning, Citizens of
Williams Lake, the Cariboo-Chilcotin Region, Ladies and Gentlemen, Chief Baptiste, Grand Chief Phillips, Former Chief William, any Elders who may be present, Members of the Tsilhqot'in First Nation, and the Secwepemc First Nation within whose traditional territory we're holding these hearings today, Members of the Secretariat, Taseko Mines Limited, welcome to our fifth day of topic-specific sessions, this one focusing on socio-economic issues.

We will begin shortly, but let me, first of all, thank the First Nations for the drumming ceremony and to remind everybody that we'll be closing the session as the end of the day with a drumming ceremony again in recognition of the traditional territory within which we're holding these hearings.

In terms of the order, we've had a number of changes and I appreciate the flexibility that Transport Canada and Taseko have shown to accommodate Patt Larcombe's presentation, and what we're proposing to do now is to have her present first of all, in
order that we can complete that presentation and have the opportunity for questioning both by Taseko and ourselves. It's very important in terms of fairness that we have that opportunity, so we have adjusted the schedule accordingly.

I understand, Ms. Larcombe, that you have to leave about maybe 10:30, 11:00, in that range; is that correct?

MS. LARCOMBE: (Not using microphone).
THE CHAIRMAN: Just for the record, around 11:00. So we'll be able to accommodate that $I$ think within that time slot, then, having moved ahead the start this morning as well to accommodate your schedule.

So, with that, we will proceed right away to have you come forward, please, and make your presentation. Thank you.

Good morning.
TOPIC 5: SOCIO-ECONOMICS (CONTINUED):
TSILHQOT'IN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT
EXPERT PANEL:
Ms. Patt Larcombe - Symbion Consultants
PRESENTATION BY TSILHQOT'IN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT, BY MS . LARCOMBE :

MS. LARCOMBE: Good morning, Panel, Taseko,

Williams Lake, my name is Patt Larcombe, that's L-A-R-C-O-M-B-E. I'm a partner in a firm called Symbion, S-Y-M-B-I-O-N, Consultants. I'm from Winnipeg, Manitoba.

My presentation today is on behalf of TNG.
THE CHAIRMAN: We haven't prescribed little headlights for times when the lights go off, but hopefully that helps better. Okay.

MS. LARCOMBE: So my presentation today is to summarize the evidence on current use and cultural values that was brought into evidence during the community hearings to describe the Project's effects on current use as well as on those cultural values, to present my conclusions regarding the efficacy of the mitigation measures that have been proposed by Taseko for current use and cultural values, and finally, to present my conclusions on the significance of residual impacts.

The name Nabas, I think as we've all discovered, has different geographic meanings depending on the speaker, so for the purposes of my presentation, I've taken the liberty of defining two geographic areas. One I'm going to be calling "Nabas central". And that means the Fish Creek watershed from the south end being Wasp Lake and the north end
being the confluence of Fish Creek into the Taseko River.

I'll explain what I'm calling "greater Nabas" in a little while.

The Panel heard from individuals in the Tsilhqot'in communities first hand about their traditional and current use of Nabas central. As you know, I was present during the Xeni Gwet'in hearings and I have reviewed the transcripts from the other community hearings.

What you heard at the community hearings is really just the tip of the iceberg. For two reasons:

First, the hearing process, I understand that, you know, that there was an opportunity for the Panel to hear first hand some of the evidence that was not in Taseko's Environmental Application, but it's a far cry from being a traditional use research methodology.

Now, I realize it wasn't meant to be, but you have to appreciate that what you heard was a small amount of information that's out there.

And the second reason is that, and I think you guys pointed, the Panel pointed this out themselves, it's a very unusual forum for Aboriginal People to present information, not only about current
use but particularly about spirituality. It's not a culturally appropriate forum for them to deliver that information. And I think the fact that some people did, despite their discomfort, share that information with you shows how important this place is to them. So the Panel at this point has been presented with both written and oral information. You have the documentation of the Rights and Title case. You have my submission on current use that was submitted in November of last year. So what I want to focus on today is the evidence that came through the hearing process.

And the reason that I want to synthesize that information is because, notwithstanding what everybody's said at the hearings, in each closing argument in the community hearings, Taseko persists in characterizing current use as something that happened in the past. And I want to impress upon the Panel that that's, that's not an accurate characterization.

So the evidence that I'm going to be reviewing right now is current use, and I mean current use as in yesterday, last month, last year. And that's not to suggest that that is how I view current use. And you've heard both from TNG's legal counsel and myself on what we think current use is, so I'm not going to belabour that point again.

And the last point I'd like to make is that none of the evidence that came through the community hearing process deviates in any way from any of the written submissions in the previous studies, the Cindy English study, the TNG study, the evidence that came through the Rights and Title case, there is a consistency in all of the information.

So current use and cultural heritage values at Nabas Central.

You heard from people of all ages. I think the youngest was 5 or 6 years old and the oldest was I believe late 80s.

And all of these people talked about how they still go to Nabas Central.

For example, Chief Myers told you that he still hunts in that area, Volume 17, page 2867.

Orry Hance said, "I hunt a lot around Fish Lake, still," Volume 15, page 2652.

Catherine Haller told you that she continues to go there. She hunts there. She fishes there and she gathers medicine there. Volume 15, page 2638.

Alex Lulua explained how there was, because of logging, much of the moose habitat had been destroyed in his traditional area and that Nabas and

Nabas Central is one of the few places left to get moose, Volume 13, page 2116.

Betty Lulua said she still goes there to go fishing and hunting and harvesting wild plants and gets medicines, Volume 16, page 2735.

James Lulua Junior, when asked, does he still go to Teztan Biny and Yanah Biny to fish, said yes, he goes to those lakes often to get his food fish, Volume 12, page 1812.

Former Chief Roger William fishes at Fish Lake. He's lived there, he continues to camp there. Volume 18, page 3198.

Edmond James Junior: "We hunt, we fish, we trap, we pick medicines and get clean drinking water and still go camping there." Volume 12, page 1899.

Geraldine William: "Our family still goes to the lake and fishes there," her written submission, document 1982.

Madaline Myers still goes to Teztan Biny to pick medicines every year. Volume 15, page 2566.

Alex Lulua, again, picks Labrador tea at Teztan Biny, says it's one of the last few places he can go to to harvest pine mushrooms and says that the pine pitch is particularly good there because of the wetlands. Volume 13, page 2126 through 2128.

James Lulua Senior says: "I've lived in Xeni since 1969 and to this day my family goes up to Teztan Biny to pick tea every year and also other medicines." Volume 14, page 2412.

Miss Hughson, the nurse at Xeni Gwet'in, told you that in the last two years that she's been working for that community that their Medicine Camp staff go there every year to pick medicines. Volume 13, page 2066 .

A number of people talked to you about picking medicine plants in Nabas Central, explaining that, because that area has not been logged, because it's at a higher elevation, that the medicines there have greater powers.

There was a lot more evidence in the transcripts, but I just wanted to recite this to remind everybody that the Tsilhqot'in are using this place today.

They are also still using this place for grazing their cattle.

You heard from Dinah and James Lulua Senior, they continue to take their cattle to Nabas every year for grazing purposes.

Nabas Central is a cultural hub for the Tsilhqot'in People. Members from all of the

Tsilhqot'in communities have family connections to the generations that have lived there permanently and seasonally in the past.

They have first-hand knowledge of the names of the parents, the grandparents and the great-grandparents who have lived in this Nabas area. They all know, regardless of age, who those people were and what they have done in those lands.

It's because of this ancestral and historic and continuing cultural connection to Nabas Central that makes this a cultural hub for the Tsilhqot'in People.

It's been called their homeland and their backyard. Both Bonnie Myers and Delia William referred to it as their "homeland". Document number 2012 in Volume 12, page 1901.

Loretta William told you that: "Fish Lake and Nabas may just seem like a place in the middle of nowhere, but to us Tsilhqot'in, it's our homeland, it's our backyard." Volume 12, page 1889.

Alice William said: "What does Teztan mean to us? It's like being asked 'What does the Earth mean to you'." She said Teztan and Yanah Biny as well as Onion Lake and other areas within the greater Nabas area are, "The Earth to the Tsilhqot'in." Exhibit 52.

Geraldine Williams said Nabas and Teztan Biny is her family's homeland. Document 1982.

Many Tsilhqot'in People continue to go to Nabas Central to promote their cultural continuity and to retain their identity. It's a place where intergenerational transmission occurs. And I'm referring to the teaching and sharing of traditional knowledge and traditional skills.

Many people told the Panel Teztan Biny is an important teaching place.

For example, Marvin Williams said, today he: "Takes the children and the grandchildren to Fish Lake teaching the children fishing. The children love it, they love going up there." Volume 14, page 2433.

Chief Alphonse said: "You want your children to grow up in nature, you bring them to Fish Lake. You want them to become fishermen, you bring them to Fish Lake. They're guaranteed they'll catch a fish." Volume 19, page 3296.

Sherry Hughson, the nurse at Xeni Gwet'in, told you that for at least the last two years, the daycare program has been using Teztan Biny as a teaching place. They gather the children and Elders and go there to teach them.

Susie Setah, who is with the Charlene William

Daycare told you in great detail about the daycare program and how important Teztan Biny is to the teaching of traditional skills. Volume 13, page 2182.

In addition to the intergenerational transmission of traditional knowledge and traditional skills, Nabas is also a teaching place for transmission of history, ancestry, and culture.

Bonnie Myers said: "Fish Lake offers a luxurious view, relaxation, freedom, a place where our people can teach our children and future generations our culture, our traditions, our values and our legends.

You have listened to the history of the Tsilhqot'in People about their connection to Fish Lake, so you understand why we value this place." Document 2012.

James Lulua Senior told you: "We do have big connections with the nature at Teztan Biny. We have Elders Gatherings and we work with the youth about the values of our culture there." Volume 14, page 2413.

Nabas Central is also a place for family and social gatherings. Many people told you they take their families to Teztan Biny to camp, to fish, and to recreate.

Catherine Haller told you about the Elder
gatherings there, food gathering ceremonies, the youth and the bathing ceremonies that occur there. She said: "It's important to teach the youth parenting skills and have gatherings in the places where the ancestors have lived." Volume 15, page 2637.

Alex Lulua also mentioned other gatherings, weddings, anniversaries, birthday parties, and other types of youth gatherings occur at Teztan Biny, Volume 13, page 2127.

Many people during the community hearings shared with you their values in terms of what is sacred. In general, the Tsilhqot'in People told you their land, the water, the mountains, the animals, the fish, the plants, everything is sacred.

And at this, I would like to remind the Panel that the Guidelines specifically say that, "Spiritual sites must be considered a traditional use with significance to Aboriginal People".

Evidence regarding the sacredness of Nabas Central included a place where the ancestors live.

Alice William talked about the spirits of the ancestors still being around Teztan Biny settlement area and she shared with you that she'd had a vision there as a young woman. Exhibit 52.

Chief Guichon told you that the Tsilhqot'in
have a strong spiritual connection to Teztan Biny and precisely it's because of the connection with the ancestors that have lived there. Volume 1, page 164.

Catherine Haller explained how the people get more help from their ancestors when they pray where their ancestors used to live. She said: "We understand better who we are as Tsilhqot'in People, where we come from, our history, our situation, when we go to where the ancestors have lived." Volume 15, page 2637.

You heard from many Tsilhqot'in People of all ages in all communities that they know of the ancestral evidence that is at Teztan Biny. They know where the food caches are. They know where the quiggly holes are. They know of all these things and they know of the cremation sites.

You also heard that Nabas Central has some burial sites.

Orry Hance told you that his mother, when she was 98 years old, told him there was a grave right where the Teztan Biny campground is located. Volume 15, page 2651.

Alice William explained that there's unmarked graves out on the land. Many of the people who perished during the smallpox epidemic died out on the
land there. She knows of at least two graves in Bulyan Meadows. Exhibit 52.

Christine Cooper relating what Celia Quilt had told her, apparently Celia Quilt had six of her siblings buried in the meadows at Yanah Biny, and she personally herself had buried three of her own children there as well. Volume 20, page 3543.

You also heard that Nabas Central is a sacred place. It's a place where people go to obtain or to revitalize and get spiritual guidance and powers.

Both Catherine Haller and Loretta William shared with you that they had their spiritual experiences right at Teztan Biny.

Catherine Haller told you that Teztan Biny is just like an Elder sitting there and the traditional woman she saw in her vision is still seated at that island. She said people go there to do their ceremonies, their prayers, have all-night sweats and medicine baths. Volume 15, page 2643.

Alice William also shared she had a vision at Yanah Biny, Exhibit 52.

Linda Smith reported to you: "Fish Lake is a spiritual sanctuary, a spiritual centre of the Tsilhqot'in." Her written submission, March 24 th, 2010.

Chief Joe Alphonse talked about Tsilhqot'in healers and how they continually go back to Teztan Biny for cleansing, for purification and healing purposes themselves. Volume 19, page 3316.

He also said that Teztan Biny was a place where people go for their vision quests. Volume 19, page 3297.

He described this as "a very powerful place" and he also mentioned the cultural importance of finding the peace pipe. Volume 19, page 3346.

Both Roger William and Chief Myers told you about Teztan Biny being an important site for youth puberty ceremonies. Volume 18, page 3196 and Volume 17, page 2866.

Betty Lulua explained that Teztan Biny is sacred and that all the areas around Ts'il?os, which is the heartbeat of the land, it's sacred ground, Volume 16, page 2734.

A few people told you the connection between Teztan Biny and Ts'il?os.

They said that the mine going in there would anger the mountain.

For example, David Setah said that Ts'il?os has already given a warning sign regarding the mine. Volume 12, page 1877.

Sonny Lulua said if the mine were to proceed at Nabas, that Ts'yl-os would do a lot of damage by changing the weather. Volume 16, page 2719.

I'm now going to summarize some of the evidence about what I call Nabas, Greater Nabas. And what I mean by Greater Nabas is the area including Anvil Mountain, the Red Mountains, North Taseko Lake, particularly the outlet, Nadilinyex, and Onion Lake.

James Lulua Junior told you that he goes up to the Red Mountain every fall to go deer hunting and he's been doing this for as long as he can remember. Volume 12, page 1808.

Orry Hance said he's been hunting around the Anvil Mountain area since 1972 and he goes there every year to hunt deer and moose. Volume 15, page 2652.

Sonny Lulua said he takes his grandchildren there hunting every year to Anvil Mountain and Red Mountains. Volume 16, page 2719.

Betty Lulua told you she goes to Red Mountain to hunt and to harvest grouse. Volume 16, page 2735.

Agnes Haller told you she goes to the Red Mountains regularly and, for her, it's like her family's Hawaii. It's a place where they relax and they keep their spiritual energy. Volume 16, page 2676.

Renee Williams says she hunts and camps throughout this area regularly. Volume 5, page 877. Alex Lulua told you that Onion Lake is his food fishing lake, Volume 13, page 2158.

Renee William mentioned that he fishes at Onion Lake and both in the Taseko River. Volume 5, page 877.

Betty Lulua told you the Taseko Lake and the narrows are good places for fishing, hunting and picking berries. Volume 16, page 2735.

I went through the transcripts and what I found was that a lot of people hadn't specifically mentioned fishing at Onion Lake or at the outlet of Taseko Lake during the hearings. And I'm not surprised by this, because I think people were very focused on telling you about their traditional use and values, specifically at Teztan Biny, because that's the area they see as most at risk.

However, there was substantial number of people expressed concern about the contaminants reaching Onion Lake. And I think we can infer from this that this is a lake that they fish in. And the Current Use Submission based on Cindy English's work and the TNG's 2001 Study confirms that Onion Lake is used for food fishing.

Agnes Haller talked about a situation where her mother had been ill and they'd gone up to Red Mountain and that once her mother was able to pick the medicines that are there, she felt better. She explained that, because of the development around the community of Stone, they feel that their medicines there are contaminated. But when you go to the mountains around Teztan Biny, it's healthier and they have more strength there. Volume 15, page 2643.

Betty Lulua told you she goes to the Red Mountains to pick berries and medicines all the time. Volume 16, page 2735.

Madaline Myers also said she picks regularly at Taseko Lake. Volume 15, page 2565.

Greater Nabas is also used as a teaching area for children. Suzie Setah of the Charlene William Daycare explained to you in detail to you how they take the children out there yearly and the activities that they do. Volume 13, page 2182.

You also heard a lot of people in all the Tsilhqot'in communities talk about the salmon fishery. They told you how important the salmon are to them.

In recent times, the harvest has varied quite a lot. And just to illustrate this, between the years of 2001 and 2008, the salmon harvest has ranged from a
high of 25,000 to 30,000 salmon per year. And in a low year, 9,000 to 13,000.

So that's a huge variation. And I'll get to why that's important shortly.

It's not surprising that you heard from Shari Hughson in Xeni Gwet'in that families in that community regularly consume 200 salmon a year. In short, salmon are critical to the Tsilhqot'in.

Many people told you about the decline in the salmon runs lately and how concerned they are about their future.

Shawnee Palmantier told you: "Our salmon is in serious decline, so much so that the Cohen Commission has been established to conduct an inquiry on the loss of the sockeye in the Fraser River." Volume 18, page 3128.

So, in short, what is the importance of Nabas to the Tsilhqot'in?

What all of the studies and what all of the evidence during the community hearings is, it's valued and used by families from all communities to this day.

People have a strong historic and ancestral connection to this place.

It's highly accessible, particularly to the Xeni Gwet'in and Stone families.

It's one of the last intact and relatively undisturbed part of the territory.

Tammy Haller said: "Nabas is our last area that is the most untouched by modern society, which brings us memories of what it must have been like before the Europeans changed us." Volume 16, page 2703.

Nabas is a rich and diverse area and it supports a multitude of traditional activities. People go there and they do a number of activities simultaneously.

They go there to socialize, to practice and enjoy their culture, to relax, and to contribute to their livelihood through the harvesting of foods.

You've heard that the trout in the Fish Lake watershed is important to the Tsilhqot'in People, especially when the salmon runs are low.

You've been told that salmon harvesting takes place in July through September, and the bulk of the salmon is eaten throughout the winter.

Teztan Biny is accessible by vehicle, typically from early May. It's also accessible during the winter by skidoo. And fishing in this watershed both when the salmon are not running, as well as during the wintertime.

Just earlier I mentioned that the salmon run can be quite variable, going from 30,000 fish a year down to 10. In a poor year, lakes like Teztan Biny become critical for fish, for food. I'm not suggesting that this lake contributes 100 percent, but it is an important contributor.

Chief Joe Alphonse said: "Our People are dependent on salmon, they are dependent on fish. And in the event that there were years when they would be slow, a slow odd year where fish would not come back in abundance...", and he's talking about salmon, he said, "... people would go back to the lakes for trout. So they always need to know that there's going to be healthy lake trout in their territory. In a difficult year, some years you might loose fish, even your strong stock in some of these lakes." He's talking about the lake fish. And he explained how the Tsilhqot'in did their own fish stocking long before non-Aboriginal People were doing these things. Volume 19, page 3297.

Shari Hughson also confirmed that, when the salmon run is low, that the people in Xeni Gwet'in start going to the lakes to make up the difference with salmon.

So Nabas contributes to the overall
sustainability of the mixed subsistence economy and lifestyle for the Xeni Gwet'in as well as the other Tsilhqot'in communities. It provides moose, deer, upland and waterfowl birds, small animals, fish, and a diversity of plants and medicines.

And additionally, it supports some Xeni Gwet'in families through its use as a grazing area. It's incredibly important because it's accessible, it's rich, it's diverse, and it's intact.

Nabas also contributes greatly to the spiritual health and social welfare of the Tsilhqot'in People. They go there precisely because of the ancestral and spiritual connection they have to this place, and because it's a place where they can teach and share and promote the continuity of their culture.

Before I start talking about the impacts of the proposed mine, I'd like to put some things in context.

You heard from a lot of people about the encroachments and the impacts of previous and historic events have had on the culture and on the land and on the resources.

A lot of people shared experiences such as the government giving the title of the Tsilhqot'in lands to non-Tsilhqot'in People. And this started in
the 1860s. How ranching, involving the clearing of forests and the raising of fences and grazing leases and new roads destroyed ceremonial places, overgrazing and ground compaction destroyed medicinal plants. How logging and clearcuts and access roads have encroached on their territory. How Provincial facilities, parks, and campgrounds, the government's issuing of permits and licences to third parties such as outfitters and tourism, non-Tsilhqot'in Peoples' use of their land, hunting and fishing and resources, their resources, use of ATVs and motorcycles and bicycles, and most recently, the serious declines in the salmon runs, all of these activities have reduced their land base and the resources that are available to them.

As Roger William put it: "Vast areas of our territories have been obliterated beyond recognition by logging, our rights to fish and hunt have been under constant harassment for generation, and our culture is under constant assault. And now we face the proposed destruction of one of the last pristine cultural and spiritual centres of the Tsilhqot'in People." Document 947, page 23.

During the community hearings you also heard from many people about the colonization events and how that has impacted the culture.

People talked about the Residential School experience. They talked about how government regulations restricted their ability to hunt and fish.

They talked about how private property ownership and "no trespassing" signs affected their ability on the land.

They talked about the Indian Act and the creation of Reserves and what this did to their culture.

They talked about the church and how that influenced their culture.

And they talked about the influx of non-Tsilhqot'in People into their territory.

All of these individually and in combination have adversely impacted on their culture, social, health, well-being, and it's caused emotional issues such as fear and anger and shame and depression. And these have manifested into problems such as addictions and withdrawal and mental and physical health problems.

You were also informed by many people during the hearings why the Tsilhqot'in People don't trust government and why they don't trust industry.

Some of the reasons that were cited the most often included:

The 1850s Gold Rush which brought so many people into Tsilhqot'in territory and brought with them disease;

The smallpox epidemic in 1862/'63, which decimated their population.

And you heard from many people they believe their infection was on purpose through the giving of infected blankets;

You heard that these factors, along with the prospect of a road being built from the coastline, resulted in the 1864 War;

You heard many people talk about the hanging of their leaders and the trickery that was involved that resulted in their hanging;

In more recent times, you've heard about the poor relationship they have had with the Ministry of Forestry and how they have had to resort to roadblocks to prevent logging in their territory;

You heard people talk about the failure of the government to negotiate the accommodation and reconciliation agreements recommended by Judge Vickers from the Rights and Title case;

And most recently, you heard about how they felt about the Joint Panel Review falling through and how they felt that this was just yet another act of
causing distrust to both government and industry.
You also heard that the Tsilhqot'in communities are in a fragile state of recovery and that they have many cultural protection and promotion efforts in place.

You've heard that the Tsilhqot'in communities are proactively engaged in programs and initiatives to teach their children their language, traditional values, knowledge and skills. And also of programs to help adults with their healing processes.

You've heard that the mine represents an enormous cultural affront to them and you've heard people speak with passion about how retaining every remaining piece of land, every sacred place, every opportunity to express their culture and their tradition, is critical to their recovery.

You've also heard people speak with a lot of fear and a lot of anger in their voice.

As Shari Hughson put it: "Anything that is allowed to occur, such as a mine, that doesn't fit into Xeni Gwet'in's plan for recovery will probably damage the progress they have made." Volume 13, page 2054.

You heard from Shari Hughson that Xeni Gwet'in is a model First Nation community. She told
you that Xeni has been more successful than most First Nations in their recovery efforts. She attributed this to two things: One, the remoteness from non-Tsilhqot'in culture, and how they have only been influenced by non-Tsilhqot'in culture and modern conveniences for only about 30 years.

But she also suggested that their recovery progress success is in large part to their inherent strength in the community in terms of their spirit and their support for one another and their pride in their land.

She also said that the people of Xeni Gwet'in are physically healthier than most First Nation communities and she talked about how the indicators of physical health, such as diabetes, obesity, heart disease are lower there.

She also talked about the lower rates of addiction issues and crime.

And she attributes this better physical health and mental health condition in the community to their reliance on traditional activities and the high rate of country food consumption.

She talked about Xeni has a plan for food self-sufficiency which would see 75 percent of their diet coming from locally grown or harvested foods.

She sees this plan as assisting the community in a full recovery.

And she'd mentioned that this plan has been recognized as being unique by the First Nations Health Council as one of the better or best practices approaches they have seen.

You heard a lot of people talk during the community hearings about their belief systems with respect to the environment and environmental protection.

You heard that the belief system is that you don't put anything in the water, the water is sacred.

An Anaham Elder, Marie Dick said:
"We were always taught right from a very young age to never contaminate the water, never put anything into it, don't put any fur of the animals, don't put objects, any items, anything, do not contaminate the water. We are always taught that. We are going to live by the water. We are going to live by the fish and the animals. And that was always taught, to be respectful around waters, lakes, streams, rivers, creeks. And I've always known that to be the way. It is that we live by the water. We live by the land." Volume 20, page 3519.

You heard many people talk about it being
their responsibility, regardless of their age, to protect the environment for the next generations.

To respect Mother Earth.
Shyanne Quilt from the Grades 5, 6, 7 class that gave a presentation in Stone said:
"Fish Lake is more than just a lake. It's part of our culture. Our Elders and our ancestors have passed their responsibility to protect our lands and the way of life on to us." Volume 16, page 2698.

The Tsilhqot'in People don't just -- they walk their talk. They have instituted many different formal protection plans and actions. The Aboriginal Wilderness Reserve, the Nemiah Declaration. They have engaged in roadblocks to prevent logging. They spent 20 years preparing and participating in their Rights and Title case. They developed Access Management Plans and so forth. They walk their talk.

The Tsilhqot'in also have plans for their territory. And some of these would be in conflict with mine development. People talked about tourism and eco-tourism and healing facility plans. For example, Linda Smith told you:
"Teztan Biny has the potential of becoming the hub for Tsilhqot'in cultural interpretive site for local schools in the Thompson River University for its

First Nation courses."
She said: "The site is ideal for the creation of a pre-1846 typical Tsilhqot'in village with pit houses, seasonal activities, recreation, eco-tourism, and a health resort, or healing centre, for the revitalization of Tsilhqot'in puberty rituals, because of the safety features of the island and the pristine nature that lends itself to Tsilhqot'in spirituality."

Her written presentation, March 24th, 2010. Alice William told you of her plans to actually go back and live at Nabas.

She said:
"We Tsilhqot'ins are ready to move forward now. There are a few of us here in Xeni and Stone who want to go back to Teztan Biny and Nabas to start businesses. Jimmy Lulua is looking after the recreation for the youth in Xeni and he wants to build a camp at Teztan Biny for them." Exhibit 52.

I've mentioned the Xeni Gwet'in have a food self-sufficiency plan. And Nabas contributes to that plan.

You heard people talk about the bioenergy plant, the Chilko River Demonstration Project, sustainable forestry ventures, stewardship plans.

The Tsilhqot'in have many plans for their territory.

So I'm now going to talk about what are the impacts.

First, the Project will destroy the food harvesting utility of Nabas Central. Nabas Central will not look like Nabas Central any more. The watershed will cease to function in natural capacity. There'll be holes in the ground. There'll be a hotel there. And the animals won't be there anymore. They will be displaced. The fish won't be there anymore. There'll be no lake, no fish bearing lake, at least during the operation phase.

So not only are the animals and the plants and the fish displaced, but so are the Tsilhqot'in People. They will be displaced from the entire footprint of the mine. During the construction phase, through the operation phase, and likely beyond and permanently.

Given the strong feelings that the Tsilhqot'in People have about the spirituality of Nabas, and their concerns about contaminants, suggest to me they will never return there.

Cecil Grinder said:
"The wildlife, the fish, the birds, trees,
plants and berries and so forth are a major source of our food diet. The majority of the Tsilhqot'in people depend on this food source.

We as Tsilhqot'in People are teaching our young ones as we were taught by our Elders and people that passed on. If Taseko Mine goes in, more of our food sources are going to be gone."

Volume 20, page 3456.
Taseko has indicated that they will have the Province designate an area within and around the proposed mine site as a no hunting zone. We don't know what the extent of that no hunting zone is going to be. So I can't really comment on how much of Nabas the Tsilhqot'in People will become alienated from.

However, it may be a moot point, given that so many people have said they are going to avoid Nabas anyways because of their contaminant concerns.

I just want to talk briefly about cattle grazing, because the Solomon family, who gave evidence to you in Xeni Gwet'in, hold the grazing rights to the Bulyan and Onion Lake area. And I'm just showing a map of where that grazing lease is.

Their lease doesn't show up in the Ministry of Forestry database because that's not who their lease is with. Since 1991, the Solomon family have
been paying range fees to Xeni Gwet'in who then pays the Nemiah Valley Stockman's Association.

On the map you can see that their grazing lease, the proposed mine site sits right in the middle of their grazing lease.

I spoke to the Luluas to ask them, within that grazing lease area, where do their cattle actually graze.

And the area that's tinted in green is based on the verbal description that they gave me.

So you can see that, while the grazing lease -- there's a lot of area that's not tinted green. The primary grazing area is in the footprint and maximum disturbance area of the proposed mine.

They graze about 40 head of cattle in this area from May to October each year. The cattle largely use Onion Lake, Teztan Biny, and Yanah Biny areas. And in the late fall, they make their way towards the 4500 Road and then to Cone Hill, which is outside the grazing lease area here.

The second major impact: Loss of tangible and intangible cultural heritage sites and values.

You've been told that there's at least 11 burial sites in the area that will either be flooded by the tailings pond or become part of the
mine infrastructure. The exact locations of these sites have not yet been determined.

Yesterday, in Taseko's presentation on archeology, there were 79 sites that have protected status under the Provincial legislation.

I think the question that Roger William was trying to get at yesterday was, when he asked, "Who does the Act protect these sites for?" And I think what he was trying to get at was that the Act protects sites that the scientific community has an interest in. It's not culturally based. And he was also getting at was that, unless there's physical evidence, physical archaeological evidence, areas don't get protected. Spiritual ceremony sites or places where people have vision quests don't leave physical evidence. Places where puberty rights occur don't leave physical evidence. Often cremation sites don't leave physical evidence. But the Tsilhqot'in People know where these places are. And these sites are not even recognized under the legislation.

We heard that, because the cabins and the infrastructure at Yanah Biny post date 1846, they don't receive automatic protection under the Act. And Terra Archeology yesterday explained that it's not impossible to get protection for post-1846, but he
wasn't sure if it had ever been done. So while the cabins that are at Yanah Biny aren't of interest to the scientific community, they have an enormous cultural value to the Tsilhqot'in people and they are not going to be protected.

The entire landscape of the proposed mine site is going to be destroyed, flooded or otherwise permanently altered, at least for 20 years and possibly longer.

And the Tsilhqot'in will be displaced from this area. That's an entire generation.

And if Taseko decides to go with a 33-year mine life, we could be talking two generations.

Known archeological sites are going to be removed or somehow protected, while other places will just simply be lost. The spiritual aspects of Nabas Central are place and context specific. To remove these ancient and historic reminders of those ancestors, to put them in a box and catalogue them and put them in a museum somewhere, is not protection, in their view.

What it does is just disconnect them.
Chief, and I hope I'm not mispronouncing the Chief's name wrong, Guichon, said:
"Many of my Elders, who are my connection to
my culture and my spiritual values, are passing on. We as First Nations struggle every day to keep our identity and our cultural values. In losing Elders, we lose important traditional knowledge about the culture and our connection to the land. Once the last of our Elders have passed on, what do we have left to carry out our cultural beliefs? And more importantly, what do we have left to teach our children? What is left is the land itself, the water, the trees, the fish, the animals, and the stories that connect them. This is why we are so strongly opposed to the destruction of important lakes such as Teztan Biny, as it represents our spiritual and cultural connection to our ancestors."

Volume 1, page 164.
Linda Smith told you, regarding the archaeological sites at Teztan Biny:
"Traditional knowledge is very important to the Tsilhqot'in. In general, knowledge aids in recapturing and establishing pride in one's heritage. It is healing and empowering. It provides a sense of belonging to the ancestors, the land, and one's culture. It enhances connection to other people." March 24 th, 2010 written submission.

The proposed mining Project will have impacts
beyond Nabas Central. You heard from so many people during the community hearings about their concerns about contamination. And many people told you just simply they are going to quit harvesting in the area because they are concerned.

Orry Hance said:
"I wouldn't want to eat moose and deer if it comes around Fish Lake because there'll be drinking that water. And even animals depend on water and even the people depend on the water, too."

Volume 15, page 2650.
Alex Lulua said: "And I don't know if I'll be hunting any more if those animals get into the tailings pond or that tailings pond does leak and go down the stream into the rivers. Even Big Onion Lake and Small Onion Lake will be destroyed when this mine goes through, because Onion Lake has underwater springs that feed that lake and when that tailing water leaks, it's going to go straight into those lakes. And because of that, I won't even want to fish there anymore."

Volume 13, page 2124.
He continues:
"Regarding hunting around Greater Nabas, actually, I know I won't eat the animals because I
know it's going to change. They are going to be eating all that contaminated grass, the food, drinking water contaminated, water from all that stuff, and dealing with all that dust that goes into their area, at Vick's mountain, Red Mountain, and Anvil Mountain, all those areas. No, no, I won't."

Volume 13, page 2155.
James Lulua Junior said:
"And I'm just very worried that if that mine does go in, like, if you can see all the trees and vegetation that all the deer live on in the mountains area, and with the dust and everything, and how's that going to affect the trees and all the vegetation the deer are going to be living on? We won't be able to eat it if that happens."

Volume 12, page 1805.
Rachael Lulua said:
"Would you destroy our way of life by contaminating the soil and underground watersheds, contaminating the wildlife habitat and plants, and the fresh air that we breathe? The fish and the wild game will be contaminated by the chemicals which will make us sick if we eat them. You are not destroying just one lake, you're actually destroying all the lakes around us."

Document 2013.
Agnes Haller echoed this:
"All our medicines, our wild animals, our fish, our water, are going to be contaminated." Volume 16, page 2689.

Marlene Hink:
"We say 'no' to mining at Fish Lake because it affects our territorial freshwater which will destroy our fish, animal, and back to us who have eaten this food since the Ice Age. All the streams are connected on the surface and underground. The lakes and surface water will be relocated but how will the mine affect the underground water? And that's where I feel that the chemicals are going to be transported to our territory and affect our wildlife, our People, our livestock and our traditional berries."

Volume 16, page 2766.
Elder Mabel Solomon, as translated by her daughter Dinah Lulua, and this is Mabel Solomon who has the grazing lease in the area, said:
"I do not want mining to occur within my grazing area. Our cattle will be ingesting contaminants and drinking toxic water. Where else can I range my cattle?"

Volume 14, page 2423.
Shari Hughson, the nurse at Xeni Gwet'in: "If the mine proceeds, the perception of contamination of the water, land, animals and plants, is all pervasive. My experience is we will not be able to change this perception even if it isn't true. This factor alone will cause people to stop eating traditional food."

Document 1994.
She continues:
"Their spiritual belief, their religion is that everything in nature is connected. Therefore, if you destroy and contaminate Fish Lake, you contaminate all rivers, streams and lakes in their territory. They also believe that nature has a ripple effect, similar to throwing a stone in a lake. The circle of waves spread throughout the whole lake and on to the shore. Therefore, if you destroy or contaminate the land in the Fish Lake valley, the impact is felt by the land, animals, birds and plants throughout a much larger area which encompasses their current territory. They believe that the interconnectedness of the land and all living things means you cannot contaminate one area without harming all areas.

Therefore, their belief system tells them
that contamination of Fish Lake is contamination of the majority of their territory."

Document 2037.
This fear of contamination, regardless of what scientific studies or monitoring are done, it manifests in part by First Nations People just simply avoiding harvesting foods and resources near development projects.

Dr. Alleyne of Health Canada, who spoke at the first week of hearings, said in his presentation:
"I have seen in other communities where there's such a level of perception that the food source was contaminated, that they would totally avoid foods from a certain area."

He said:
"Coastal First Nations, who rely quite heavily on salmon, if there's industrial activity close by, they may suspect that it would be contaminated from that. And it's not uncommon for First Nations to totally avoid harvesting from areas that they suspect."

Volume 5, page 704.
This has also been my professional observation. For example, the Cree communities I've worked with in northern Manitoba have avoided eating
fish in waters affected by hydroelectric development for fear of mercury. Even when scientific tests have been done, both on fish and on humans, and they are told there's no problem with the fish, they still won't eat the fish. This has occurred in James Bay Cree territory as well.

Many people expressed concern that the waters of the Taseko and Chilko and Chilcotin River would be contaminated by the mine. And there was some that said they'd be scared to eat the salmon from those waters.

Stanley Stump said:
"The animals that come to drink in the Taseko River are very important to us. And if there's leaching from the holding pond at Fish Lake, rest assured, every animal down the river will be contaminated, every fish down river will be contaminated. Even the fish that are in the Chilko Lake travel down as far Taseko River, they will be contaminated. Every living creature that walks the Taseko River to have something to drink will become at risk.

We as Tsilhqot'in people eat a lot of the animals that go there, the deer, the moose, so we are at risk."

Volume 19, page 3365.
Susan Alphonse said:
"The water, we use that as a medicine. This Tsilhqot'in river here that's running right over here, just a little ways from us..."" she said, "... they use it, they drink it, they bathe in it, they use it for medicine, they fish there." She said: "If the mine comes in, it's all going to get wrecked. We won't be able to drink it, we won't be able to use it as our medicine. It's not going to be pure anymore. And we won't be able to bathe in it."

Volume 19, page 3411.
Theresa Stump:
"If the mine goes through, I don't think I'll be harvesting salmon anymore for health reasons. I won't be consuming contaminated salmon."

Document 2056.
Both Taseko and Transport Canada have suggested improving access to Prosperity Lake and possibly other lakes as part of the Fish Compensation Plan, and in the case of Transport Canada, to mitigate the navigation losses in the Fish Creek waterway.

Any time new access routes come in to First Nation territory or access improvements are made, it does increase use. This is only going to add to the problems of encroachment into the Tsilhqot'in area of use.

Roger William explained to you that the transmission line would be akin to building a road and it would result in the opening up of much of the Tsilhqot'in territory to other hunters. Volume 18, page 3213.

Regarding health impacts.
Shari Hughson, the nurse at Xeni Gwet'in, gave you an extremely detailed presentation on how she feels the proposed mine would impact on the health and well-being of the members of the Xeni Gwet'in community. I'm not going to reread her presentation. It speaks very well for itself. But just to review.

She talked about just the act of approving a mine, this mine, would start to have health impacts on people, before the first shovel goes into the ground, she talked about the impacts it was going to have on people.

She talked about the health impacts and mental health impacts that occur when people lose faith in the safety of their food sources.

And she talked about the physical health impacts, emotional impacts, and behavioural reactions, when people have fears of contamination.

She talked about the impact that the proposed mine would have on that community's plan for food self-sufficiency.

It was her opinion that, if the mine goes in, they will not achieve that goal.

She talked about the overall decline in the community's well-being. She explained that the engagement of people in traditional activities promotes physical health and the consumption of country foods or homegrown foods, promotes a healthy diet.

She reported to you that if the mine were to proceed, it would result in significant feelings of loss and create emotional challenges for that community.

She told you that the physical health conditions in the community would deteriorate, citing increases in diabetes, body mass index, cholesterol levels, blood pressure levels.

She also predicts, if the mine is approved, that the incidence of depressive orders, the incidence of addiction and so on, will increase.

Even Dr. Alleyne of Health Canada said at the public hearing:
"Certainly the perception of health risks,
just a perception can create adverse health impacts if people start avoiding perfectly safe food."

Volume 5, page 696.
I would like to clarify something about what Health Canada was making comments on at the public hearing here in Williams Lake at the start of the process.

Their comment that the mine proposes no health risk was based strictly in the context of contaminant risk.

When I reviewed the transcripts, I note that Taseko, in their closing comments at the end of each community hearing said, our studies say that there won't be any contaminants, there won't be any health risks and Health Canada says there won't be any health risks.

And I think that wasn't in context.
What Health Canada said was that assuming that Taseko's contaminant analysis and modelling exercises are correct and assuming that the consumption patterns, which were based using a proxy in other First Nation, were accurate, then the contaminant risk would be low.

But Health Canada wasn't commenting on any of the other well-being indices. And so to make a
blanket statement that Health Canada says this Project is healthy or won't cause any health impacts is not telling the whole story.

I have to say I was really disappointed in Health Canada's presentation.

The same agency, speaking before the
Mackenzie Valley Pipeline Panel said:
"An increase in the loss of land and culture are significant contributors to poor health status. Evidence indicates that cultural and social impacts are long-term impacts deeply affecting community and individual identity, self-esteem and well-being.

The evidence also shows that increased levels of stress and frustration related to loss of culture or land weakened people's resilience and their ability to cope and increased morbidity and mortality rates."

And that was by Dr. Solange van Kemenade, with the Health Canada Environmental Health Assessment Services, in a presentation given to the Mackenzie Valley Pipeline in February of 2007.

There's also economic impacts associated with displacement from traditional territory and avoidance of traditional territory.

It costs more money to go further afield, if that's even possible, or you have to spend more time
doing the same thing.
These are out-of-pocket cash impacts.
But more the case is what happens is there's a decrease in harvest effort. Either people loose faith in the security and safety of the food and so they discontinue harvesting or they can't afford to go somewhere else. And what happens is this affects the economic welfare of individuals and families. To replace country foods requires cash. Cash to get to a store, cash to buy food. Often people can't afford to buy foods that have the same nutritional quality as the foods that they can get from the land.

For illustrative purposes, I've done some rough estimates to give you a perspective on how valuable country food is.

People talk a lot, Tsilhqot'in talk about harvesting a lot of berries. To replace berries by buying fresh fruit such as grapes or strawberries is about $\$ 6$ to $\$ 7$ per kilogram, and that's just based on a sale price at the William's Lake Safeway based on their flyer the week of April 19th. The value of deer meat, if it were to be replaced with equally low-fat beef product, a single deer has a value of about $\$ 950$ to $\$ 1,000$. A moose, you're looking at about $\$ 3800$.

And the point I also would like to make here
is that people in the community hearings consistently told you that money doesn't compensate for the loss of the land and the loss of the culture. So in giving these dollar estimates, I'm not in any way suggesting that country food losses can be replaced with money through compensation.

You've heard that the salmon fishery is an incredibly critical food supply for the Tsilhqot'in People.

If the salmon fishery were to be impacted by this hydro Project, or if people start avoiding salmon from the rivers, the economic impact would be enormous.

Just based on Shari Hughson's estimate that the average family of six consumes about 200 salmon a year, and these are primarily sockeye, the cost of replacing those 200 salmon for a family is over $\$ 6,000$.

When TNG registered me to speak at this hearing, there was a presentation provided at that time. And given the time right now, I'm not going to speak to it at all, but I'd ask the Panel to review it. It's based on an extensive literature review. And it talks about community-based impacts, what happens in the community as opposed to what happens on
the land.
Prosperity Lake is not going to mitigate the loss of Teztan and Yanah Biny. It's further away. It's not as accessible. And I'll show you a map shortly. It doesn't provide the same quality or character of fish. But more importantly, the Tsilhqot'in aren't going to go fish there. It's an artificial environment that's going to be overlooking the tailings pond and the mine. It will be a reminder to people of what's been lost. It will have no cultural importance. There'll have no history and no connection to this place. And given their contaminant concerns, I would be shocked to hear that they would actually fish in this Prosperity Lake.

Teztan Biny and Yanah Biny fishery is more than about fishing. It's not a fish, an Aboriginal fishery is not, can't be replaced by water and fish.

Prosperity Lake doesn't replace most of the components of their Aboriginal fishery there. It doesn't replace the cultural transmission and teaching environment that is there now. It doesn't replace the spiritual component of it. Or the social component.

Shawnee Palmantier said:
"To advise us that you'll create an artificial lake and stock it with fish will not
replace our Aboriginal Right to fish on Fish Lake and Little Fish Lake. You fail to truly understand our relationship to the land. Delgamuukw said:
'Aboriginal Rights and the relationship that Indigenous Peoples had with the land is territorial, it's grounded in specific areas and tracts of land. It's a matter of cultural identity that stretches over generations and cannot simply be removed and replaced.'"

Volume 18.
I know when we were in Xeni, we were having some difficulty in understanding where the 4500 Road was. So the access route that is used right now into Fish Lake shows up as purple on the one I'm looking at. It's the line that's left of the red line. And the red line is the 4500 Road.

From Xeni Gwet'in to Teztan Biny is about 57 kilometres one way. To get to the proposed Prosperity Lake would be at least 77 kilometres one way.

Taseko's position has been that there'll be no or minimal effect on traditional use. And this is not accurate.

All of their mitigation measures that they have identified for impacts on wildlife and plants
don't address the fact that the Tsilhqot'in are just going to be completely alienated from the mine footprint. Period.

Taseko's suggestion that the Tsilhqot'in People can go somewhere else as a means of mitigating the loss of going in the mine footprint area has not been demonstrated to be feasible. You've been informed over and over again of the encroachment on the Tsilhqot'in territory and how Nabas is one of the last remaining intact places for them to go. It's not clear that there's anywhere else for them to go. And it certainly hasn't been confirmed whether other areas that currently contribute to their traditional activities and economy could support increased pressure.

Taseko has not adequately explained how they're going to mitigate the loss of the grazing area used by the Solomon family.

Taseko's EA only suggests that they're going to work with the rancher to ensure that access to forage is not compromised. This doesn't explain how they're going to mitigate the loss of 36 percent of the forage utility of this grazing area. They haven't explained this. Nor have they explained what the contaminant risk is to these cattle if they are to
drink from the tailings pond.
The Tsilhqot'in population is increasing. For example, both Xeni Gwet'in and Stone, their populations have increased by 3 percent in just the past two years.

This means that all the intact areas will become that much more crucial in the future to support traditional activities and traditional food requirements.

The guidelines for this Environmental Assessment require that the assessment consider not only the impacts on current use of lands and resources, but also the impacts on the next seven generations.

Given the wealth of evidence that has been put before this Panel about past and ongoing encroachment into the Tsilhqot'in territory, I suggest that the Panel must consider the importance of Nabas and the implications of removing another area from their territory and how this is going to affect the next seven generations.

And I'm running out of time. So I'm going to try and get very quickly through this.

The destruction and desecration of the ancestral and spiritual and sacred places in Nabas
cannot be mitigated.
Linda Smith says that Tsilhqot'in People will not touch a grave. And they won't agree to have human remains removed. So I ask, given that there's at least 11 graves out there, and we don't know exactly where they are, how is that to be mitigated?

Removing archaeological sites that have protection under the Provincial legislation is not culturally acceptable mitigation.

And I had said earlier, by removing these items and putting them in boxes and transporting them hundreds of miles away is not a form of mitigation that's culturally acceptable.

There is no way to mitigate the loss and destruction of the land that has spiritual value.

I can't think of a better way to impress upon you how this historic and ancestral connection cannot be mitigated. By quoting Catherine Haller, she said:
"It's important to have the gatherings where the ancestors and Elders have lived. Gatherings are held at these places because these are some of the most important traditional grounds. We get more help from our ancestors when we pray where they used to live and do our ceremonies there. We understand better where we as Tsilhqot'in People come from, our
history, our situation, and where we go, where our ancestors lived."

Volume 15, page 2637.
I don't think, in my opinion, that the avoidance of the Greater Nabas area can be mitigated. It's so clear how concerned the Tsilhqot'in People are about contamination, and given their spiritual beliefs about the linkages of land and water in that you don't destroy the water or contaminate the water, there's no amount of science and monitoring that's going to convince them that this is going to be a safe place for them.

All right, I made the one-and-a-half hour mark, so I would request another five minutes, please. THE CHAIRMAN: Sure. You're timing it closer than I am, actually.

MS. LARCOMBE: Another reason that I believe that the Tsilhqot'in People will avoid the Greater Nabas area is this enormous deep-rooted distrust that they have. When people talk about the smallpox epidemic that occurred over 100 years ago, you'd think it happened yesterday. It's so fresh in their minds. I don't think they will ever trust science or government or industry regarding contamination, so I think their avoidance is going to happen.

Health Canada had recommended to you that Taseko do a food consumption survey. And you had asked me about this when I was in Xeni. And I've had more time to think about it.

Food consumption surveys require an enormous amount of trust on the part of the people and the researcher that's doing the work. There isn't that trust with the communities and Taseko, or government. To participate in a study such as that, I believe they would view that as somehow it was condoning or accepting the mine. And $I$ think we all know what their position is on the mine.

It's too late to do a baseline. Consumption studies requires several years of data to accurately reflect the natural fluctuations in weather and animal populations.

If the mine is approved, there is no time to get that baseline.

It's also probably too late to do any monitoring. And what $I$ mean by that is, if the mine is approved, the community members will be displaced or otherwise avoiding the area and so what exactly would we be monitoring?

So I think it's just too late.
So my conclusions are residual effects.

The construction and operation of a mine at Nabas Central will permanently destroy, desecrate and sever the ancestral, historic and spiritual connection that the Tsilhqot'in People have for this place.

The adverse effects impact all Tsilhqot'in people in all Tsilhqot'in communities. And this is why it's so significant.

The loss of the Teztan and Yanah Biny fishery is significant. But the severity I can't say for certain.

The fishery is more than a waterbody and it's more than fish. The Prosperity component of the Fisheries Compensation Plan will not mitigate or replace this fishery. Because it can't replace the cultural or the spiritual aspects of the fishery. It doesn't replace the biomass provided by the fishery. In fact, Taseko acknowledges in their Environmental Assessment that Prosperity Lake will only partially offset the loss. And, as I've said, I doubt that they will fish in Prosperity Lake at all, so it would be 100 percent loss.

There's been insufficient research done to know whether the other lakes have sufficient resources in them to meet the food requirements of the Tsilhqot'in in the event of salmon, low salmon runs
or, worse, a complete collapse of the salmon fishery.
Nabas Central is an accessible, intact, rich, diverse ecosystem that provides a multitude of food sources to the Tsilhqot'in. If they avoid this area, which I believe they will, the impact will be significant. Again, their population is growing and their resource needs are going to be getting larger, not smaller, in the future, and there's been insufficient research done to determine whether other areas of their territory can support the existing population, never mind the next seven generations.

If there were to be adverse effects on the salmon fishery, this would be hugely significant, both in economic terms and cultural terms.

There is no other salmon resource fishery that they can go to.

The final point $I$ would like to make is the Tsilhqot'in People will bear the brunt of the adverse impacts of this mine and receive few of the purported benefits. How realistic and socially acceptable are these purported benefits and do they justify or outweigh the negatives?

Taseko, like virtually every resource development Proponent I know of, highlights the employment opportunities associated with the mine. And more recently, they have been quite vocal about the new Provincial Revenue Sharing Policy.

The literature indicates that First Nation participation in mining has been growing in recent years. However, despite training and skills opportunities and development, the numbers of First Nation people employed in the mining sector remains low and they largely continue to be employed in low-paying jobs.

With respect to employment and jobs, very few, if any, Tsilhqot'in People indicated during the hearing process they have any interest in working in a mine.

Shari Hughson and Roger William and others explained that Tsilhqot'in People want to work in jobs that are a cultural fit for them. Namely careers that contribute to the protection and sustainability of their lands or their culture.

With respect to monies associated with jobs or revenue sharing, the message most Tsilhqot'in People was: The land is forever, it's more important than gold or money.

Edmond James Junior said:
"You will be taking away our life and destroying our clean water, all that we drink, our
fish, our land, water, wild animals, are more important than all the gold in this world because we can't drink or eat gold. There's more to life than gold."

So given this strong position that the Tsilhqot'in have about not wanting this mine in their territory, because it will destroy the Fish Creek watershed, and because of their lack of trust and lack of relationship with this particular mining Proponent, and because of their cultural belief that the lands and the water are sacred and necessary to sustain their culture, and because money cannot mitigate these losses, and because they are continuing to experience ongoing cumulative impacts and encroachment within their territory, it's my opinion that the purported benefits of this Project can't justify the adverse impacts the Tsilhqot'in People will experience. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Ms. Larcombe, for your presentation, your overview, I guess I could put it that way, of what we heard in the community hearings. I think, as you went through all of the individuals and mentioned them by name, I think all of us could probably envisage those people and the way in which they made the presentations to us. And I think
it also, as you correctly mentioned, that we heard from many people in those communities and the value for us of hearing directly from them in the communities and hearing them present their views directly to us. Although you presented a summary from your perspective, it's not the same, and I'm sure you would be the first to realize that, as it is to hear from these people directly.

So I thank you for the presentation.
And we have the opportunity to ask some questions. And I'll turn first to Taseko to see if they have any questions.

QUESTIONS OF TSILHQOT'IN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT BY TASEKO MINES LIMITED:

MR. BELL-IRVING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. May
I just ask of the Chair to clarify for me the context in which we're able to ask questions. I'm talking timing here. It's quarter after 10:00. I understood Ms. Larcombe to say that she's going to leave here at 11:00. How much time are you able to allocate to Taseko to ask questions?

THE CHAIRMAN: I would say take as much time as you feel you need right now. I think 11:00 is about the latest that we have you present.

MR. BELL-IRVING: Okay. Thank you.

Patt, I appreciate listening to and hearing all that you've said. And just to confirm for me, as a general question, are these views your views or are they representing and speaking on behalf of the Tsilhqot'in?

MS. LARCOMBE: Could you be more specific about what you mean by "these views"?

MR. BELL-IRVING: Well, the presentation entirely.

MS. LARCOMBE: Well, there's parts of the presentation that are clearly the Tsilhqot'in view.

MR. BELL-IRVING:
Of course. The quotes and the reference to the transcript. I'm talking about the statements and the transcript that's -- the result here. I just need to understand whether you're speaking or whether the Tsilhqot'in Nation are speaking.

MS. LARCOMBE: It's a combination.

MR. BELL-IRVING: Okay. You in your remarks on the subject of fishing brought up the fact that Onion Lake was not mentioned as part of the testimony because the people focused on the Fish Lake area in their presentation. And then you suggested in your evidence now that obviously that they do use Onion Lake, and certainly Taseko understands that, and has
observed that.
My question is, are there other areas in the traditional territory, Caretaker Area, that the Tsilhqot'in People fish for trout?

MS. LARCOMBE: Yes. It's my understanding that there are other lakes. And that evidence was presented in the maps.

MR. BELL-IRVING: And in the context of that, can you give us some context, contextual understanding of the relative importance of Fish Lake in relation to, for example, Big Lake?

MS . LARCOMBE:
Are you talking in terms of food volume?

MR. BELL-IRVING:
I'm talking in terms of rainbow trout fishing for whatever purpose.

MS. LARCOMBE: Are you talking about fish populations or fish harvests?

MR. BELL-IRVING: Harvest. Use of the fish by the Nation.

MS. LARCOMBE: I'm not able to answer that question. To my knowledge, there's never been any study done in terms of a harvesting study that would put quantitative numbers to numbers of fish harvested in different lakes.

MR. BELL-IRVING: Would it be reasonable to
surmise, at least, that there are many lakes, presumably many of which have fish in them, trout, and other freshwater species, and that perhaps some of those are used as well?

MS. LARCOMBE: The evidence in the Current Use Submission does identify other lakes that are used for food fishing.

MR. BELL-IRVING: Yes, I'm just trying to get a handle on some relative context. I won't --

MS. LARCOMBE: I wish I could answer that question, but unfortunately that research has never been done.

MR. BELL-IRVING: Okay, well, I won't pursue that.

You mentioned in your presentation that Fish Lake was highly, I think you described it as "highly accessible".

Do you recall or do you know when the road to Fish Lake was built?

MS. LARCOMBE: The road as in a road that a car can travel on?

MR. BELL-IRVING: The road that makes Fish Lake accessible now by car.

MS. LARCOMBE: No, I don't. Perhaps Roger does. I personally don't have that answer.

MR. BELL-IRVING: Okay. I know it didn't come up in terms of testimony, but I think there may be some information that would indicate when that road was accessible, so the use and the accessibility of the lake was by means other than road, obviously, historically?

MS. LARCOMBE: Correct. There were no cars historically.

MR. BELL-IRVING: You referred to the August '89 Declaration in your remarks. My recollection of that, and I was trying to read off my BlackBerry the actual quote, but bear me out here. The Declaration refers to or describes the Nemiah Aboriginal Wilderness Preserve as an area. And it includes, and I apologize for the pronunciation, or I'll spell it, $\mathrm{T}-\mathrm{A}-\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H}-\mathrm{E}-\mathrm{L}-\mathrm{A}-\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H}-\mathrm{E}-\mathrm{D}$, is that the Brittany Triangle area, is that generally the Brittany Triangle area? It describes, which includes that area and the trap line area territory. I understand the trap line territory meaning Nabas or portions of Nabas and Fish Lake area.

MS. LARCOMBE: Yes.
MR. BELL-IRVING: I'm assuming, then, this other area refer to the traditional Brittany Triangle portion or at least a broader area than just Fish

Lake; am I right?

MS. LARCOMBE:
MR. BELL-IRVING: this area, so those two areas, Fish Lake and I'm calling it the Brittany Triangle area, but it would mean perhaps more than that --

MS. LARCOMBE: I think it also includes the western trap line, and other areas.

MR. BELL-IRVING: Okay, so the Brittany Triangle, western trap line, and the eastern trap line. In the Declaration it says, and I quote:
"This area is the spiritual and economic homeland of our People."

So it describes that whole area as the spiritual and economic homeland of your people:
"To practice our traditional Native medicine, religion, sacred and spiritual ways."

End of quote. So with that as background, my question is, again looking at the Fish Lake, Nabas, you
referred to it, sorry, as, how did you describe?
MS. LARCOMBE: Central and Greater.

MR. BELL-IRVING:
Central Nabas, can you give us or the Panel any context that puts the significance, the value, of central Nabas in the context of this broader area which you declare is the spiritual and economic homeland?

MS. LARCOMBE: Well, I didn't do the Nemiah Declaration, so I can't say I declared.

MR. BELL-IRVING: Well, the community declared.
MS. LARCOMBE: As I pointed out, both at the start, my deficiency review, the work I did on the Current Use Submission, the message I keep trying to get across is that there's only been a certain amount of research done for the Tsilhqot'in. And although it seems like there's been a lot of work done, you know, the Rights and Title case, the Cindy English work, the TNG's 2001 Study, all of these studies had different purposes, they weren't in the context of an Environmental Assessment.

And so the work that's been doesn't allow you to say, one, you know, relatively what is one area more important than the other.

And I would argue that the Tsilhqot'in People don't say one place is, it's not within their cultural
belief system to call one place more important than another.

You can't compare is one place more spiritual than another. Like, that's impossible.

MR. BELL-IRVING: Please, with all due respect,
I wasn't trying to suggest that the Nation, the Tsilhqot'in People would have any particular reason for declaring one area more significant. I'm trying to understand that, from the point of view of the company, and precisely on the point that you say there's been a lot of independent and unrelated, it would be hard-pressed to imagine another example where so much effort has gone into the Rights and Title case, I think some 300-odd days of testimony, which was designed, I believe, to address the issues before that court. There is a lot of information there that would give you a basis for being able to at least provide some contextual understanding of the significance or the importance of these two perhaps different areas.

But if it's not there, then we'll leave it at that.

Chief Marilyn, are you wanting to ask a question?

THE CHAIRMAN:
I would very much like to
have questions of Patt Larcombe at this point, but if you have an answer to one of those questions, perhaps we could pick that up later, Chief Baptiste.

CHIEF BAPTISTE: I just actually wanted to say that his questioning may be better deferred to our lawyers.

THE CHAIRMAN:
Well, that is an answer, $I$ guess. But I'm not sure it responds to your question. MR. BELL-IRVING: I can assure you these questions come from me, who is not a lawyer.

I'll keep asking.
Patt, you mentioned in your remarks that there would be no fish-bearing lake during the operational phase of the mine. And yet, from our perspective, how is that possible, because we're devoting all our effort to create Prosperity Lake and make it an operational fish-bearing lake as early as possible in the operation. So how do you come to that conclusion?

MS. LARCOMBE: Well, as I explained, the Tsilhqot'in People aren't going to go to Prosperity Lake. That's why it won't replace it.

MR. BELL-IRVING: Okay, so the clarification is that it's not that there won't be one, it's that the Tsilhqot'in will choose not to use it. Okay, thank
you.
I have a question regarding the belief system that you spoke to and how strong that belief system is. And, as I recall, you indicated that if you contaminate Fish Lake, you contaminate all the lakes in the territory. That was one characterization of the strength of the belief.

MS. LARCOMBE: I was quoting at that time. Yes.

MR. BELL-IRVING:
Okay. And you referred to the interconnectiveness and that if the Project goes ahead, the community will not fish or drink anywhere in the territory. Can you imagine or can you suggest any ways that a Proponent like ourselves, given that belief system, can you suggest any ways that a Proponent like ourself might be able to address that strength of belief?

From our perspective, the choices would be either let's just not build the mine, that might be your preferred approach, obviously.

But I'm looking for the other answer. Are there any, is there any other way that one could hold up and be respectful of those beliefs and at the same time have a mine?

MS . LARCOMBE:
I think the Tsilhqot'in

Nation has been clear for many, many years that they weren't against mining, they weren't against this mine. They are against the destruction of Nabas. And I think that's -- they were -- my understanding is with, you know, there were many alternatives that were considered and some of those were more acceptable to the Tsilhqot'in than the one that's being reviewed at this time.

MR. BELL-IRVING:
Okay, so just before leaving that point, then, would it be reasonable to conclude that if a forestry, harvesting, or some other type of development were to occur, not necessarily in Nabas, but in the traditional territory, that that, the strength of belief about connection and the strength of belief about if you have an impact of some nature over here, that that wouldn't necessarily affect the ability to harvest, the ability to drink water throughout the territory, that it applies differently to the different types of projects?

MS. LARCOMBE: There was community evidence that indicated that, with clearcut logging, that people don't like to drink the water in areas where there's been clearcuts because of sediments and whatnot.

Mining is a different animal. You can't
compare it to logging. You know, mining has tailings pond and acid bearing rock and this sort of thing. It's in a different playing field than any other encroachments that the Tsilhqot'in have experienced to this point in in their history.

MR. BELL-IRVING: Would you say that, and this is an observation that I gained from going through the community hearings over the last 17 days, how would you characterize the level of understanding of mining and this mining Project within the community? And I'm talking from a technical design specific sort of, if you will, the science behind it.

MS. LARCOMBE:
I'm not sure, Rod, that I can
answer. You know, I wasn't present at any presentations, other than the one $I$ was in in Xeni. I wasn't, you know, I didn't participate in any presentations where I was explaining your Project to the community members. But I can tell you that in other First Nation communities where I have worked, you know, whether it's been a mine or a hydroelectric development, or what have you, that because of the language issues, it's very difficult to explain the technology of mining and chemicals and that sort of thing. It's extremely difficult to translate accurately into a language. But the point I would
make is that, even when you have a really good trusting relationship with communities, and you feel you can adequately explain the science of things, there's still that distrust is there. And it's human nature. We all -- these aren't -- the example I would give, regardless of the amount of money that the Mexican government has put into water treatment, there's this worldwide perception, "don't drink the water when you go to Mexico". So I think we can all relate to -- as humans, we're very wary when it comes to food security or water security.

MR. BELL-IRVING: No, I appreciate that, thank you, Patt. Again, I want to move quickly hopefully through this.

You've mentioned and you gave the illustration from the Safeway flyer, I think the cost of replacing country foods. And you made the observation that money doesn't compensate for the loss. And that more importantly that the Nation and the people wouldn't accept money.

Is that your view or the Nation's view?
MS. LARCOMBE: That's my professional
opinion based on work done with other communities who have been offered cash compensation for loss of fish or what have you. It's not been acceptable to them.

MR. BELL-IRVING:
You mentioned Prosperity Lake was further away, and I think you showed the drawing with the 4500 Road. Are you aware of the existence of the, what I would call the backdoor route to Nabas up around Big Onion Lake and up the back slope?

MS. LARCOMBE: Yes, we had that conversation in Xeni.

MR. BELL-IRVING: And would there not be a reason to access Prosperity Lake through that route?

MS. LARCOMBE: That's a -- I think Roger you told me it's two-and-a-half times. It takes about two-and-a-half times as long to go up the back route, the Beece Creek route to get up to Nabas.

MR. BELL-IRVING:
That's because of the roughness and the condition of the road, I believe. So if that road were somehow upgraded that that would provide a more direct route?

MS. LARCOMBE: It may, but it would certainly provide a more direct route for everybody as well, which is a great concern.

MR. BELL-IRVING: With respect to Prosperity Lake, you observed that, even if it was stocked, that they would not fish in it for a number of reasons. Are there any lakes in the traditional territory that you or the Tsilhqot'in would consider
candidates for us in the implementation of our Compensation Plan to put fish into under the guidance of the Provincial Government and perhaps also have the Provincial Government dedicate those lakes as exclusive lakes for harvesting for food fish? Have you thought about that? Is there any possibilities or considerations in that regard?

MS. LARCOMBE: Rod, I can't answer that question because, obviously, it's not something that's been discussed or have had any opportunity to consult with the Tsilhqot'in People about.

MR. BELL-IRVING: And my last question, relating to employment. And you mentioned that throughout the hearings Taseko has emphasized and reminded the communities of two things, amongst others: The employment opportunities and a number, and the company's policies, and more important, and perhaps as importantly, the company's legal obligations under the Provincial Certificate to provide a whole array of opportunities for First Nations related to this Project.

And then on top of that, the Revenue Sharing Policy, which has been discussed, and the Provincial Government's intention of implementing specifically with regard to this Project.

When you indicated your remarks based on your experience that you've never seen a Project actually deliver meaningful employment, meaningful benefits, have any of those projects in your history ever had the same or equivalent legal obligations and the benefit of the Revenue Sharing Policy, which is obviously just newly announced, have any of those Projects had that level of commitment that would allow you to fairly compare what Prosperity and Taseko Mines is intending to do relative to all these others that you say illustrate that it just doesn't materialize?

MS . LARCOMBE: When you say "legal
commitment," your Certificate from the Province legally requires you, I wish I were a lawyer right now, being legally committed to implement a policy is pretty vague.

MR. BELL-IRVING: These are legal commitments as conditions of approval. They are not a policy. They are a commitment that will be delivered and need to be ensured that they are delivered.

But my question wasn't to put you on the spot as a lawyer. It was simply to ask from your experience, in your capacity working with First Nations across Canada, of whether you have had experience in other projects on this subject of
employment and the perceived benefits, whether there's a project that would even compare to the starting point, shall we say?

MS. LARCOMBE: My experience has been that, where a First Nation has a good relationship with a Proponent, where they are partners for the Proponent, where there's been substantive training and preparation, when all the right things are in place, there's still this great tendency for it to fail. And I'm sorry to say that, but people tend to work maybe for a short period of time and then they miss their family, they miss being out on the land, they are in conflict with other people that are in the community, you know, there's always, it fractions communities. It's difficult to, in a small community, to be the one that went to work at the mine.

MR. BELL-IRVING: No, I appreciate that.
MS. LARCOMBE: So there might be a bit of a surge in the beginning of employment, but typically what happens is it declines.

MR. BELL-IRVING: No, I appreciate that. My question again was primarily just to situate the existence of the terms and conditions of our Certificate from the Government, Province, which in my terms are a legal obligation, and I won't go through
them all, but they include business development opportunities, training, employment, et cetera. If any of these projects to your experience and your comments are based on have an equivalent level of conditional approvals?

MS. LARCOMBE: A lot of the commitments that I think you're referring to typically are covered off in Impact Benefit Agreements, social agreements, and this sort of thing. I'm not sure that when, in your Table of Commitments, it's, you know, commitment number 44 or whatever number it is where it says Taseko will develop a policy of doing $X$, how enforceable that is. It's pretty vague. You know, it's not like with environmental monitoring, you know, it's very precise and government can check up on you and make sure you're doing that.

But I guess, for example, I know, you know, our TNG has asked questions of Taseko during this Review Process about employment figures of Aboriginal people at Gibraltar and how difficult it's been for you to actually share that information because you don't keep it in a way that allows sharing it.

So for you to have it listed as a commitment is fine, but monitoring of it, enforcement of it, pretty vague.

MR. BELL-IRVING: Okay, I won't. Thank you, Patt, I'll just leave it at that.

No further questions, Mr. Chair.
THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Bell-Irving. And Ms. Larcombe for responding.

I think my colleagues have a few questions here on the Panel. I'll turn to them first, Bill. QUESTIONS OF TSILHQOT'IN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT BY THE FEDERAL PANEL:

MR. KLASSEN: Thank you for your presentation. The question that $I$ have relates to the other document that you submitted regarding community impacts associated with mining.

I refer to the stressors that are created by the two-weeks-in two-weeks-out rotation.

My understanding is that some of the mines in northern Canada are now going to four days in, four days out, similar to what Taseko is suggesting that they might institute at this mine.

That shorter rotation, does it have the same stresses or has that been looked at?

MS. LARCOMBE: I don't think there's been any formal study of it because it is relatively a new shift pattern. It would be easier on families, for sure.

MR. KLASSEN:
I was wondering whether anyone had looked at whether that shorter shift rotation has increased the period of time that First Nations or Aboriginal individuals working at those mines stay with those jobs?

MS. LARCOMBE: I haven't seen any literature on that yet.

MR. KLASSEN: Thank you.
THE CHAIRMAN: Nalaine?
MS. MORIN: I just have one question. And it's in relation to your slide 21 and in relation to the Fisheries Compensation Plan.

Now, within the Fisheries Compensation Plan, there's a term referred to as "First Nations Fishery". And my question for you here is, the three points that you made, do you consider that components of a First Nations fishery?

MS. LARCOMBE: The three points being the cultural, transmission and teaching?

MS. MORIN: Spiritual and social
activities and sense of connection and history.
MS. LARCOMBE: Absolutely.
MS. MORIN: Thank you.
THE CHAIRMAN: I just have a bit of a follow-up question I think more related to

Mr. Bell-Irving's question. But he's just excused himself for a moment.

But we heard, actually, in the community of Esket, and I appreciate you weren't there, but Chief Gottfriedson who spoke about his experiences to some extent with mining project in his territory. And he was very clear, of course, not to suggest that their experience could be immediately translated to the community of Xeni Gwet'in. He was, after questioning, by us and others, did provide some information there. And in fact provided, I guess, some suggestion of the kind of conditions that would be needed that you've talked about, which is trust and building a good relation and so on.

But I gathered from that, that at least for his community, that seemed to be something that in their case acceptable.

You have, in your other document that you submitted to us, which I've looked at and I appreciate you didn't have time to present it this morning, but we do have it here and we have looked at it, you talked about a lot of problems for First Nations and I can understand why, obviously. And a lot of negative results from employment in mines for First Nations.

I'm wondering, in your experience, there
surely must be some positive benefits as well that you must have observed for First Nations and employment.

I guess my question is, is there, in your studies, is there a great difference between the benefits to First Nations versus the benefits you've seen to non-Aboriginal People who might be working in some of these mines, is there a really apparent difference there?

I mean, for non-Aboriginal People, I'm sure some of those same problems exist as well, being away from families and so on. So I'm just wondering if there's a real distinct difference there.

MS. LARCOMBE: Are you asking me do First Nation communities have a disproportionate impact, negative impact?

THE CHAIRMAN: That's essentially it, yes.
MS. LARCOMBE: Yes, I would say they do. And it goes to part of what I talked about in my presentation about because of historic events and colonization, a lot of First Nations are, you know, in a somewhat fragile state of recovery. And it doesn't take a lot of outside influences to turn that around. And money and access to money is certainly, if you have a propensity to alcohol or any other abusive behaviours, it can actually just the having the cash actually can exacerbate that.

The presentation that I didn't go through, but also does have a couple of pages of positive impacts, I'm not presenting a completely biassed view of things.

But there are success stories, but they are very community and project specific. And I personally haven't -- I think it would be a fascinating research project would be to look at what were the things that made that work. But most of the literature focuses on why it doesn't.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. I appreciate you're pretty tight for time, and I think that concludes our questions.

I would just ask if you have a few minutes more if there may be questions from others in the audience.

I would start, first, with the Federal departments, Transport Canada, and Natural Resources, Environment Canada. I don't see any questions there.

In terms of the order of presenters, which is our priority list of questioners, I would go next to MiningWatch. Any questions? I see none.

Share the Cariboo-Chilcotin Resources Society? I'm not sure they're here. No questions.

Friends of Nemaiah Valley? Okay.
Williams Lake and District Chamber of
Commerce?
SPEAKER: No questions.
THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. I lost my list here, but I think I should remember this off by heart by now.

Canoe Creek?
Esketemc First Nation, any questions? Okay.
Thanks, Joe.
I think I've been through them all. So it sounds like nobody else has any questions of you.

I thank you again for your presentation and your response to all of the questions this morning. And wish you a safe trip back to Winnipeg. Thanks again.

MS. LARCOMBE: Thank you.
THE CHAIRMAN: I think at this point we'll take a break and return to Taseko's presentation on the economic aspects. Thank you.
(BRIEF BREAK)
THE CHAIRMAN: Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to resume the hearing, please, I'd ask you to take your seats so we can get started again. I would like to resume the hearing again, please.

We started off this morning reversing our order somewhat to accommodate Patt Larcombe and will now revert back to the original plan, which was to have Taseko give a presentation to kick off each of the topic-specific sessions. So we'll now turn to them to do that. And ask Mr. Bell-Irving to introduce the presenter as well for us.

CONTINUED PRESENTATION BY TASEKO MINES LIMITED ON TOPIC 5: SOCIO-ECONOMICS:

EXPERT PANEL:
Mr. Steve Nicol, Lions Gate Consulting
MR. BELL-IRVING:
Thank you, Mr. Chair.
Rod Bell-Irving for Taseko Mines. I have on my left Steve Nicol with Lions Gate Consulting, and he will be doing the presentation.

PRESENTATION BY MR. STEVE NICOL:
MR. NICOL:
Thanks Rod. Steve Nicol. I have a company called Lions Gate Consulting. I'm based in Vancouver.

And I've been doing economic development and economic impact work for about 22 years. Mostly for government, regional district government, small government, Provincial Government, and Federal Government over the, as I say, the last 22 years.

I should say that there was a consulting
team, it just wasn't myself that was preparing this socio-economic work. There was two other consultants on the team. But what I want to do is take about a half an hour, and I'll lead you through the process that we went through and some of the conclusions that we arrived at in the SEA.

So the EIS Guidelines asked us to describe the socio-economic environment including a description of the urban and rural settings. And really a focus on the parameters of interest to address various human activities and values, and the traditional activities of Aboriginal People.

The assessment methodology that we used was an assessment of impacts, as the title of the EIS implies.

It's an impact assessment.
Our task as indicated was to identify Project effects, determine proposed mitigation, and determine the significance of those potentially adverse effects.

When we do that assessment, we do it against what we call the base case conditions. So not the baseline conditions as they exist today, but against potential future conditions in the absence of the project.

And the impacts are measured against the
indicators that are indicated in the, that are stated in the EIS Guidelines.

So the general approach I've got in three sections here. First is the economics. Determine the distribution of Project spending and the potential incremental costs that might be incurred as a result of that spending.

The social and health issues really are based upon a determination of the population effects, although we do have transportation in the social, so it's not entirely population related, but most of the social and health effects are population related and what we look for is where do those effects, where do those population impacts create effects adverse or otherwise.

And finally there's the land and resource use component. And here we're talking about impacts related to the land base and how they might affect the values of other users of that land base.

So the values identified in the EIS, we have 16 in all. We have four under economic. And we're looking at the labour market, so we're looking at employment, and we're looking at employment income. We're looking at government revenues. And we're looking at what we call regional economic development,
which is the business activity that sort of revolves around that spending.

We also have social parameters, including population, which is really the basis of most of the following effects under social and health.

We also look at housing.
And transportation.
And also community services.
We also have health. And when I say health here, I'm not talking about human health and risk assessment, I'm talking about the demand for health services.

And finally, that's not social, that's land use. Or resource use, the final bullet.

We are looking at age-specific parameters here, land use, forestry, mining, fishing, hunting, recreation, tourism, and trapping.

I just want to give you a bit of an idea about how we determine significance. We ask ourselves three questions: Is the effect adverse; is the adverse effect potentially significant; and if it is potentially significant, what is the likelihood of that occurring.

And, of course, that assessment is based upon the effects rated criteria that are listed in all of
the, in all of the values. We're talking about the magnitude. We're talking about geographic area, frequency, duration, so forth.

Now, unlike the biophysical studies and the wildife studies and such, determining significance is a bit of a challenge on the socio-economic side. We do not have, except in the case of land use and resource use where we might have some thresholds, we generally don't have really well-defined thresholds on the social and the economic side.

So what we look for when we're determining significance is are there variations from historical, recent historical, or deviations from recent historical variations?

So, for instance, if we know that the population for a particular study area, local or Regional Study Area, is going up and down 10 percent or 5 percent annually or every five years, and we have a project that's going to have population impacts that fall within that threshold, then we would expect, we would expect the various parameters, the various values to be in a situation that they would be able to respond to those, because they have in the past.

Now, the information sources that we've used here, obviously there's a lot of baseline information
for the values that I've listed. We have statistical data.

We do have baseline studies. We do have projections about where some of these indicators and values are going into the future to determine a Base Case.

And we do have other projects that we can look to to give us an indication about what some of those impacts and what some of those likelihoods are going to be.

So when I say other projects, I'm talking about we do have numerous mines in the province of British Columbia. And we do have two operating mines in this area right now, one of which is Gibraltar and the other which is Mount Polley.

So we look to those to give us some indication about how these values might change.

For the land use, we rely extensively, at least at the beginning, on the GIS. So we find out from the Provincial data warehouse and other data sets who could be potentially displaced by the mine, so what registered Rights are there on the Project components.

Now, in terms of filling in the data gaps and trying to understand what some of those effects are
going to be, we're talking with service providers, we're talking with, in the case of the land, resource users, and land managers, to give us an indication of potential effects.

The major conclusions, and I'll just take you, there's a lot of information contained in the socio-economic assessment, so I've really crunched down the conclusions here to a small set of bullets.

When we look at the economics, one of the, and my first bullet here is about the base case, so what's going to happen in the absence of the Project.

We don't see a lot changing from the baseline. In other words, what you see today. This is a resource-based economy that's heavily dependent on the forest industry. We've had some increase in mining activity over the last five or six years, obviously with the two mines restarting.

But basically, this is still a forest-dependent economy.

And I might also add that more than 50 percent of the total community income in this region comes from the public sector and from non-employment sources of income such as transfer payments.

So other than forestry and the public sector,
we don't have any dominant industries in this region. And that includes tourism and agriculture and mining.

Now, the mountain pine beetle is going to have a major impact on the economy in this region in the not too distant future. And I think there's a lot of analysis that's gone into the mountain pine beetle and what might happen. So there's some disagreement about the timing of the effects.

But I don't think there's any disagreement that there's going to be mills closed in the interior of B.C. and within this community, within these communities specifically, over the next 5 to 10 years.

The positive effects of this Project. These numbers I've got up here are direct. So we do have direct effects. We also have indirect and induced effects. I won't get into those. I'm just going to give you the direct numbers.

378 person-years of employment during construction.

377 person-years of employment during operations.

Approximately $\$ 30$ million a year annual payroll during operations.

Approximately $\$ 30$ million annually revenues to government.

And as I said, there are other spinoff effects that are not listed here.

So what is this employment and what is the payroll and what does the purchasing of the mine do? Well, it creates business to local business development. So we have local suppliers, local contractors, we have service providers, we have retail businesses, we have commercial businesses, that are benefitting from the spending not only from the mine, but from the mine workers.

And I think if you talk to the business community in the region, there's a great deal of worry about what's going to happen down the road when the forest industry takes a big fall. And with the spending that's coming from this mine, we can expect to see many of those businesses keep going in this region.

Now on the social side.
Again, the first bullet here is a Base Case description. And, again, it refers to the mountain pine beetle. What's happened since 2000 or late 1990s is we've had a loss of population in this region. And by the region, $I$ mean the Cariboo and also the Cariboo-Chilcotin.

That loss of population is because of
declining economic activity. So we've already had setbacks in forestry to some extent. So with that as a bit of -- and we would expect to see if we have one or two mills closed over the next number of years, if there's no employment to keep those families in the community, we would expect to see a continuing of the past where we have an out-migration of residents and families.

What does that mean? Well, you're losing population, obviously, but you're also losing services. So you have schools that have declining enrolment. You have other government services that are lowering their capacity, obviously, in response to public policy and guidelines for what's needed to serve that population, local population. So it stands to reason, if you have a population of $X$ and your population declines by half, government services are not going to stay the same.

We've assumed with the employment impacts that I previously pointed out that a good portion of that employment will be coming from outside the region.

We do have high unemployment. Above-average unemployment in the region. And we would hope that we could cut that unemployment down. We did an analysis
on the skill levels of that unemployment population and it's really not possible for the mine to get its workforce, based upon its own skill requirements, from the unemployment pool, if you will. That means there will be a need to, for workers to be brought in to the region, and we're assuming that's going to be from within British Columbia. Although there might be some technical positions that would require bringing workers from further afield.

This, in our modelling, this would create an LSA population increase of between 5 to 6 percent during the peak of the Project. By LSA, I mean Williams Lake and the rural areas between the mine and Williams Lake.

That population will be similar to population levels that were experienced in 2001 that are noted in the 2001 Census.

So that's an important consideration because what it tells us is the community has already been at this population level in the recent past.

The change in demand for housing during construction is going to be felt during construction and most particularly during the early years of operation when most of the workforce comes into the community.

And we have a housing forecast that's based upon really the population assumptions and those population assumptions distinguish between where people are going to reside. The majority is expected to reside in Williams Lake, but we're also going to have a rural component. And that rural component, it's a bit unclear about where that rural component would live, because it's a large geographic area, we have several small communities and we also have First Nations communities.

In terms of transportation, what we looked at in transportation is, and the question we addressed for transportation is, is the transportation infrastructure and transportation services, are they able to deal with the effects of this Project in terms of the demand that it's going to create for those services?

So the only bullet I have up here, regards to Taseko Whitewater Road, because that's the one, as we've heard over the last few days, where there is some concern about things like traffic mortality and that sort of, wildlife, wildlife mortality, sorry, and that sort of thing.

We also looked at the ports in Vancouver. We looked at CN Rail. We looked at the airport. There's going to be increased demand for all of these services.

Taseko Whitewater Road, the template's a bit blurry here because it's behind here, that says 150 vehicles per day. That road right now is capable of carrying five to seven hundred vehicles per day. So the reason I bring this up is the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure has not indicated that there would be any problem handling the truck and the other vehicle demand on this road.

Once we get out to Highway 20, and Highway 27, these are, of course, part of the Provincial highway system, and the volume, in an incremental sense, does not really alter significantly the amount of traffic on those roads.

We did look at accident rates as well and that sort of thing. And so other parameters other than just traffic volume.

Now, an important aspect of the social assessment is community services. So I've got here commercial, recreation, and by recreation here I mean community recreation facilities, ballparks, hockey rinks, that sort of thing.

Fire protection, water, sewer. These were specified in the EIS Guidelines, so we had a look at
these. And the service providers indicated that they can be met. The demand, based upon the population effects that we have estimated, could be met with existing capacity.

Based upon the population, there would be a need for more RCMP officers. Based upon the per capita estimates of those services.

And there would also be approximately 250 K-12 students brought into the system, into the education, into the public education system. So we're assuming this is public, it could be private, but we're assuming it's public.

Right now, we're losing one to two hundred students annually in the School District.

Now, the fifth or the, yes, the fifth component of the social assessment was the Aboriginal culture and heritage. And, really, this section relied exclusively on those reports that have been cited previously at these hearings. So the Cindy English report, the two Alexander reports that were done for the Land Use Plans in the Sustainable Resource Management Plans that are existing, and also, of course, the Court materials.

There is obviously recognition of traditional use and values in this area. Because we were limited
to the documentation that we had, we did not make any determination of significance or confidence in this particular section.

In terms of resource use, which is our third chapter in this Volume 6, we also have a situation where the mine is expected to obviously alienate a certain amount of land within the Project, within the mine footprint. And also to some extent on the transmission line.

The Base Case is important in looking at these values, because we have a lot of change happening on the landscape with the mountain pine beetle. And I think that was brought up yesterday in the terrestrial assessment.

So, for instance, deforestation or beetle kill happening in the region, this is going to affect the values that we're looking at in this particular chapter.

It affects tourism, it's going to affect trapping, it will affect forestry, of course, and it will affect recreation.

So just to go over briefly some of the effects. The loss of Fish Lake as a special place, when I say a special place, I'm not just speaking in an Aboriginal sense, but it is used by recreation users. It is used by fishermen. And it is used by other resource users.

The land use impacts.
In this section, what we looked at is really what are the land management objectives on the public land base and how the Project would interact with that.

So we do have a Land Use Plan in the Cariboo-Chilcotin. We do have two SRMPs, Sustainable Resource Management Plans.

And what the Project is going to do, obviously from a forestry perspective, it's going to cause what we call a "regeneration delay". So rather than having that particular piece of forest available for a prescription in the future, it's going to be harvested now and the next regeneration is going to be deferred obviously because there's going to be no trees on that landscape, until decommissioning.

The major issue identified in the land use was old growth management areas. So there is old growth management areas designated within the Project components and those would have to be replaced. And that would be done in consultation with Ministry of Forest and Range.

I might add that it's not unusual to replace OGMAs around a forest district based upon project developments that might occur within the forest.

There is displacement of hunting, fishing, recreation, and trapping activity. All of those occur at Fish Lake. They all occur, to some extent, other than fishing along the transportation, along the transmission corridor.

And there's also potential for disruption to range barriers. Again, this was a specific indicator provided in the EIS.

The range barriers refer specifically to the transmission line and what the transmission line does to the movements of cattle. There are some major ranch operations along the transmission line.

The emphasis is on mitigation to resolve issues at the LSA, at the local levels. So when we did the assessment on these land uses, and we did value each of these particular uses; we did value hunting, we did value fishing, and recreation, and trapping.

And there will be individual licence holders and in some cases non-licence holders in an official sense. Patt was indicating that there is a, there is a rancher, a First Nations rancher who does graze. Ministry of Forests and Range who is responsible for issuing those range licences is aware of this and knows about it.

But the mitigation, and again, at the local level, with those licensees that would be affected, would be expected, in our view, anyway, to manage the effects on land and resource uses to eliminate any significant adverse effects.

I might add that on all of these land uses, the right to conduct those activities is not exclusive of any other activity, so for a guide outfitter who has a hunting territory, or for a trapper who has a trap line, or for an outdoor recreation tour guide who has backcountry recreation tenures, those tenures provide a right to conduct and to use the land base for those activities. And they are multiple-use licences. So that means there's numerous different activities going on on the land base at the same time, obviously.

Some of the commitments in the Table of Commitments just indicate where the mitigation is going here.

Taseko is committed to business development, employment and training. These are just summaries, of course. Hiring policy that maximizes social benefits, provides opportunities to Cariboo-Chilcotin
candidates. So I mentioned earlier, the more employees we can hire within the community, within the region, the fewer population effects there would be. So that would be an objective of the company.

Obviously to provide opportunities for local First Nations.

And encourages local suppliers and contractors to hire locally.

So the obligation to commit to creating as much opportunity in the region as possible would not just be for the company, but for its contractors and suppliers.

Taseko also has a program, Mining Your Future, that it currently has at Gibraltar.

And this would be implemented for Prosperity.
In terms of business development policies, we're talking about local, as I said, maximizing local procurement, so procurement, not just for local companies, but for First Nations companies, encourages entrepreneurship, innovation and productivity gains, commits to invest locally through purchasing and hiring practices.

I've got a health and safety bullets up here, but I'm not really addressing that. Rod is. But there is a comprehensive health and safety program,
occupational health and safety committee that will be established and a transportation and access and management plan.

So that's my presentation. I just have a few more slides. We did have the benefit of reviewing a couple of submissions, one from TNG, from Patt, another from the Friends of Nemaiah Valley. And I'm just going to briefly give our perspective, and also MiningWatch, also just briefly give our perspective about our response to their response.

The Friends of the Nemaiah Valley, I'm going by the March 11th, 2009 report by Mr. Shaffer.

And, really, when we look at this, and we look at the work that we've done for this socio-economic impact assessment, I think it's important to understand that we've been asked to do an impact assessment. And a lot of what Mr. Shaffer's submission is referring to is a cost benefit analysis. So I'll just start out with the first bullet there.

Yes, this is not a cost benefit analysis. So our Terms of Reference were not to engage in a cost benefit analysis. Our Terms of Reference was to do an impact assessment.

The reference to analysis is needed of the net economic and social costs outlined in the
sustainability principle, so there is in the EIS Guidelines a reference to sustainable development.

And I think the point here is that the statement refers to the EA's contribution to sustainable development. It's not a reference to what we're obligated to review in the EIS Guidelines.

The EIS calls for an assessment of net economic benefits and Project justification. We did not see that in the EIS.

There's also a comment about the social opportunity cost of labour. This might have proven to be a very valuable exercise, I'm not sure.

But it's not typically done in an impact assessment.

And it's not specified in the EIS. Mr. Shaffer also talks about the net economic benefits of tax payments. So, for instance, in the case of what we call fee-for-service taxes, property taxes, gas taxes, water taxes. Our view on that was that not all of those -- that there is an incremental payment to government. It is fee-for-service, yes, it's meant to be for a specific provision of a specific service, such as water. But that we still have a net economic impact, especially to, especially to local government.

Mr. Shaffer also talks about the net social
costs of electricity. That's really outside the ambit of our study. It wasn't in the EIS. And all I can say is we were told by BC Hydro that they have the power to provide the Project.

We also have a couple slides here on MiningWatch. And this is from a March 5th, 2010 submission. And these summaries on the left here are really MiningWatch had quite a bit of commentary leading up to their assessment, so I've really cut it down here.

What SEA effects are admissible?
The EIS requires, and I think there were some misinterpretation of what's actually required out of the EIS. And our interpretation is that the EIS requires justification for accepting potentially adverse effects. We weren't aware of any language that talks about justifying the Project.

So we're not justifying the project. Our analysis is not about justifying the project. Our analysis is about what are the adverse impacts going to be from a socio-economic perspective and can they be mitigated and are they acceptable.

The scope of analysis of study areas, MiningWatch had a lot of issues around the selection of study areas. And our viewpoint on that is we do
have different study areas for different socio-economic parameters. For instance, the land use parameter, the land use values, we looked at from more of a ground-based perspective. So the Local Study Area would be usually the Project components.

For something like health services, we don't -- to use the mine components as a study area does not make a lot of sense, because that's not where the services are provided.

So the study area changes according to how those effects are going to be manifested and where they are going to be concentrated and that means that the study areas will differ according to the value that's been measured.

There was also questions about how to evaluate socio-economic or how to undertake a socio-economic assessment. And our response to that is many of the parameters that MiningWatch talks about is that we have addressed those. We probably haven't addressed them to the suitability of MiningWatch. But we have addressed those according to the EIS Guidelines. And also we do have a major part, again, as with the land use side, on the other social components, especially for community services and health services. These impacts, and these effects,
are expected to be managed through mitigation.
There's a comment in MiningWatch. Sustainable development and justification for the Project. So I'm just coming back to my previous point. We were never under the impression that we're trying to justify the Project in this assessment.

And, again, as with Mr. Shaffer's report, we're not doing a cost benefit approach. That's not our approach. It's an impact assessment approach.

And the only comment $I$ have here is, as long as the adverse effects are mitigated to the Panel's satisfaction, then the Project has met the working definition of sustainability.

The issue about local capacity for more population, I've addressed that. There will be a population impact. We do have concerns about it. I'm not saying it's not an issue. What we're saying is that can be mitigated. The communities have been there in the past. And I note that Patt indicated that many of the communities are growing again.

So I assume when she says that, we're talking about on-Reserve populations. So we've got some growth happening there. And the capacity to deal with that population, both in Williams Lake and in the rural areas, does require mitigation.

And, finally, monitoring program for socio-economic effects. Well, the Table of Commitments and the mitigation as outlined in the EIS has been accepted by the Province, so I'm not sure what else we could say or Taseko wants to say about that.

The effects of mine closure. What
MiningWatch means here, $I$ assume, is that we don't only have a plan closure in the future, but we could have a mine closure at any time in the future, for instance if metal prices ...

That something that's extremely difficult to predict from a socio-economic perspective. Would it be year 5, would it be year 10, would it be year 15? It matters when that occurs. But in any case, it was not included in the, again, in the EIS Guidelines, that particular Project parameter.

That's the end of my presentation.
THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Nicol, for the presentation.

I'm just going to check on questioning. We're getting close to lunch, but I will check first to see in terms of the order of priority, it would be Transport Canada is a speaker. Do they have any questions? Perhaps we can deal with those at this point.

## QUESTIONS OF TASEKO MINES LIMITED BY TRANSPORT CANADA, BY

 MS. LINDA SULLIVAN:MS. SULLIVAN:
I have two general areas
where I'd like to ask a question.
THE CHAIRMAN: And it's Linda Sullivan, I believe, for the record.

MS. SULLIVAN: Sorry, I keep forgetting that.

The first refers to displacement of fishing and recreation to local areas in the Cariboo-Chilcotin. This is quantified in the EIS as being an increase of 0.4 percent in raising in other Cariboo-Chilcotin lakes. And the concept of displacing means that you are dispersing to other areas and you're increasing the effort and so on in these other areas.

Of interest to Transport Canada is the impact on fishing and recreation in these other areas. And I'm wondering if Taseko has any plans to deal with this increase or is it just an acknowledgment that this will take place?

MR. BELL-IRVING: I think at this point it's an acknowledgment that it would take place. And with respect to the displacement, I think one might think
of that as a temporal displacement because of the intended plan to recreate the lake and to return the land through reclamation. So there's a different spread, a timeframe around the temporal nature of it, but a temporal rather than a permanent.

MS. SULLIVAN: You've also indicated in other material presented to the Panel that you intend to stock lakes. Do you think this will have any influence on where the fishing and recreation would be displaced to? Do you feel this could have a positive impact on that increase?

MR. BELL-IRVING:
We fully anticipate that would be the case. But, again, that depends on the final selection of which lakes, where they are, the number of variables that would dictate how the public generally and First Nations and others might make use of that. But that would be the direction of the trend. It would be a positive contribution, yes.

MS. SULLIVAN: And, I'm sorry, I may have forgotten to look for this in the EIS, did you have any particular lakes that you were looking at? I know this is in discussion with MoE and potentially with First Nations. Did you have any sort of candidate lakes that you're currently considering?

MR. BELL-IRVING:
The nature of our discussions
so far have produced a list, I think, of about 14 candidate lakes, which is on the record, from the Provincial Government, and we're working through that list with them to select the candidates.

MS. SULLIVAN: Thank you. My second question relates to employment opportunities. And this is specifically with reference to First Nations. You this morning said that the Table of Commitments outlines First Nations employment opportunities. And I have in front of me the Table of Commitments that is part of your Environmental Assessment Certificate.

I just wanted to read this out to you because I feel the language is a bit vague. And I know that Transport Canada will be ultimately looking to work with you on developing opportunities for mitigating impacts on navigation. And I just want some clarity on what we might be looking at down the road.

And so I focus on First Nations because the presentation was this morning and you specifically referenced it, so I looked at it.

So the language that you've chosen to use in terms of direct employment is:
"Expand efforts to hire local First Nations candidates by ensuring employment opportunities are communicated."

This is under Economic Contributions and it's Section 19, Direct Employment.

And you also add to that:
"Undertake to inform local communities of the employment positions and opportunities available at Prosperity before expanding the search for potential employees."

And then another one was 19.4:
"Establish policies to help potential candidates gain required standards and qualifications."

And then you refer to your training program which is 20.0 , Training. 20.1 it says:
"Promote Mining Your Future."
This was mentioned in the general hearings. So these words expand and establish policies and promote. I'm wondering if you could be more specific about actions that you might take given that you've spent the last 17 days in community hearings and have you given some more thought to the wording that's in these commitments?

THE CHAIRMAN: Before you respond to that. Ms. Sullivan, I'm always conscious of I guess the mandates of Federal departments and I'm just trying to understand how this might be related to the mandate of

Transport Canada with respect to navigation here?
MS. SULLIVAN: Well, the relation is that we are required to consult with First Nations. And I guess we want to understand what kind of commitments Taseko is making to First Nations so that we can expand on that ourselves or build from that. That's why I'm looking at this.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you for that clarification.

MR. BELL-IRVING: I rather suspect the specificity that you might be looking for, we're not able to provide today. These commitments are, as you've described, perhaps general, they are not specific, they are policies, they are promises which are now commitments, legal obligations.

But I think there are some underlying principles that will help shape how we'll put the meat on the bones, as it were, of these principles. And we expressed those principles in the communities. In some instances, I think, whether it was effective or not, it was part of our intention by telling the story that we told in Redstone, which you may not have heard, but it was to illustrate how we felt these concepts or these principles might actually be realized at an individual level. So how you would see
these commitments actually manifest themselves into a job or into a career. And I won't go back over that story, but the basic principles include the fact that Taseko will do everything it can, reasonably, to provide information, to provide opportunities, and provide assistance in the form of Mining Your Future and other to-be-developed type activities, perhaps. But all of which will go for nought and mean nothing if on the other hand, First Nations, which we're talking about here, don't themselves wish to take advantage of these opportunities and to step up to the plate, as it were, and participate.

So we can't do it alone, $I$ guess is a
fundamental message. But I can't be more specific than that in terms of the meat, as it were.

MS. SULLIVAN: Thank you.
That's all the questions that I have. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Okay, thank you, Ms. Sullivan for the questions and the answers.

The next on the list would be the Tsilhqot'in National Government. I imagine there are a number of questions there. And I'm just wondering about how much time might be needed. I suspect it might be more appropriate to break for lunch, but perhaps I can
check with Ms. Crook here.
MS. CROOK:
Yes. Mr. Chair, I believe we have at least four different questioners that would like to come forward and that might generate more. I suspect it will take at least half an hour.

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, it will take some time, obviously, so I think this is probably an appropriate time to break for lunch. It's 10 to 12:00, and let's plan to resume at 1 o'clock. Thank you.
(NOON BREAK)
(PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED AT 11:55 A.M.) PROCEEDINGS RECONVENED AT 1:00 P.M.)

THE CHAIRMAN:
Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to start again, please.

We thank you for reconvening. As we broke for lunch, we had finished questioning by Transport Canada and, as I indicated, the next series of questions would be from Tsilhqot'in National Government and I believe I heard that there might be four questioners or four people who have questions associated with the Tsilhqot'in National Government, so I will leave that to you to sort out the order, but just come forward and identify yourself.

MS. CROOK: Mr. Chair, I think as we talked to the Secretariat, we're trying to shorten things so
everyone has a chance to present, so we're only going to have a few short questions and then we're going to try and cover our issues in our closing remarks.

THE CHAIRMAN: I think that's reasonable, yes, given that we have quite a few speakers on the list yet this afternoon. Thank you.

QUESTIONS OF TASEKO MINES LIMITED BY TSILHQOT'IN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT, BY MR. TONY PEARSE:

MR. PEARSE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, it's Tony Pearse for TNG.

Mr. Bell-Irving has gone on at length throughout these hearings about the commitments that the company has made and the commitments that are attached in the Certificate. And I'm wondering if Mr. Bell-Irving would tell the Panel what he knows about the B.C. Environmental Assessment legislation in terms of its provisions for follow-up work following issuance of a certificate.

MR. BELL-IRVING: The short answer, very little specifics, but $I$ do know that very recently, and particularly evidenced in our Certificate, the Environmental Assessment Office has gone through an internal review to address issues to, related to a couple of things.

First of all, the ability to follow up and to
ensure compliance.
And secondly, the ability and the issues associated with perhaps changes to the Project that occur from the time it's certified to the time it's actually built.

And in those two areas, $I$ believe I'm correct in saying that in our Certificate issued in January, that it reflects language based on legal advice from the Justice Ministry, that is intended to, in my words, hold our feet to the fire.

To go any further than that, I can't give you any more details about the history of the Act or how it's applied.

MR. PEARSE:
Thank you. You would agree with me, Mr. Bell-Irving, that there is no established provision within the Environmental Assessment Office for follow-up programs, auditing, inspection, and compliance measures with respect to any Project that receives a B.C. Certificate; isn't that correct?

MR. BELL-IRVING: No, I can't agree with that. I don't know.

MR. PEARSE: It would not surprise you to learn, I suppose, that there isn't such a program, that once the Certificate is issued, the Environmental Assessment Office is done for on a particular project?

MR. BELL-IRVING: I certainly wouldn't agree with that. And I can't accept that.

MR. PEARSE:
Have you ever reviewed an Annual Report from the Environmental Assessment Office? I think they are called the Annual Service Plans?

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Pearse, first of all, I'm not sure of the relevance of this. We don't have that office here to really respond to those questions.

MR. PEARSE: Mr. Chairman, the relevance is that the company is relying quite heavily, I think, to demonstrate the viability of this Project on the existence of its commitments, which would imply some sort of enforcement or certainly an auditing function, a monitoring function in terms of follow-up like the Federal legislation provides for. And I'm trying to get Mr. Bell-Irving to admit that there is no such similar provision at all in the B.C. regime, so once the Certificate's issued, that's it.

THE CHAIRMAN:
Well, fair enough, but the point is obviously the commitments are there and Taseko presumably has to follow them, but I think in all fairness, these questions really ought to be directed to an agency that isn't here.

MR. PEARSE: Okay. I guess if I might
just be allowed one other question about this. I guess I'm wondering if Mr. Bell-Irving would explain why in terms of reclamation and closure the Crown demands its security up front and doesn't rely on commitments to do the work at the end of the Project?

MR. BELL-IRVING: Again, Mr. Pearse, I'm, I feel as though I'm on trial here. I do not speak for the Mines Act or the Mines Branch or the Provincial Government. We are a company that exists and operates within the law of the land. And we follow the law of the land. And that we will continue to do.

MR. PEARSE: You really haven't answered my question, though. I'm asking you why the Crown requires you to put security up front for your reclamation commitments rather than just rely on your good word that at the end of the day you're going to do the work.

MR. BELL-IRVING: Mr. Pearse, I can't answer that question. Perhaps the Mines Branch would be better able to do so.

THE CHAIRMAN: I think the question again is I think directed to a department that isn't here. The why they require this $I$ think is only something they could answer. Obviously I would assume that if it becomes a legal requirement, the company has to
respond to it.
MR. PEARSE: That's true, Mr. Chairman, but it does speak to the meaningfulness of all of these commitments that have been made, so, you know, on the one hand, there's a certain commitment that the Crown doesn't take at face value, it requires the company to put a security deposit on it, so my question is really going to all of these other commitments, what's there to ensure they get done at the end of the day.

But I am done. Thank you very much.
THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. The next questioner from TNG?

MS. CROOK: We're done.
THE CHAIRMAN: Oh, you're done. Okay. Then we'll move directly to the next presentation which is I understand first of all that Transport Canada's agreed to fall further back in the order and allow MiningWatch Canada to be next and that's fine. That's Joan Kuyek, I believe. I'm sorry, in my exuberance here to move to the next presentation, I missed the opportunity for others besides TNG to raise questions if they wish. My apology for that.

So I just about let you off pretty easy there, Rod.

Again going through the order, in fact, the next questioners would be MiningWatch. If they have any questions.

MR. HART: We do, Mr. Chair, but we're going to defer our statement for the summations.

THE CHAIRMAN: Okay, thank you. Then Share the Cariboo-Chilcotin Resource Society, any questions?

SPEAKER:
No questions.
THE CHAIRMAN: No questions. Okay. Friends of Nemaiah Valley?

SPEAKER: No questions, Mr. Chairman.
THE CHAIRMAN:
Williams Lake District
Chamber of Commerce?
SPEAKER: No questions.
THE CHAIRMAN: No questions, okay. The other Federal departments would be Environment Canada, Fisheries and Oceans and Natural Resources Canada, any questions? None.

Okay, Canoe Creek Band is next?
Esketemc First Nation, question?
MS. BEDARD: We'll defer them to closing comment.

THE CHAIRMAN:
Okay. Then I guess the only ones left would be the Panel. And I think we have a few here, but not very many.

## QUESTIONS OF TASEKO MINES LIMITED BY THE FEDERAL PANEL:

THE CHAIRMAN:
The one I had,
Mr. Bell-Irving, goes back to a question that $I$ raised, I believe, back in the Nemiah community. And I wondered at the time whether you had had discussions with the Tsilhqot'in National Government regarding an Impact Benefit Agreement. And, if I recall, you indicated at the time, and we received no indication otherwise, that it would be the or was the preference of the Tsilhqot'in National Government to not discuss that until such time as the Project might be approved, if I recall. I think that was generally the exchange. Since that time, we've also come to understand more about the, or at least from what you've told us, more about the Province's revenue sharing plans, and I wonder, would you, if the Project was approved, would you still be prepared to enter into discussions regarding an Impact Benefit Agreement with First Nations?

MR. BELL-IRVING: If I may, Mr. Chairman, I'd like to confer with my colleague at the back of the room to answer that properly. If you'd just give me a minute.

THE CHAIRMAN:
MR. BELL-IRVING:

That would be fine.
We all have higher
authorities.
The short answer, Mr. Chairman, is, yes, we would. Taseko Mines is, always has been, and will remain open to all mutually beneficial and reasonable offers and suggestions in that regard.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. I just wanted to get clarification of that.

And Nalaine, I think you had some questions. MS. MORIN: I got a couple of questions.

Employment opportunities and benefits for First Nations has been brought up a number of times during the hearing sessions as has the Mining Your Future program. You have stated you are legally and morally committed to working with communities. However, you have also suggested that the onus for initiating such discussions rests with First Nations.

So my question is, given this position, please clarify how you plan to meet your commitments to the Province and the objectives of the Mining Your Future program outlined in the EIS, recognizing the limited resources First Nations have indicated are available to them, if First Nations communities do contact you, will you make the necessary efforts to bring the programs to them? Or if they don't contact you, will you make the necessary efforts to bring your programs to them?

MR. BELL-IRVING: I think, firstly, that the legal obligation and responsibility rests with Taseko Mines. And I think that's clear. As to how that responsibility and obligation is discharged, we believe requires two parties, or a relationship to some extent, in order to begin that process. We can't do it alone, in other words.

So without the requiring much in the way of resources, I would expect the first step might be that the First Nations would in some manner indicate a willingness to discuss, a willingness to engage in the discussions about how we might implement, define and implement those commitments.

With respect to the Tsilhqot'in National Government, it's a matter of public record that the current situation is on record that that Nation will "do everything in their power to stop this Project" or words to that effect.

With that position clearly on the table, we are at a loss at this point in time as to what more we might do until there's some indication from the Nation of a change or at least a willingness to consider the possibility of jobs, the possibility of a future.

So it's a shared responsibility. But that
would be, in our view, the first step, and then, yes, of course Taseko would make the effort, would go to the communities, would do whatever's reasonably possible to make every effort to give meaning to these commitments.

MS. MORIN: Thank you.

MR. BELL-IRVING: You want to add to that?
THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Battison.
MR. BATTISON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
I would like to add to that response, if I could.

The Mining Your Future program is in large measure focused on individuals, not just First Nation individuals, but all individuals who are interested in developing a career in the mining industry and hopefully with our company.

So it will be up to those individuals, not necessarily the Chiefs or the Bands, to negotiate that. If somebody wants to step forward, and is looking for some help and some guidance and some advice, then that's really the essence of the program, focused on individuals to help them.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Nalaine.
MS. MORIN: In the EIS you stated:
"In the absence of direct impact
statements from First Nations, we are unable to determine the significance of Project effects on cultural heritage values."

Given that you now have the benefit of the information gathered during the community hearing sessions, can you provide your determination of the significance of the Project effects on cultural heritage values?

MR. BELL-IRVING:
Regrettably, no. We heard a lot of information and we've learned a lot. But, again, one of the principle reasonings for my line of questioning of Patt Larcombe this morning was to try and put the effects that were summarized today in relation to Teztan Biny and the Project area into a context, either local, regional, or otherwise, and I was unable, unfortunately, to get that contextual information that would give us the ability to provide you with our determination in that regard.

MS. MORIN: Has your determination of significance on current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes changed?

MR. BELL-IRVING: I'm sorry, I didn't hear the first part of that. Has?

MS. MORIN:
Has your determination of
significance on current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes changed?

MR. BELL-IRVING: No.
MS. MORIN: Given that there is an
acknowledgment of effects on cultural heritage resources, have you given any consideration as to how you might mitigate those effects?

MR. BELL-IRVING: Other than in order to do so in a meaningful way, again, we would start with establishing a relationship and in dialogue have some understanding of how effectively one might. But other than that, no.

MS. MORIN:
Thank you.
THE CHAIRMAN: had a question.

MR. KLASSEN:
Yes. In the presentation, Mr. Nicol, you mentioned, or provided some information about traffic volumes along the Taseko Whitewater

Road. And if $I$ understood you correctly, you said that traffic volume is going to go up to about 150 vehicles per day. And the slide seems to indicate that the road could handle as many as 500 to 700 vehicles, did I understand that correctly?

MR. NICOL: That's right.
MR. KLASSEN: And I think you mentioned
something about accident rates. Do you know what the current number of accidents is on that road given the --

MR. NICOL:
Not on that road no.
MR. KLASSEN: So do you have any projections of what they might be at 150 vehicles per day?

MR. NICOL:
There is no -- the baseline estimate came from the Ministry of Highways. There's no traffic counting on that road. Only on Highway 20 and Highway 97.

MR. KLASSEN:
But for a road of that type with that traffic volume, is there not some rule of thumb about the number of accidents that might be expected?

MR. NICOL:
It would go up.
MR. KLASSEN:
To what point?
MR. NICOL: We don't have accident rates on that road.

MR. KLASSEN: The reason I ask those questions is because accidents or potential for accidents on that road with the increase in traffic was a concern raised in the communities. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, that concludes our questions.

So we'll get back to Joan Kuyek again. Please come forward.

PRESENTATION BY MININGWATCH CANADA, BY MS. JOAN KUYEK:
MS. KUYEK:
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
I'm pleased to be able to present here today, and I appreciate the time of the Panel to listen to me.

I'm the former coordinator of MiningWatch Canada and was there from its inception in 1999 until I semi-retired about a year-and-a-half ago.

I'm self-taught on most of the socio-economic issues, although I've spent my entire working life working as a community, organizing community developer, 30 of them in Sudbury, so I'm quite familiar with a lot of the impacts of mining on communities, even when it's economically viable and works well.

I'm an author of a number of publications on mining taxation and one of them peer-reviewed in an Oxford University Press publication that came out last year.

I think my resume's on file.
What I'm going to address today are a number of the claims from the mining company about the validity, about the great benefits that they are going
to provide through this mine to communities and province and the rest of the country.

The order of my presentation is to, first off, look at the ability of this company economically to deliver on its promises.

I'm going to do an overview of the taxation matters associated with the company.

We will look at GDP, Gross Domestic Product, as a measure of economic well-being.

Some economic alternatives to the mine.
And we'll address questions of vulnerability and inequality in the socio-economic assessment.

Look at some of the socio-economic issues around closure.

And I'll end with a few comments about "Justified under the circumstances."

I hope that's acceptable.
The first question that we've asked is: Can Taseko deliver on its promises.

Being able to deliver on your promises as a mining company means having a bottom line that's healthy and it means you can meet your economic commitments.

This is a low-grade mine. It's very dependent on the currency exchange rate, on commodity prices, and obtaining affordable financing. Because it is low-grade, it's subject to boom and bust cycles, like most low-grade mines are.

It's important to note that the socio-economic commitments in the BC Environmental Assessment Office Agreement are mostly for monitoring, and agreements to discuss, to develop, to expand. There are very few hard commitments in the socio-economic section.

In terms of First Nations history with Gibraltar so far, which is the other operating mine owned by this company, it's important to note that the B.C. Environmental Protection Permit which was renewed in 2001, only allowed effluent discharge to the tailings impoundment and not to the environment.

At that time the public did not know that the company from the beginning had "recognized that excess water discharge will eventually be required."

This is referred to in the Roscoe Postle Technical Report of 2005.

The request for this permit to discharge to the Fraser River was opposed by the Xat'sull First Nation who said it would affect the salmon and the sturgeon. It ended up in the Environmental Appeal Board who agreed that it would affect the sturgeon and
sent it back for a determination, and by a majority vote allowed the discharge anyway.

They did say that the First Nation had been adequately consulted and the company now has permits allowing it to discharge 3.5 million cubic metres a year to the Fraser River.

To my knowledge, and I've checked with many others, there are no Impact Benefit Agreements with any First Nations in the mine footprint, the Gibraltar Mine footprint, about sharing benefits or that commit the company to employment quotas.

They have had five years, six years to develop those. And that has not been done.

As I said, this is a low-grade mine. The mineral resources or gold are 0.41 grams per tonne. About that much (indicating), Mr. Chairman, per tonne of rock. And copper at 0.24 percent. The mineral reserves, which are much harder and are subject to economic verification, only differs slightly with gold at 0.43 grams per tonne and copper at 0.22 percent.

The gold is dispersed throughout the mine and cannot be retrieved without mining the copper, which means that if the copper price drops, it becomes more difficult to make money off the gold.

There will also be considerable smelter
penalties for antimony, which is, in the concentrate is 0.30 to 0.4 percent, for arsenic, which is 0.2 percent of the concentrate, and mercury, which is quite high, 80 to 150 parts per million.

In the Jones Report, the December 2009 technical report, he says:
"Mercury will incur the penalties
and not all smelters, even if they
blend, will be prepared to take
such quality."
I'm not sure if you're aware of smelter penalties and how they work, but when -- you are, so I don't need to go into that.

I just wanted to show you some copper and gold ore grades for mines from 2009 and it's the open pit ones that are most interesting.

And if you'll notice that the proposed Prosperity Mine is considerably lower in its gold content and in its copper content than almost all the others that are named there.

It's also lower than, in terms of copper, than Gibraltar, although the Gibraltar Mine has molybdenum and not gold.

The Jones Report again says:
"This low copper means that
there will probably be some limit on the quantity that any one smelter will take, as the grade is below the average smelter blend and reduces the metal output from the furnaces."

I think it's important to note that there are a number of differences between what gets said in the technical reports and the financial reports of the company and what's said in the EIS. They are for different audiences and they are said in different ways and they say different things.

To what extent can we rely on these technical reports and feasibility studies?

There's a number of problems with the Feasibility Studies for the Prosperity Mine, but in my mind, the most serious one is that, although the resource estimates were undertaken by independent consultants, the updated economic evaluation for the mine was directed by Scott Jones, who is Vice President of Engineering for Taseko and not an independent qualified person as required by National Instrument 43-101 of the Securities Exchange Commission.

National Instrument $43-101$ reads that:
"An independent technical
report subject to subsection (2),
a technical report required by any of the following provisions of this instrument must be prepared by or under the supervision of a qualified person that is at the date of the technical report
independent of the issuer."
Now, this is not an unusual problem in the mining industry. Many, many technical reports are prepared by vice-presidents of the company. But it doesn't qualify as a 43-101 report. And I don't actually understand why the company hasn't got it done by an independent evaluator.

Some of the other problems.
The return on investment in the technical report has been calculated on a before-tax basis. And the return on investment is considered in the December 2009 version to be only 10 percent. I notice looking at the Taseko website two days ago that they are now saying that it's going to be 30 percent based on today's copper and gold prices, although I'm pretty sure that the costs haven't been gone over with the same care.

Even according to the December 2009 technical report, the return on investment is most sensitive to the exchange rate followed by operating costs and metal prices.

Taseko has said in their financial statements that a difference of 10 percent in the exchange rate, Canadian to U.S. dollars, can affect their bottom line by over $\$ 13$ million annually.

The December 2009 technical report capital and operating costs are based on pre-tax calculations, as, by the way, were all earlier technical reports for both Gibraltar and Prosperity.

So it's also important to note that although commodity prices are higher currently much more than the numbers in the studies, they are very volatile. They are conservative numbers for the value of copper and gold in the studies.

And according to those same studies, many costs are not included in the cost estimates. Environmental, archaeological and ecological considerations other than those in the current design, costs for acquisition of rights-of-way, compensation to affected First Nations, the cost to produce the Environmental Impact Statement, and the cost of obtaining environmental approvals and permits from
local, provincial and national authorities. No financing charges or interest, it assumes full financing.

No allowance for currency exchange fluctuations after September 3rd, 2009, and it's based on an exchange rate that's considerably different than that today, which is almost at par.

No contingency for sustaining capital or operating costs, although there is a contingency for capital costs.

Power costs, which are over one quarter of the costs of operating the mine depend on a very subsidized price of $\$ 38$ per megawatt hour, which is much lower than the cost to BC Hydro.

And that again is from the Jones Technical Report.

The consumables are 46 percent of operating costs. Consumables are the grinding balls and reagents that are required to produce the concentrate.

And anybody in the mining industry knows that the prices for steel fluctuate dramatically, and if prices for steel aren't stable, then those consumables are going to change.

And there is no allowance for costs associated for weather interruption of construction
activities.
The reclamation costs in the technical report are based on 1.0 percent per pound of copper. And that's all that's allocated for reclamation and closure.

If they were able to mine the entire potential copper resource of 3.6 billion pounds, it would mean that 36.5 million would be accumulated. But it would only accumulate as the mine grew in size and impact.

And as Mr. Pearse pointed out, the Province generally requires companies to pay a considerable amount up front, which will affect the cash flow of the company quite dramatically.

It's important to note that at least half the costs of reclamation of the Gibraltar Mine are only protected by giving the Province the first right to seize mine equipment and machinery if the company defaults on reclamation obligations at closure.

And the other half of the reclamation costs for the Gibraltar or for Taseko, in this case, are in a Qualifying Environmental Trust. The investment of which is not controlled by the Province.

In order to open Gibraltar in 2004, there were a number of deals made with the Province, including the Province assuming a good part of the reclamation obligation.

And in terms of best practices around reclamation, the Gibraltar Mine is not fully protect -- the taxpayers aren't fully protected against a default in the Gibraltar Mine.

Again it's important to note that any changes in these variables, from contingency to weather to adequate reclamation bonds, to the exchange rate, could result in interruptions in mine operations or premature closure.

This is not a sure deal.
And I'm going to move on now to talking about taxation.

Taxes from metal mines are less than 1.0 percent of all revenues in the Province of British Columbia. The figure that you usually see includes coal mines, industrial minerals, pits and quarries. It's not exclusively metal mines.

Sometimes it's expanded to include energy and minerals and then you're talking about other kinds of leases, too.

The actual taxes paid, both income taxes and mineral taxes, are considerably less than statutory rates and are based on profits.

Taseko does not expect to pay income taxes on the Prosperity Mine. And neither did they expect to pay any on Gibraltar.

The province's mining industry pays a
Marginal Effective Tax Rate of just 10.1 percent compared to an overall average for other industries of 31.6 percent. In other words, mining companies pay a marginal effective tax rate that is less than one-third of the rates paid by other industries in the province. This is from unpublished research from the Pembina Institute and it's referenced in the submission I made in March.

This is a graph that shows where the difference between mining taxes paid, which is the little line on the bottom, and mining company profits between 1996 and 2006. And you can see that the mining taxes paid don't anywhere keep up with the mining profits. Granted the profits have gone down with the change in the market, but the mining taxes keep pace in their own way, but it's a big gap.

The Taseko Technical Reports say the following about taxation. In Section 18.10 in Jones on page 132:
"The economic model was run on a
before-tax basis. B.C. mining
taxes were estimated and included in the cash flow model. The Project will also be subject to Federal and Provincial income taxes but these taxes are not fixed and it is believed that tax planning methods will be available to minimize the effect on Project economics."

And again on page 153:
"No allowance has been made for Federal and Provincial income tax. The only taxes calculated in this analysis are with respect to B.C. mineral taxes. No allowance has been made for GST or Provincial sales tax."

The B.C. mineral tax.
The B.C. mineral tax is a royalty. And a royalty is a fiscal instrument designed to compensate the public for the loss of a non-renewable resource such as minerals, gems, oil, and gas. Royalties are often described as "resource rent". They may be payable to government or to a private leaseholder. It's quite common, for example, for mining companies
or First Nations to make an agreement with another mining company to pay them a net smelter return, which is not based on profit.

In this case, the B.C. mineral royalty is called the mineral tax, and it is based entirely on profit. We'll look at it a bit more in a moment.

And it should be noted that the revenue sharing that is being contemplated by B.C. and Taseko would be a percentage of the mineral tax. So understanding how the mineral tax works is pretty important. It's not the same thing as an Impact Benefit Agreement which could be negotiated like the Minto Mine is with a net smelter return.

So the mineral tax in B.C. is calculated under the Mineral Land Tax Act and the Mineral Tax Act. And it's in two stages:

A 2 percent tax on net current proceeds, which is sales grants and subsidies, less operating expenses and reclamation costs;

And a 13 percent tax on net revenue, which is based on profit.

So in fact the entire tax is based on profit, although slightly different versions of it.

In digging through the Taseko financial statements, $I$ found these two figures for mineral tax.

2007 actually showed as nil, but I find it hard to believe that $I$ was reading it right.

2008, they paid $\$ 606,000$ on an operating profit of 28.1 million, and in 2009, $\$ 981,000$ on an operating profit of 48.3 million.

It corresponds to about 2 per cent of the operating profit. It is not the statutory rate of 15 percent, which is used in other parts of their financial statements for the purposes of calculating their accumulated future tax assets with the Federal Government.

Taseko income tax paid Federally and Provincially is interesting also.

If you look through the financial statements, there's a whole range of ways in which tax can be affected. For example, Taseko has accumulated almost \$37 million in what they call "tax assets". Exploration, development, and deferred operating costs that can be used against future taxes and so on. But the actual tax paid on the Gibraltar Mine, which has been, you know, in full flush for a number of years now, in 2005, there was a tax recovery of over \$4 million. In 2006, they had to pay $\$ 4.4$ million. In 2007, almost $\$ 4$ million. And then in 2008 , there was another tax recovery of $\$ 2.1$ million. And in

2009, their income tax to Federal and Provincial Governments together was $\$ 669,000$. If you add that up, the average annual income taxes paid are just over half a million dollars.

And I can provide background documents for that if you need it, but I think this is important to note that this is considerably different, considerably different than the statutory rates and considerably different than the kinds of commitments we are hearing from the company about what they are going to pay in Table 2.12 I think it is in the EIS.

In 2009, the company's gross sales were almost $\$ 189$ million and their operating profit was $\$ 48$ million.

They estimated their tax on that profit at statutory rates to be $\$ 3.376$ million, but only had to pay $\$ 669,000$ for the current year. It should be noted that this is only 20 percent of the statutory rate and that income tax paid was slightly over 1.0 percent of the operating profit in that year.

The costs to the public and government for this project on the other hand are substantial.

And I won't go into the hydro subsidies in great detail, because I believe Dr. Shaffer is going to do that. But in looking at the technical report,
one could calculate that they were expecting to receive about $\$ 35$ million annually in BC Hydro subsidies. That's the difference between the cost per megawatt hour in their technical report at $\$ 37.4$ per megawatt hour, and the $\$ 88$ per megawatt hour, which is the average, the average price for purchasing power in B.C.

I'm not privy to the agreement that Gibraltar has with $B C$ Hydro over its power costs, but what the technical report says is it will be the same as they get at Gibraltar.

Dr. Shaffer has also talked about GHG emissions annual costs to $B C$ annually of 2.6 to 2.8 million dollars. And he will expand on that.

There's also increased use of roads, emergency services, health and social services, housing permits and other services, which are talked about in the socio-economic report as though they will somehow magically appear when people need them.

And the Taseko Road upgrades that we've heard about and increased maintenance will be covered by the MTO .

Never counted is the huge cost to First Nations, to municipal governments, to Provincial and Federal Governments, for negotiation, accounting,

Environmental Assessment, lost opportunity costs, those are huge costs to all of us, and access to water for free, and access to Crown land for free.

When we raised this in our conformance review, we were told that, of course, access to Crown land was free, you never had to pay for it.

I'm going to turn now to the whole question of using Gross Domestic Product as a way of evaluating a Project.

Taseko has made a lot of its huge contribution to Gross Domestic Product in British Columbia. And I think it's worth remembering that this is a system of accounting that was created by the Americans and British during the Second World War to quantify the monetary value of work during the war effort.

It became the foundation for the United Nations system of national accounts and it's the way that work throughout the world generally is evaluated.

But it has a glaring flaw. It has no debit column. So that wars and something like the Exxon Valdez spill are shown only as contributing to the GDP, not as detracting from it.

And I wanted to, in a book I was recently reading by Bill McKibben, he said:
"An economically productive citizen is a cancer patient who totals his car while on the way to meet his divorce lawyer."

And I thought that was worth repeating.
In the GDP, most cultural and caring activities, subsistence fisheries and farming have no value whatsoever.

Neither do services provided by the environment, water, waste disposal, provision of oxygen, and so on.

In 1997, Costanza valued worldwide ecosystems services at 33 trillion dollars, more than twice the value of GDP in that year, GNP, Gross National Product.

And for the purposes of evaluating an environmentally and culturally destructive project like a mine, the GDP is a useless measure.

Community economic development.
People end up accepting something like a mine because they figure they have no alternative. People let their forests be clearcut because they think they have no alternative.

We're ready to do almost anything to feed our kids.

But I think it's important to note that there are already many, many initiatives in the Cariboo-Chilcotin that provide opportunities for community economic development, sustainable development that meets the needs of the present while building opportunities and well-being for future generations.

If they were to receive the kind of government investment that Taseko expects to make its mine operate, a much more diverse and healthy economy could be built by the citizens of the Cariboo-Chilcotin region working together.

And this isn't new. People are already doing it. It needs support and encouragement.

With encouragement to the existing wide variety of renewable energy projects, tourism, horse logging, wood fibre initiatives, sustainable agriculture, specialty ranching and food activities, and the arts and heritage sector, the required jobs and livelihoods can be created. And B.C. has some of the most outstanding groups for supporting this work and helping people learn how to do it and helping people work together in the country.

The realization of these initiatives is made more difficult when local and provincial attention and
incentives are focussed on getting a single high-wage employer to solve the region's problems. It takes everybody's energy all the time.

The Mayor and other decision-makers in the region are aware of the need to diversify the economy and actually believe that this mine would be of relatively short-term benefit and would help them diversify.

And I want to put it squarely on the table that I think the Panel has a responsibility under CEAA to support sustainable development. It's clearly there in your mandate.

When we talk about the benefits of a large employer, the silver bullet syndrome, we're actually talking about something that's been named by Polese and Shearmur as the "Intrusive Rentier Syndrome."

They did a study a few years back that looked at what they called "peripheral regions," places like Sudbury and Williams Lake and other towns that faced serious problems when a highly capitalized employer moves in. It's hard to find people to fill lower wage jobs, it's hard to attract investment for unrelated enterprises and for startups, there's heightened income disparity and social tensions, there's increased domestic and societal violence, there's
increased hard drug use and alcoholism. And the community faces a boom and bust economy because of its dependence on that single employer.

Williams Lake has already seen its share of that. It's seen with the forestry industry and it's seen it with Mount Polley and Gibraltar and it's walking into it again.

The mine will worsen social and economic problems for vulnerable populations, especially women and Aboriginal Peoples.

There has been no proper identification of socio-economic impacts on vulnerable groups.

In the EIS, it said that:
"The EIS must use the World
Health Organization determinants
of health to do an analysis of
health effects."
His was not done. We raised it in a conformance review and it was ignored and the company's response has been that they weren't required to do it.

It says "must". That's the language. And it's in my documents.

And the World Health Organization determinants of health require:
"An analysis of effects on vulnerable populations, including women, youth, First Nations and the services on which they depend, and an analysis of informal supports and of the social fabric in the communities that enable vulnerable people to survive. Kinship and friendship, country foods, various agencies that help people out, barter, informal sector employment ..."

And so on.
One of those characteristics is gender divisions. And a gender analysis is considered to be important now in almost every Environmental Assessment that is done, by the World Bank, by the United Nations, certainly in Canada it was a very important part of the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Review. SEDAR requires it for its projects still, I think. But there's no gender analysis in this document. None.

And the need for that specific gender analysis can be seen in the great discrepancy between incomes and earnings between women and men in the Cariboo Region.

In the 2006 Census, median earnings for men were $\$ 35,624$ and for women were $\$ 16,684$.

Less than 50 percent the wages of men.
The median earnings for full-time employment for men, $\$ 53,499$, for women, $\$ 32,279$.

From all sources, median income from all
sources, men $\$ 31,594$, women $\$ 17,279$.
Women are also less likely to qualify for employment at Prosperity Mine, and if they do, they will get the lower paying jobs. Unless something is done about that.

There will also be a housing crisis for low income people. There's a big difference in communities between what happens for housing for poor people and what happens for people who have decent incomes.

And having lived in a mining town and seeing what happens when there's hiring booms or hiring busts, for that matter, the pressure always falls on single parent women and Aboriginal People because they can't move around like that. They don't have the money to pay the rent. Other people become more desirable tenants. And although more accommodation may be built to handle the pressure, it's going to
take many years to do that well. And it still remains to be seen whether that will accommodate the people who really need it.

The EIS provided some very disturbing information about the health of the most vulnerable population in the Regional Study Area and about the capacity of the social fabric and the effect of First Nations communities to be able to absorb the changes caused by the mine. And my March submission went through a number of the sections from the EIS and I'd urge you to read them. I won't go through them again. The Interior Health Authority, which, in fact, was the only health organization that was consulted by Lions Gate, they didn't talk to any of the other social agencies.

The Interior Health Authority has stated that:
"The Aboriginal People in the Interior do not enjoy the same level of health as surrounding non-Aboriginal population.

Registered Indians continue
to have a shorter life expectancy and gaps continue to be seen between males and females as well
as between on- and off-Reserve
populations."
We're told that there will be, if the mine goes ahead, that Aboriginal employment in the mine will be a major force. But $I$ think it's important to note a few things.

The first is that Taseko says that 8 to 12 percent of the Gibraltar workforce is Aboriginal but it has no data about their occupations, wages or First Nation of origin.

And when the consultants did the visiting to the various First Nations and asked them where they worked, nobody said they worked at Gibraltar, so I don't know what the story is there.

In 2006, there were 620 Aboriginal people in the B.C. mining workforce. That's not very many.

As well, AIMBC estimated that in 2007, about 10 percent of 7,071 seasonal employees in mineral exploration were Aboriginal. Those are generally seasonal jobs.

Unemployment rates in the industry in 2006 were 10.7 percent for Aboriginals, twice the rate for non-Aboriginals.

The income gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal mining workers was $\$ 18,000$ in 2006, up
$\$ 12,200$ from 2007. From 2001.
That's a, I think that's stunning, actually that figure. And says something about the quality of the agreements that are being able to be negotiated with mining companies.

And of importance in the gender analysis is that the women were only 14 percent of Aboriginal mining employees in Canada and they earned 15,000 less than men.

Those are Canadian figures, those last ones, but it still says that there's some very serious problems in this industry about inequity for Aboriginal People and for women. And if you're an Aboriginal woman, it's even worse.

I'm going to turn now to closure.
The company says that there are no significant socio-economic concerns at closure because it's going to be just like it was at the beginning. But we need to note a few things.

The first is that when a major mine closes, the mine mill infrastructure and other oversized buildings and equipment become a liability instead of an asset. Somebody's got to get rid of them. So that in many places where companies have closed because of economic uncertainty or closed because the ore body
ran out, the mine mill infrastructure is left there for the taxpayer to clean up. And those who used the infrastructure and the equipment as some kind of security against their own debt, will find that, instead of having an asset, they have got a liability. That's the problem with the Province's attachment of the mine equipment at closure instead of taking a security up front.

Regional governments and close by communities are faced with the loss of population and loss of revenue from taxes.

The costs of providing services either remain the same as they were during the mine life and may actually increase.

There's a fair amount of literature out there about the increased needs of populations for support when mines and other large industries close.

And that's in fact what the Cariboo-Chilcotin is facing now may be a product of the problems in the forestry industry.

For most of the people in the community, when the mine's closing, the only answer seems to be finding another ore body and enlarging the mine footprint. We've seen that over and over again. People get hooked on mining. There's not much else
they can think of to bring in. And instead of concentrating on other forms of community economic development, the rush is on to find another ore body no matter how low-grade it is, no matter what a big footprint it's got. And the result of this is that political and social tensions rise over the community future. People who were good friends and neighbours start fighting over what's going to happen next. And sustainable long-term projects to rebuild the community economy are crowded out.

And I just, in light of that, would like to say that I think Mount Polley's impending closure is an opportunity to rethink the future of the Cariboo-Chilcotin, not to increase dependency on unsustainable mining one more time.

This is a quote from the Elliot Lake Tracking Study which is from 1998, which is not that long ago. And it's the most extensive study of the socio-economic impacts of mine closure that's been undertaken in Canada:

"The efforts at finding new<br>directions that did occur were<br>often beset by political division<br>and a lack of openness and<br>community solidarity.

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { In boom times at Elliot Lake } \\
& \text { the dominant values fitted easily } \\
& \text { with an increasingly high level of } \\
& \text { consumerism and an } \\
& \text { individualization of social and } \\
& \text { environmental problems. But with } \\
& \text { the mass lay-offs of the 1990s and } \\
& \text { the acute crisis facing Elliot } \\
& \text { Lake's development, it became } \\
& \text { increasingly apparent that neither } \\
& \text { these dominant economic and social } \\
& \text { values nor the legacy of top-down, } \\
& \text { company-town democracy could hold } \\
& \text { the community together under } \\
& \text { stress." }
\end{aligned}
$$

And that study goes on to talk about all the problems hat Elliot Lake ran into and continues to run into in trying to rebuild themselves.

I should note here that the company thinks
that there is nothing, basically nothing that needs to be mitigated at closure, that there will be no socio-economic effects.

And I think that's unacceptable.
And certainly the studies that we've done, including a major literature review of mining
dependent communities, would indicate that that's not acceptable.
"Justifiable under the Circumstances."
I understand that the Panel is going to have a very difficult question in front of you. If you decide that the mine has significant environmental effects, then you're required, you're required by your Terms of Reference to talk about what justifiability might mean in those circumstances. The company is calling for very limited view of that. But it's the mandate of a Federal Panel to decide whether these effects can be justified.

And although it's the Minister and the Responsible Authorities that will make the final decision on this mine, you're charged with making recommendations about it.

And in terms of the analysis of socio-economic concerns, this discussion of what the company is claiming its benefits are has been limited to this presentation. And Mr. Shaffer's, Dr. Shaffer's presentation.

If a decision is going to be made as the BCEAO did that the mine should go ahead because of its wondrous economic benefits to the province, then that has to be analyzed. You can't just accept GDP data
and data from the company about its tax revenues and its property taxes and its employment spin-offs. It's got to be examined and analyzed.

What the Panel's responsibility is is to look at sustainable development to decide if this Project contributes to sustainable development and to decide if it's in the interests of the public for it to go ahead.

The Tsilhqot'in and the Secwepemc and other rural Peoples that live among them will suffer the enormous social, cultural, and economic impacts directly related to the mine's environmental footprint, and they are going to live with those impacts forever.

The people who will benefit from this mine don't live in the environmental footprint of the mine.

When they drew the boundaries for the Local Study Area for socio-economic effects, they included Williams Lake. Williams Lake is not in the environmental footprint of the mine. And most of the benefits will accrue to Williams Lake and outside the area of the TNG and the Secwepemc.

To permit this mine will have serious political repercussions across the region, the province, and the country. And in terms of the
circumstances that could justify this mine, that's a major question.

And it is our position, and my position, that this would be environmental racism to permit this mine under the circumstances.

Thank you.
THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Ms. Kuyek.
(Applause)
THE CHAIRMAN:
I'd ask that we refrain from applause during these hearings, please.

I would ask Taseko if they have any questions, please.

MR. BELL-IRVING: If I may just ask for a minute's time to.

## QUESTIONS OF MININGWATCH CANADA BY TASEKO MINES LIMITED:

THE CHAIRMAN:
MR. BELL-IRVING:
THE CHAIRMAN:
MR. BELL-IRVING: short questions, if I may.

When you were presenting your employment figures with a focus, quite properly, I'm sure, on mining, do you have any statistics on a similar topic, not necessarily for mining, but in other sectors where the circumstances might be described as you have a

First Nation that is in a relationship with an industry, where it's a good relationship, might even be in the form of an IBA, and perhaps other incentives or aspects, instruments, do you have any statistics that might give us some insight as to, you know, your statistics paint I think an effective picture, but I'm looking for some hope and perspective that that may not be real. Can you give us some insight as to a little more reality here?

MS. KUYEK: Well, I think that was
reality. I can give you a little bit of hope.
MR. BELL-IRVING: Okay.
MS. KUYEK: My understanding is that when a First Nation has been able to approach a mining company, for example, from a position of great strength, and the mining company has a rich enough deposit to really want to get at it, some things can happen that make a difference.

The Raglan mine managed, through Makivik
Corporation managed to negotiate a pretty good impact benefits agreement. They found after a number of years that they were having trouble retaining Inuit employment, but they still did pretty well. The Inuit did very well out of the Voisey's Bay Agreement. And I've heard their IBA coordinator present, and she's
quite pleased with it. And I don't think the Innu were as pleased, they were very different culturally, although they did manage to get a number of contracts and so on. They were able to, at a huge price to the First Nation, mind you, negotiate some pretty good agreements.

MR. HART: If I may add. The Proponent has had 17 years to figure out how to work with Aboriginal communities, so I would look to them to provide the examples of how to do it.

MR. BELL-IRVING: You mentioned just now, and previously a number of times, this IBA, this concept of a benefit agreement. Is it your view or understanding that an IBA is necessarily a pre-requisite or a condition, either legal or otherwise for any successful development?

MS. KUYEK: I think the first prerequisite is the right to say no. I believe in free prior informed consent and the right of a First Nation to determine what happens on their territory. That said, if the First Nation determines freely that they want to go ahead and have an agreement, then there are a number of examples and supports for participation agreements and IBAs, one as close as the Tahltan's agreement over Iskut.

But if you don't have the right to say no and you can't walk from the table, you have no power in that negotiation. And I think that that's important. Any of us who have been in tough negotiations know if you can't say "I'm out of here," you've got no power.

And so First Nations are very often in a position where they can't do that. And unless they have the right to say no and the ability to say no, I think it's very difficult for any First Nation to negotiate a fair agreement.

MR. BELL-IRVING: Thank you. In your remarks, I understood you to make some suggestions and provide perhaps advice to what the local community here might do with respect to their future.

In the context of that advice, do you think it's the community's responsibility and the community's choice to make that, to decide, or is it our choice, our opportunity to suggest to them what they should do?

MS. KUYEK: I think, I believe it's the community's responsibility and -- responsibility to determine their future. That said, we live in a very complex network of communities so that, for example, this is Secwepemc land. And they live in a relationship with the settler community of Williams

Lake and Williams Lake itself is made up of a number of different communities, for example.

So within that complex network, communities have a responsibility to determine what they want to do with their lives and the lives of their children and their grandchildren and their great-grandchildren.

But we are buffeted all the time by external forces that keep us from being able to do that. What happens in the lumber industry, what happens with commodity prices, what happens with weather and accidents, all those things affect us.

And in this country, First Nations People, perhaps more than anyone, know what it is to have your lives arranged by outside forces and have to take responsibility within that context.

And people who come here as immigrants often know that from the disasters in their own country.

So it's not a black and white answer. It's a complex one.

MR. BELL-IRVING: I appreciate that. And if I may, just one last question. Given your presentation in its entirety, in your view, is there anything as a healthy mining community anywhere in B.C.?

MS. KUYEK: I haven't visited them all, Rod, I've been to a number.

MR. BELL-IRVING: Anywhere in Canada?
MS. KUYEK: Healthy. World Health
Organization social determinants of health. I would have told you that Sudbury wasn't doing too bad until the last year-and-a-half. And there's been a strike going on there for a year and the soil is pretty toxic. It looks like they are going to bust the union. And they are going to leave behind a 5,000 hectare tailings impoundment.

I mean, this healthy mining communities, I don't know. There must be some somewhere. I think, I think there's a better opportunity to be a healthy community if you're talking about a quarry. And I was one of the founders of the National Orphaned and Abandoned Mines Initiative. And every time they wanted to come up with an example of a successful closure, someone would trot out a quarry, right, because if it's got acid mine drainage, you're going to have problems forever.

And so if it's an oxide mine like the Viceroy mine, you've got a better chance of closing it up properly than you do some other kind.

I liked living in a mining town. I liked it. I liked my, I still, that's still my home.

And it's not -- I mean, it makes people
strong and it makes them resilient. But, you know, we really got to start thinking about other ways to live on this planet. And if we don't do that, we're dooming our kids to a disaster.

And mining towns are full of great people who can make those kind of things happen.

But I don't know if I'd say there's a healthy mining town.

MR. BELL-IRVING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No other questions.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. We'll just check through the list of others that may have questions. And this is in the order of those who are registered to speak.

Transport Canada? Any questions? No.
Then it would be next Share the Cariboo-Chilcotin Resources Society, Mr. Carruthers, questions?

MR. CARRUTHERS: I do.
THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.
QUESTIONS OF MININGWATCH CANADA BY SHARE THE
CARIBOO-CHILCOTIN RESOURCES SOCIETY, BY MR. BILL CARRUTHERS:

MR. CARRUTHERS: I would like to ask the nice lady here with the presentation, is Taseko doing anything
illegal with regards to taxation policy?
THE CHAIRMAN: Sorry. I think here at the front here. You're getting the ladies mixed up. MS. KUYEK: No, they are not doing anything illegal, no.

MR. CARRUTHERS: Okay. Lots of errors in the way we calculate GDP. Is this within the mandate of the Panel or Taseko to consider?

MS. KUYEK: I think if Taseko has raised it as a justification for the mine, then it becomes part of the mandate of the Panel and the public to consider it.

MR. CARRUTHERS:
So you want to reinvent how we calculate whatever it is that is going on in our society at this mandate here?

MS. KUYEK:
If I could say. I'm not doing that. There is a huge network of economists and --

MR. CARRUTHERS: I understand what you're saying, but is that within the mandate of this table here?

THE CHAIRMAN:
Hold on, we need to complete an answer to the question first of all, and $I$ think she hadn't completed, so please let her respond.

MS. KUYEK: The mandate of the Panel is
to look at sustainable development. That requires looking at the ways in which we do economic costing. MR. CARRUTHERS: Fair enough, but it's an industry standard now, so what you're suggesting is that whatever's done throughout the world is going to have to change as a result of this?

MS. KUYEK: It is changing, as a matter of fact.

MR. CARRUTHERS:
That's fine, that's what evolution is, we're not talking about a revolution here, are we?

THE CHAIRMAN:
Whoa, I think I'm not going to entertain a discussion on whether GDP is the model that we should be using here. I think that's a little bit beyond our mandate, to say the least. Do you have another question, sir?

MR. CARRUTHERS: Lots of social issues.
Should we decline the Project until we solve all of the issues and injustice in the world?

MS . KUYEK: No.
THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Carruthers.
Next would be Friends of Nemaiah Valley, any questions?

SPEAKER: No questions.
THE CHAIRMAN:
Okay, Williams Lake and

District Chamber of Commerce, any questions?
SPEAKER: No questions.
THE CHAIRMAN:
Okay, I'll check with our
Panel. One question, okay.
QUESTIONS OF MININGWATCH CANADA BY THE FEDERAL PANEL:
MS. MORIN:
You mentioned that women in
First Nations are less likely to qualify for employment at Prosperity. What steps do you recommend Taseko or the Federal Government take to mitigate this or improve the equity?

MS. KUYEK: Well, I think the first thing
is to have an -- well, there's an organization in
Newfoundland called Women in Resources Society. And they have worked carefully with the mining industry in Newfoundland to look at what are the barriers to women's employment in mining. They have a whole curriculum around that. They will provide advice to mining companies and to women's groups and the public, and $I$ would suggest looking at what they do.

MS. MORIN: Thank you.
THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Again, the order of questioning, are there any questions from the other Federal departments, that would be Fisheries and Oceans, Natural Resources and Environment Canada? I see none.

Canoe Creek Band?
Esketemc First Nation? No.
That covers everybody. So thank you, again, Mrs. Kuyek, for your presentation.

MS. KUYEK: Thank you.
THE CHAIRMAN: Again, I think we have time
for another presentation before we take a break. There seems to be a lot of cooperation amongst the registered speakers here in terms of managing the order. And I see that, once again, Transport Canada has agreed to move back in the list and so has Mr. Carruthers with the Share the Cariboo-Chilcotin Resources in order to allow Dr. Shaffer with the Friends of Nemaiah Valley to speak. So that's my understanding of what's been agreed amongst all the different registered speakers, so please come forward, Dr. Shaffer.

PRESENTATION BY FRIENDS OF NEMAIAH VALLEY:
EXPERT PANEL:
Dr. Marvin Shaffer
PRESENTATION BY MR. DAVID WILLIAMS:
MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you.
I wanted to thank the Panel and the other
presenters for being so co-operative and showing
flexibility. It's we work under difficult
circumstances.
Friends of the Nemaiah Valley, I should introduce myself. David Williams, Friends of the Nemiah Valley.

We financed our approach here and many of the presenters, professional presenters, through private and small donations, everything from five to 5,000 dollars. We've raised almost $\$ 50,000$ to do that. That's why so many of the experts are here this week.

Early on in the process, we realized that Taseko's economic assumptions and economic benefits of the mine were suspect and indeed we felt they were highly exaggerated. So we saw the need for an independent expert opinion. We were fortunate enough to be able to higher Dr. Marvin Shaffer of Simon Fraser. And I'm just going to briefly run through his resume.

Dr. Shaffer has a Ph.D. in economics from UBC and he's the recipient of many accomplishments and awards. He's a consulting economist and presently Adjunct Professor of Public Policy in the Public Policy Program at Simon Fraser University. He has taught macro economics and currently teaches benefit cost analysis, natural resource economics and econometrics.

He's a specialist in energy, transportation, and natural resources.

Some of his major accomplishments are:

- He has conducted an independent economic analysis for the Gitxan for the Kemess North mine.
- He negotiated an agreement that transferred responsibility to B.C. Transit from the Provincial Government to Greater Vancouver.
- He negotiated agreements for the return of the power benefits owed to B.C. under the Columbia River Treaty which minimizes transmission costs and maximizes market opportunities for the Province.
- He developed a framework now widely used in B.C. for the evaluation of major policies and projects.

Some of Dr. Shaffer's conclusions re the Taseko's Prosperity Mine are that this Project requires a methodologically correct assessment of benefits and costs, which Taseko has not done.

He also looks at the environmental and community net benefits and costs.

And he has concluded that there is no evidence of significant positive net benefits for society as a whole.

So I'd now like to invite Dr. Shaffer to present and explain his findings to the Panel.

## PRESENTATION BY DR. MARVIN SHAFFER:

DR. SHAFFER:
Thank you, David. I feel like a modern day Luddite. I didn't prepare a PowerPoint presentation, but there's a summary of the points that has been distributed and I'll go through them and I'm really here to answer any questions you have about the report that was filed in March.

THE CHAIRMAN: We do have the report, all right, yes.

DR. SHAFFER:
And you can hear me the mic is on.

A project like Prosperity will have adverse environmental and social impacts. And you've heard considerable evidence on that. A central question that ultimately may have to be addressed is whether there are economic benefits from this Project and if they are of a magnitude that offset whatever adverse effects there may be.

We heard this morning, and I don't think there's any dispute about this, the economic impact analysis in the EIS, and $I$ would add the economic impact reporting in the B.C. Environmental Assessment Office Report, does not indicate whether there's any,
to what extent the Project will generate net economic benefits, at least as economists define the term. What they provide was an impact assessment. And I think it's very important to understand, because there's often a confusion when you hear evidence about economic impacts, there's often a confusion as to whether and to what extent that constitutes a benefit, it simply doesn't.

And for example, an employment impact and the associated income really is just an indication that there's a demand for labour. And if you talk about the direct demand for labour, those are the direct impacts, and the indirect go further into the economy. Whether there's a benefit or not really depends on what the people hired would otherwise be doing. So what you are really trying to estimate or look at is the incremental income or benefit that people hired will realize as a result of the job opportunity.

Economic impacts and wage impacts don't tell you anything of that.

Government revenue impacts similarly don't tell you if taxpayers are benefiting as a result of the Project, because they don't tell you to what extent the revenues represent incremental taxes, taxes
that wouldn't otherwise have been paid. And they don't net out the incremental expenditures that governments incur to deal with any migration associated with the Project or deal with the Project itself.

There clearly, and I want to say this, I was asked to do this by Friends of the Nemaiah Valley but they did ask for an independent report and I'm trying to share with you my assessment of it, positive or negative. And there would be economic benefits from this Project. There would be some incremental income one would expect from the employment generated. There would be some incremental tax revenues, so we can quarrel about how often that will be.

The important point that I raised in my report, though, as far as the employment impacts go, the economic benefits are likely to be relatively small. That isn't to say they are not significant to a small community that's looking forward to an increase in the population, or that isn't to say it's not significant for a person who might otherwise be unemployed.

But by and large when we look out at the economy as a whole, and what we're looking at is jobs, at least in the mine, that are highly skilled, for
which there may be shortages in the medium to long-term, the challenge here, or the opportunity here isn't to employ people who would otherwise be unemployed, the challenge here is to attract the workforce, train the workforce, that you're going to need and have to sustain through the Project.

There may be some benefit because of the increment wages and value of that job relative to others, but most likely you'll be attracting people who would otherwise be working, and in the case of skilled workers, working at skilled jobs.

And similarly for the indirect and direct and the spinoff jobs that people talk about, economists take the view, the longer view, that in the longer term, an economy functions reasonably well, not perfectly, as we know. In the past few years would be a good example where it has functioned very poorly. But over the longer term, generally speaking when you hire people, you attract them from other productive activities, whether it's in a wage economy, a traditional economy, or other work. And therefore the benefits will be relatively small.

And I didn't do a detailed, and certainly I didn't do an independent benefit cost study of this Project, I relied on the information provided in the

EIS. And from that I would argue that there may be some benefits, and if we're generous with the employment benefits and generous with the tax, incremental tax benefits, meaning tax payments that wouldn't otherwise be made, I present in the report an estimate of some $\$ 18$ million of benefits annually when the Project is in operation. And that would come in part because of the incremental income afforded by the incremental job opportunities and in part by the mineral taxes and incremental income taxes that wouldn't otherwise be paid.

On the other hand, if, to have a balanced assessment, and it's very important here, one has to look at the costs. And some of the costs that I highlight in the report are ones that are very important in the context of mining Projects.

And one in particular is the cost of the electricity. And I want to explain this because there's often confusion about this.

I'm certainly not suggesting in my report that Taseko or other mines aren't paying the posted rate for electricity, the industrial tariff that BC Hydro has put forward. They are. But this is a regulated rate and it's regulated on the basis of historic costs, in other words really reflecting the
costs of the hydroelectric facilities that were built in the ' 60 s and ' 70 s and are very low cost sources of power.

The consequence of a demand for electricity though is to cause BC Hydro to go out and acquire new electricity. And the cost of new sources of supply are more than double the average rate that industrial users like Taseko and other mines and other industries are paying.

Right now, the average industrial rate is less than $\$ 40$ a megawatt hour. In the 2006 call for energy, $B C$ Hydro paid an average of $\$ 88$ an hour -sorry, $\$ 88$ per megawatt hour for electricity. There is a call-out right now, 2008 call, and although we haven't heard the results of that, we're expecting it could be $\$ 100$ or more.

And what this means is, and this isn't a fault of the mine, the mine is paying whatever they are told to pay, but the fact of the matter is, the consequences for British Columbians is that there's a very significant subsidy to this operation, a very significant cost. Because British Columbians are the ratepayers who have to pay the costs that now get built into BC Hydro's revenue requirements. An incremental requirement will cost, let's say, $\$ 90$ as
compared to the near $\$ 40$ average revenue they will receive from Taseko. There'll be having to contribute $\$ 50$ a megawatt hour or some $\$ 35$ million per year to support this Project. That's a very significant net cost of this Project if you want to look at the benefits and the costs overall.

And in fact that's significantly greater in itself than the benefits I would estimate you'll get from the employment and taxes generated by this Project.

There are other costs as well, extranalities as we like to say in the trade. And an obvious one is associated with greenhouse gas emissions. It's a very significant one in this day and age. And the reason why that's an extranality is because British Columbia is committed to meeting certain targets, certain emission targets, and so when there's a new source of emissions, as there is in this Project, I think something like 50,000 tonnes per year during operations and somewhat more during construction, those will have to be offset. And unless they are all offset by the mine for which we have no reason to believe they will be, the mine will be granted, when we have some kind of program, it's typically the case that generators of GHGs will be given some initial
rights to generate GHGs, that will have to be offset, that will have to be paid for in effect by other industries and households and people in the province.

And adding to the cost.
Certainly the information in the EIS, if you were just looking at impacts, leaves the impression that there are significant economic benefits in this Project.

My review of this suggests that in terms of those benefits and costs you can reasonably quantify, the things you might hold up against the adverse environmental and social or for that matter positive community effects that you can't quantify, they are significantly negative. That the cost, the subsidy in the provision of electricity itself, not even mentioning the environmental impacts associated with that, exceed the measurable benefits of this Project.

At the end of the day, you have to deal with trade-offs and you have to consider these things as trade-offs.

If there was a suggestion that whatever adverse environmental effects there may be are offset by positive net benefits, my conclusion is, well, you can't say that. There are no measurable net overall benefits to trade-off. There are certainly pockets of
benefits, communities that may benefit, but there's no evidence to suggest there are overall net benefits from this Project and certainly no evidence to suggest that they are of a magnitude that would offset the adverse environmental and social effects you've been hearing about.

And that's the summary of my report and I'm happy to answer any questions that people have about the report or my presentation today.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Dr. Shaffer. I have read your report earlier, and I thank you for the short overview of it.

And I'll turn to Taseko to see if they have any questions.

QUESTIONS OF FRIENDS OF THE NEMAIAH VALLEY, BY TASEKO MINES LIMITED:

MR. BELL-IRVING:
Yes, Mr. Chairman.
Dr. Shaffer, two questions. With relation to your resume and your vast experience and knowledge, could you comment to the extent to which you have worked within the EA Assessment field particularly with the Provincial EA office and for that matter with the Federal office EAO or the EA or CEAA, rather, and can you comment on why, what I think you're suggesting in your paper and I certainly heard you suggest now,
this full cost accounting methodology, if I can call it that, is not a part of Provincial or Federal legislative or policy requirements at this point in time?

DR. SHAFFER: Well, I'll just start with my experience, and I didn't bring my resume with me, so I'll just go from memory.

I did, as Mr. Williams pointed out, I did work and present evidence to, of a similar nature, I might add, to the hearing on the Kemess, North Kemess project. I did work with the B.C. Environmental Assessment Office actually as an advisor to them on a salmon aquaculture review.

I have presented to the Manitoba Environmental, it was an environmental panel in in Manitoba with I think a CEAA component dealing with the Wuskwatim Hydroelectric Project. I would have to, if somebody had a copy of my resume.

MR. BELL-IRVING: No, I don't.
DR. SHAFFER: In any event, I have had some experience, both as an advisor to the Environmental Assessment Office and as an advisor to participants in the process.

And my point is this. I mean, certainly there's references in the Terms of Reference and the
original guidelines for the EIS to look at the net benefits of the Project and net costs of the Project.

There's certainly reference to talk about the justification for the Project.

And it's not so much, I go back to some discussion this morning, that I'm here to say, oh, you have to do a benefit costs analysis the way I teach it at SFU, good idea, I know people that can do that for you. But that's not what I'm saying. I'm just saying if you want to understand the consequences of the Project, and if you want to assess the significance of some of the economic impacts that you're citing as important evidence, you have to deal with the economic significance in the way that an economist understands that. In other words, it's not good enough to tell a Panel, well, the impact is $\$ 30$ million in wages when you're not really telling the Panel if that's a good or a bad thing or to what extent.

So it's in that spirit that $I$ present that. It's not to say, oh, there's another methodology you have to use. You have to look at the significance of the impacts if you want to inform the debate as to whether some trade-off is worthwhile or not.

MR. BELL-IRVING: Okay, again, you're opening remark, I think, was that this Project requires a
methodologically correct analysis. I think I heard you say that.

DR. SHAFFER:
I either said that or I wrote that. I recall that. I think actually, yeah, misread it.

MR. WILLIAMS:
I said it and I stumbled over "methodological.".

MR. BELL-IRVING:
So it was David. You agree with that?

DR. SHAFFER:
I'll answer for his --
because there is a reference. I come back to the same point I was trying to make earlier and it's not meant to be an adversarial one. It's simply to say, if you want to present, as you do in Environmental Impact Assessment and other areas, if you want to present information on the meaning and significance of, let's say, a tax impact or, let's say, an employment impact, then you have to do it, I would argue, as an economist in a methodologically correct way. And the correct way is not to present in itself the gross impact. For example, a lot of the tax impacts in the EIS refer to taxes paid by the workers. Or sales taxes paid by the workers. Well, that's in itself, not meaningful unless there are incremental taxes. And they are incremental taxes that haven't been captured in your
measure of the employment benefit.
So that's why I think it's -- that's why I think it's important to be methodologically correct. And I understand, I've seen a lot of EIS reports. I've seen the BC EAO reports that just talk about economic impacts.

But I can tell you, economic, and I can tell you almost every economist $I$ know would agree with me, that economic impacts in themselves don't tell you anything about the benefit that those impacts give rise to.

MR. BELL-IRVING:
Okay, but you would, and I think you did say that you've reviewed the EIS.

DR. SHAFFER: Yes.

MR. BELL-IRVING: And reviewed what you described as an economic impact assessment, that that is what we've done, and I think you acknowledge that.

Given the circumstances that we find ourselves in as a company, a few short days from the close of this Federal review hearing process, having gone through a Provincial Review Process and having a decision rendered by the Provincial Review Process, at both levels of government, Federal and Provincial, having independently reached a determination that our submission as presented was adequate to proceed to
hearings in the case of the Federal case, and on the Provincial's case adequate to proceed to their legislated time lines for review, given that we've got three days or so left, do you have any suggestions as to how we might apply such a methodologically correct analysis in the remaining two days?

DR. SHAFFER: Well, in the remaining two days? I would say you might want to just tell me if I'm wrong in that -- or tell the Panel that I'm wrong, if you'll make your arguments.

But the point I'm raising is, in what you've presented, if at the end of the day the Panel has to say to the government or the government itself has to consider whether there are net benefits of a magnitude that warrant, justify, an offset, whatever unmeasurable environmental or social consequences there may be, I'm just saying, no, there's no evidence of that.

And that's, I would say, my expert opinion on that. If there's other contrary views, so they'll presumably come out.

MR. BELL-IRVING: Thank you. You wouldn't get one from me. Mr. Chair, that...

THE CHAIRMAN:
I'll just see if there are
other questions. Going through the priority list, order of presenters on this subject, Transport Canada, any questions?

Tsilhqot'in National Government, any questions?

MiningWatch?
MR. HART:
One very brief one,
Mr. Chair.
THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Hart.
QUESTIONS OF FRIENDS OF THE NEMAIAH VALLEY BY MININGWATCH CANADA, BY MR. RAMSEY HART:

MR. HART:
Dr. Shaffer, would the two months that the Panel needs to prepare its report provide adequate time for them to perhaps commission their own independent robust economic review of the Project?

THE CHAIRMAN: I'll answer that, because it's not possible. Whether it can be done in two months or not is not relevant because we have to take our decision based on the evidence we receive by the end of the day tomorrow. That's when the -- or the end of the day today. I'm sorry, I'm mixing up the days of the week here. The record closes at the end of today, and we have two days of closing arguments. MR. HART: I apologize. I was under the
impression that the Panel could commission their own studies?

THE CHAIRMAN: No, because everything that we receive has to be tested in the public arena, so we cannot do that. So there's no need to respond.

The next would be Share the Cariboo-Chilcotin Resources Society, any questions.

SPEAKER: I have no question, but I did change places so the doctor could make the airplane. (Inaudible).

THE CHAIRMAN: I guess that was heard but it won't go on the record.

FORMER CHIEF WILLIAM: I'd like to thank
Mr. Carruthers as well.
THE CHAIRMAN: And I noted the change.
Williams Lake District Chamber of Commerce, any questions?

SPEAKER: No questions.
THE CHAIRMAN: Then the other Federal
departments, Fisheries and Oceans, Natural Resources Canada, Environment Canada, any questions?

No, I see none.
Canoe Creek?
Esketemc First Nation? Ms. Bedard, please.
QUESTIONS OF FRIENDS OF NEMAIAH VALLEY BY ESKETEMC FIRST

## NATION, BY MS. BETH BEDARD:

MS. BEDARD:
Thank you, I have a question of clarification.

In the last exchange between Dr. Shaffer and Mr. Bell-Irving, did Mr. Bell-Irving, you indicated that you agreed with Dr. Shaffer?

MR. BELL-IRVING: I would be terribly inappropriate if $I$ disagreed with a lot that a man of that quality could offer here. So I don't recall a specific question. If you want the answer, you'd have to take it from the record.

MS. BEDARD:
THE CHAIRMAN: all the list of questioners except the Panel. And I'll see. Bill?

## QUESTIONS BY THE FEDERAL PANEL:

MR. KLASSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
Dr. Shaffer, with respect to the supply of electricity to the Project, are you suggesting that there isn't electricity currently available that would meet their needs and additional capacity would have to be developed at the cost that you're indicating before this Project could go ahead?

DR. SHAFFER: The BC Hydro system is a growing system, and so when you add and in this case 700
gigawatt hours of electricity as demand on the system, that's about 15 percent of the size of Site $C$, the energy output of Site C, you have to develop additional resources to meet that incremental requirement. It's not that there's a one-to-one relationship between this electron goes to that user, but the fact of the matter is that when you add a load of that magnitude, you have to go out to get more power to meet the total system requirements.

I think what $B C$ Hydro's indicating is that they are in a position in the timeframe that this mine would come on to meet the requirement. And they would do that. But they have been planning to do that by adding, having resources available for when it would come on-stream and then adding down the road as the system keeps going.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Dr. Shaffer, I understand your point about net benefits and I know you can appreciate we're not here to establish electricity rates in B.C., but $I$ was curious, it's not really related, but have you done this presentation before the B.C. Utilities Commission with respect to rates in British Columbia?

DR. SHAFFER: I've certainly written papers, you know, policy papers and I've appeared
before the B.C. Utilities Commission discussing this and other issues, particularly in the context of conservation strategies. You know, does it really make sense to go out and spend tens and hundreds of millions of dollars on conservation when you're attracting new electric-intensive loads at rates that are half the cost of new supply. I can tell you what most economists think about that.

But there are sort of two separate issues. The issue about pricing, what's an appropriate pricing strategy. And the benefit cost question, which is, given the pricing strategy that for whatever reasons the Utilities Commission has adopted, and in fact they have adopted it because, by law, the government has dictated that the benefit of heritage hydro resources will be shared by ratepayers. In other words, the government has dictated to the Commission you will use average cost rates, not marginal cost rates.

So it's in that regulated context that you have to ask yourself the question, well, what is the consequence, then, of a new electric-intensive load coming on the system? Well, as with many regulated prices, it's a distortion, a price distortion, and the effect of the distortion in this case is that other people will bear the cost of that new load coming on
the system, the difference between the marginal cost of supply and the average cost that's paid, the average rate that's paid for that.

THE CHAIRMAN:
Thank you. And that concludes our questioning. Thank you again, Dr. Shaffer for your presentation, and the Friends of Nemaiah Valley for organizing your appearance before us.

This is an appropriate time to take a short break. We'll come back in about 10 minutes. Thank you.
(BRIEF BREAK)
THE CHAIRMAN: Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to start again, please.

Our next speaker on the list of registered speakers, and I add these names were all registered some time ago according to our Procedures, is Transport Canada followed by Share the Cariboo-Chilcotin Resources Society, and then Williams Lake and District Chamber of Commerce.

So Transport Canada, please.
And as you come forward, I would just like to say thank you for agreeing to have others go ahead of you and for allowing those who had to run and catch planes to speak in advance.

MR. MACKIE: You're welcome, Mr. Chair.
PRESENTATION BY TRANSPORT CANADA:
EXPERT PANEL:
Mr. John Mackie
Ms. Linda Sullivan
PRESENTATION BY TRANSPORT CANADA, BY MR. JOHN MACKIE:
MR. MACKIE: Panel Members, Elders,
Chiefs, Taseko officers, Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to thank the First Nations whose traditional territory we are currently meeting in today.

My name is John Mackie. I spell M-A-C-K-I-E.
I am responsible for delivery of the Navigable Waters Protection Act for this Project.

I've been a navigable waters protection officer marine inspector for the past 12 years. Prior to this, I served in the Canadian Coastguard for 22 years, 16 years of which as a seagoing member.

I am certified by Transport Canada as a navigating officer and held a position as a deck officer for the last six years of my seagoing time.

I have with me today Linda Sullivan, S-U-L-L-I-V-A-N, Senior Environmental Officer with Programs Branch of Transport Canada. Linda has been working in the field of Environmental Assessment for the past 12 years. In addition, she has worked in the

DFO in the Salmon Enhancement Program associated with hatchery programs.

Transport Canada appreciates this opportunity to appear before this Panel and present our topic-specific comments as they relate to our role and mandate under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act and the Navigable Waters Protection Act.

Transport Canada submitted a document on April 16th, 2010, that describes the analysis and conclusions that have been undertaken by the department.

On February 4th, 2010, the Review Panel invited Transport Canada to attend the public hearings and requested that the department, based on its expertise in matters of navigation, provide an overview of its mandate, roles and responsibilities and its views on a number of key areas.

Transport Canada is offering advice to the Panel on the following topics:

Key effects of the Project on the proposed mine site and the surrounding environment.

Possible mitigation measures.
And proposed monitoring and follow-up programs.

Transport Canada's written brief and
presentation on March 24th, 2010 to the Review Panel provided an outline of the department's roles and responsibilities under the Navigable Waters Protection Act and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act.

The brief also offered an overview of
Transport Canada's key findings, possible mitigation measures, including risks, and a preliminary view of the significance of effects of the Project on navigation.

At this session, Transport Canada will present its findings to the Panel on the potential effects of the Proposed Project.

The purpose of this presentation is to provide details on Transport Canada's additional analysis of the impacts of the Project on socio-economics, particularly navigation, in the following areas of interest to the department:

Boating activities.
Fishing activities.
Recreation activities.
Possible mitigation measures.
And follow-up programs.
Risks.
And conclusion on significance.
In Volume 6, Section 7 of its Environmental

Impact Statement, Taseko Mines Limited provides an assess of the Project's effects on navigable waters.

Taseko identified all waterways and waterbodies that will be directly affected and provided representative physical characteristics of those potentially affected waterways.

They also identified the Project components that will impact waterways and waterbodies and the anticipated effects.

In addition, Taseko provided information on current and/or historic usage on the effected waterways and waterbodies.

In general terms, they have met these requirements in the EIS Guidelines.

The information review focused on the navigation usage by the public, not by First Nations.

Although the EIS guidelines did not explicitly require Taseko Mines to describe mitigation measures for impacts on navigation, the Canadian

Environmental Assessment Act requires mitigation for any change in the environment that impacts socio-economic conditions, in this case navigation. We will discuss the possible mitigation measures later in this presentation.

In these next few slides, I will talk about
the NWPA and the process that Transport Canada uses to deliver it, in general and specific to the Prosperity Gold-Copper Project.

Navigation is a commonlaw right that cannot be interfered with except through Federal legislation or regulation.

The Navigable Waters Protection Program of Transport Canada is responsible for the protection of the public right to navigation and the protection of the environment through the administration of the

## Navigable Waters Protection Act.

The NWPA ensures that works constructed in navigable waterways are reviewed and regulated to minimize the overall impact on navigation.

The Act includes provisions for the removal of unauthorized works or obstructions that render navigation more difficult or dangerous.

Since the mid-1990s, the Prosperity Gold-Copper Mine Project has undergone consideration on some level pursuant to the regulatory provisions of the NWPA.

Taseko has been in contact with staff at Transport Canada from time to time to discuss elements of the Project that have undergone refinement.

This is an iterative process that continues
through the Environmental Assessment phase and allows for departmental staff to remain current with the proposal.

During the EA phase, it is expected that elements of the Project may be modified. These modifications may be included in our final assessment of the navigation impacts.

At a point where the EA is concluded and the potential adverse environmental effects had been considered and appropriate mitigation measures are identified, Taseko and Navigable Waters Protection Program staff are then free to discuss the statutory requirements needed in order to complete the review under the Navigable Waters Protection Act.

Once Project information is received, an assessment of navigability of waterways within the Project footprint is conducted by TC Navigable Waters Protection Program staff. This assessment includes an assessment of the physical characteristics of the subject waterways through an initial desktop review of the technical information.

Application of the Navigable Waters
Protection Act and assessment of navigability is largely guided by some key principles of common law. For example, navigation need not be
continuous, but may fluctuate seasonally.
Further examples are laid out in Annex 2 of our written submission.

The administrative definition of navigability noted in Transport Canada's general sessions presentation captures these principles.

Transport Canada uses a suite of tools to assess the navigability of waterways within a Project footprint. These include, but are not limited to:

- observing the physical
characteristics of the waterway, including flow and Volume;
- determining the level of
public access to the waterways;
- determining if a waterway is used for navigation by obtaining
local knowledge through
consultation with local residents, recreation, commercial groups, chamber of commerce, and First Nations;
- determining if the subject
waterway was used historically or could be used if the waterway is
currently not used for navigation
purposes;
- reviewing officer experience
of the subject waterways or
personal knowledge;
- conducting a review of the
publications available for the
area such as land use documents,
nautical charts and so on;
- review of the baseline
information supplied by the

Proponent;

- Obtaining anecdotal
information from other sources.

Transport Canada's understanding of the navigability of any given waterway is subject to change at any time depending on the circumstances or new information brought forward for departmental review.

Once navigability is understood and it is determined that waterways are indeed navigable for the purposes of the Navigable Waters Protection Act, the proposed placement of the works and the activities associated with these works are assessed to determine the impacts on navigation.

This assessment then guides program staff in
determining the most appropriate provisions of the NWPA that would apply to the Project.

For the Prosperity Gold-Copper Mine Project, waterways within the footprint of the mine were considered.

The waterways affected by the Project that involved Transport Canada interest are:

Fish Lake.
Little Fish Lake.
Portions of Fish Creek.
Big Creek.
And the Fraser River.
All of the proposed physical elements or works within the Project footprint were reviewed where they may impact navigation on these waterways.

The level of impact or interference to navigation was considered and guided staff in determining the impacts if the impacts are substantial or other than substantial.

Key elements of the Project involve the placement of low-grade ore and overburden in Fish Lake, inundation of Little Fish Lake, and a dam in Lower Fish Creek.

Transport Canada considers these elements to be a substantial interference to navigation.

The transmission lines to be placed over Big Creek and the Fraser River are considered and other than substantial interference to navigation.

Provisions of the Navigable Water Protection
Act applied to this Project are:
Section 5(2) which refers to the works that are substantial interferences to navigation. This provision allows the Minister to approve the interference under any conditions that are deemed appropriate.

Taseko's EIS states, indicates, excuse me, that the entire navigable portion of Lower Fish Creek will be impacted by the placement of a dam, diversion of water around the mine and filling of Fish Lake with mine waste.

These are considered substantial interferences.

Section 5(3), which refers to works that are other than substantial interferences. This provision allows the Minister to approve works that are considered less of an interference to navigation and applies to placement of the transmission lines.

Section 22, part 2 of the Navigable Waters
Protection Act prohibits the placement of material in a navigable waterway.

Section 23 provides the governor and council with the authority to exempt in whole or in part a waterway or waterbody from this prohibition.

An assessment of the impacts to navigation will be conducted. However, the Navigable Waters Protection Program staff will need to follow a different regulatory process that includes a submission of a Regulatory Impact Analysis Statement to the Treasury Board Secretariat of Canada.

As was mentioned in our previous presentation at the general sessions, this Governor and Council process will be informed by the report produced by the Panel.

Two things that Transport Canada considers in determining navigability and the potential impacts to navigations are: Access, public access, and public use.

We know from the information provided in the EIS that public use, uses, forestry road access, the public uses forestry road access to get to Fish Lake. We know as well from testimony provided by First Nations that they also use the lake.

A boat ramp at the lake provides the direct access to the water.

As indicated in the EIS, the number of
recreational users range from 188 to 247 in 1995 and 1996 respectively. Of the recreational users, roughly 80 percent were boaters using hard-hulled boats, inflatable craft, canoes and rafts.

Volume 6, Appendix 5E, page 588 states that:
"Aerial boat counts for the 2006 and 2007 summer seasons indicate Fish Lake to be one of the busier of the 32 lakes in the Chilcotin flight circuit with regular but low use levels."

The portion of Fish Creek downstream of Fish Lake that is navigable to the 8 Metres Falls and according to Taseko, there is occasional use of Fish Creek but for kayaking. Fish Lake is currently used recreational, largely during the months of July and August.

TC assessed all interferences to navigation likely to result from the project, the proposed Project.

Future steps for Navigable Waters Protection Program staff would be to determine what mitigation would be most appropriate.

In the case of the proposed installation of the transmission lines over Big Creek and the Fraser River, provided there's enough vertical clearance between the lowest part of the lines and the seasonal
highwater of the subject waterways, it is possible to mitigate these during the design phase of the Project.

In the case of Fish Lake, Little Fish Lake, and Fish Creek, the impacts to navigation are substantial. Typical of examples of mitigation measures for impacts to navigation might include signage, portage routes, public notification and so on.

As such opportunities are not possible for these substantial interferences, mitigation for these impacts require staff to consider other possibilities. In the EIS, Taseko puts forward creation of Prosperity Lake as compensation for the destruction of fish and fish habitat due to the Project.

As this Project involves destruction of navigable waterways, it seems that creation of Fish Lake might be the only available opportunity to mitigate this interference to navigation. Prosperity Lake.

It should be noted that it is unusual for TC to consider this form of mitigation for loss of navigation.

In addition, the department will be looking to Taseko to propose other forms of mitigation to support their Project. In an effort to balance the
right of navigation and local economic need, it may be possible for Taseko and Navigable Waters Protection Program staff to agree upon a mitigation strategy.

I'll turn it over now to Linda Sullivan.
MS. SULLIVAN: In addition to assessing the impacts of the Project under the Navigable Water

Protection Act, Transport Canada as a Responsible Authority under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act analyzed the effects of changes in the environment due to the Project with the focus on socio-economic conditions, particularly navigation.

This part of our presentation summarizes our analysis as provided in Sections 3 through 7 of our April 16 th submission to the Panel in which we identified how features of the mine design will extinguish navigation, describe the impacts on boating, fishing and recreation activities, and offered suggestions for mitigating the effects.

At this point it should be noted that Taseko Mines Limited and Transport Canada have not discussed how the impacts of the Project on navigation might be considered, might be mitigated, I should say, and we look forward to further discussion.

At this point, we are going on what's in the Environmental Impact Statement and putting forward
ideas of our own.
According to Transport Canada's review of the Environmental Impact Statement, Fish Lake will be drained and used to store 60 metric tonnes of non-acid generating overburden and 102 metric tons of non-acid generating waste rock with a stockpile ultimately reaching 60 metres in height during the 20 -year mine life.

Little Fish Lake will be inundated by the Tailings Storage Facility by year 7.

Lower Fish Creek will be permanently rendered non-navigable by the dam at the outlet of Fish Lake.

Taseko states in the EIS that since the Fish Creek watershed is only 1.0 percent of the Taseko River watershed, reduction in flows during mine operation is unlikely to impact the Taseko River.

Therefore, removing flows from Fish Creek should not affect navigation downstream within the Taseko River, and Transport Canada focused its analysis on the mine site itself.

The Fish Creek and Beece Creek watersheds will be reconfigured to capture water for the head pond and the man-made Prosperity Lake above the Tailings Storage Facility. Taseko has stated that post-closure water will eventually flow from the

Tailings Storage Facility into the mine pit until it is filled.

Water will then overflow into Lower Fish Creek restoring flows by 21.0 percent over baseline due to the reconfigured watershed.

This process may take up to 50 years and would eventually increase flows into the Taseko River.

This figure gives an indication of the relationship between boating, fishing and recreation at Fish Lake.

Boaters visit Fish Lake to enjoy the remote location and pristine setting. Of those, 80 percent of boaters go to Fish Lake to take advantage of the fishing opportunities.

Due to its remote location and difficult access via a $4 \times 4$ vehicle road, only small trailered or car-top vessels would be used at Fish Lake such as canoe, dinghies, inflatables and so on. It is unusual to find a project where boating, and, in this case, navigation, is so strongly linked to fishing and recreation. Transport Canada really has not come upon this in our previous review of projects.

So this means that boating on Fish Lake is made desirable by the highly successful fishing opportunities there and made possible by the access to
recreation facilities such as campsites and the boat launch.

So let me describe the condition, socio-economic conditions at Fish Lake.

Boating at the mine site is restricted to Fish Lake, Little Fish Lake, and the portion of Lower Fish Creek above the 8 metre falls, as mentioned already.

Fish Lake is ranked 7th amongst the Chilcotin lakes in terms of boating use.

First Nations indicated during the hearings that they use a boat, a raft to access the small island in the middle of Fish Lake as a sacred place of healing and a place where they gain their powers.

Due to the placement of mine waste in Fish Lake, the Project will eliminate all boating activities at Fish Lake. As the island in the middle of Fish Lake will be covered over with mine waste, First Nations will no longer be able to access this spiritual site.

Anglers catch about 4100 to 4900 trout annually at Fish Lake. These rainbow trout are considered small, about 200 to 400 grams but easy to catch. And this seems to be the consensus amongst everyone who has visited the lake.

It is estimated that between 388 and 654 angler days occur at Fish Lake with a high of over 1,000 angler days. Angler days means, for example, if I was to go fishing for one day, that would be called an angler day. If I was there for two days, that would be two angler days. So if the same group was there fishing for five days and there were five people, it would be five times, 25. So five times 5. So that would be 25 angler days. So that's how they come up with these figures.

And Taseko could correct me if I've erred in that matter.

Placement of mine waste in Fish Lake will eliminate all sports fishing activities at Fish Lake and the mine site area. Sport fishing pressure in other Cariboo-Chilcotin lakes is expected to increase slightly due to the displaced fishers. An increase of about point four percent of angler effort in other lakes.

The Fish Lake recreation site has five gravelled campsites, pit privies, two picnic tables and a boat launching area. The number of visitors range from 400 to 850 between June and September.

On average, group spends about 1 or 2 days at the campsite.

Due to the Fish Lake being remote, the recreation facilities are necessary and critical to supporting the public engaging in boating and fishing activities.

Construction of the mine will result in loss of the boat launch ramp camping sites and opportunities for overnight stays.

Mitigation measures identified by Taseko Mines in the EIS do not specifically target impacts on navigation as mentioned earlier.

Transport Canada is willing to entertain any options proposed by Taseko such as enhancing or developing navigation opportunities at other recreation sites and parks in the area. Hence our question earlier about where Taseko would like to stock lakes, as we feel these represent the best opportunities.

The most ambitious mitigation measure presented by Taseko is the construction of Prosperity Lake to compensate for the loss of fish and fish habitat and fishing opportunities in Fish Lake.

The surface area of Prosperity Lake is proposed to be larger than Fish Lake, about 132 hectares versus 111 hectares. And deeper on average, 6.2 metres versus 3.7 metres.

Taseko plans to stock Prosperity Lake with 20,000 Fish Lake fish ranging in size up to one kilogram to provide a trout fishery.

They predict that a viable trout fishery could be established in Prosperity Lake within approximately seven years.

If this plan proves successful, Prosperity Lake could potentially serve as a key mitigation measure for the loss of navigation at Fish Lake and Little Fish Lake provided Prosperity Lake is designed to take into account navigation concerns by mimicking the amenities and resources currently available at Fish Lake that make that waterbody desirable for boaters and fishers. And I mentioned those already.

This might include road access to Prosperity Lake, access to boat launch sites, access to healthy fish that are abundant and safe for consumption, and access to recreation facilities.

There may be other options available to Taseko Mines that would satisfy Transport Canada's requirements. And Transport Canada looks forward to engaging in discussion of these or other mitigation strategies with Taseko Mines Limited if the Project proceeds.

I should note that we would also be engaging
in consultation with First Nations about these opportunities as well.

Transport Canada identified risks during our initial presentation to the Panel on March 24 th. And I'm going to go into a bit more detail about why we feel they are important to Transport Canada.

The technical feasibility of developing Prosperity Lake is of concern to Transport Canada because a viable trout fishery in Prosperity Lake is critical to the strategy suggested by Transport Canada for mitigating impacts on navigation.

In its presentation to the Panel, Fisheries and Oceans Canada raised a number of concerns around design and implementation of the Fish and Fish Habitat Compensation Plan such as the suitability of the design concept, including spawning channels, intermediate transfers of fish, ground water, and so on, the population size of 20,000 fish in Prosperity Lake, and future mine expansion.

Transport Canada shares these concerns as they relate to the success of a mitigation strategy for impacts on navigation related to fishing activities.

Transport Canada is also concerned that access to Prosperity Lake for navigation has not been
considered. It was mentioned in discussions but we are not aware of any particular design.

In the current design plans for the mine that we have seen, the only access road to the mine site will have a fence with a 10-metre-wide gate, it will be 1.8 metres high with a chain link topped by three strands of barbed wire and extending 50 metres on either side of the road. This is clearly needed to ensure mine safety and public safety.

Thus the public and First Nations would not be able to gain unrestricted access to Prosperity Lake.

During a meeting on March 12th, Transport Canada alerted Taseko Mines Limited to this concern. It may be possible to allow access to Prosperity Lake through an independent road, but this may create health and safety or liability risks for Taseko and the public. We are not aware of what this might entail.

Based on creole surveys conducted by Taseko Mines Limited, currently ice breakup on Fish Lake occurs in mid-May each year, allowing boaters to access Fish Lake in early June.

Transport Canada is concerned that the raised elevation of Prosperity Lake at 1557 metres relative
to Fish Lake, which is at 1457 metres, could mean spring breakup is later for Prosperity Lake.

If the mine operates for an additional 13 years, then the level of Prosperity Lake could be raised by an additional 36 metres bringing the total elevation change to 136 metres or roughly 400 feet.

If these elevation differences between Fish Lake and Prosperity Lake result in delays in spring break-up, then access to navigation in Prosperity would also be delayed.

As Fish Lake currently supports 85,000 trout between 200 to 400 grams, Transport Canada is concerned that stocking Prosperity Lake with less than 25 percent of the existing trout population may be too low to redress the loss of fishing opportunities currently available in Fish Lake.

We understand that the Ministry of Environment is looking for trophy fish, but we would like to express our concern that angler enjoyment of the fishery at Fish Lake has been voiced as the relative ease of which fish can be caught, in other words at least 2.4 fish her hour. They do not express concern over the size of the fish.

Some groups were able to capture as many as 50 fish in one day when we looked at the records
provided by Taseko.
By reducing the number of fish available for capture, the angler effort would need to increase to capture the same number of fish. This could lead to a less enjoyable boating and fishing experience.

Transport Canada is concerned that Prosperity
Lake would then fail to serve as an effective mitigation measure for the loss of navigation and fishing at Fish Lake.

Another risk that can -- we've identified is associated with the trout fishery, which is whether fish caught in Prosperity Lake are safe to consume. We've heard from First Nations that this is a serious concern for them.

If the recreational community embraces Prosperity Lake, as Taseko predicts they will, and begins to use it for boating and fishing, then the public must be assured that the fish are safe to eat. Similarly, First Nations will need to be assured that the fish are safe to eat.

If current consumption patterns do not change and fish tissue remains the same as currently available in Fish Lake, then the risk to human health may be low as found by Health Canada in its March 10th submission to the Review Panel.

What remains is a perceived view that fish caught in Fish Lake due to its proximity to the Tailings Storage Facility would not be safe to consume.

Both the public and First Nations have expressed this concern during the general sessions and, again, during these sessions.

In addition, Health Canada observed that subsistence fishing for First Nation communities may exceed the values studied by Taseko and advised the Review Panel that the subjects tested may not have been representative of this most vulnerable group.

Health Canada recommended conducting a survey to confirm some consumption rates and monitoring to support Taseko's claim that target species are safe to eat.

Transport Canada supports the suggestion, particularly for fish consumption, as a success of a fishery on Prosperity Lake is a key to mitigating adverse effects on navigation in Fish Lake.

And we heard earlier about the concerns related to fish consumption that monitoring may not be sufficient.

Finally, our analysis of risk took us to what are concerns about the operation measures
post-closure.
And the mine expansion which potentially would take the mine to the additional 33 years of mine life.

Taseko expects Prosperity Lake to operate in perpetuity without intervention once it is established as a functioning ecosystem that can sustain fish.

This means that waterflows into and out of the lake will always be within identified parameters, that water levels in the lake will fluctuate as though it is a natural waterbody, that the lake ecosystem can withstand normal fluctuation in weather and so on.

However, Prosperity Lake is, is a man-made lake. It is perched adjacent to two man-made structures. The dam that separates it from the Tailings Storage Facility and creates the lake, and the dam that keeps the Tailings Storage Facility secure.

Any number of complications could arise after mine closure. A seismic event may affect the integrity of either or both dams.

Leakage from either dam could compromise their strength or ability to maintain water levels.

If an event related to climate change should occur, Prosperity Lake could drain at a faster rate
than the inflows can keep up with, thereby affecting the water level in the lake.

There's only one-metre elevation difference between Prosperity Lake and the Tailings Storage Facility, thus, if the water level in Prosperity Lake drops due to excess leakage or reduced inflow, then the water in Tailings Storage Facility might begin to seep into Prosperity Lake until a steady state is achieved.

Taseko has indicated that mineral reserves may be mined beyond the 20-year mine life, potentially another 13 years.

In its February 3rd letter to Environment Canada, and that's 2010, so a few months ago, Taseko offered several suggestions for dealing with an increase in the height of the dams at the tailings embankment.

1. Raise Prosperity Lake by 36 metres.
2. Raise Prosperity Lake by some
intermediary level, or.
3. Leave Prosperity Lake as-is.

If Taseko raises Prosperity Lake, there is a risk that it would then become part of the active mine site during the period when the lake is being raised.

If Prosperity Lake is not raised, but the

Tailings Storage Facility is raised, then there's a risk that water would seep from the Tailings Storage Facility in the direction of Prosperity Lake until a steady state is achieved due to the level of the Tailings Storage Facility being higher than the water level in Prosperity Lake.

I realize that in the presentation given by Environment Canada that Taseko felt that these were likely not concerns but we were not aware of any plans that they had to avoid those at the time we reviewed these potential changes in Prosperity Lake.

So any of these scenarios might limit or prohibit public access thereby affecting navigation on the lake, fishing and fish access to recreation amenities, which would be campsites, boat launch, et cetera. And so Transport Canada is concerned about the implications for navigation that may arise out of mine expansion due to potential changes in the way Prosperity Lake operates.

So the issues that we have raised regarding this potential mine expansion need to be considered if Taseko pursues a mine expansion.

Our summary is as follows:
That, as proposed, the mine will eliminate all boating, fishing and recreation activity.

Although Fish Lake is relatively small, it is a desirable fishing, boating, recreation site in the Cariboo-Chilcotin region due to its remote location and abundance of easily-caught fish.

In our submission to the Panel, Transport Canada noted that Taseko Mines Limited will be required to mitigate interferences to navigation and offered suggestions to assist Taseko in developing mitigation strategies, which we have mentioned just now.

Transport Canada also outlined a number of considerations for any mitigation measures that may be proposed, including fishing success, recreation facilities, accessibility, and setting.

Transport Canada has identified risks associated with these suggested mitigation measures.

Number one would be technical feasibility of mitigation measures.

Transport Canada recognizes that mitigation for complete destruction of navigable waterways carries a risk of technical failure.

Access to navigation.
Elevation differences between Fish Lake and Prosperity Lake could delay boat access while unrestricted road access to a lake that is adjacent to an active mine site may pose safety risks.

Trout fishery.
Due to stocking of Prosperity Lake with a quarter of the number of fish currently in Fish Lake, and boaters, fishers may be discouraged from using the site if the catch-to-effort ratio increases.

Fish consumption.
Taseko will need to address a perception that the fish in Prosperity Lake are not safe for consumption.

Operation of mitigation measures post-closure.

Water levels in Prosperity Lake may not be maintained without intervention if either the Tailings Storage Facility or the dam creating Prosperity Lake is breached through a seismic event or erosion or some other means.

Mine expansion.
The biggest concern from an navigation perspective is the potential for public access to be prohibited if Prosperity Lake becomes a part of the active mine site.

Monitoring and follow-up program.
Should the Project be permitted to proceed, Transport Canada will work with Taseko Mines Limited
to develop a mitigation plan in keeping with the navigation concerns raised in this presentation. We will also work with First Nations to ensure that their concerns are addressed.

Transport Canada will also work with other Federal departments to ensure mitigation measures are implemented and to develop a monitoring and follow-up program for the Project.

Transport Canada's conclusion.
We mentioned this in our presentation on
March the 14 th and we reiterate this here. That due to the complete destruction of Fish Lake, Little Fish Lake, and portions of Lower Fish Creek, mitigation is not possible at the site of interference to navigation.

To date, Taseko Mines Limited has not offered any proposals for mitigating these interferences. We believe they have been very busy working on the Panel hearings and this is why we have not heard from them.

Transport Canada finds that the Prosperity Gold-Copper Mine Project as proposed by Taseko will lead to significant adverse effects on navigation unless Taseko Mines provides technically and economically feasible measures that will mitigate these impacts.

Transport Canada's assessment of this Project may be reconsidered as additional information is brought forward or as the Project is amended to address the concerns of stakeholders.

Transport Canada remains willing to discuss mitigation strategies with Taseko Mines Limited.

Thank you for the opportunity for Transport Canada to provide its views to the Panel on the impacts of the Project on navigation.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Ms. Sullivan, and Mr. Mackie.

I'll turn first to Taseko Mines for questions, please.

QUESTIONS OF TRANSPORT CANADA BY TASEKO MINES LIMITED, BY MR. BELL-IRVING:

MR. BELL-IRVING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Linda, if you wouldn't mind, go back to your summary of findings and your conclusions regarding significant effect and help me understand Transport Canada's definition and application of the word "mitigation".

You, in your summary of findings conclude that our Project will: "Eliminate all boating, fishing and recreational activities."

Have I got that right?

MS. SULLIVAN:
MR. BELL-IRVING:

Yes, that's what it says.
Does that finding take into account that that elimination is temporal insofar as the difference in time between when Fish Lake is drained and Prosperity Lake is filled?

MS. SULLIVAN: In terms of mitigation, Transport Canada has considered the temporal changes and the delay in access to Prosperity Lake while it's filling and being prepared to become a viable fish and fish habitat compensation site.

And we had originally thought about the concept of access to other recreation sites to adjust for this temporal loss of navigation. This seems to be a concern for First Nations. And so we are restricting this discussion mainly to Prosperity Lake until we have an opportunity to discuss mitigation with the First Nations.

MR. BELL-IRVING: So if I understood that, then, the primary determinant of your findings of elimination and of significance resolves around the delay?

MS. SULLIVAN: No, our finding of significance is related to the complete elimination of navigation and the inability to mitigate it by the usual means. So the application of signage or portage
routes or something like that that would allow boaters to continue to enjoy the same navigation as before with some minor conveniences.

MR. BELL-IRVING: Well, that was heading to my next line of questioning, because you used signage, portaging and public notification of examples of acceptable mitigation. And I understood your presentation to infer for fish habitat related reasons and the questions around the viability of the Compensation Plan as a reason for proposing that the Prosperity Lake isn't suitable mitigation. I think the words you used, it was "unusual to consider a lake as compensation."

MS. SULLIVAN:
I'll let John answer that.
MR. BELL-IRVING:
Should we be talking about signage and notification as an alternative as a way to mitigate?

MS. SULLIVAN: I'll let John respond to that.

MR. MACKIE: Just a minute, Rod. In delivery of the Navigable Waters Protection Act, the provisions of the Act, it is normal for staff, for myself, to look at the interferences to navigation at the site of the proposed work. Normally, in most cases, what we're looking at is an interference, not a
complete extinguishment. This proposal is unusual. We are looking at the extinguishment of a couple of waterways where the public right of navigation exists. And we've had to think outside the box.

Now, the examples of mitigation through signage, public notification, those are examples of mitigation for a work where the interference might be associated with the construction activities of that work. Once it's in, it's not necessarily an interference any longer.

And clearly those types of mitigation for the interference wouldn't apply in this case. Those are examples of a small logging road bridge over a relatively rural waterway.

MR. BELL-IRVING:
Thank you for that clarification. So, again, then, with respect to this issue of mitigation, are you clearly indicating that you've made a determination of significance of effect before you have applied or considered mitigation?

MS. SULLIVAN: That's correct. Because we have come up with these notions on our own and have not been able to discuss these ideas with Taseko. So without any further discussion with Taseko and their commitment to engage in mitigation measures, that would be our conclusion. And I think I made that
clear in the presentation that that's really all that's lacking.

MR. BELL-IRVING: So with respect to mitigation, then, beyond signage and public notification, you mentioned access to Prosperity Lake was not assured. And you mentioned, I think, that we had discussed, and I thought perhaps explained what the intention with Prosperity Lake access was, but according to your presentation, obviously there's still no understanding there. Let me repeat, that Prosperity Lake is being built as a lake with access for purposes of fishing. It's being created to house and sustain a population of fish from Fish Lake.

As to how that access would be maintained or created, that detail perhaps is not nailed down in a construction-level drawing yet, but the general concept is to continue along the 4500 Road, not the mine access road, which I think you indicated was gated and secure, which, of course, it should be, but, rather, to continue along the public road, 4500, which in my estimation is a much better road than the existing road to Fish Lake now, to Prosperity Lake. So with that understanding, does access to Prosperity Lake still present Transport Canada with an issue?

MR. MACKIE:
It does. Access presents an
issue for us simply because we don't -- other than your explanation right here and right now and through these proceedings, we have nothing on paper. We have seen no proposal to where the access is going to be. I understand conceptually where it might be. But as we discuss the regulatory provisions of the NWPA, and the need in future steps, and this is likely, I'm going to suggest, this will formulate our discussions in future, we don't have a clear understanding where the access is going to be, how it's going to be put in, and how it's going to be maintained.

Did I answer?
MR. BELL-IRVING: Thank you.

Mr. Chair, we have no further questions.
THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Bell-Irving.

I will check, then, with our list of questioners. First of all, Tsilhqot'in National Government, any questions.

MS. CROOK: Yes, Mr. Chair.
THE CHAIRMAN: Please go ahead.
QUESTIONS OF TRANSPORT CANADA BY THE TSILHQOT'IN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT, BY MS. AMY CROOK:

MS. CROOK: I'm apologizing for turning
my back to the Elder.

Amy Crook with Centre for Science asking questions on behalf of TNG.

Really an interesting presentation. I don't think I understood the ramification of your legislation before, so thank you for that.

I have a series of questions and I think that's probably the best place to start.

I guess I'd start from the, probably Patt Larcombe's presentation is a good place this morning where she captured a lot of the concerns about, on behalf of the Tsilhqot'in Nation, the fishing values, the camping values, spiritual values, boating as a food source, as a back-up food source, the health impacts, et cetera, et cetera.

So I guess my basic question to you is do you consider Prosperity Lake a good replacement? How would you mitigate for that?

THE CHAIRMAN: If $I$ could just clarify the question. I assume this is mitigation with respect to navigation, is that the question?

MS. CROOK: Well, that was my understanding is that those factors were considered under your legislation; correct?

MR. MACKIE:
Yes is the short answer to
that. And I'll reiterate a little bit.

Or maybe a little bit of background.
Nationally the provision of the NWPA that we're considering, Section 23, the Governor in Council order, or actually an exemption, has been used four other times, there's not a lot of experience with it.

The normal delivery of the Navigable Waters Protection Act would see to mitigate the interference at the point of the work. That can't be done here. So we think the only other way to look at mitigation with regards to navigation is what is on the table for fisheries. And that is the creation of Prosperity Lake. That said, it has become, we've become aware through these proceedings that the effect on First Nations is something to be considered. We were, up until the general sessions, we were unaware of the spiritual and ceremonial meaning to the First Nations. And we will be taking that into account. Does that?

MS. CROOK: That's helpful, yeah. But I guess my follow up question is how, has this been, have you mitigated for these uses, these?

MR. MACKIE: The mitigation we're
considering and, again, I'll bring it back, it would be to the proponent to Taseko to bring us a mitigation plan, a strategy, we don't know, because it hasn't
been brought to us, and we haven't looked at it in any details with regards to mitigation to navigation. We don't really know if it will work. There are risks associated with it. I think our colleagues Federally have identified risks. Our risks are similar in nature for a different reason. Or our assessment of risk is similar but for a different reason.

MS. CROOK:
Okay. If we move to the possibility that Prosperity Lake is constructed and you've reached an agreement with the First Nations and the company around mitigation, if, based on some of the information that we've brought forward about the possibility of Prosperity Lake and Taseko River and other areas being contaminated by or the groundwater and the surface water being contaminated by mine discharges in the future, how would you factor that in as mitigation? Do you deal with temporal issues in the future?

MS. SULLIVAN: I think you're getting to areas that are probably better answered by Environment Canada or Natural Resources Canada. We work with the other Responsible Authorities and try and deal with these kinds of issues. Transport Canada does not have the expertise to respond to that.

MS. CROOK:
Actually, I'm sorry, let me
frame it a little bit differently. Let's say that we accept Prosperity Lake as mitigation, as a loss, and then that becomes contaminated or as you put up, there's a problem with the dam or something happens, is there then some compensation for that? Some, how does that factor in?

MR. MACKIE: So when we're talking about compensation, $I$ just need a little bit of clarity. If there's a failure in the dam structure and there's a leakage or discharge, I'll speak to that.

Approval provisions, should the Panel recommend, accordingly, to the Minister, and should Transport Canada be in a position to further review towards an approval, terms and conditions of an approval would need to address the short, medium, and long-term goals for provision of navigation. If there was a failure in a physical structure that resulted in the loss, a further loss to navigation, a man-made structure, and in this case the dam, we would require the owner of the work to repair it and to a state at which navigation could then -- was, where it was originally.

MS. CROOK: Okay. I really think this is important, so I'm going to pursue this further. We talked about in perpetuity, the dam stays here
forever, I don't know, eventually, as we heard from Ann Maest, dams fail. Where does the, who's the owner then, who do you go to?

MR. MACKIE: Well, I can speak to in, and I'm sorry if I'm falling back on the regulations, the regulations under the Navigable Waters Protection Act identifies approval of a given work. It is important for the department to understand who the owner of the work is, certainly through the construction and operations phase, and through the closure phase. The owner of the work, for lack of, oh, for lack of, I think if I'm grasping your question, the owner of the work would be that entity which appears on our file.

If, and I'm not sure if it's satisfactory to you, but I'll try, if there's a failure, if there's a problem with an approved work, we would go to the owner to ensure that it is rectified accordingly.

MS. CROOK: Okay. And, again, if you do replace fishery, harvest, recreationally, culturally, in Prosperity Lake, let's just say that that happens, and then there were something that happened, a contaminant problem or something happened in the future and you lost that fishery, is that something that your regulation contemplates dealing with at some
point in the future?
MS. SULLIVAN:
That's something that the Department of Fisheries and Oceans would definitely be concerned about. We've raised the issue of fishing as the reason for going to Fish Lake to go boating is to access the fishing, so that's how the two are, in our minds, inextricably linked in this case. But the Department of Fisheries and Oceans would be responsible at that point.

MS. CROOK: Okay, one more question. Moving off site, going to the Taseko River, we've heard that the flow is going to be reduced in the Taseko River, is this also under your navigation? Or under your jurisdiction, sorry?

MR. MACKIE:
The short answer is, yes, it
is. The information we had in the EIS report
indicated a low percent, I think 1.0 percent. We don't, we don't anticipate that that would be cause an effect on navigation down in the Taseko River. Through these proceedings, and correct me if I'm wrong, Rod, that 1.0 percent may not be quite the case. It may be some other percentage of flow affected, I'm not sure.

In any event, yes, it is captured within the meaning of the NWPA for approval of works and effects
on navigation upstream and downstream.
MS. CROOK: Just one more question.
THE CHAIRMAN: I wouldn't mind getting a response from Mr. Bell-Irving as well on that question. Is that a correct understanding of Transport Canada's with respect to the flow reduction, just for the record?

MR. BELL-IRVING: I think the flow reductions that we have detailed in our assessment during the low months of the year -- let me start again.

During the period when Fish Creek is in flood, and Taseko River is in on the rising hydrograph, the contribution of the Fish Creek flow at the confluence approximates 11.0 percent of the flow of Taseko at that moment in time at that particular location.

For the rest of the year, averaged over the balance of the year, the Fish Creek contributes approximately 1.0 percent of the flow into the Taseko River at that same location.

THE CHAIRMAN: I think that confirms I think the original statement you made, then, by the sound of it.

MS. CROOK:
One more question. We've heard a lot about the bond, the financial surety that
will come to ensure a lot of these things happen in the future and that there's treatment if there needs to be treatment for the water and the dam maintenance, et cetera, et cetera. What's your role in that?

MS. SULLIVAN: This is something that is very unusual for Transport Canada. We've discussed this just in a preliminary kind of way with senior management and they have indicated that we would support any efforts that Fisheries and Oceans and NRCan might take to develop a bond. And, as I say, this is highly unusual for Transport Canada because of the circumstances around this Project.

MS. CROOK:
Am I correct in thinking that
the Province is usually the one that holds the bond and it's fairly unusual for Federal agencies to get involved?

MS. SULLIVAN: Fisheries and Oceans Canada normally requires bonding for a project where fish and fish habitat are being created. And I'm speaking on behalf of Fisheries and Oceans because they are not here. But that's a normal course of operation for them.

For Transport Canada, we would not normally have to do such a thing because, as we indicated earlier, usually signage or portage routes, those
kinds of things, would mitigate interference, so this is an unusual circumstance.

THE
CHAIRMAN:
I think we've heard from

Fisheries and Oceans on that matter, and I think, if I recall, they referred to it as a Letter of Credit, that's the term they use, rather than a bond.

MS. CROOK: Okay, great. And I just, I think I can speak on behalf of the TNG Nation that they would welcome further discussion with you on these issues.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Pearse?

## QUESTIONS OF TRANSPORT CANADA BY THE TSILHQOT'IN NATIONAL

 GOVERNMENT, BY MR. TONY PEARSE:MR. PEARSE:
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
I would like to first of all thank you for the presentation, this is a totally new subject to me and my head is still reeling a bit. I think you did a good job of laying out some of the risks and then you took me off in a different direction thinking about what might be possible in the way of mitigation.

So I want to ask you a couple of questions about that.

You did identify the use of the lake by First Nations People for boating to get to the island that has sacred and cultural heritage value to the First

Nations. I'm going to suggest to you that the loss of that is not mitigable. Would you agree with me?

MS. SULLIVAN: I would have to start to engage in more conversation directly between the department and the TNG, so I can't really comment at this point. We've heard some very compelling stories and, so, I really can't comment at this point.

MR. PEARSE: Well, I would like to push you a little bit on that. I think we're at a point in the whole process now where we have to sort of come to some answers about this, all of these issues. Do you have any idea about how one might compensate or mitigate for that kind of a loss?

MR. MACKIE:
As I mentioned earlier, the consideration we gave to this Project was in absence, in absence of discussions with local First Nations. We've been made painfully aware that Fish Lake is significant from a cultural and a spiritual perspective.

As Linda mentioned, we need to take this notion back to senior management in Transport and discuss it with them. We understand, Transport understands it has a fiduciary responsibility to consult with First Nations and we will be doing that. MR. PEARSE:

You will agree with me, then,

I think at this point there's nothing in front of the Panel or in front of any of us that would even remotely suggest the possibility of mitigating this kind of an impact. This is not a matter for later consideration and consultation, I'm talking about right now. This Panel is finishing today and they have to write a report.

So I'm asking you to comment on that and confirm that there's nothing in front of the Panel that would even remotely suggest that this could be mitigated.

MS. SULLIVAN: I would have to say that, because we haven't discussed mitigation with Taseko, and I know that from -- we have not had conversations with First Nations either, that it's really difficult to answer this question. It's something that Transport Canada has not considered in the past because our decisions have been fairly straightforward.

This is a very complex issue and it's very difficult to offer you a definitive answer at this point.

MR. PEARSE: I think the question was very simple. It's kind of a "yes" or "no" type of question.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Pearse, I think you've got your answer there. I think you've gone as far as you can in terms of getting a "yes" or "no" answer there, from what I understand from the comment.

Is that correct Transport Canada?
MR. MACKIE: Yes, that's correct. It's not an easy question to answer right now.

MR. PEARSE: Can I then ask a question
about Prosperity Lake. I think, I don't know how long you've been involved in this process, but there is substantial evidence that we heard this morning from Patt Larcombe and from the communities, a high degree of certainty that First Nations People would not use Prosperity Lake for fishing purposes.

So I would suggest to you as well that
there's no apparent mitigation for that particular risk.

Would you agree with me?
MS. SULLIVAN: I would agree that First
Nations have stated that in earlier presentations. I can't deny that.

MR. PEARSE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. I see
Chief Baptiste, please.
QUESTIONS OF TRANSPORT CANADA BY THE XENI GWET'IN FIRST

## NATION, BY CHIEF MARILYN BAPTISTE:

CHIEF BAPTISTE: I need to turn the mic and not be completely to her back.

I have one question and that's with respect to your responsibility for the crossing at the Chilko, Chilcotin River below the Stone community on the Tsilhqot'in bridge and what, throughout our hearings, our People have consistently voiced concerns about those huge mining trucks crossing that bridge and the amounts of that traffic. And that's a single-lane bridge.

MR. MACKIE: The NWPA would apply to bridges crossing a navigable waterway. Actually recently, last year, 2009, the Navigable Waters Protection Act was amended and prior to its amendment a bridge was considered, was a named work. There were four named works in the act: Bridge, boom, dam, causeway, if any one of those was proposed for a navigable waterway required the ministerial approval.

That said, any bridge currently proposed for a waterway would require an approval prior to construction.

Existing bridges, unless Taseko is planning to upgrade the existing bridge to handle the traffic, there's no approval provision required for an existing
bridge.
CHIEF BAPTISTE: I just have to comment
that, of course, Taseko Mines Limited has made it clear that they will be utilizing the road that we travel, including that bridge, one-lane bridge, at the expense of the interior roads, who has, just for everyone's information, just updated that deck last week, I believe it was.

Thank you.
THE CHAIRMAN: That concludes the questions,
I think, from Tsilhqot'in National Government.
Then moving through MiningWatch, any
questions?
MR. HART:
No, Mr. Chair.
THE CHAIRMAN:
Okay, Share the
Cariboo-Chilcotin Resources Society?
SPEAKER: No questions.
THE CHAIRMAN: No questions.
Friends of Nemaiah Valley? No.
Williams Lake and District Chamber of
Commerce?
SPEAKER: No questions.
THE CHAIRMAN: No questions. Okay.
The Panel, then.
QUESTIONS OF TRANSPORT CANADA BY THE FEDERAL PANEL:

Mainland Reporting Services Inc. courtreporters@shawbiz.ca

THE CHAIRMAN:
I have one to start with.
Many of the questions have been answered in terms of trying to understand the uniqueness, I would put it, of the situation here with respect to Transport Canada's or at least the consideration of issuing a permit at some point in the future if the Project is approved under the Navigable Waters Protection Act.

Mr. Mackie, you mentioned that there were four other occasions where exceptions had been granted. Would these have been occasions that involved a mining operation filling in a lake, in other words, do you know?

MR. MACKIE:
I believe Duncan McKay Lake,
I think. Yeah, a colleague of mine actually handled the review of the Duncan McKay Lake Project, and actually, the company escapes me. But there's that one. Eskay Creek. Recently Newfoundland, Labrador, there was one referred to as Sandy Pond and I'm unfamiliar with that project.

We're currently looking at, and I'll bring things back here locally, proposed, we're looking at two other mining projects that are proposing the same element, to in-fill navigable bodies of water.

THE CHAIRMAN: If I recall, then, from some
of the names you mention, those are mining projects, so it sounds like there have been exemptions granted in the past, is that your understanding for mining projects?

MR. MACKIE: At least one that I know of here locally. As I mentioned, the Sandy Pond one in Newfoundland and Labrador, I'm not sure that was a mining project, but there was an exemption issued for that one. I'm unfamiliar with the details.

THE CHAIRMAN: And you mentioned Eskay Creek, which is a mining project?

MR. MACKIE: That's right, yes.
THE CHAIRMAN: Okay, thank you. Another question, it sounds like, and you haven't used the word No Net Loss, but we've certainly used that a lot here in terms of fish and wildife compensation, that sort of thing. Is that a fair way to characterize the policy here that you're trying to prevent any loss of navigation, is that a term that you use under the Navigable Waters Protection Act?

MR. MACKIE: It's not a term that we would normally use. Linda mentioned there, it's, along with bonding or some such, DFO uses the No Net Loss policy.

The approach under the Navigable Waters
Protection Act would be to consider the direct
interference proposed by the work at the site and then mitigate for that interference.

I can give a couple of examples. Extreme examples might be a dam.

Given the nature of navigation on the particular waterway, what the waterway is used for in terms of navigation, a navigation lock would be one way to mitigate for the interference.

We don't have a policy with regards to No Net Loss. Our approach is to try and mitigate to the extent that we can.

THE CHAIRMAN: So in this case, again, looking at whether mitigation is possible, and, of course, that's something that is not answered at this stage, but the use of Prosperity Lake would be one option, and I suppose other lakes have been discussed as possible ways to mitigate, but the problem with that, of course, is that it increases access to those other lakes and puts pressure on them and we've heard a lot about that, but would that be a normal mitigation measure in a situation like this if you didn't have those other issues to deal with?

MR. MACKIE:
There's nothing normal about this Project for us. It's required us -- we didn't -granted we didn't require to do this at the outset,
but it's required us to consider or think outside the box in mitigation terms. Key elements would involve destruction of some important waterways. And it's not something that we're used to dealing with. We take very serious the common law right of navigation. In common law terms, it prevails and supersedes over all other uses of the waterway, but we recognize the need in certain cases to balance economics with the proposal. And in a normal situation, we would be able to balance the economics or the economic needs of a community and mitigate effectively the placement of a proposed work.

It's, as Mr. Bell-Irving mentioned, there are a number of waterways being considered, and correct me if I'm wrong, for the fisheries compensation. It's possible any number of these, if, and we recognize the issues with access, public access, we'll need to consider that in our discussions with Taseko and the local First Nations what the public access means.

Again, it was pulling something out of the EIS that might work if we pursue it. And I've been doing this for 12 years. It's new for me.

THE CHAIRMAN: Okay, thank you. Nalaine a question?

MS. MORIN:
I think it's possible you
might have already answered this, but I will ask it.
In the Compensation Plan it talks about, again, access to various lakes. But during the community hearing sessions, First Nations communities express concerns regarding increased access indicating that the potential, that there's a potential effect to their culture, tourism and traditions.

How do you suggest addressing and mitigating these concerns?

MS. SULLIVAN: This is something that we heard, although we were not at the community hearings, we certainly heard that during the general sessions. And we took that to heart.

We felt that, you know, initially when we were considering this, we hadn't looked at the possibility of where that access might take place. And so in a general sense we thought this might help mitigate for navigation impacts.

Now, having heard from the First Nations, we recognize that a more strategic approach needs to be taken to this. And we would like to discuss that with First Nations and Taseko. We feel that we have to be careful about the idea of access. What we were thinking was not new roads. We were thinking more along the lines of I guess I'd say a boat launch ramp
that would facilitate existing access to a lake. So if that would help fish and fish habitat in some ways because you wouldn't have people running their boats up and down an area that's considered fish habitat.

We were thinking of things like a campsite where there might not be a campsite. But it would be areas where we thought there was already some use and that's why I asked the questions about where was Taseko thinking of stocking fish. Because they said they have a list of 14 different lakes and we don't really know what the logistics are around those lakes. MS. MORIN: So, from what you've just said, you're saying that increased road access to lakes in the area is not ideal mitigation based on the concerns that have been raised by First Nations?

MS. SULLIVAN:
Well, the other aspect of that is that Taseko is not really in the business of building roads, so we did not want to suggest things that were well out of their ability to provide, because it would, you know, start engaging too many other aspects, so we felt that the simple solution might be the better solution. So, as I mentioned, recreation types of things that creates better access to an existing lake.

MS. MORIN:
Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. I think that completes the Panel's questions.

A few others on the list in terms of the order of participants. I'll just check.

Other Federal departments, any questions? No.

Canoe Creek Band, I don't think they are here.

Esketemc First Nation, any questions of Transport Canada? No. Okay.

And I think that covers everybody, then, that is on our list.

So I thank you, Transport Canada, for your presentation and for helping us understand the application of, or the possible application, I suppose of the Act in this instance.

MR. MACKIE: Thank you.
THE CHAIRMAN: I think we can handle one more speaker before we take a bit of a break. It would be the Share the Cariboo-Chilcotin Resources Society. Again they have been registered for some time on our list of speakers. Mr. Carruthers, please.

PRESENTATION BY SHARE THE CARIBOO-CHILCOTIN RESOURCES SOCIETY, BY MR. BILL CARRUTHERS:

MR. CARRUTHERS:
Thank you, Mr. Chair, for
the opportunity to speak to you and the Members of the Panel.

My name is Bill Carruthers and to give you a little background on this thing, I've been involved in land use advocacy group for 20 years. It's not a new subject to me although it's new in the mining industry, most of it has been involving the forest industry.

The reason I'm here today to speak to you is because I'm quite concerned about what's happening in the forest industry with regards to a lot of our constituents and their financial situation.

I earn my living by doing financial planning for people, most of it right now has to do with financial counselling to people who are in trouble with banks and other organizations.

So I'll carry on with my talk, then.
The Share the Cariboo-Chilcotin Resources Society contracted to have a report done on the feasibility of unemployed forest workers transiting from the forest industry to the mining industry.

The study determined that a large mining operation like Prosperity Project would have approximately 60 different job classifications. Of these, 10 would require university degrees at a
minimum and 19 would require technical or trades qualifications at a minimum.

The balance of 25 to 30 job occupations could potentially be filled by unemployed forest workers, they could be filled by Aboriginal People, anybody, but I'm focusing on the forest industry at the moment, so subject to various levels of work experience and education requirements we estimate that up to 250 workers could be employed directly in the mine and another 400 to 500 in various indirect jobs that would be created as a result of this Project getting approved.

The current state of the forest industry is such that it becomes critical to our ability to stabilize and maintain the services available in these communities including community economic health.

We have mentioned before this only stops the downward slide, it doesn't put us back on a level of economic activity that we experienced back in 2007 and earlier.

The Panel visited Alexis Creek and it was explained that the employment situation is mainly government organizations. Since you visited there, 12 out of 18 people who worked for the Ministry of Forests have been given notice that they are redundant
and will be laid off or relocated to currently empty positions in other government industries. But there'll certainly be moved out of Alexis Creek.

The forest industry has downsized. The
Ministry of Forests is downsizing to match the industry decline. The multiplier effect work is going down as well as up.

Currently the Gibraltar Mine, I have interaction with a lady that does, through another organization I'm involved with, that does the pre-employment hiring for the Gibraltar Mine, she's receiving an average of 300 resumes a month from people seeking work. A Project like Prosperity would put a dent in this number of unemployed but it wouldn't cure it.

Our current tax base in Canada is heavily reliant on the extraction of natural resources. I'm somewhat shocked at Dr. Shaffer's presentation where he said there was no net present value to us. There maybe a small amount.

He didn't talk about the larger reliant on the tax base that this company relies on.

It is estimated, and I got these out of a website or off the website from other people who made submissions, that a Project of this size would
generate over a billion dollars in Federal tax revenue and I extrapolated this out over 33 years, so you'll have to bear with me, I may be taking a little bit of liberty with that.

And over 2.3 billion in Provincial Government revenue in the form of royalties, income and consumption taxes.

In addition, if 700 former forestry workers were employed as a result of Project, it would produce a payroll of 35 million annually based on the average wage of $\$ 50,000$.

If the mine can sustain itself for 33 years, we're looking at payrolls in excess of $\$ 1.15$ billion over this time period.

And I haven't factored anything into that, I've just straightlined it. Not all of that is disposable income but up to 60 percent of it would be available in the form of consumption, mortgage, car payments, groceries, furniture, children and recreational activities.

Now comes the dilemma, how do we convince the First Nations People living in the Chilcotin this might be the answer to the future?

I can't speak to the past transgressions other than to say what happened wasn't right.

However, with a Project like Prosperity comes the opportunity to change the future for First Nations without abandoning the past.

The Prosperity Mine is an opportunity for increased self-reliance, greater self-confidence, pride and personal accomplishments that come through new economic and business opportunities.

There is no guarantee that any of the First Nations People will reap these benefits.

But it will certainly be a better potential opportunity than trying to succeed in the rapidly shrinking forest and ranching industry.

You've heard presentations on fishing, hunting and trapping, even some tourism opportunities in this area. But these are all marginal economic benefits because of remote location and the different seasons. These are more lifestyle enterprises rather than a way to make a living.

Another major factor we considered is the pressure on the health care system. The First Nations and non-First Nations communities are subject to the same medical issues and pressure on the health care system will only increase. Without the taxes that a Project like Prosperity can produce, we'll be dealing with a reduction in health care relative to an
increase in need.
There's no doubt that this Project would go a long way towards stabilizing a very precarious economic situation reducing the potential social problems that are the direct result of a declining economy.

This supports our contention that if this Project meets the current criteria for environmental responsibility, and we're not for one minute suggesting that it shouldn't, then it should proceed.

In pure economics, you heard from Dr. Shaffer who is an economist, my economics training said pure economics, land and resources should be used for the highest and best use.

It is pretty clear that the lake and the surrounding area have significance to the First Nations People but the economic benefits to the whole population far outweigh the cultural value and I apologize for that but I've had to use strong words in this thing here to make a point.

It doesn't mean that they should be pushed out of the way to allow this Project to proceed, but at the same time we cannot let this opportunity pass us by.

It is difficult for our group to see any
reason for not proceeding with this Project especially when you factor in over $\$ 4$ billion in potential payroll benefits, taxes and royalties.

We thank you for the opportunity to present our point of view. I've certainly heard lots of different points of view. I was actually surprised by the last presentation by Transport Canada. I didn't realize what kind of mandate they had. I always thought some of those things that they were involved in were handled by the Provincial Government, but I've come to learn a few things about my own Federal Government.

Anyway, I thank you for the opportunity to present our point of view and look forward to your decision so that everyone can get on with their lives.

And I would like again to thank the Panel for the amount of time that you've dedicated to this.

So thank you.
THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Carruthers. We're certainly all learning something through this exercise, it seems, including the Panel. That's partly why we're here or largely why we're here, obviously, in order to assist us in reaching a conclusion and making our recommendations.

Thank you, again, by the way, for going later
to accommodate others who were speaking before you.
I'll turn first to Taseko if there's any questions.

MR. BELL-IRVING: No, Mr. Chairman, no questions.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, then on the list of order, Transport Canada, any questions?

Tsilhqot'in National Government, any questions? Chief Baptiste.

QUESTIONS OF SHARE THE CARIBOO-CHILCOTIN RESOURCES SOCIETY BY THE XENI GWET'IN FIRST NATION, BY CHIEF MARILYN BAPTISTE:

CHIEF BAPTISTE: I just had an odd kind of a question here.

Do you know if there's any studies, you refer to the social impacts to unemployment. And, of course, coming from the First Nations perspective, we've lived, we were born into unemployment, we were born into poverty, and we lived that all the time, and in a lot of these general or hearings from all kinds of presentations we've heard the social impacts when mining does take place or does come into a new area. And you refer to the social impacts of unemployment. Do you have any suggested studies that clearly look at those social impacts from both those views, from
unemployment as well as such?
MR. CARRUTHERS: I apologize, Chief Baptiste, if I didn't understand your question. Have I seen any studies regarding unemployment?

CHIEF BAPTISTE: The social impacts of unemployment compared to the social impacts of mining industry coming into like our backyard, for instance?

MR. CARRUTHERS:
No, I've seen nothing as
a comparison, but $I$ can answer your question a little bit with regard to unemployment.

Some of the counselling, financial
counselling has to do with people that are getting their houses repossessed by banks and also going through personal bankruptcy things because they have lost their jobs.

My neighbour down the street has been out of work for a year. His vocation every day is to walk his dog. It's not a happy site seeing him on the street and saying hello to him in the morning.

I don't have a big picture. I have a small picture of what's happening to people in our community. And I realize the First Nations People have obviously had the worst of all of that there.

But we have to move on and get this thing sorted out and I believe that if this Project went
ahead, then there is a way to work together to get this whole thing started back on a track that has only lead to a little bit better than what we've got now than a situation that we live in.

I don't know if I'm making sense or answering your question.

The study between unemployment and the mining industry, I don't know. That's a --

CHIEF BAPTISTE: I think you've exhausted that, that's fine. I would just like to then ask a question. You suggested getting past, getting past and getting past, and working together. What is your efforts and your society's efforts to work with the First Nations in the Cariboo-Chilcotin?

MR. CARRUTHERS:
I'm a director of an economic development corporation for one of the First Nations Bands and I'm probably the strongest critic of what they do. But I'm also their biggest friend, if somebody comes to me and says is there something I can do for them. So that's the best I can answer on that.

I'm personally committed to making this thing work. That doesn't mean that the whole rest of society in the Cariboo-Chilcotin feels the same way about it that I do or maybe there's more committed people than I am. So.

CHIEF BAPTISTE:
THE CHAIRMAN:
from MiningWatch? No.
MR. HART:
THE CHAIRMAN:

Valley? No.
Williams Lake and District Chamber of

Commerce? No.
Other Federal departments? Okay. And I
missed ourselves, the Panel, any? No, I think we're okay for questions. And Canoe Creek Band is not here. Esketemc First Nation? Ms. Bedard.

QUESTIONS OF SHARE THE CARIBOO-CHILCOTIN RESOURCES SOCIETY BY THE ESKETEMC FIRST NATION, BY MS. BETH BEDARD:

MS. BEDARD:
Thank you, Mr. Carruthers, it was very interesting listening to your presentation. I've heard of you and it's nice to be able to put a face to your reputation.

How would you define "unsustainable mining"?
MR. CARRUTHERS: I'm not sure I understand --
THE CHAIRMAN: I'm not sure that this
question is relevant, Ms. Bedard.
MS. BEDARD: Well, I think it is.
THE CHAIRMAN: Could you explain why?
MS. BEDARD: Because we're dealing with a

Project that a large number of people feel is unsustainable, so I'm curious because Mr. Carruthers is espousing the benefits of this Project and I was curious how he balanced the benefits against the perception that there is unsustainable aspects to it.

MR. CARRUTHERS: Are you talking about the situation where the mine could shut down if mineral prices are going down, is that what you mean by unsustainability?

MS. BEDARD: That is one aspect. Another would be pollution. Do you think that that is an issue?

MR. CARRUTHERS: I certainly think it is. I mentioned in my presentation that this thing has to be an environmentally responsible Project.

MS. BEDARD: Have you read the EIS?
MR. CARRUTHERS: Yes, I have. Boy, lots of reading to get through that.

MS. BEDARD: And in your scientific opinion?

MR. CARRUTHERS: I'm not a scientist.
MS. BEDARD: How do you define First
Nations Rights?
THE CHAIRMAN:
Again, Ms. Bedard, I'm not sure this is relevant for this gentleman. To me,
that's not a question that's appropriate here.
MS. BEDARD: Okay, I will skip that question.

With the economic benefits that you feel exist for Williams Lake, do you think that there are any negative aspects for First Nations?

MR. CARRUTHERS: There's always the potential
for some negative aspect of the thing if they don't get looked after properly in this thing.

MS. BEDARD: You mentioned that
anecdotally you'd heard that there were 300 people a month looking for work at Gibraltar. Are they all from Williams Lake?

MR. CARRUTHERS:
No, they are from all over
British Columbia.
MS. BEDARD: And I was also interested in the figures that you used to illustrate your talk. Do you have references for those?

MR. CARRUTHERS: For which part of it?
MS. BEDARD: All of your figures that you used.

MR. CARRUTHERS: We commissioned money under the Environmental Assessment process from the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency and we had the report commissioned and the report was turned in in November,
and it's posted on the web site if you would like to look at it and see where the references for some of that information came from.

MS. BEDARD: Thank you.
THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. I think that completes the questions for you, Mr. Carruthers. Thank you again for your presentation and responding to those questions.

We'll take a short break and return to the next speaker which is the Williams Lake and District Chamber of Commerce.
(BRIEF BREAK)
THE CHAIRMAN: Ladies and Gentlemen, I would ask everybody to take their seats again, please, I would like to resume the hearing.

Thank you, everybody, I think we're getting ready to start again. And we have a presentation from Williams Lake and District Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Cobb, I believe, and if I understand correctly, amongst other things or that may be the essence of your presentation, but you're going to present the film that we talked about I guess during the hearings on the first week in Williams Lake.

PRESENTATION BY WILLIAMS LAKE AND DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE :

## PANEL:

Mr. Walter Cobb
Mr. Jason Ryll
THE CHAIRMAN:
Please proceed to introduce what you're planning to do.

PRESENTATION BY WILLIAMS LAKE AND DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, BY MR. COBB:

MR. COBB:
Thank you, again, to the
Panel for the opportunity to present.
My name is Walter Cobb. I'm the first vice-president of the Williams Lake and District Chamber of Commerce.

And as indicated, the video you're about to see has somewhat been shortened to respect your request and of course the time limits that we've been all put on.

It's my pleasure to introduce Jason Ryll from Front Row Voiceovers and he's also a Director of the Chamber of Commerce.

Jason will present and respond to questions about the content of and the personalities in the video as you will see.

Jason.
PRESENTATION BY WILLIAMS LAKE AND DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, BY MR. RYLL:

MR. RYLL: is Ryll, R-Y-L-L. And, yes, I am a Director with the Chamber and also a member of the Chamber and thank you for allowing us to come and present to you on our members' behalf our video dealing specifically with socio-economics of Williams Lake and area.

The premise of the video presentation is specific to Williams Lake and area as it is the largest and closest service centre for the community and communities out west.

The video itself will deal a little bit with a number of different issues, history of mining in the area and it's impact to the community and its members as well.

We interviewed a number of people from within the community who were willing to step forward on camera and let their voices be heard. Either they weren't able to come and present to the Panel themselves or were busy with other obligations and couldn't come for today.

Without further ado, I guess, I would like to just get to the video.

## (VIDEO PLAYED)

Thank you. We attempted to identify the need for a stimulus to a very hard hit industry-dependent
region of our province. Our membership is just not from the City. It reaches as far west as Bella Coola. Through a request for input and the membership has encouraged us to take a leadership role in supporting this Project. And that's why we're here.

Many would have you believe that there's nothing in it for them if they're not part of the business community. It should not be about $I$ and me. It should be about we and us.

Williams Lake, as indicated in the video, is a service centre for many of the surrounding areas. For many, in the more remote areas, Williams Lake is also the source of much of what sustains them, food, health care, education and whatever else they may need there.

There is a need to understand that without a strong economy, that projects like this allows, many of our needs will no longer be available in the Williams Lake area.

These services will likely never be available in the Chilcotin without an increasing development or people. And that all comes hand-in-hand. Those services will need to be sought in larger centres like Kamloops or Prince George, because we do seek them. Do we really want to travel that distance for many of
our needs? I will say to you as one individual, who has been in business in this area since 1969, now supporting my grandchildren, I might add, that if we do not see this Project proceed, we will not be in business two years from now. Because we can no longer have, we no longer have the population or customer base that allow us to pay the rent.

The Chamber of Commerce has had many inquiries from investors and developers looking to relocate or locate here, but they have indicated they are awaiting the outcome of this process to see if collectively we are truly able to support a community. Thank you once again for your time. I will turn it back now to Jason to answer any questions.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Cobb. I'll turn first of all to Taseko for questions.

MR. BELL-IRVING: No questions, Mr. Chair.
THE CHAIRMAN: I'll check to see, we'll go through the list, of course, of others who may have questions, but I'll say we're getting a little late in the day at this point, so hopefully we'll be able to minimize those, but in fairness to everybody, I'll go through the list.

Transport Canada? No. Tsilhqot'in National Government? No.

MiningWatch?
MR. HART: Very quickly, Mr. Chair.
QUESTIONS OF WILLIAMS LAKE AND DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BY MININGWATCH CANADA, BY MR. RAMSEY HART:

MR. HART:
Ramsey Hart, MiningWatch
Canada.
The presenters in the film offered a variety of opinions and statements. Can you give us an indication if any of them have work experience or studied in the areas of mine monitoring and Environmental Assessment, the effects of mining on the environment.

MR. RYLL: To the best of my knowledge, none of the subjects interviewed have expertise in those fields of which you've mentioned. And I think, if I may be so bold as to say, if you walk down the street, I doubt many people in the community have such areas of expertise to be able to answer that.

We purposely sought out people to get a general sense of the community's barometer, I guess, of people who do support the Project but to find out what their concerns are.

MR. HART: And I think that's very fair, I'm not in any way suggesting that their opinions and comments aren't valid. It's just important to
contexturalize them. That's all.
THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.
Cariboo-Chilcotin?
SPEAKER:
No questions.
THE CHAIRMAN: Friends of the Nemaiah
Valley? No. Okay.
Panel Members? Just a quick question, I
think we have that supporting data in your written document, $I$ think that's been submitted to us, if I recall?

MR. RYLL:
I believe so. If not, we'll make it available to you.

THE CHAIRMAN: I think we have it in the document, but we'll verify that. In fact this becomes a part of the record in any case so we'll have it there.

I think the Panel is okay, then, with requests.

Other Federal departments? Okay.
And then the other list, Canoe Creek?
Esketemc First Nation?
And I think I've covered everybody off.
So thank you, again, for bringing some views of people that haven't had an opportunity to appear before us. We've seen similar presentations in other
places that we've gone to, it brings a perspective that is important to understand from all the different people that live in this region, so thank you.

MR. COBB:
Thank you.
THE CHAIRMAN: So that completes the presentation from Williams Lake and District Chamber of Commerce.

I have committed to try to hear from a few people that $I$ think there may only be one or two that were indicated were on the list if time permits and one of those is Titi Kunkel, I hope I've pronounced your name correctly, but we'd be pleased to hear from you as well if you want to come forward for your presentation, please.

Please proceed.
PRESENTATION BY MS. TITI KUNKEL:
MS. KUNKEL:
Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to present to the Panel. I would also like to acknowledge the communities within whose territory we are today. I'd like to acknowledge the Shuswap People, the Tsilhqot'in People.

And this presentation is more to do with the work that $I$ have done with different communities and my ongoing work with them.

My name is Titi Kunkel, that's TITI, last
name $\mathrm{K}-\mathrm{U}-\mathrm{N}-\mathrm{K}-\mathrm{E}-\mathrm{L}$.
I am a Faculty Member of the University of Northern British Columbia, and I work primarily with First Nation communities.

So within this presentation, I'm going to just introduce myself a bit more and talk about my research study and some of the conclusions I've come up to.

My work with communities and an assessment of the impact of this mine on some Cariboo-Chilcotin communities.

I'm going to focus on the impact on women and poverty within the communities.

And then I have a final conclusion with that.
I have the opportunity to have lived in three continents. And my Indigenous heritage is African, so I lived in England and I'm here now in British Columbia.

So education-wise, I have a BSc in computer sciences from the University of Lagos, a Master's degree in Business Administration from Thames Valley University, English, and I have a Master's in Natural Resources and Environmental Studies from UNBC and am currently a PhD candidate at University of Northern British Columbia also in Natural Resource and

Environmental Studies.
I'm working with the university right now on Aboriginal business development coordinating a program working with communities in the Williams Lake, Quesnel and the Vanderhoof region. And the program is working with Aboriginal communities.

So I have taught several courses for the university including First Nation Studies, Business Ethics, Operations Management and Entrepreneurship.

My area of research is community and economic development and capacity building within marginalized communities. So my current research now is working with First Nation communities to create sustainable economic development.

And I'm also working on Aboriginal values and the impact of resource development on Aboriginal values and the compatibility of such as well.

So I looked at the Prosperity Mine document. I read part of it. I was more interested in the social economic aspect of it.

Now, the mine is anticipating creating 350 jobs directly over the next 22 years. And it's also proposing to bring economic benefits to the Cariboo-Chilcotin communities.

Now, there are issues raised by the First

Nation communities. And I believe you've heard all those issues, so I looked at the issues because of my work with the communities.

Now, from the past work that I have done, communities want to develop, communities want to close the gap between themselves and the non-Aboriginal communities. So based on that, I looked at the impact of the mine on these communities that I have been working with.

So my conclusions are that Aboriginal People in the Cariboo area represent about 10 percent of the population, so they are quite a significant number of Aboriginal People, especially people with the Native American origin.

Now, those people have survived in this area for millennia, they depended on their hunting and fishing and gathering activities and they still depend on those activities.

The mountain pine beetle has had significant impact on their ability to continue to practice their traditional lifestyle. And some people are still doing it regardless of the challenges that they face.

So mining without substantial benefit to the communities will be a further blow to their existence.

The impacts for fish and wildlife, the
potential for contamination of plants and berries, impact on water quality, will have significant adverse effect on women within these communities. And unless there are financial structures in place to provide special compensation for these women, it is unlikely that this Project is going to bring prosperity to them.

So in the following sections, $I$ will talk a little bit more about how $I$ came to these conclusions. But from some of my studies also, at the best of times, Aboriginal People are less likely to get jobs. But the Harvard study actually shows that the Indian culture is an asset and that has to be worked in when it comes to jobs and economic development for First Nations People.

So with the higher than average unemployment within the Cariboo Region, Aboriginal People living on Reserves, I mean, they need training, they need the experience or they are going to face an even bleaker prospect of getting jobs on the proposed mine.

From my work with the universities, it is apparent that foundational skills and upgrading courses would be required before we can even think of the delivery of mining training to these communities as suggested by Taseko.

We are trying to deliver business development projects to these communities and we are facing significant challenges because of this lack of foundational skills and lack of opportunity to get operating courses for some of those people.

Now, one of the other things that I looked at was the fact that having a 125 kilometre power line going through the community is going to affect those people, but there are opportunities out there as demonstrated by the Tsilhqot'in Power Project in Hanceville that power can be produced locally and that might help the communities, that might provide more jobs locally.

Because when we look at the projects that's been proposed, we can also see that there are opportunities locally that can be used to create jobs if the arrangement was there.

So from my studies, there actually isn't any justification for the 125 kilometre of power line because there are resources around. There's biomass, there's wind, there's geothermal, and I'm actually working on some of these projects with communities to see what's out there for them.

So within the Cariboo area, we have two cities, which is Quesnel and Williams Lake, and we
have the district municipalities as well, there's 100 Mile House. But in addition to that, we have 78 Indian Reserves and we have 12 electoral areas.

Now, the population of the people in the Cariboo area, we have over 62,000 people and of this over 9,000 Aboriginal Peoples and 6,000 of them are people with North American Indian ancestry. So that is quite a significant number.

So in addition to that, looking at the labour figures, a lot of those people are not in the workforce, they are not in the labour force. We have over 2,600 Aboriginal People who are not in the labour force.

Now, of those participating in the labour force, we have over 3,800 of them. Of that 3,800 , just about 3,000 are employed, 720 are not employed, but those not participating in the labour force are the ones that I'm actually more concerned about because they are the ones who depend on the hunting and the fishing and the trapping and the gathering activities for their subsistence.

So from the 2006 Census, I mean, it actually showed that there is significant inequalities between Aboriginal Peoples and the non-Aboriginal population and the areas that actually highlighted, that area are
areas of education, labour force participation, unemployment rates and employment income. So Aboriginal People are, they typically have low human capital so they cannot participate in the labour force and then the long-term effects of marginalization is still playing out within those communities.

Now, the distance from the service centre is also something that creates a challenge for the participation in the labour force.

So these people still depend heavily on the hunting, fishing and gathering activities in a similar way that we depend on the economy.

And from the 2001 Census, there's actually some communities that were shown to depend on hunting. And the Alkali Lake community is one of them where over 46 percent of the adults in that community for the year 2001 hunted and 100 percent of those actually hunted for food.

Now, there's not enough data to go into all the different communities in the Project area, but this is just an example that they depend on these activities.

Now, the 2006 Census does not have this information so we're unable to go that far to say these are the number of people that actually depended
on it at that point.
But going by the 2001 Census data, there are communities out there and within the Project area, Alkali Lake and the Williams Lake Band actually are examples of those that depend on hunting for food.

Now, 61.0 percent of the adults also depended on fish for food in the year 2001 within the Alkali Lake community.

And if you work with these people, you would actually know that this to them is like our dependence on the national economy. So they depend on these activities in a similar way.

I'm more concerned about the woman and the state of poverty within the communities in the Project area.

And this table here is just a summary of some of the things that $I$ found. That on-Reserve female population is about 991 in the year 2010, according to INAC, and from that information, just going down the table, you see that there is a very high unemployment rate amongst these women.

And when we judge by this service centre and the distance from that service centre, you can start to see that unless these women are highly skilled, it's natural that while they are travelling to the
service centre to look for jobs, because by the time you travel say 233 kilometres to get to work and back on a daily basis, you would spend a lot more travelling than you'd actually make, unless you're a highly skilled person making lots of money. And that is not the case with these women in these communities. So going by this, as a woman of, you know, Indigenous heritage myself, and having lived in countries like Nigeria, I mean, I have seen the effect on poverty on women. And if a woman lives in poverty, then her children will be in poverty as well. And there's very little chance of women in poverty actually getting out of poverty.

So I'm actually concerned that this Project is not necessarily going to make things better for these women.

Now, according to Whiteman and Blacklock, the year 2000, the differential impacts on mining operations on women can be classified as health and wellbeing, women's work in their traditional roles, and then the gender inequalities in the economic benefits of mining activities.

So when you start looking at this, mining jobs are gendered biased. I mean, this is an example. I mean, I picked this off of the mining websites. And
it's just an example of jobs advertised for the Gibraltar Mine. And all these gender biased type jobs, I mean, unless a woman is certified in those areas, and I don't see many of the women I work within the communities as having the certifications to apply for any of these jobs.

But in addition to that, they don't have the means to get the training to qualify for those jobs. Now, some of these jobs also specify experience in open pit mining and there is no way these women are going to get that.

So coming back to these women, they face significant challenges in terms of building their capacity. We provide business programs for them to help them. But some of the issues that we come across in, quote:
"Child care, emotional wellness, they're the major caregivers within their communities, the lack of transportation from Reserve to attend class is a big issue as well. And not to forget, the legacy of the Residential School." And that's still going true in every single community.

So going back to some of INAC's data, when you look at most of these communities, they actually have people who attended Residential School in every single household, that's according to the 2006 Census data that we have.

So the dependence on non-market economy is very, very important for these women. Things like berry picking, things like making moccasins, gloves and all the small craft items, it's very, very important for them.

So not having the ability to hunt and use the hide, it is going to have a big impact on the not-market economy that they depend on. Things like meat and fish as staple food, which they don't have to actually pay for in a sense, I mean, they are going to be hindered in their ability to get those.

Now, bear in mind that also the distance from their Reserves to the nearest service centre means, you know, buying food from Williams Lake and taking it home. I mean, these things cost a lot of money, and most of them already live in poverty, so they have to rely on their dependence, on the hunting, fishing and gathering activities.

So the impacts to fish and wildlife, the potential contamination of plants and berries and the
impact of water quality, and all of these will have significant adverse effect on these women. And the mine is unlikely to change the circumstances.

So in my final conclusion, unless all the issues raised by these people are addressed in a beneficial way, ways that ensures and protects these women, I think the gap between, the socio-economic gap between these communities and the wider community is going to keep increasing. And at the end of the day, I think we will be abandoning these women in the margins.

And I think in, you know, all what we've heard and in some of the community meetings that you've heard, you probably have heard from these women.

So I will say to the Panel that in your consideration, please think about the 991 women who are right now unemployed living in these communities and consider the impact of this mine on them. And in your recommendation, I mean, I am imploring, I'm asking you that to please ensure that their rights and their way of life is protected.

Thank you.
THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Ms. Kunkel. I'll check with Taseko if they have any questions.

Okay, thank you. Then going through the list, again, Transport Canada? No.

Tsilhqot'in National Government? No.
MiningWatch?
MR. HART: No, Mr. Chair.
THE CHAIRMAN: Share the Cariboo-Chilcotin
Resources Society?
MR. CARRUTHERS: I just have one question.
THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Carruthers.
QUESTIONS OF MS. TITI KUNKEL BY SHARE THE
CARIBOO-CHILCOTIN RESOURCES SOCIETY, BY MR. BILL CARRUTHERS :

MR. CARRUTHERS :
Titi, you and I have mutual acquaintances.

THE CHAIRMAN:
Somebody must have gotten a little shorter there during the break.

MR. CARRUTHERS:
I just have a question for you. If the
Project doesn't go ahead for whatever reason, do you think that the poverty levels are going to get cured as a result of that?

MS. KUNKEL:
I think if the Project
doesn't go ahead, the situation that these women are in will not change. But if the Project does go ahead,

I think it's more likely going to increase their
poverty.
MR. CARRUTHERS:
I wanted to know.
THE CHAIRMAN:
Thank you, Mr. Carruthers.
Then Friends of Nemaiah Valley? No.
Williams Lake and District Chamber of
Commerce? I don't see any question there.
Other Federal departments? No, no questions.
Panel Members? Nalaine, first.
QUESTIONS OF MS. TITI KUNKEL BY THE FEDERAL PANEL:
MS. MORIN:
I just have one question.
You note an inherent gender bias in terms of mine employment. If the Project were to proceed, who should address this? Taseko? The government? What measures would you recommend?

MS. KUNKEL:
Going by the Global Economic Forum, which was in the year 2007, 2008, the governments of different countries came together with industry and their recommendation was that they need industry to work with government to address this type of issues because the government themselves are unable to fully address the issues.

And what $I$ will recommend in this situation will be that Taseko will work with the government to try and change some of the systemic issues that have
actually caused these women to be in this situation. MS. MORIN: Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN:
Bill.
MR. KLASSEN:
You refer both in your written submission and in your presentation here to a study by the Harvard School of Business that showed that Indian culture is an asset. Is that an asset in the workplace or in larger society?

MS. KUNKEL:
That is an asset when it comes to economic development of these communities, because from the studies and from some of the work I have done with communities, unless a project is actually compatible with the Aboriginal values, then it is unlikely that it will get supported.

And in addition to that, the cultural aspect comes into play, because if it's in line with their values, people will easily subscribe to it and then people participate in the development.

MR. KLASSEN: Thank you.
THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. I think that completes the questions from the Panel.

I'll just check if there's any others on the list that wish to ask you a question.

Canoe Creek?
Esketemc First Nation?

## QUESTIONS OF MS. TITI KUNKEL BY ESKETEMC FIRST NATION, BY

 MS. BETH BEDARD:MS. BEDARD:
Thank you, I will try and make sure my questions are appropriate.

Ms. Kunkel, in your study of women and poverty, was prostitution one of the ways that women often deal with the poverty? Is that a problem around large mine developments?

MS. KUNKEL: Well, the studies that I
looked at address issues in developing nations and prostitution was one of the results of that.

MS. BEDARD: What, in your studies, in this area, are you aware of what the economic input of First Nations into the Williams Lake economy might be?

MS. KUNKEL:
I don't have the figures for Williams Lake, but I know that in the Quesnel region, there's over $\$ 9$ million per annum from the First Nation communities into the economy.

MS. BEDARD: Okay, thank you.
THE CHAIRMAN: I guess more of a comment than a question. In closing then, I think that -- oh, I think we've gone through everybody on the list of questioners.

But I just wanted to say that we did indeed, when we were in the communities, hear directly from
some of the women about similar concerns that you have raised. I understand your studies have been more generic, they are not related to mining as an industry, but more generic, and effects on Indigenous women. But having said that, I appreciate the overview, which we hadn't really received before, so I thank you for that presentation.

MS. KUNKEL: Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to present. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: We have a couple other speakers who $I$ understand will be fairly short on the list. Mike Bird was listed if time permitted. And then one more, Ms. Verhaeghe, I understand.

PRESENTATION BY MR. MIKE BIRD:
MR. BIRD:
I would like to thank the Panel. I was slated to present time permitting the last time you swept through town and there was no time permitting so thanks a lot for accommodating me. I've written out my statement in the interests of time. So I will begin.

Although I have several environmental concerns with this Project, I will limit my comments to socio-economics as this is the focus of today's hearing.

I will briefly touch on the issue of water
but hope to do so as it relates to today's topic.
I hope that what follows does not suggest that I'm anti-mining. I'm not. I'm simply not convinced that this particular Project is in the long-term best interests -- slow down, okay, sorry.

THE CHAIRMAN: For the transcription.

MR. BIRD: Oh, jeez, okay, feel free to tell me to slow down.

I'm simply not convinced that this particular Project is in the long-term best interests of this community, environmentally, socially, and even economically.

Section 25 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, part of Canada's Constitution Act guarantees this country's First Nations:
"Any rights or freedoms that have been recognized by the Royal

Proclamation of October 7, 1763."
The Royal Proclamation, for those unfamiliar with it, states in clear terms that settlement or development cannot proceed on Native land until the area has been formally ceded by way of a treaty.

None of the Tsilhqot'in communities have ceded any of their territory by way of such a treaty. And Provincial and Federal Governments have made no
serious efforts to engage them in such a process, despite the fact that it remains Canadian law.

The Tsilhqot'in are currently appealing the recent Vickers title ruling as they feel that they have a legal right to Fish Lake. Whether their claim is a valid one or not is something that I do not intend to pursue here, but feel that no mining project of this magnitude should be developed in this area until the question of title has been adequately resolved and a comprehensive treaty negotiated.

As it stands now, the Tsilhqot'in have been awarded hunting and trapping rights in the Fish Lake area. In the event that this mine proceeds, such Rights would be compromised.

After displacing Native people from their traditional way of life, after systematically spreading smallpox throughout their lands, after denying them the right to vote, even when they served in this country's Armed Forces during both world wars, after pushing them on to Reserves that did not meet Federal Government recommendations, after denying them the Rights other Canadians had to preempt land, after apprehending their children and sending them to Residential School, where they were often abused, I can think of no worse way to make peace with the Tsilhqot'in than to drain one of
their sacred lakes and fill it full of tailings without their consent.

I personally don't want to be blamed for the wrongs that have perpetrated on the Tsilhqot'in, but I feel I have an obligation to speak out today in their defence.

I feel that the historical processes that have marginalized the Tsilhqot'in and other Indigenous peoples around the world will eventually come to marginalize all but the wealthy few in our society. How can we expect the Tsilhqot'in to take Canadian society seriously if we don't take them seriously?

Section 25 of the Charter is clear, negotiate a treaty with the First Nation and then let that Nation determine what kind of industrial development it wants to embrace and on what terms.

One would hope that First Nations would make rational decisions with the land and its resources, but the vital point here is that these Nations would have a high degree of sovereignty over their own affairs.

The backcountry where Taseko seeks to do business has long been the life blood of the Tsilhqot'in people. For centuries, the Native People in the area were able to create a sustainable society in what most people would call a very harsh climate with none of the

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modern conveniences that we have now, like electricity,
steel or food from California.
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    Historian John Lutz in his recent book Makuk,
        devotes considerable attention to the Tsilhqot'in. He
        describes the traditional culture as follows:
        "The Tsilhqot'in were superbly
        adapted to their environment.
        People lived in family groups that
        travelled from hunting to
        gathering to fishing to trading
        sites within the seasonal cycle.
            In the spring, the lakes
            would be fished and sap would be
            collected from pine trees. The
            spring and summer months were also
            spent hunting ducks and geese and
            gathering a wide array of plants."
            Am I talking too fast? I'm so sorry. I got
        a sticky note that says "slow down". Sorry.
            "The spring and summer months
            were also spent hunting ducks and
            geese and gathering a wide array
    of plants, such as water parsnip,
    mountain potatoes, rice root and
    camas.
    Such activities coincided with meeting and trading with other tribes from the coast or further north. In the fall" writes Lutz, "the men might go hunting while the women and children pick berries in the uplands. In the winter, families settled into regular lakeside locations and built or reinhabited A-frame cabins made of poles covered with bark or brush and insulated with soil. Nets were set under the ice to catch white fish. Many would travel to salmon fishing sites in the Chilcotin River or Dean River systems. The Hudson's Bay Company men described the conical salmon traps of the Tsilhqot'in as 'ingenious' and noted that with a good salmon run, they might catch between 800 and 900 fish daily."

Given that the days of catching 800 salmon a day are obviously over, as wild salmon populations
continue to diminish and given that most if not all treaties involving First Nations allow for the provisioning of traditional foods, it is logical to expect the lake fisheries to become increasingly important for the Tsilhqot'in in the years to come. Local food security is becoming a critical issue the world over.

This matter needs to be considered seriously before draining a lake filled with 85,000 trout. It's also worth mentioning again the Tsilhqot'in have already been granted hunting and fishing rights in this area.

In addition to safeguarding traditional foods, how can anyone blame the Tsilhqot'in for wanting to protect their water in this day and age? A recent UN environment program report states that:
"Over half the world's hospital beds are occupied by those suffering illnesses linked with contaminated water." The horrific earthquake in Haiti earlier this year which claimed the lives of over 200,000 people, rightly shocked the world. What is even more shocking however, is that millions of people die annually due
to contaminated water.
As Anders Berntell, Executive Director of the Stockholm International Water Institute recently noted:
"Bad water kills more people than wars or earthquakes."

Imagine a scenario in which governments around the world are forced to promote Projects that jeopardize water quality in order to generate revenue to support health care costs that are increasingly related to poor water quality.

The big question $I$ have for Taseko is this: If oil in the not so distant future starts being traded at $\$ 150$ a barrel or more, will this mine continue to be operational? Is this community guaranteed $X$-number of jobs in the event of such a scenario? Or are we going to be left with a tailings pond, a useless infrastructure, unemployment, and a scar on pristine spectacular wilderness?

Oil is generally recognized as a non-renewable resource. Once it is gone, practically speaking, it is gone. Of course it will never be capital G gone, but it will eventually become impossibly expensive to extract and process.

The moment a world uses a barrel of oil to
recover a barrel of oil, we have a major problem on our hands.

Similarly when the cost of running a mine exceeds the value of what is coming out of it, there is a problem at hand.

Just recently, former UK government's chief scientist David King, and researchers from Oxford University, warned that the world's conventional oil reserves have been exaggerated by up to a third.

Scientists from Kuwait University and the Kuwait Oil Company recently issued a report speculating that global oil production will peak in 2014 .

This generally conforms to projections in other recent studies.

The Joint Operating Environment 2010, prepared by the United States Joint Forces Command reports, now, I'm quoting the document:
"Assuming the most optimistic
scenario for improved petroleum
production through enhanced
recovery means, the development of
non-conventional oils such as oil
shales or tar sands and new
discoveries, petroleum production
will be hard-pressed to meet the expected future demand.

After surveying alternative energy sources, the Joint Forces Command concludes the following." And again these are direct quotes from the document:

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    "During the next 25 years,
coal, oil, and natural gas will
remain indispensable to meet
energy requirements.
    The discovery rate for new
petroleum and gas fields over the
past two decades, with the
possible exception of Brazil,
provides little reason for
optimism that future efforts will
find major new fields.
    By 2012, surplus oil
production capacity could entirely
disappear.
    And as early as 2015, the
shortfall in output could reach
nearly 10 million barrels a day."
And just for the record, as I speak now, we
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use about 85 million barrels a day, so that's a pretty staggering number to consider seeing how 2015 isn't exactly that far down the road.

I personally have no idea exactly when global oil production will peak, but I think it's safe to say that I can expect to experience it in my lifetime.

Many analysts now believe that Ghawar, the largest oilfield ever found, has reached its peak of production. In 2005, the world's second largest oilfield, Burgan, in Kuwait, entered into rapid decline.

Mexico's huge Canterell field, the world's third largest, is now in decline, such decline in fact that the New York Times believes the country will be importing oil by the end of the decade.

Despite our Nation's impressive tar sands in remaining a net energy exporter, Eastern Canada continues to rely heavily on foreign oil.

So does China. According to Business Insider, if everyone in China consumed oil at the rate of every North American, we would need seven more Saudi Arabias. China's appetite for oil rose over 16 percent in the last 12 months and it is growing with each passing minute.

The country currently builds 1,000 kilometres
of four-lane highway every year. This is the situation now.

By 2030, China is expected to add more new city dwellers than the entire U.S. population.

Do we even need to discuss India?
Rising oil demand coupled with the diminishing global supply and a growing population can only mean increasing energy costs.

Such a scenario leads me to wonder how viable the Prosperity Project will be in the event that the price of oil escalates significantly.

And I should say this is in no way a knock on Taseko Mines. These are just numbers that I think need to be crunched and there needs to be transparent accounting in the event that energy prices skyrocket, as many agencies around the world are suggesting.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Bird, I wonder if you might be able to wrap up.

MS. BIRD: I'm three paragraphs from finishing.

In the event that this mine does not go forward, should we consider this a missed opportunity? Is this the only way to save Williams Lake? Is it really all that bad to improve relations with the Tsilhqot'in community to preserve spectacular
wilderness that can rival anything on the planet?
Considering we have a multi-million-dollar tourism centre, perhaps we could take measures to showcase the Fish Lake area instead of destroying it. I recognize this won't create a blitzkrieg of short-term jobs but it could create some long-term jobs that don't jeopardize water quality, fish and wildlife.

I'll leave it at that. Just in the interests of time. And I would like to thank you for the point. The major thing $I$ would like to just leave with is the energy costs, and I don't expect Taseko to respond to it right now, but it would be nice to, and maybe they already have responded to that, but just in the event that oil does trade at 150 or 200 dollars a barrel, will this Project be viable? Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Bird, I'll ask if Taseko has any questions. And I see none.

Are there any from the audience just assuming we'll be moving on quickly. And I don't think the Panel has any. So I thank you for that, Mr. Bird.

We have one more presentation, I believe, from Ms. Verhaeghe, and then after that I understand it's a fairly short presentation, and then after that we'll turn to Taseko for their response. And we may
need a break at that point.
I had understood it was one person.
MS. VERHAEGHE: Yes, but she'll be accompanying me.

THE CHAIRMAN: Okay, thank you.
PRESENTATION BY MS. VERHAEGHE (ACCOMPANIED BY CHIEF FRANCIS LACEESE, CHIEF MARILYN BAPTISTE, AND CHIEF JOE ALPHONSE

MS. VERHAEGHE: Thank you, I would just like
to thank you once again for the opportunity to speak.
I guess for the record, just if you needed to know, it's Chief Francis Laceese, Chief Marilyn Baptiste and Chief Joe Alphonse that are with me.

We have been consistent throughout this entire process in saying that we are not willing to sacrifice an area of such profound spiritual and cultural importance for the sake of profit.

Yet Taseko has come back to state, and I quote:

> "There is a new way for this
> land to provide for your people.
> That new way is through minerals.
> And through the application of modern technology and know-how, can provide for the people in a
manner consistent with your attachment to the land, your responsibilities and your high regard and respect for the land.

The principle of the land providing for your community is no different.

The Earth provided food, medicine, and other valuables to sustain First Nations.

Today the Earth can continue
to do all of that and provide economic opportunity and benefit for First Nations People without compromising your past practices, traditions and belief in a manner consistent entirely with these principles and in accordance with the conduct of your ancestors, those who have come before you." It's, I have the PDF reference and I can give that to you at a later time.

But Taseko, your quote to me illustrates the extreme large separation between Taseko and ourselves, the Tsilhqot'in.

When I read this quote, I came to terms that maybe Taseko does not have a sense of compassion for our People. And that most likely Taseko has no desire or will to understand what our composition is.

Mr. Chairman, and Taseko, I ask that you bear with me for one moment because what I'm about to say sounds as though at first it's an insult, but if you will indulge me for a moment, I'll try to explain it.

Taseko, you say a lot without saying enough.
What I mean by this is that we have consistently asked for more information about the effects that this Project would have on our food, our medicine, our spiritual connection with the land.

We needed to fully understand this Project, because we wanted to give you the benefit of the doubt. But still what we have received from you is not enough to justify the loss that we will endure from this Project.

I would like to express to the Panel and further to the Federal Government that we are not interested in jobs, revenue or benefits from this Project if it is at the expense, the loss of a cultural area that we are significantly attached to, physically, spiritually, metaphysically. When I say metaphysically, I mean the realities to us which are
outside of science.
This process may be a necessary process, a very informative process, but it really does not capture the true essence of our culture.

Our teachings to an outsider may seem superstitious, but it's like a mantra of how we exist and how we connect with the Earth.

For example, if we have not received the gift of game, when we hunt, that is for a reason. And we know those reasons.

We have the right to continue to learn and gain a connection with this area and continue to fish, hunt, pick berries in this area.

There is a pressure on local, Provincial and Federal Governments to provide employment in this area because of the forestry downturn. Providing jobs and revenue in exchange for this proposal is not a good exchange in our eyes. The Prosperity Mines will have incalculable affects to our Nation. And we are expressing to the Panel and the Federal Government that there is no real measure that could compensate the Tsilhqot'in nation for these harms.

You heard Mr. Hartman speak, Dr. Hartman, at the end of this presentation, at the end of his presentation on a sense of place. I have concerns of
the large liability that this poses on us. Our communities are inherently immobile. Through thick and thin, community members stick close to home because this is the land that they learned about the places to hunt and gather. They know the geography, the characteristics of season changes. It is us who step forward and have been vocal to express we are not comfortable with this proposed mine.

And it is evident now after the presentation that we may be forced to face this daunting task of reclamation on this Project.

The liability goes deeper and I've expressed this already as our complete loss. As I have said previously, we are interested in environmentally sustainable and culturally acceptable economic development opportunities.

We are interested in pursuing more business opportunities that fit within this criteria, but quite frankly, this process is a significant drain on our resources.

Our revenues are being eaten up as we speak to entertain this Panel hearing.

I think of how we spent many years in developing our relationship with the government. We get one step forward and processes like this take us
two steps backwards. This has been a large resource drain.

I was talking to Chief Marilyn about the need to continue to develop more community specific strategies in our Nation for economic development. If we have any revenues, it is allocated to this process. I would love to have the ability to allocate those resources to our economic development plans. This is a direct negative result of this process. And I know that's not, I'm not expressing that in the way, that's not my culture, that this isn't yours, this isn't your problem to bear.

We've worked for days and years to negotiate a forest and range agreement. And the Tsilhqot'in Framework Agreement. In one year, we had 256 full days for the forest and range opportunity agreement in negotiations with the Ministry of Forests.

The day after we received the news, when we signed the Tsilhqot'in Framework Agreement, it was the day after that we received the news or it was within a certain amount of time that we received the news that the Environmental Certificate had been accepted from the Provincial Government. It was the day after we received the news of the Certificate that the Provincial Government came to our door with a cheque
for the first installment of the Tsilhqot'in Framework Agreement.

It was really hard to celebrate the agreement.

I look at this process and I see the time it takes for my Chiefs, from my job. We have other significant issues. We, too, are a government. We have issues in health, housing, employment, other natural resources, oils and gas, fishery. We have larger issues like gang violence, youth development, Residential School issues. We have members' needs that need to be serviced. This is currently affecting that.

I say we are interested in pursuing more business opportunities, but I can assure the Panel that we are capable of finding these partnerships on our own merit. What I have taken from Taseko's quote is that paternally Taseko feel that they know what is better for us than we do.

Thoughts like that are gone with the past. We live in the year 2010. Shouldn't we be treated differently? Shouldn't we be entrusted to know what is best for ourselves?

One thing is for sure, it can never ever be said that we did not thoroughly express our opposition
to this Project, as it violates our rights and it's documented exceedingly in the transcripts. This is a massive liability on all parts because if we the Tsilhqot'in were in control of the Project, we would not assume this risk.

Yes, there could be promises to our Nation in the realms of revenue sharing, jobs, funding injections to our communities. However, where we are now, in this room, shows us that this relationship is not a positive and healthy one for our People.

Past and current performances show us how to predict, they may show us how to predict future performances. If that is the case, I feel our future is pretty bleak.

I ask the Panel and the Federal Government to recognize that we have extended our hearts and our time in the spirit of relationship building. Like so many other First Nations.

I would like to continue to gather at Fish Lake with our People and enjoy it fully for what it currently is now.

That's everything I had to say. And out of respect, I asked the Chiefs to come with me, and they have a few moments.

THE CHAIRMAN:
Thank you, Ms. Verhaeghe.

I'm sorry, is that the end of the presentation?
MS. VERHAEGHE: Yes, that's the end of my presentation.

THE CHAIRMAN: I'm sorry, was that the end of the whole presentation?

MS. VERHAEGHE: No.
THE CHAIRMAN: What is the expectation? I
just want to thank you for the presentation, but we are going to hear from the Chiefs tomorrow, I think, or Monday with closing remarks. Isn't that the case? I'm just wondering at this stage if there's anything more that you can add to information we've gathered at this stage?

MS. VERHAEGHE: There's just one, a few points I think that Francis wanted to, and Chief Marilyn wanted to have, and yes, this is not the closing remarks portion.

THE CHAIRMAN: Okay, go ahead.
CHIEF LACEESE: Yes, Chief Laceese from Tl'esqox, Tsilhqot'in, $I$ just wanted to make one comment and reserve the rest for my closing.

Just regarding the archeology that's proposed for the proposed transmission line. And I think I heard IR Wilson is the person that they are going to use to do that, do the archeology there. But my
community, and $I$ think a few of the others are aware of IR Wilson back in the, quite a while back. We ended up with a confrontation over IR Wilson. We ended up doing a roadblock. We ended up in court. And he was saying there was no archaeological in that certain area that's close to my community. And that's -- so we don't have no faith in IR Wilson because of, you know, that ended up in the Court case and we ended up on the roadblock, so I just wanted to make that comment.

Thank you.
THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Chief Laceese, that is new information that you responded to. Thank you.

Chief Baptiste.
CHIEF BAPTISTE: Thank you. And, of course, I just want to also add that this is in addition to Patt Larcombe's presentation this morning, of course we chose to defer to the end of the day because of the others who had to be heard and leave.

And I would just like to basically first of all say thank you to Mike Bird. I would like to hire that boy for radio. He basically stole all my words, so I will make it short.

THE CHAIRMAN: Well, that's quite a
complement, isn't it.
CHIEF BAPTISTE: I guess basically with that, there really -- it seems to me that there really can't be any more said or any more to say. But honestly there is so much more to say. And it's been repeated several times throughout all the hearings that there is simply not enough time for this process and to truly reflect our People.

And even though you have heard a very deep connection and that our ties to the land, our ties to our land and with respect to socio-economics is our health, our healing, our spirituality. All of who we are, what we are, is tied to the land. We are with the land.

And that cannot be separated as in this European way. Economics is separated from other aspects of life.

There was once a time when we lived in balance and we did not have to go to a doctor, we did not have to go to physical education or go to the gym to have our physical activity.

You hear about all the high rates of diabetes and obesity that affect people of all race.

There was a time when we didn't have to go to a mental health practitioner for that piece of our
livelihood because of our connection to our land and our culture, our values. By living off the land, that was all incorporated within our daily lives. From the day that we were born.

Being raised in a baby basket, for instance, that was a form of discipline, you heard about that, I believe, in some of the testimony.

And with respect to the economics, it was also a part of who we are. We trapped, we traded, we hunted, we traded. It was a part of our survival. It wasn't a simple choice. It was a part of who we were. And it is still a part of who we are.

We cannot separate ourselves from the land. And we cannot sacrifice the headwaters in our territories and the wild fish, the wild stocks of the lake trout.

I keep hearing comments about the importance of lake stocks or lake trout will be more important in the coming years. I feel that we always have had that importance.

And we have always utilized the lakes. And we will continue. And we still do utilize the lakes.

And I guess some of the stuff in regards to the archaeological aspects of this Project, the reference to the protection of archaeological matter,
this study or there is some discrepancies with the studies that Taseko Mines has used. And there's supposed to be 70 sites that are protected. I can't see how our continuing to go forward with such an impact and with protected archaeological matter.

And still beyond that, it's been quite clearly demonstrated that there is still much more work to do in archeology.

And that's one of the reasons, of course, why Francis reflected the Tsilhqot'in concern for who actually goes out on our lands and does a part of this work with our participation.

And I have to say, I know Patt did not stress too much, but the protection of our culture and our beliefs, our way of life is very important, something that we do not talk about. As I reflected in my presentation in Nemiah with regards to the traditional medicine that I found on the island, that I will not share photos of for the sake of that possible destruction. And that medicine is not found just anywhere.

And that's also been a big part of the survival of the Tsilhqot'in People, was not only the protection of our lands, but the protection of our culture and many of our Rituals. And I feel that
that's very important that we have set forth in this process because there has been so much that we have shared through this process that normally we would not have.

And I basically won't review any of the impacts because it's been very clearly identified with the smallpox, the churches, the missionaries, the Residential School impacts, the Indian Act, the Ministry for Children and Families and of course the drugs and alcohol. And the simple European intrusion in our way of life.

And, of course, that also reflects to the impacts of our education.

Again, our education was a part of our way of life, even though it wasn't recognized by European governments, our education was a part of who we were every day, not just when we became five years old or six years old. It was always a part of our life.

And, of course, we can't say enough about processes. The First Nations people have come so far forward in this world, despite all of these impacts.

And yet we are sitting in this process and fighting for our simple being. Fighting for our lives.

And, with that, simply the Environmental

Assessment Process, and going through this process here and clearly identifying or seeing the rubber stamp, to me, and from B.C., says to me that the Joint Review Panel is something that should be the only process for the sake of not just our future, but all beings' futures.

And again, got to say it again, and I got to say it again, we must protect our headwaters, our fish, our future generations and the sustainability for our People, not just for 20 years, $I$ will say again for 1,000 years. That's a part of who we are and what we are.

Sechanalyagh.
THE CHAIRMAN: Sechanalyagh.

Chief Alphonse.
CHIEF ALPHONSE: I'm going to save what I have to say for my closing tomorrow.

But I just want to reiterate a presentation I heard here earlier and can't stress the importance of that presentation. And coming from the perspective of Aboriginal women, First Nation women. And prior to European contact within our Nation, I totally believe the leadership lied with our women. And for years and generations now, that has been taken away. And the atmosphere, the attitudes people have towards

Aboriginal women, Aboriginal women being the larger section of people, not just in this area, but in the world, that face abuses, whatever, and it's one of the goals, one of the things I set out for in my campaign, and want to see and so I acknowledge the recognition of that and what industry has to play in abuses toward Aboriginal women, and it's a section that we have to take and look at very seriously.

Aboriginal women, the abuses they face, I don't have to remind people here in Williams -- in British Columbia how not too long ago, Pickton farm, and how many Aboriginal women were taken to that location, how many Aboriginal women were found, you know, were never recovered on Highway of Tears, highway leading from Prince George.

So to hear a comment from somebody to come forward and say to imply that the mine is actually going to be a good thing, how in the world, you know, and the body language that was being used, I think very disrespectful.

We are a proud people. Our People, our women will be proud to work for establishments and entities that we create as a Nation, that respects our views and values.

And I feel on behalf of our women that I have
to come forward and raise that point. And iterate that we're here. It will be working for companies that are not only environmentally but that we're working as a Nation, as a group, and we're moving forward in a good way. And right now we don't believe the dealings we've had with this company has shown any respect for our values and our culture, so.

So to work in such an environment is not going to bring pride to any of our women within our Nation.

And that was the only comment that I wanted to state and kind of answer on behalf of the lady that come up here to present that view.

So I thank you for your time.
Sechanalyagh.
THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, also, Chief Alphonse.

I'll check with Taseko to see if they have any questions at this point.

I think, if $I$ may say, it's a bit of a wrap up and an overview I think that we've heard. And appreciate that, Chief Laceese, Chief Baptiste, Chief Alphonse, and Ms. Verhaeghe, for doing that overview for us. I'm sure we'll hear more in your closing remarks, of course. And I can't remember if
it's scheduled tomorrow or Monday, but in one of those two days in any case when we wrap up these proceedings.

And I do appreciate, too, that this has been very time-consuming for your People. But I guess we have been appointed to be here to do this job to hear those concerns and your views and we certainly have appreciated that opportunity.

So thank you. And I'll turn to Taseko.
Did you need a bit of a break before doing your response to the week's topic-specific sessions, Mr. Bell-Irving?

MR. BELL-IRVING:
Mr. Chairman, no, but I would ask if it would be all right with you if I could move to that table so that $I$ could present directly rather than sort of skewed here.

THE CHAIRMAN: Sure, that would be fine, yes.

RESPONSE TO TOPIC-SPECIFIC SESSIONS BY TASEKO MINES LIMITED:

THE CHAIRMAN: This way you can see what you're doing. You don't have to twist your neck around, so.

So go ahead, Mr. Bell-Irving.
MR. BELL-IRVING:
Mr. Chairman, if I may before
beginning these closing remarks, just for administrative purposes, submit our last outstanding undertaking. Particularly with respect to the request from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans related to the change in nutrient levels in the Taseko River.

The issue, as we recall, related, a question was asked about the anticipated effects of nutrient concentrations in the Taseko River as a result of the reduction in flows to the Fish Creek.

Using the data that's in our Application, using average annual concentrations in the Taseko River, both upstream and downstream of the confluence, we report the following in terms of units milligrams per litre changes:

Using ammonia, the change, these are average annual concentrations, the ammonia levels, both upstream and downstream of the confluence as a result of any changes in flow do not change.

The levels upstream are 0.012 milligrams per litre and the levels downstream are exactly the same.

A similar pattern with nitrate. The levels do not change. Although they are different. Upstream they are 0.02 milligrams per litre and downstream the same.

Orthophosphate does however change slightly.

Upstream, orthophosphate is at a level of 0.05 milligrams per litre. Downstream of the confluence, it actually increases to 0.06 milligrams per litre. Dissolved phosphate, no change. The levels are 0.011 , and downstream the same.

Total phosphate does change slightly.
Upstream, the levels are 0.034 milligrams per litre, and downstream 0.035 milligrams per litre.

As can be seen with those data, the water quality related to these nutrients in the Taseko River is virtually indistinguishable, both upstream and downstream of the Fish Creek confluence, indicating that there will be little or any change to these parameters.

By extension, this preliminary evaluation indicates that the effects to fish habitat are likely unmeasurable as well.

In addition to the average annual concentration, we looked at monthly average concentrations, particularly during the months of April, May and June. We used the data for the period 1992 to 2006.

The changes in flow from the Fish Creek drainage averaged a reduction in April of 7.5 percent, in May of 3.31 percent, and in June, 0.73 percent.

Those are reductions in flow, not in nutrients.
With respect to nutrient changes, the conclusion is that there are no measurable changes in the nutrient level in the Taseko River, even looking at the monthly average levels.

That concludes that undertaking. And just, if I may also, before beginning the presentation, clarify on the record a definition. There was some discussion, $I$ don't recall which topic it was raised in, but there was some discussion on the subject of what is the definition of "life of mine". And I'm referring to the 2009 December '04 Performance Measures document which is a part of the record in which Taseko has, and I was not aware of this when I was speaking to this question earlier, Taseko has defined "life of mine" to mean: The time period in which the mine is operational. For clarification, that is to mean, "operational" means "active mining of the pit," approximately 17 years, and an additional three years of processing ore until the actual mine, mill, rather, ceases operation. That is the point when the mine, life of mine period ceases. So it's approximately at year 20. 17 years of active extraction of ore, plus three years of milling low-grade ore that's been stockpiled.

So now, Mr. Chairman, I'll turn to the closing remarks.

And unlike my previous closing remarks, this one, of course, is going to cover all the topics of this last five weeks (sic).

We'd like to begin, I would like to begin by thanking you, Chairman, and to express our appreciation for this opportunity to provide these remarks.

With respect to the Alternatives Assessment discussion, as we've said on many occasions, our Project is not technically complex. While our proposal is the development of a large open pit mine, it is a basic truck and shovel operation. Drill and blasting of rock, hauling of rock to where it can be crushed into fine sand, and processed into concentrate and disposal of leftover sand deposited into a water retaining facility are not complex or technically challenging.

This approach and process is commonplace throughout British Columbia.

Very similar to mines we've heard about, Highland Valley near Kamloops, Huckleberry mine, the Kemess mine, Mount Polley, and our own Gibraltar Mine close to here in Williams Lake.

Clearly the most captivating component of our Project revolves around the loss of Fish Lake and the development of a new lake to replace it.

While we believe that this, too, is not technically challenging, it certainly is both emotionally challenging for some people, for a lot of people, particularly the First Nations communities. As we've said on many occasions, we have searched hard for an alternative. A different way. A way to retain the lake and still have the mine.

It was in our interest to find this way, to keep the lake, because doing so would certainly have eliminated a lot of controversy, a lot of concern. But, as you've heard, there was no viable way or alternative.

A thorough examination of the long and detailed efforts we made to assess these alternatives has concluded by both ourselves and now the Provincial Government and the responsible Federal Government authorities, as they have all concurred with our findings with respect to the alternatives.

Turning to water quality and acid rock drainage, the subject of the second session.

Many of the issues raised, questions asked, and the concerns expressed, particularly outlined in

Amy Crook's slide number 9 where she listed the concerns and the questions, and the essence, in essence the entire presentation by Dr. Morin, in our view could, and in our respectful opinion would have been resolved had the Tsilhqot'in National Government and their consultants participated in both Environmental Assessments.

The decision not to participate was theirs despite our efforts to involve them.

We wish it had been otherwise.
We've seen and heard a great deal of opinion on this subject and we've seen from Stratus a number of reinterpretations of a number of things that were presented in the environmental assessment.

It is unfortunate that Stratus was not able to submit technical comments into the Review Process until now.

For had they done so, surely they would have been better informed and better understood both our analysis and approach to these matters.

And they would have had an opportunity to perhaps better inform Environment Canada, NRCan, and Health Canada, all of whom have formed views similar to ours on these matters.

It's been implied that we've been arbitrary
in picking and choosing what data to use as inputs to our assessment. And that we endeavoured to minimize concerns regarding acid rock drainage and metal leaching or water quality.

This is not true. In undertaking the assessment of acid rock drainage and metal leaching, and in developing our water quality predictions, we considered all the available information and we've documented in the EIS the reasons for selecting the various inputs to our assessment that were chosen.

It is patently untrue that we have been hiding anything.

We've heard a lot of discussion about mitigation and we've heard a range of opinions about how likely it will be that water treatment will be required; how effective it might be, and how much it might cost.

Taseko has committed to meeting Water Quality Objectives downstream of the Project, including, if necessary, implementation of water treatment.

We believe that this measure is both technically and economically feasible and could and will be implemented if necessary.

You've heard opinions from several parties, including Taseko, relating to the potential effects of
the project on water quality.
All of these parties are reviewing the same information and they are coming to independent conclusions that are dissimilar to varying degrees.

The TNG reviewers appear to have chosen to adopt an extreme position, that the effects of the Project will be a lot higher than Taseko is predicting.

Both Federal and Provincial agencies, with considerable responsibility and experience here in Canada, have expressed opinions and reached conclusions that are much closer to the ones that Taseko came to.

This speaks to a healthy scientific debate and the imprecision that is inherent in this kind of assessment.

When considering this debate, and eventually the questions around risks and uncertainty, in this aspect of the assessment of environmental effects, Taseko, and the Canadian regulatory agencies, who are responsible for ensuring that these effects are not significant, are of the opinion that the EIS contains a description of the most probable result of carrying out this Project.

Turning now to fish and fish habitat.

DFO has concluded that gaps exist between our proposed Fish Compensation Plan and their policy objectives. They have also identified certain risks associated with elements of the Fish Compensation Plan.

Once the gaps and risks as identified by DFO were made known to us a mere two weeks before the hearings began, we acted to eliminate the gaps and address the risks.

The gaps and the risks exist in large measure because of policy objective from the government, policy objective conflicts exist between the Federal and Provincial governments. As an example, the Provincial Government wants us to incorporate the use of a hatchery as part of our plan. Yet the Federal Government discourages such practice to the point that, despite the considerable effort and associated expense, we are given no credit for it in terms of meeting the No Net Loss policy.

Here's an example where the reverse is true. To close the gap and to satisfy DFO policy, late in the process, we proposed an additional $\$ 600,000$ compensation element in Lower Fish Creek. The Provincial Government thinks this idea is a waste of money. As does Dr. Hartman in his testimony, thinks
it's unsound technically.
This is exactly what the Provincial Government wants to avoid, a situation where Taseko spends money just to satisfy DFO policy, but in the process ignores Provincial priorities.

It would be helpful if the two governments could reconcile their policy objectives so that we might have a better chance at satisfying their conflicting objectives.

While DFO admits that the gap between our plan and their objectives has narrowed as a result of our recent efforts, and while they admit the risks have been reduced, they remain of the opinion that there's still a gap and that there's still risks of success without future human intervention.

As the Panel has heard, it's the intention of both DFO and Taseko to continue to work towards resolution of the remaining gap and the risks identified.

Our expectation is that we will be successful at reaching a resolution.

It should be noted that until such time as DFO and Taseko work these matters out to the point that DFO is satisfied and prepared to issue the necessary authorizations, neither the full
construction of the mine, nor its operations, can or will proceed.

DFO has confirmed that, by agreement, the Provincial Government has responsibility for the management of the fisheries associated with the development of our Project, specifically rainbow trout.

In addition, the Provincial Government has established a fisheries management plan for the area and provided a benchmark document together with performance measures.

DFO in their presentation quite correctly drew the Panel's attention to the fact that Taseko will have to post a letter of credit as a security against the cost of completing the Fish Compensation Plan.

In other words, there's a strong incentive for the company to fulfil its commitments.

As DFO also pointed out, the Fisheries Act is one of the most powerful pieces of legislation in Canada and has the ability to impose significant fines, jail time, and even prohibition of mining activities.

These powers constitute additional incentive for Taseko to ensure safe and successful operation of
the mine in all areas related to the impact.
We certainly have no intention of being on the receiving end of these considerable powers contained in that Act.

Drawing on my experience as a DFO regulator for many years, I feel obliged to provide the Panel with a somewhat of a unique perspective on this matter.

Typically, when DFO issues an authorization, it does so always at the end of a Project Review Process, and almost as an afterthought and a necessity on the part of many proponents.

Rarely, if ever, do you find a Fish Compensation Plan an integral component of a proposed project.

As a result, partly because often proponents are not in the fish business, and perhaps as a function of declining resources and staff capabilities on the part of DFO, there's little follow up and monitoring of the success of these Compensation Plans.

Nor is there much documentation of the success or failure of many Compensation Plans. And who ends up losing? The resource.

We heard plenty of evidence from Dr. Hartman. And there's plenty of literature. There's some
documented and often-quoted, Hartman and Miles, Jason Quiqley et al, that suggest that when they do have the resources to examine the success or failure of these Compensation Plans, the preponderance of the evidence suggests that they fail.

When we do read or hear about limited success and the many failures, I ask the question, is it because it can't be done? Or are there other circumstances that speaks to its failure? Is it because there isn't the incentive or motivation to make sure that it's successful?

We submit that Prosperity and this Project is different in many ways from this normal practice and situation. Our Fish Compensation Plan is large. It has multiple components and includes, as you know, building a lake, creating new habitat, it involves a hatchery, and the out-planting to a number of lakes, managing flows, ensuring temperature, quality of the gravel for spawning, et cetera.

And it's an integral component of our Project. It's anything but a last-minute add-on.

What this means to Taseko is this:
Our corporate reputation and our corporate culture is at risk if this Compensation Plan doesn't work.

Already, this Compensation Plan represents a considerable investment to the shareholders, and certainly the costs of building it are considerable.

In addition, we heard, not only for the authorization, but now for MMER purposes, financial security requirements are significant.

It's different in that we will have people on site for at least 20 years, if not much longer, whose sole purpose and responsibility, amongst other things, will be to manage the commitment, to ensure that it is successful. None of the other Compensation Plans that I've ever seen or heard have similar assurances.

Financial security will be in place to back up and ensure that we deliver.

We are not allowed and circumstances would not permit us to walk away from this compensation until it's proven to be successful.

We wouldn't walk away from any other parts of our Project, any other commitments and obligations, why would we walk away from this or why would we want it to fail? It's in the fabric of this company to succeed at everything we do.

There's no precedent for a compensation project of this scale. Perhaps the reason for that is that there hasn't been a new mine of this scale built
in this province at least for the past 10 years. Perhaps if there had been a mine, with similar circumstances, we would have been able to rely on that experience relevant and use that as an appropriate analogue for what we're planning to do at Prosperity.

We heard a lot from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and Dr. Hartman about risks.

It must be remembered, each of those component parts have been proven effective in other instances.

Spawning habitat has been successfully created for decades.

Same with the development of new lakes, the stocking of lakes, water diversion, management, hatcheries, DFO themselves are in the hatchery business.

The only thing that's different, and perhaps unique in Prosperity's case, is that we're bringing together all these components, all these proven techniques and practices into one Project.

Rainbow trout, the subject, the focus of our Compensation Plan, notwithstanding the Lower Fish Creek aspect, rainbow trout are known to be a hardy species and they have been studied in great depth and detail. And have been proven to be a readily
adaptable and a versatile breed of fish.
A regional provincial fisheries biologist
indicates that it's because of this resilience, because of their adaptive nature, it's one of the main reasons rainbow trout have been used for many years in the Provincial lake stocking program.

The regional fisheries biologist here in Williams Lake describes rainbow trout as:
"Incredibly adaptive to most stream
and lake habitats where there's an adequate flow, temperature, oxygen, and pH , and the lack of a competitor. The genetic lines of rainbow trout have not diversified significantly even though they
occupy many different habitats."
He offers the view that concerning
Prosperity, the likelihood of rainbow trout surviving in man-made or barren lake habitats with proper temperature, oxygen and pH is very high.

The probability that there are genetic changes to the stock if there is proper genetic capture from the first and subsequent transplants in the lifespan of the mine is very low.

So looking ahead, what does the Panel take
away from the technical hearing dedicated to fish compensation?

The key points in our mind are these:
Taseko and DFO are working together to resolve the gap and the risks, all of the technical issues and risks raised can and will be addressed.

Secondly, the Project will not proceed without the necessary DFO authorization.

Thirdly, there is strong incentive and enforcement provisions in place to encourage a successful Fish Compensation Plan.

Fourthly, while the loss of the exact fish habitat and ecology associated with the Fish Lake ecosystem and the Prosperity Project cannot be replicated, it can be replaced, and a new habitat and associated ecology created.

Fifthly, what we are proposing is not unique, either in British Columbia or in Canada. Fish bearing and spawning habitat can and has been successfully created. Large bodies of water capable of supporting self-sustaining rainbow trout have been created and have been proven successful.

Sixthly, as DFO pointed out, a decision regarding the future of Fish Lake is, and the future of this Project, is one that ought to be made and we
believe will be made at the highest levels within government. In this case, Prosperity is subject to this Panel Review Process, the highest level of review that exists in Canada. And eventually the fate of the Project will rest with the Cabinet, the highest authority in the land. This is as it should be.

The mandate of the Panel in our view is to gather information on the environmental effects of the Project and to report your observations and findings to the Minister of Environment and ultimately to the Federal Cabinet.

The Cabinet will be free and unfettered to take into consideration all of that information gathered and all of the impacts and benefits associated with this Project.

Turning now to the terrestrial environment. We heard a discussion from Canadian Wildlife Service on the migratory birds and the number of migratory birds affected. To be clear, Taseko's estimates indicate that 63 breeding pairs of birds may be displaced as a result of the Project.

We heard from the Canadian Wildlife Service that they want Taseko to enter into a habitat compensation agreement, an agreement upon, an agreed upon plan to compensate for the displacement of these
estimated 63 pairs of migratory birds.
Under the conditions attached to the Provincial Certificate, as you know, Taseko is committed to working with the Ministry of the Environment and Canadian Wildlife Service to develop a framework for compensation, which includes compensation for migratory birds.

Wayne McCrory presented concerns regarding the regional grizzly bear population and noting that it's under pressure; the result of an increasing level of human-related activity built up over many decades.

While the Prosperity Project itself may not be a significant risk to grizzlies as a single activity, it nevertheless was one more additional pressure point that perhaps culminates in tipping the future for grizzlies in the region in a negative direction.

However, as Mr. McCrory rightly pointed out, there always exists in the immediate region numerous large protected areas and parks. These parks and protected areas were created in part to help protect grizzlies and other wildlife species and to help promote ecosystem diversity and preserve natural features.

This underscores the point that there are
already large areas currently used and readily available to help ensure the future protection of grizzly bear and other wildlife.

Turning to archaeology, you heard that the archaeology study undertaken is one of the most extensive ever undertaken. The area studied was large. The entire mine site, including buffer was large. The work was undertaken by walking the land. By not only making detailed visual examination but also digging almost 16,000 shovel tests. A full and complete written record has been compiled and items of interest either catalogued or collected or both.

This work was done in accordance with the wishes of the Tsilhqot'in, guided by them, and the crew doing the work on the ground included Tsilhqot'in members.

The level of detail contained in the entire report is significant and the level of confidence in its findings is very high.

On the socio-economic discussion. We heard from MiningWatch references to IBAs. It's our view that while perhaps desirable, IBAs are not required as a precondition of Project approval.

We heard from MiningWatch the suggestion that
the 43-101 filed by Mr. Jones was somehow inappropriate or perhaps illegal.

This, in our view, is preposterous.
Mr. Pearse asked me if I was aware of any Environmental Assessment Office enforcement measures or any provisions within the Provincial Environmental Assessment Branch or group to ensure compliance and delivery of our commitments.

In a break this afternoon after Mr. Pearse asked the question, we looked at the CEAA website and an April 2010 users guide which, amongst other things, outlines exactly what Mr. Pearse is asking, a process and a procedure that the EAO Provincially follow.

It was interesting to note that that process is complaint driven. And the complaints specifically, it is indicated, should come from the First Nations, from the public, and the community at large. And it encourages the public and the First Nations to bring those complaints forward.

The process also outlines a range of enforcement actions, culminating with the cancellation and removal of a certificate.

The Friends of Nemaiah Valley posed to the Panel an interesting dilemma. I'm referring here to Dr. Shaffer where our Terms of Reference, which were
issued, for the EIS, which were issued by both governments, and found to be adequate, and yet he outlined in his comments the need for a methodologically correct analysis.

Something, that in practical terms, cannot be done before a decision on this Project is rendered.

Transport Canada provided us with perplexing and troubling information. In their presentation, they indicated that they were thinking out of the box. And yet late in the process they admitted that they'd not considered the effects of this Project on First Nations and that now that they are aware of the spiritual and ceremonial significance of Fish Lake and the island.

Transport Canada was originally attracted to our suggestion that we would open up access to new lakes, boat ramps, campsite. Now they are in need of a more strategic approach. And that they'll take this notion to senior management for discussion.

Taseko is concerned on many fronts with this development, but looks forward to further discussions nonetheless.

In their presentation, Transport Canada indicated that their determination of significance did not take into account proposed mitigation.

Its determination of significance was based on effects to navigation and not effects to the environment.

It is Taseko's understanding that this is contrary to Environmental Assessment practice and approach.

Transport Canada then went on to render opinions in many areas that to us seemed to be clearly outside both their jurisdiction and expertise.

This troubles us greatly.
However, they then went on to suggest that when the Minister considers his Section 5 responsibilities, his deliberations will focus on the short and long-term effects of our Project on navigation. This encourages us.

We heard today from the Williams Lake Chamber of Commerce about the economic and social conditions of Williams Lake and the Cariboo Region.

We heard about the adverse effect of the mountain pine beetle and its contribution to workers and families leaving the area and loss of services to the area.

And we heard about the positive economic effects that Prosperity would have on the local, regional and provincial economy during all phases.

Government revenues would increase, business development opportunities would increase, employment would increase, and service levels for people would be maintained.

Clearly, many people in the broad population recognize that there are positive effects. These desirable trends are essential for sustaining healthy communities and are necessary for a vibrant and progressive society.

However, as we all know, not everyone views these attributes in a positive light. They hold other views and point to other values as being of superior or greater importance.

Titi Kunkel brought focus on women in the labour force. And we appreciated that. We'd just like to point out that the status for women employees in the mining industry in Canada represents 14 percent of the labour force. And that at the management level at Gibraltar, and throughout the company of Taseko, women represent 50 percent of our labour force.

Ms. Verhaeghe and the Tsilhqot'in Chiefs gave us their views and we appreciate and thank them for their clear and direct statement. We want to state clearly that we certainly don't presume to know what is best for them. We only offer them an opportunity
at this time in their history to consider what this Project might offer them, but only if they want it. With respect to the comments of Chief Laceese regarding the acceptability of $I R$ Wilson as a firm to undertake the yet to be undertaken Archaeological Impact Assessment on the transmission line, we are required to hire and undertake an AIA using professionally licensed archaeologists. IR Wilson is such a firm. And IR Wilson has been granted the necessary permit to undertake this work.

We prefer to use these consultants, we prefer to use consultants that are acceptable to First Nations, for many reasons, and we regret that in this instance that this preference may not be achievable.

In closing, and on behalf of my colleagues and Taseko Mines, I would like to thank the Panel for all the time and effort that you've dedicated to your pursuit of the gathering of information and views.

I would like to thank the Secretariat and the transcript services for all your support and service throughout the hearings.

Thank you.
THE CHAIRMAN:
Thank you, Mr. Bell-Irving. Perhaps just one thing I will check on, I think at the beginning you indicated that you were responding to
information over the last five weeks and I think you meant the last five days. I know that these last five days can seem like five weeks but.

MR. BELL-IRVING: It did seem like the last five weeks.

THE CHAIRMAN: It can be intense, because I just wanted to verify that because I assume that you'll be having closing remarks as well of course at the end of the session on Monday after all closing remarks have been heard.

Then in closing this evening, I would just like to thank you for your response to all of the many issues that you have heard over the last five days and we'll look forward to hearing your closing remarks at the end of the day Monday as well.

I would also like to say that we've appreciated your response to all of the matters and your patience in responding to the many questions that have been raised both by ourselves and also by the many participants through the hearing process.

And especially in the last five days.
So with that, I'd like to close this evening. But before I do, two announcements.

One, to remind everybody that we're starting our closing remarks tomorrow morning here in this room
at 9 'clock. And we have a list of speakers that are outlined to make closing remarks. I don't have it in front of me, but it will be here tomorrow morning.

We will be following a procedure of having the closing remarks. The Panel would be the only body that may, if we wish, to ask a question of clarification, but there will not be questions following closing remarks.

We're also planning to follow a fairly tight time line so that we can accommodate all of that within the time allotted.

And the final item $I$ would like to refer to, of course, is the closing ceremony, drumming ceremony, which we indicated would occur at the end of this session. It occurred at the beginning of the session on Monday morning, and we'll close this evening, again a reminder of the fact that we're holding these hearings within the traditional territory of First Nations.

So I would ask First Nations to bring this hearing, the topic-specific hearing to a close this evening, and with that I'll formally close the record and look forward to the drumming ceremony.

And thank everybody as well for coming during the five days and for all of your input.

Thank you.
(CLOSING DRUMMING CEREMONY)
(PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED AT 7:48 P.M.)
(PROCEEDINGS TO RECONVENE ON SATURDAY, MAY 1, 2010 AT 9:00 A.M., SAME LOCATION)

REPORTER'S CERTIFICATION
$I, ~ N a n c y ~ N i e l s e n, ~ R C R, ~ R P R, ~ C S R(A), ~ O f f i c i a l ~$ Realtime Reporter in the Provinces of British Columbia and Alberta, Canada, do hereby certify:

That the proceedings were taken down by me in shorthand at the time and place herein set forth and thereafter transcribed, and the same is a true and correct and complete transcript of said proceedings to the best of my skill and ability.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name this lst day of May, 2010.

Nancy Nielsen, RCR, RPR, CSR (A) Official Realtime Reporter

| \#09-05-44811 [1] - 6730:3 | 1 [7] - 6738:15, 6751:3, | 6867:6, 6872:4, 7040:15 | 2.6 [1] - 6884:13 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| \$1,000 [1] - 6786:24 | 6774:15, 6854:9, 6950:24, | 153 [1] - 6880:10 | 2.8 [1] - 6884:13 |
| \$1.15 [1] - 6994:13 | 6959:18, 7086:4 | 1557 [1] - 6954:25 | 20 [12] - 6752:7, 6766:24, |
| \$100 [1] - 6918:16 | 1,000 [3] - 6950:3, 7038:25, | 16 [15] - 6745:5, 6753:18, | 6767:15, 6770:8, 6773:8, |
| \$12,200 [1] - 6894:1 | 7055:11 | 6754:3, 6754:18, 6754:20, | 6835:11, 6867:10, |
| \$13 [1] - 6875:8 | 1.0 [7]-6877:3, 6878:15, | 6754:24, 6755:10, | 6883:18, 6991:5, 7055:10, |
| \$150 [1] - 7035:14 | 6883:19, 6947:14, | 6756:12, 6758:6, 6767:9, | 7061:23, 7072:8 |
| \$16,684 [1] - 6891:3 | 6975:17, 6975:21, 6976:19 | 6777:5, 6777:18, 6825:21, | 20,000 [2] - 6952:2, 6953:18 |
| \$17,279 [1] - 6891:8 | 1.8 [1] - 6954:6 | 6933:17, 7038:23 | 20-year [2] - 6947:7, 6959:11 |
| \$18 [1] - 6917:6 | 10 [13] - 6759:3, 6827:17, | 16,000 [1] - 7078:10 | 20.0 [1] - 6851:13 |
| \$18,000 [1] - 6893:25 | 6830:12, 6847:14, 6854:8, | 164 [2] - 6751:3, 6774:15 | 20.1 [1]-6851:13 |
| \$189 [1] - 6883:13 | 6874:20, 6875:6, 6893:18, | 16th [2] - 6934:9, 6946:14 | 200 [6]-6757:7, 6787:15, |
| \$3.376 [1] - 6883:16 | 6932:10, 6991:25, | 17 [7]-6744:17, 6753:14, | 6787:17, 6949:23, |
| \$30 [3] - 6830:22, 6830:24, | 7014:11, 7037:24, 7073:1 | 6810:8, 6851:19, 6902:8, | 6955:12, 7040:15 |
| 6923:16 | 10-metre-wide [1] - 6954:5 | 7061:19, 7061:23 | 200,000 [1] - 7034:23 |
| \$31,594 [1] - $6891: 8$ | 10.1 [1] - 6879:5 | 1763 [1] - 7029:18 | 2000 [2] - 6831:21, 7020:18 |
| \$32,279 [1] - 6891:6 | 10.7 [1] - 6893:22 | 18 [6] - 6745:12, 6753:13, | 2001 [11] - 6755:24, 6756:25, |
| \$35 [2] - 6884:2, 6919:3 | 100 [5] - 6759:5, 6793:21, | 6757:16, 6782:6, 6789:10, | 6805:18, 6833:16, |
| \$35,624 [1] - 6891:3 | 6795:21, 7017:1, 7018:17 | 6992:24 | 6833:17, 6870:14, 6894:1, |
| \$37 [1] - 6882:17 | 102 [1]-6947:5 | 18.10 [1] - 6879:22 | 7018:13, 7018:17, 7019:2, |
| \$38 [1] - 6876:13 | 10:00 [1] - 6799:18 | 1805 [1] - 6776:16 | 7019:7 |
| \$3800 [1] - 6786:24 | 10:30 [1] - 6740:7 | 1808 [1] - 6754:12 | 2004 [1] - 6877:24 |
| \$40 [2] - 6918:11, 6919:1 | 10th [1] - 6956:24 | 1812 [1] - 6745:9 | 2005 [3] - 6870:20, 6882:22, |
| \$48 [1] - 6883:14 | 11 [2] - 6771:24, 6792:5 | 1846 [1] - 6772:22 | 7038:9 |
| \$50 [1] - 6919:3 | 11.0 [1] - 6976:14 | 1850s [1] - 6763:1 | 2006 [12] - 6879:16, 6882:23, |
| \$50,000 [2] - 6911:8, 6994:11 | 111 [1]-6951:24 | 1860s [1] - 6761:1 | 6891:2, 6893:15, 6893:21, |
| \$53,499 [1] - 6891:6 | 119 [1] - 6730:22 | 1862/'63 [1] - 6763:4 | 6893:25, 6918:11, 6944:6, |
| \$6,000 [1] - 6787:18 | 11:00 [4] - 6740:7, 6740:11, | 1864 [1] - 6763:11 | 7017:22, 7018:23, 7022:4, |
| \$600,000 [1] - 7067:22 | 6799:20, 6799:23 | 1877 [1] - 6753:25 | 7060:22 |
| \$606,000 [1] - 6882:3 | 11:55 [1] - 6854:11 | 188 [1]-6944:1 | $2007 \text { [8] - 6785:20, 6882:1, }$ |
| \$669,000 [2] - 6883:2, | 11th [1] - 6842:12 | 1889 [1] - 6747:20 | 6882:24, 6893:17, 6894:1, 6944:6, 6992•19, 7025:17 |
| 6883:17 | 12 [14]-6745:9, 6745:15 | 1899 [1] - 6745:15 |  |
| $\begin{aligned} & \$ 88 \text { [3] - 6884:5, 6918:12, } \\ & 6918: 13 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 6747: 16,6747: 20, \\ & 6753: 25,6754: 12, \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 19 \text { [9]-6748:19, 6753:4, } \\ & \text { 6753:6, 6753:10, 6759:20, } \end{aligned}$ | $6882: 24,6918: 14,7025: 17$ |
| \$90 [1] - 6918:25 | $6776: 16,6893: 8,6933: 15,$ | 6781:1, 6781:12, 6851:2, | $\begin{array}{r} 2009 \text { [12] - 6842:12, 6872:5, } \\ 6872: 15,6874: 20,6875: 1, \end{array}$ |
| \$950 [1] - 6786:23 |  | 19.4 [1]-6851:8 | 6875:9, 6876:5, 6882:4, |
| \$981,000 [1] - 6882:4 | 125 $21-7016.7 .7016 .19$ | 19.4 [1] - 6851:8 | $6883: 1,6883: 12,6982: 1$ |
| '04 [1] - 7061:12 | 12:00 [1] - 6854:8 | 1901 [1] - 6747:16 <br> 1969[2] - 6746:2, 7008:2 | 7061:12 |
| '60s [1] - 6918:2 | 12:00 [1] - 6854:8 | 1969 [2] - 6746:2, 7008:2 $1972[1]-6754: 14$ | $2010 \text { [16] - 6730:15, 6738:15, }$ |
| '70s [1] - 6918:2 | 13 [13]-6745:2, 6745:25 |  | 6752:25, 6768:10, |
| '89 [1] - 6803:10 | 13 [13] - 6745:2, 6745:25, <br> 6746:8, 6749:3, 6750:9 | 1982 [2] - 6745:18, 6748:2 <br> 1990s [2] - 6831:21, 6897: | 6774:24, 6844:6, 6934:9, |
| 'Aboriginal [1] - 6789:4 | $6755 \cdot 4 \quad 6756 \cdot 19 \quad 6764: 22$ |  | 6934:12, 6935:1, 6959:14, |
| 'ingenious' [1] - 7033:20 | 7775:22. 6776:7. 6881:20 | 1991 [1] - 6770:25 | 7019:18, 7036:16, |
| 'no' [1] - 6777:7 | $6955: 3,6959: 12$ | 1992 [1]-7060:22 1994 [1] - $6778 \cdot 9$ | 7047:21, 7079:11, 7086:5, |
| 'What [1] - 6747:22 |  | 1994 [1] - 6778:9 | 7087:14 |
| 0.011 [1] - 7060:5 | $132 \text { [2] - 6879:23, 6951:23 }$ | 1995 [1] - 6944:1 | $2012 \text { [3] - 6747:16, 6749:16, }$ |
| 0.012 [1] - 7059:19 | $136[1]-6955: 6$ | 1996 [2] - 6879:16, 6944:2 <br> 1997 [1] - 6886:12 | 7037:19 |
| 0.02 [1] - 7059:23 | 14 [8] - 6746:4, 674 | 1997[1] - 6886:12 1998 [1] -6896:17 | 2013 [1]-6777:1 |
| 0.034 [1] - 7060:7 | 6749:20, 6778:1, 6850:1, | 1998 [1] - 6896:17 | 2014 [1] - 7036:13 |
| 0.035 [1] - 7060:8 | 6894:7, 6989:10, 7082:17 | 1999 [1] - 6868:9 19th [1] - 6786.21 | 2015 [2] - 7037:22, 7038:2 |
| 0.05 [1] - 7060:1 | $1457 \text { [1] - 6955:1 }$ | 19th [1] - 6786:21 | 2030 [1] - 7039:3 |
| 0.06 [1] - 7060:3 | 14th [1] - 6963:11 | $1: 00$ 1 [1] [1] - $70857 \cdot 14$ | 2037 [1] - 6779:3 |
| 0.2 [1] - 6872:3 | $15 \text { [15] - 6744:19, 6744:22, }$ | 1st [1] - 7087:14 | 2054 [1] - 6764:23 |
| 0.22[1] - 6871:20 | 6745:20, 6750:5, 6751:9, | 2 [7]-6874:2, 6881:17, 6882.6, 6939.2, 6942.23, | 2056 [1] - 6781:17 |
| 0.24 [1] - 6871:17 | 6751:22, 6752:19, | 6882:6, 6939:2, 6942:23, $6950: 24,6959: 19$ | 2066 [1] - 6746:9 |
| 0.30 [1] - 6872:2 | 6754:15, 6756:9, 6756:14, | $2,600[1]-7017: 12$ | 21 [1] - 6818:11 |
| 0.4[2] - 6848:13, 6872:2 | 6775:11, 6793:3, 6847:14 | $2.1 \text { [1] - 6882:25 }$ | 21.0 [1] - 6948:4 |
| 0.41 [1] - 6871:15 | 6882:8, 6930:2 | 2.1 2.12 | 2116[1]-6745:2 |
| 0.43 [1] - 6871:20 | 15,000 [1] - 6894:8 | $2.3[1]-6994: 5$ | 2124[1] - 6775:22 |
| 0.73 [1] - 7060:25 | 150 [5] - 6835:4, 6866:20, | $2.4[1]-6955: 22$ | 2126 [1] - 6745:25 |


| 2127 [1] - 6750:9 | 3198 [1] - 6745:12 | 6752:2, 6752:21, 6768:19 | 7027 [1]-6738:5 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2128 [1] - 6745:25 | 32 [1] - 6944:8 | 57 [1] - 6789:18 | 7028[1] - 6738:7 |
| 2155 [1] - 6776:7 | 3213 [1] - 6782:7 | 588 [1] - 6944:5 | 704 [1] - 6779:22 |
| 2158 [1] - 6755:4 | 3296 [1] - 6748:19 | 5E [1] - 6944:5 | 7041 [1] - 6738:8 |
| 2182 [2] - 6749:3, 6756:19 | 3297 [2] - 6753:7, 6759:20 | 5th [1] - 6844:6 | 7058 [1] - 6738:11 |
| 22 [5]-6823:21, 6823:24, | 33 [5] - 6730:16, 6886:13, | $6[7]$ - 6744:12, 6767:4, | 7086 [1] - 6738:12 |
| 6933:16, 6942:23, 7013:22 | 6958:3, 6994:2, 6994:12 | 6786:19, 6833:11, 6837:5, | 7087 [1] - 6730:17 |
| 23 [3]-6761:22, 6943:1, | 33-year [1] - 6773:12 | 6935:25, 6944:5 | 720 [1] - 7017:16 |
| 6971:3 | $3316{ }_{\text {[1] - 6753:4 }}$ | 6,000 [1] - 7017:6 | $75{ }_{[1]}$ - 6765:24 |
| 233 [1] - 7020:2 | 3346[1] - 6753:10 | 6.2 [1] - 6951:25 | $77{ }^{[1]}$ - 6789:19 |
| 2412 [1] - 6746:4 | $3365{ }_{[1]}$ - 6781:1 | $60[4]-6947: 4,6947: 7$, | $78{ }_{\text {[1] - 7017:2 }}$ |
| 2413[1] - 6749:20 | 34 [1] - 6730:8 | 6991:24, 6994:17 | 79 [1] - 6772:4 |
| 2423 [1] - 6778:1 | 3411[1] - 6781:12 | 61.0 [1] - 7019:6 | 7:48 [2] - 6738:13, 7086:3 |
| 2433 [1] - 6748:14 | 3456[1] - 6770:8 | 62,000 [1] - 7017:5 | 7th [1] - 6949:9 |
| 247 [1] - 6944:1 | 35 [1] - 6994:10 | $620[1]$ - 6893:15 | 8 [3]-6893:7, 6944:11, |
| 24th [5] - 6752:24, 6768:10, | 350 [1] - 7013:22 | 63 [2] - 7076:20, 7077:1 | 6949:7 |
| 6774:24, 6935:1, 6953:4 | 351 [1]-6730:23 | 654 [1] - 6950:1 | 80 [3] - 6872:4, 6944:3, |
| $25[7]$ - 6950:8, 6950:9, | 3519 [1] - 6766:24 | 6730 [1] - 6730:17 | 6948:12 |
| 6955:14, 6992:3, 7029:13, | 3543 [1] - 6752:7 | $6739[1]-6735: 3$ | 800 [2] - 7033:22, 7033:24 |
| 7031:13, 7037:8 | 36 [3]-6790:22, 6955:5, | 6740 [2] - 6735:5, 6735:8 | 80s [1] - 6744:13 |
| 25,000 [1] - 6757:1 | 6959:18 | 6799 [1] - 6735:10 | $85{ }_{\text {[1] }}$ - 7038:1 |
| 250 [2] - 6836:8, 6992:8 | 36.5 [1] - 6877:8 | 6817 [1] - 6735:11 | 85,000 [2] - 6955:11, 7034:9 |
| 256 [1] - 7046:15 | 37.4[1] - 6884:4 | 6823 [2]-6735:13, 6735:17 | 850 [1] - 6950:23 |
| 2565 [1] - 6756:14 | 377 [1]-6830:20 | 6848 [1] - 6735:18 | 877 [2] - 6755:2, 6755:7 |
| 2566 [1] - 6745:20 | 378 [1] - 6830:18 | 6855 [1] - 6735:20 | 9 [3]-7027:17, 7064:1, |
| 2637 [3] - 6750:5, 6751:10, | 388 [1] - 6950:1 | 6861 [1] - 6735:22 | 7085:1 |
| 6793:3 | 3rd [2]-6876:5, 6959:13 | 6868 [1] - 6735:23 | 9,000 [2]-6757:2, 7017:6 |
| 2638 [1] - 6744:22 | 4[3] - 6882:23, 6882:24, | $6900{ }_{[1]}-6736: 1$ | 900 [1] - 7033:23 |
| 2643 [2] - 6752:19, 6756:9 | 6997:2 | $6906{ }_{[1]}$ - 6736:2 | 947 [1] - 6761:22 |
| 2650 [1] - 6775:11 | 4.4 [1]-6882:23 | 6909 [1] - 6736:4 | $97{ }^{\text {[1] - 6867:11 }}$ |
| 2651 [1] - 6751:22 | 40 [1] - 6771:15 | 6910 [1] - 6736:6 | 98 [1] - 6751:20 |
| 2652 [2]-6744:19, 6754:15 | 400 [5] - 6949:23, 6950:23, | 6913 [1] - 6736:10 | 991 [2] - 7019:18, 7023:17 |
| 2676 [1] - 6754:25 | 6955:6, 6955:12, 6992:10 | 6921 [1] - 6736:11 | 9:00 [2] - 6738:15, 7086:5 |
| 2689 [1] - 6777:5 | 4100 [1] - 6949:21 | 6927 [1] - 6736:12 | A-frame [1] - 7033:11 |
| 2698 [1] - 6767:9 | 43-101 [4] - 6873:23, | 6928 [1] - 6736:14 | A.M [3] - 6738:15, 6854:11, |
| 27 [1] - 6835:12 | 6873:25, 6874:13, 7079:1 | 6929 [1] - 6736:16 | 7086:5 |
| $2703{ }_{[1]}$ - 6758:7 | 44 [1] - 6816:11 | 6933 [1] - 6736:17 | Abandoned [1] - 6905:15 |
| 2719[2]-6754:3, 6754:18 | 4500 [6] - 6771:19, 6789:12, | 696 [1] - 6784:3 | abandoning [2] - 6995:3, |
| 2734[1] - 6753:18 | 6789:16, 6812:3, 6968:17, | 6964 [1] - 6736:22 | 7023:10 |
| 2735 [4] - 6745:5, 6754:20, | 6968:20 | 6969 [1] - 6736:24 | ability [19] - 6762:3, 6762:6, |
| 6755:10, 6756:12 | 46 [2] - 6876:17, 7018:16 | 6978 [1] - 6737:1 | 6785:15, 6809:17, |
| 2766 [1] - 6777:18 | 48.3 [1] - 6882:5 | $6981{ }_{[1]}$ - 6737:3 | 6855:25, 6856:2, 6865:18, |
| 28.1 [1] - 6882:4 | 4900 [1] - 6949:21 | 6983 [1] - 6737:5 | 6869:4, 6903:8, 6958:23, |
| 2866[1] - 6753:14 | 4th [1] - 6934:12 | $6990{ }_{[1]}$ - 6737:7 | 6989:19, 6992:14, |
| 2867 [1] - 6744:17 | 4x4 [1] - 6948:16 | 6998 [1] - 6737:9 | 7014:20, 7022:11, |
| $\begin{aligned} & 3[3]-6791: 4,6946: 13, \\ & 6959: 21 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 5_{[18]}-6731: 12,6733: 3, \\ & 6735: 4,6735: 13,6740: 19, \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 7 \text { [6] - 6767:4, 6786:19, } \\ & 6935: 25,6946: 13, \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 7022:16, 7046:7, 7069:21, } \\ & 7087: 11 \end{aligned}$ |
| 3,000 [1] - 7017:16 | 6744:12, 6755:2, 6755:6, | 6947:10, 7029:18 | able [39] - 6740:11, 6756:3, |
| 3,800 [2] - 7017:15 | 6767:4, 6779:22, 6784:3, | 7,071 [1] - 6893:18 | 6776:14, 6778:5, 6781:9, |
| 3.31 [1] - 7060:25 | 6823:8, 6827:18, 6830:12, | $7.5{ }_{[1]}$ - 7060:24 | 6781:11, 6799:17, |
| 3.5[1] - 6871:5 | 6833:11, 6847:14, 6950:8, | 70 [1] - 7053:3 | 6799:20, 6801:20, |
| 3.6[1] - 6877:7 | 7081:12 | 700 [3]-6866:22, 6929:25, | 6806:17, 6808:16, |
| 3.7[1]-6951:25 | 5(2 [1] - 6942:6 | 6994:8 | 6827:22, 6834:15, |
| 30 [5] - 6730:15, 6765:6, | 5(3 [1] - 6942:18 | 7001 [1] - 6737:11 | 6852:12, 6858:20, 6868:5, |
| 6868:14, 6874:22, 6992:3 | 5,000 [2] - 6905:8, 6911:7 | 7004[1] - 6737:14 | 6869:20, 6877:6, 6892:8, |
| 30,000 [2] - 6757:1, 6759:2 | 50 [6] - 6829:21, 6891:4, | 7005[2]-6737:17, 6737:19 | 6894:4, 6901:14, 6902:4, |
| 300 [2] - 6993:12, 7003:11 | 6948:6, 6954:7, 6955:25, | $7006[1]$ - 6737:21 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 6904:8, 6911:15, 6949:19, } \\ & \text { 6954:11, 6955:24, } \end{aligned}$ |
| 300-odd [1] - 6806:14 | 7082:20 | 7009 [1] - 6737:22 | 6954:11, 6955:24, <br> 6967.22, 6987.9, 7001:17 |
| 31.6 [1] - 6879:7 | 50,000 [1]-6919:19 | 7011 [1] - 6738:1 | 6967:22, 6987:9, 7001:17, |
| $3128[1]-6757: 16$ $3196[1]-6753: 13$ | $500[2]-6866: 22,6992: 10$ $52[5]-6747: 25,6750: 24$, | $7024[1]-6738: 2$ | $\begin{aligned} & 7006: 18,7008: 12, \\ & 7008: 21,7009: 18, \end{aligned}$ |
| $3196{ }_{[1]}$ - 6753:13 | 52 [5]-6747:25, 6750:24, | $7025[1]$ - 6738:4 |  |

## 7031:24, 7039:18, <br> 7064:15, 7073:3

Aboriginal [52] - 6742:24,
6750:18, 6759:19,
6767:12, 6788:16,
6788:19, 6789:1, 6803:13, 6816:19, 6818:4, 6820:6, 6820:9, 6824:12, 6836:16, 6837:25, 6889:10, 6891:21, 6892:18,
6892:21, 6893:4, 6893:8, 6893:15, 6893:19, 6893:24, 6893:25, 6894:7, 6894:13, 6894:14, 6902:9, 6992:5, 7013:3, 7013:6, 7013:15, 7013:16, 7014:6, 7014:10, 7014:13, 7015:11, 7015:17, 7017:6, 7017:12, 7017:24, 7018:3, 7026:13, 7055:21, 7056:1, 7056:7, 7056:9, 7056:12, 7056:13
Aboriginals [2] - 6893:22, 6893:23
Above-average [1] - 6832:23
absence [5] - 6824:23,
6829:11, 6864:25,
6979:15, 6979:16
Absolutely [1] - 6818:22
absorb [1] - 6892:8
abundance [1] - 6961:4
abundance.. [1] - 6759:11
abundant [1] - 6952:17
abused [1] - 7030:24
abuses [3]-7056:3, 7056:6, 7056:9
abusive [1] - 6820:24
accept [4] - 6811:20, 6857:2,
6898:25, 6973:2
acceptability [1] - 7083:4
acceptable [12] - 6792:9,
6792:13, 6796:20, 6809:6,
6811:25, 6819:17,
6844:22, 6869:17, 6898:2,
6966:7, 7045:15, 7083:12
accepted [2] - 6847:4, 7046:22
accepting [3] - 6794:11,
6844:15, 6886:20
Access [4]-6767:16, 6943:16, 6961:22, 6969:1 access [59] - 6761:5,
6781:19, 6781:23,
6781:24, 6789:13,
6790:20, 6812:9, 6820:23, 6842:2, 6885:2, 6885:3, 6885:5, 6939:14, 6943:16, 6943:19, 6943:20, 6943:24, 6948:16, 6948:25, 6949:12, 6949:19, 6952:15, 6952:16, 6952:18,

6953:25, 6954:4, 6954:11, 6954:15, 6954:23, 6955:9, 6960:13, 6960:14,
6961:24, 6961:25,
6962:20, 6965:8, 6965:12, 6968:5, 6968:8, 6968:11, 6968:14, 6968:18,
6968:23, 6969:5, 6969:11, 6975:6, 6986:18, 6987:17, 6987:19, 6988:3, 6988:5, 6988:16, 6988:23, 6989:1, 6989:13, 6989:23, 7080:16
accessibility [2] - 6803:4, 6961:14
accessible [8] - 6757:24,
6758:21, 6758:22, 6760:8, 6788:4, 6796:2, 6802:23, 6803:4
accessible" [1] - 6802:17
accident [3] - 6835:16,
6867:1, 6867:18
accidents [5] - 6867:2,
6867:14, 6867:21,
6867:22, 6904:11
accommodate [7] - 6739:23, 6740:11, 6740:13, 6823:2, 6892:2, 6998:1, 7085:10
accommodating [1] 7028:18
accommodation [2] -
6763:20, 6891:24
ACCOMPANIED [2] - 6738:9, 7041:6
Accompanied [2] - 6732:9, 6734:13
accompanying [1] - 7041:4 accomplishments [3] 6911:19, 6912:3, 6995:6 accordance [2] - 7042:18, 7078:14
according [11] - 6845:10, 6845:13, 6845:21, 6875:1, 6875:18, 6932:17,
6944:12, 6968:9, 7019:18, 7020:17, 7022:4
According [2] - 6947:2, 7038:19
accordingly [3] - 6740:5, 6973:12, 6974:18
account [4] - 6952:11, 6965:3, 6971:17, 7080:25
accounting [4] - 6884:25,
6885:13, 6922:1, 7039:15
accounts [1] - 6885:18
accrue [1] - 6899:21 accumulate [1] - 6877:9 accumulated [3] - 6877:8, 6882:10, 6882:16
accurate [3] - 6743:19, 6784:22, 6789:23
accurately [2] - 6794:14,

6810:25
achievable [1] - 7083:14
achieve [1] - 6783:5
achieved [2] - 6959:9, 6960:4
acid [7] - 6810:2, 6905:18,
6947:4, 6947:5, 7063:22,
7065:3, 7065:6
acknowledge [4] - 6925:17,
7011:19, 7011:20, 7056:5
acknowledges [1] - 6795:17
acknowledgment [3] -
6848:21, 6848:24, 6866:5
acquaintances [1] - 7024:14
acquire [1] - 6918:5
acquisition [1] - 6875:22
Act [36] - 6762:7, 6772:8,
6772:9, 6772:23, 6856:12,
6858:8, 6881:15, 6881:16,
6933:13, 6934:7, 6935:4,
6936:20, 6937:11,
6937:15, 6938:14,
6938:23, 6940:21, 6942:5,
6942:24, 6946:7, 6946:9,
6966:21, 6966:22, 6971:7,
6974:6, 6982:15, 6984:8,
6985:20, 6985:25,
6990:16, 7029:14, 7054:8,
7069:19, 7070:4
ACT [1] - 6730:8
act [3]-6763:25, 6782:15, 6982:17
acted [1] - 7067:8
actions [3] - 6767:12,
6851:18, 7079:21
active [5] - 6959:23, 6962:1,
6962:22, 7061:18, 7061:23
activities [42] - 6756:18,
6758:9, 6758:10, 6761:13,
6765:21, 6768:4, 6783:8,
6790:14, 6791:8, 6818:21,
6824:11, 6840:9, 6840:15,
6840:17, 6853:7, 6877:1,
6886:7, 6887:18, 6916:20,
6935:18, 6935:19,
6935:20, 6940:22,
6946:17, 6949:17,
6950:14, 6951:4, 6953:23, 6964:24, 6967:8, 6994:20, 7014:17, 7014:18,
7017:21, 7018:11,
7018:22, 7019:12,
7020:22, 7022:23, 7033:1, 7069:23
activity [11] - 6779:17,
6826:1, 6829:16, 6832:1,
6839:4, 6840:10, 6960:25,
6992:19, 7051:21,
7077:11, 7077:14
actual [4] - 6803:12,
6878:23, 6882:20, 7061:20
acute [1] - 6897:8
adaptable [1] - 7074:1
adapted [1] - 7032:7
adaptive [2] - 7074:4, 7074:9
add [19] - 6781:25, 6829:20,
6838:25, 6840:8, 6851:3,
6864:7, 6864:10, 6883:2,
6902:7, 6913:23, 6922:10,
6929:25, 6930:7, 6932:16,
7008:3, 7039:3, 7049:12,
7050:17, 7071:21
add-on [1] - 7071:21
addiction [2] - 6765:18,
6783:22
addictions [1] - 6762:18
adding [3] - 6920:4, 6930:14, 6930:15
addition [16] - 6749:4, 6933:25, 6936:10, 6945:23, 6946:5, 6957:8, 6994:8, 7017:2, 7017:9, 7021:7, 7026:15, 7034:13, 7050:18, 7060:18, 7069:8, 7072:4
additional [11] - 6929:21,
6930:4, 6935:14, 6955:3,
6955:5, 6958:3, 6964:2,
7061:19, 7067:22,
7069:24, 7077:14
additionally [1] - 6760:6
address [15] - 6790:1,
6806:15, 6808:16,
6824:10, 6855:23,
6868:23, 6869:11, 6962:8,
6964:4, 6973:15, 7025:14,
7025:20, 7025:22,
7027:10, 7067:9
addressed [9] - 6834:12,
6845:19, 6845:20,
6845:21, 6846:15,
6913:17, 6963:4, 7023:5,
7075:6
addressing [2] - 6841:24, 6988:8
adequate [6] - 6878:9,
6925:25, 6926:2, 6927:14, 7074:11, 7080:2
adequately [4] - 6790:16, 6811:3, 6871:4, 7030:9
adjacent [2] - 6958:14, 6961:25
ADJOURNED [3] - 6738:13,
6854:11, 7086:3
Adjunct [1] - 6911:21
adjust [1] - 6965:12
adjusted [1] - 6740:4
administration [1] - 6937:10
Administration [1] - 7012:21
administrative [2] - 6939:4,
7059:2
admissible [1] - 6844:11
admit [2] - 6857:17, 7068:12
admits [1] - 7068:10
admitted [1] - 7080:10
ado [1] - 7006:21
adopt [1] - 7066:6
adopted [2] - 6931:13, 6931:14
adults [3] - 6764:10,
7018:16, 7019:6
advance [1] - 6932:25
advantage [2] - 6853:11, 6948:13
adversarial [1] - 6924:13 adverse [24] - 6784:1,
6795:5, 6796:12, 6796:18,
6798:16, 6824:19,
6825:14, 6826:20,
6826:21, 6840:7, 6844:16,
6844:20, 6846:11,
6913:14, 6913:19,
6920:11, 6920:22, 6921:5, 6938:9, 6957:20, 6963:22,
7015:2, 7023:2, 7081:19
adversely [1] - 6762:15
advertised [1] - 7021:1
advice [6] - 6856:8, 6864:21,
6903:13, 6903:15,
6909:17, 6934:18
advise [1] - 6788:24
advised [1] - 6957:10
advisor [3] - 6922:12,
6922:21, 6922:22
advocacy [1] - 6991:5
Aerial [1] - 6944:6
affairs [1] - 7031:20
affect [19]-6776:13,
6777:13, 6777:15,
6791:20, 6809:16,
6825:18, 6837:16,
6837:19, 6837:20,
6837:21, 6870:23,
6870:25, 6875:7, 6877:13,
6904:11, 6947:18,
6958:20, 7016:8, 7051:23
affected [10] - 6762:5,
6780:1, 6840:4, 6875:23,
6882:16, 6936:4, 6936:6,
6941:6, 6975:23, 7076:19
affecting [4] - 6785:11,
6959:1, 6960:13, 7047:12
affects [4] - 6777:8, 6786:7,
6837:19, 7044:19
afford [2] - 6786:6, 6786:10
affordable [1] - 6870:1
afforded [1] - 6917:8
affront [1] - 6764:12
afield [2] - 6785:24, 6833:9
African [1] - 7012:16
afternoon [2] - 6855:6,
7079:9
afterthought [1] - 7070:11
age [6] - 6747:7, 6766:15, 6767:1, 6826:15, 6919:14, 7034:15
Age [1] - 6777:10
age-specific [1] - 6826:15
agencies [6] - 6890:10,
6892:15, 6977:15,
7039:16, 7066:9, 7066:20
Agency [1] - 7003:24
agency [2] - 6785:6, 6857:24
AGENCY [1] - 6731:6
ages [2]-6744:11, 6751:12
Agnes [3] - 6754:21, 6756:1, 6777:2
ago [7]-6793:21, 6868:10, 6874:21, 6896:17,
6932:17, 6959:14, 7056:11
agree [11] - 6792:3, 6856:14, 6856:20, 6857:1, 6924:8, 6925:8, 6946:3, 6979:2, 6979:25, 6981:18, 6981:19
agreed [6] - 6859:18,
6870:25, 6910:11,
6910:15, 6929:6, 7076:24
agreeing [1] - 6932:23
agreement [15] - 6881:1, 6884:8, 6901:21, 6902:13, 6902:22, 6902:25, 6903:10, 6912:7, 6972:10, 7046:14, 7046:16, 7047:4, 7069:3, 7076:24
Agreement [8] - 6861:7,
6861:18, 6870:6, 6881:12, 6901:24, 7046:15, 7046:19, 7047:2
agreements $[7]-6763: 21$, 6816:8, 6870:7, 6894:4, 6902:6, 6902:24, 6912:10
Agreements [2] - 6816:8, 6871:8
agriculture [2] - 6830:2, 6887:18
ahead [17] - 6740:12, 6808:12, 6893:4, 6898:23, 6899:8, 6900:18, 6902:22, 6929:23, 6932:23, 6969:21, 7000:1, 7024:19, 7024:23, 7024:24, 7049:18, 7058:24, 7074:25
AIA [1] - 7083:7
aids [1] - 6774:19
AIMBC [1] - 6893:17
air [1] - 6776:21
airplane [1] - 6928:9
airport [1] - 6834:25
akin [1] - 6782:4
al [1] - 7071:2
Alberta [1] - 7087:5
alcohol [2] - 6820:24,
7054:10
alcoholism [1] - 6889:1
alerted [1] - 6954:14
Alex [5] - 6744:23, 6745:21, 6750:6, 6755:3, 6775:12
Alexander [1] - 6836:20
Alexis [2] - 6992:21, 6993:3
Alice [5] - 6747:21, 6750:21,
6751:23, 6752:20, 6768:11
alienate [1] - 6837:6
alienated [2]-6770:14,
6790:2
Alkali [3] - 7018:15, 7019:4, 7019:7
all-night [1] - 6752:18
Alleyne [2] - 6779:9, 6783:23
allocate [2] - 6799:20,
7046:7
allocated [2] - 6877:4, 7046:6
allotted [1] - 7085:11
allow [9] - 6805:21, 6814:8,
6859:18, 6910:13,
6954:15, 6966:1, 6996:22,
7008:7, 7034:2
allowance [4]-6876:4, 6876:24, 6880:11, 6880:15
allowed [5] - 6764:20,
6858:1, 6870:14, 6871:2, 7072:15
allowing [4] - 6871:5, 6932:24, 6954:22, 7006:4
allows [5] - 6816:22, 6938:1, 6942:8, 6942:20, 7007:17
almost [11] - 6872:19,
6876:7, 6882:16, 6882:24,
6883:13, 6886:24,
6890:16, 6911:8, 6925:8,
7070:11, 7078:10
alone [3] - 6778:7, 6853:13, 6863:8
ALPHONSE [3] - 6738:10, 7041:8, 7055:16
Alphonse [10] - 6732:11, 6734:14, 6748:15, 6753:1, 6759:7, 6781:2, 7041:13,
7055:15, 7057:17, 7057:23
alter [1] - 6835:14
altered [1] - 6773:8
alternative [6] - 6886:21, 6886:23, 6966:16, 7037:3, 7063:9, 7063:15
alternatives [4] - 6809:5, 6869:10, 7063:17, 7063:21
Alternatives [1] - 7062:10
ambit [1] - 6844:1
ambitious [1] - 6951:18
amended [2] - 6964:3,
6982:15
amendment [1] - 6982:15
amenities [2] - 6952:12, 6960:15
American [3] - 7014:14,

7017:7, 7038:21
Americans [1] - 6885:14
ammonia [2] - 7059:15,
7059:16
amount [12] - 6742:21,
6793:10, 6794:6, 6805:14, 6811:6, 6835:15, 6837:7,
6877:13, 6895:15,
6993:20, 6997:17, 7046:21
amounts [1] - 6982:10
Amy [3] - 6733:22, 6970:1, 7064:1
AMY [2] - 6736:25, 6969:23
Anaham [1] - 6766:13
analogue [1] - 7073:5
analysis [32] - 6784:19,
6830:6, 6832:25, 6842:18,
6842:20, 6842:22,
6842:24, 6844:19,
6844:20, 6844:23,
6880:14, 6889:16, 6890:1,
6890:5, 6890:15, 6890:21,
6890:24, 6894:6, 6898:17,
6911:24, 6912:5, 6913:23,
6923:7, 6924:1, 6926:6,
6934:9, 6935:15, 6946:13,
6947:20, 6957:24,
7064:20, 7080:4
Analysis [1] - 6943:8
analysts [1] - 7038:7
analyzed [3] - 6898:25,
6899:3, 6946:9
ancestors [15] - 6750:5,
6750:20, 6750:22, 6751:3,
6751:5, 6751:6, 6751:9,
6767:7, 6773:19, 6774:14, 6774:22, 6792:20,
6792:23, 6793:2, 7042:19
ancestral [7] - 6747:9,
6751:13, 6757:22,
6760:13, 6791:25,
6792:17, 6795:3
ancestry [2]-6749:7, 7017:7
ancient [1] - 6773:18
AND [13] - 6732:3, 6733:1,
6734:1, 6737:14, 6737:17,
6737:19, 6737:22, 6738:9,
7004:24, 7005:6, 7005:24,
7009:3, 7041:7
Anders [1] - 7035:2
anecdotal [1] - 6940:12
anecdotally [1] - 7003:11
anger [3]-6753:22, 6762:17, 6764:18
angler [8] - 6950:2, 6950:3,
6950:5, 6950:6, 6950:9,
6950:18, 6955:19, 6956:3
Angler [1] - 6950:3
Anglers [1] - 6949:21
animal [4] - 6777:9, 6780:16,
6794:15, 6809:25
animals [16] - 6750:13,
6760:4, 6766:16, 6766:20,
6769:10, 6769:14,
6774:10, 6775:9, 6775:13,
6775:25, 6777:3, 6778:4,
6778:20, 6780:13,
6780:24, 6798:1
Ann [1] - 6974:2
Annex [1] - 6939:2
anniversaries [1] - 6750:7
announced [1] - 6814:7 announcements [1] 7084:23
Annual [2] - 6857:4, 6857:5
annual [6] - 6830:22, 6883:3,
6884:13, 7059:11,
7059:16, 7060:18
annually [10] - 6827:18,
6830:24, 6836:14, 6875:8, 6884:2, 6884:13, 6917:6, 6949:22, 6994:10, 7034:25
annum [1] - 7027:17
answer [36] - 6801:20,
6802:10, 6802:25, 6807:2,
6807:7, 6808:21, 6810:14, 6813:8, 6855:19, 6858:18, 6858:24, 6861:22, 6862:2, 6895:22, 6904:18,
6907:23, 6913:8, 6921:8, 6924:10, 6927:17,
6929:10, 6966:14,
6969:13, 6970:24,
6975:15, 6980:16,
6980:21, 6981:2, 6981:3, 6981:7, 6994:23, 6999:9,
7000:20, 7008:14,
7009:18, 7057:12
answered [5] - 6858:12,
6972:20, 6984:2, 6986:14, 6988:1
answering [1] - 7000:5
answers [2] - 6853:20,
6979:11
anti [1] - 7029:3
anti-mining [1] - 7029:3
anticipate [2] - 6849:12, 6975:18
anticipated [2] - 6936:9, 7059:7
anticipating [1] - 7013:21
antimony [1] - 6872:1
Anvil [4] - 6754:7, 6754:14,
6754:17, 6776:5
anyway [2] - 6840:5, 6871:2
Anyway [1] - 6997:13
anyways [1] - 6770:17
apologize [4] - 6803:15,
6927:25, 6996:19, 6999:2
apologizing [1] - 6969:24
apology [1] - 6859:23
apparent [4] - 6820:7,

6897:10, 6981:16, 7015:22
Appeal [1] - 6870:24
appealing [1] - 7030:3
appear [4] - 6884:19, 6934:4, 7010:24, 7066:5
appearance [3]-6733:1, 6734:1, 6932:7
APPEARANCES [2] 6731:1, 6732:1
appeared [1] - 6930:25
Appendix [1] - 6944:5
appetite [1] - 7038:22
Applause [1] - 6900:8
applause [1] - 6900:10
application [5] - 6964:20, 6965:25, 6990:15, 7041:23
Application [3] - 6742:16, 6938:22, 7059:10
applied [3] - 6856:13, 6942:5, 6967:19
applies [2] - 6809:18, 6942:22
apply [5] - 6926:5, 6941:2, 6967:12, 6982:12, 7021:5
appointed [1] - 7058:6
appreciate [16] - 6739:22,
6742:20, 6800:1, 6811:12, 6815:17, 6815:21, 6819:4, 6819:19, 6821:12, 6868:6, 6904:20, 6930:19, 7028:5,
7057:22, 7058:4, 7082:22
appreciated [3] - 7058:8,
7082:15, 7084:17
appreciates [1] - 6934:3
appreciation [1] - 7062:8
apprehending [1] - 7030:22
approach [14] - 6808:20,
6825:3, 6846:8, 6846:9,
6901:14, 6911:5, 6985:24,
6986:10, 6988:20,
7062:20, 7064:20,
7080:18, 7081:6
approaches [1] - 6766:6
appropriate [12] - 6743:2,
6853:25, 6854:7, 6931:10, 6932:9, 6938:10, 6941:1,
6942:10, 6944:21, 7003:1,
7027:4, 7073:4
Approval [1] - 6973:11
approval [9]-6814:18,
6973:14, 6973:15, 6974:7, 6975:25, 6982:19,
6982:21, 6982:25, 7078:24
approvals [2] - 6816:5, 6875:25
approve [2] - 6942:8,
6942:20
approved [8] - 6783:20, 6794:17, 6794:21, 6861:11, 6861:17, 6974:17, 6984:7, 6992:12
approving [1] - 6782:15
approximates [1] - 6976:14
April [7]-6730:15, 6786:21,
6934:9, 6946:14, 7060:21,
7060:24, 7079:11
aquaculture [1] - 6922:13
Arabias [1] - 7038:22
arbitrary [1] - 7064:25
Archaeological [1] - 7083:5
archaeological [8] -
6772:13, 6774:17, 6792:7,
6875:20, 7050:5, 7052:24,
7052:25, 7053:5
archaeologists [1] - 7083:8 archaeology [2] - 7078:4, 7078:5
archeological [1] - 6773:14 archeology [4] - 6772:4, 7049:22, 7049:25, 7053:8
Archeology [1] - 6772:24
area [109]-6744:17,
6744:25, 6746:12, 6747:6, 6747:25, 6750:23, 6754:6, 6754:14, 6755:2, 6755:18, 6756:15, 6758:3, 6758:8,
6760:7, 6770:10, 6770:21,
6771:7, 6771:9, 6771:12,
6771:13, 6771:14,
6771:16, 6771:20,
6771:24, 6773:11, 6775:4, 6776:4, 6776:12, 6777:21, 6777:23, 6778:21,
6778:24, 6779:14, 6782:1,
6790:6, 6790:17, 6790:23,
6791:19, 6793:5, 6793:19,
6794:22, 6796:4, 6800:22,
6803:14, 6803:17,
6803:18, 6803:19,
6803:21, 6803:24,
6803:25, 6804:4, 6804:5,
6804:13, 6804:17, 6805:6,
6805:22, 6806:8, 6827:2,
6827:16, 6828:14, 6834:8,
6836:25, 6845:7, 6845:10,
6865:15, 6899:22, 6940:7,
6950:15, 6950:22,
6951:14, 6951:22, 6989:4, 6989:14, 6995:15,
6996:16, 6998:22, 7006:6, 7006:8, 7006:13, 7007:19, 7008:2, 7013:10, 7014:11, 7014:15, 7016:24, 7017:5, 7017:25, 7018:20, 7019:3, 7019:15, 7027:13,
7029:22, 7030:8, 7030:13, 7031:23, 7034:12, 7040:4, 7041:16, 7043:23,
7044:12, 7044:13,
7044:15, 7050:6, 7056:2, 7069:9, 7078:6, 7081:21, 7081:22
Area [5] - 6801:3, 6827:17,

6845:5, 6892:6, 6899:18
areas [51] - 6741:23,
6747:24, 6753:16,
6761:15, 6771:18,
6772:13, 6776:6, 6778:24,
6779:20, 6789:6, 6790:12,
6791:6, 6796:10, 6801:2,
6804:4, 6804:8, 6806:20,
6809:22, 6833:13,
6838:20, 6838:21,
6844:23, 6844:25, 6845:1, 6845:13, 6846:25, 6848:4, 6848:11, 6848:16,
6848:17, 6848:19, 6856:6, 6924:15, 6934:17,
6935:17, 6972:14,
6972:20, 6989:7, 7007:11,
7007:12, 7009:10,
7009:18, 7017:3, 7017:25,
7018:1, 7021:4, 7070:1,
7077:20, 7077:21, 7078:1,
7081:8
arena [1] - 6928:4
argue [3]-6805:24, 6917:1,
6924:18
argument [1] - 6743:16 arguments [2] - 6926:10,
6927:24
arise [2] - 6958:19, 6960:17
Armed [1] - 7030:19
arranged [1] - 6904:14
arrangement [1] - 7016:17
array [3]-6813:20, 7032:17, 7032:22
arrived [1] - 6824:6
arsenic [1] - 6872:2
artificial [2]-6788:8,
6788:25
arts [1] - 6887:19
as-is [1] - 6959:21
aspect [8]-6835:19,
6989:16, 7002:10, 7003:8,
7013:20, 7026:15,
7066:19, 7073:23
aspects [9] - 6773:16,
6795:15, 6822:20, 6901:4, 6989:21, 7002:5, 7003:6,
7051:17, 7052:24
assault [1] - 6761:19
assess [4] - 6923:11, 6936:2, 6939:8, 7063:17
assessed [2] - 6940:23, 6944:16
assessing [1] - 6946:5
ASSESSMENT [3] - 6730:3, 6730:8, 6731:6
assessment [44] - 6791:11,
6824:13, 6824:14,
6824:16, 6824:20,
6826:11, 6826:24, 6829:7,
6835:20, 6836:16,

6837:14, 6839:17,
6842:15, 6842:17,
6842:23, 6843:7, 6843:14, 6844:9, 6845:17, 6846:6, 6846:9, 6869:12, 6912:19, 6914:3, 6915:9, 6917:13, 6925:16, 6938:6, 6938:16, 6938:18, 6938:19, 6938:23, 6940:25, 6943:4, 6964:1, 6972:6, 6976:9, 7012:9, 7064:14, 7065:2, 7065:6, 7065:10, 7066:16, 7066:19
Assessment [33] - 6785:18, 6791:11, 6795:18, 6805:20, 6850:11, 6855:16, 6855:22, 6856:16, 6856:25, 6857:4, 6870:6, 6885:1, 6890:16, 6913:24, 6921:21,
6922:12, 6922:22,
6924:15, 6933:24, 6934:6, 6935:4, 6936:20, 6938:1, 6946:8, 7003:23, 7003:24, 7009:11, 7055:1, 7062:10, 7079:5, 7079:7, 7081:5, 7083:6
Assessments [1] - 7064:7 asset [6] - 6894:23, 6895:5, 7015:13, 7026:7, 7026:9
assets [1] - 6882:10
assets" [1] - 6882:17
assist ${ }_{[2]}$ - 6961:8, 6997:23
assistance [1] - 6853:6
assisting ${ }_{[1]}$ - 6766:1 associated [24]-6785:21, 6796:25, 6797:19, 6817:13, 6854:21, 6856:3, 6869:7, 6876:25, 6914:10, 6915:4, 6919:13, 6920:16, 6934:1, 6940:23, 6956:11, 6961:16, 6967:8, 6972:4, 7067:4, 7067:17, 7069:5, 7075:13, 7075:16, 7076:15
Association [1] - 6771:2 assume [6] - 6846:21, 6847:8, 6858:24, 6970:19, 7048:5, 7084:7
assumed [1] - 6832:19 assumes [1] - 6876:2 assuming [8] - 6784:18, 6784:20, 6803:23, 6833:6, 6836:11, 6836:12, 6878:1, 7040:19
Assuming [1] - 7036:19 assumptions [3]-6834:2, 6834:3, 6911:11 assurances [1] - 7072:12 assure [2] - 6807:9, 7047:15 assured [4] - 6780:16, 6956:18, 6956:19, 6968:6

AT ${ }_{[7]}-6730: 13,6738: 13$, 6738:15, 6854:11, 6854:12, 7086:3, 7086:5
atmosphere ${ }_{[1]}$ - 7055:25
attached [3]-6855:14,
7043:23, 7077:2
attachment [2] - 6895:6, 7042:2
attempted [1] - 7006:24
attend [2] - 6934:13, 7021:21
attended [1] - 7022:3
attention [3] - 6887:25,
7032:4, 7069:13
attitudes [1] - 7055:25
attract [3]-6888:22, 6916:4, 6916:19
attracted [1] - 7080:15
attracting [2]-6916:9, 6931:6
attributed [1] - 6765:2
attributes [2] - 6765:19,
7082:11
ATVs [1] - 6761:11
audience [2]-6821:17, 7040:19
audiences [1] - 6873:11
auditing [2] - 6856:17, 6857:14
August [2] - 6803:9, 6944:15
author ${ }_{[1]}$ - 6868:18
authorities [3]-6862:1, 6876:1, 7063:20
Authorities [2]-6898:14, 6972:22
Authority [3]-6892:12, 6892:16, 6946:8
authority [2] - 6943:2, 7076:6
authorization [3] - 7070:9, 7072:5, 7075:8
authorizations [1] - 7068:25 automatic [1] - 6772:23 available [21] - 6761:14,
6838:14, 6851:5, 6862:22, 6880:7, 6929:20, 6930:14, 6940:6, 6945:17, 6952:12, 6952:19, 6955:16, 6956:2, 6956:23, 6992:15,
6994:18, 7007:18,
7007:20, 7010:12, 7065:8, 7078:2
average [24] - 6787:15, 6832:23, 6873:4, 6879:6, 6883:3, 6884:6, 6918:7, 6918:10, 6918:12, 6919:1, 6931:18, 6932:2, 6932:3, 6950:24, 6951:24, 6993:12, 6994:10, 7015:16, 7059:11, 7059:15, 7060:18, 7060:19, 7061:5
averaged [2]-6976:17, 7060:24
avoid [7] - 6770:16, 6779:13, 6779:20, 6793:18, 6796:4, 6960:10, 7068:3
avoidance [3]-6785:22,
6793:5, 6793:25
avoided [1] - 6779:25
avoiding [4] - 6779:7,
6784:2, 6787:11, 6794:22
awaiting ${ }_{[1]}$ - 7008:11
awarded [1] - 7030:12
awards [1] - 6911:20
aware [15]-6812:3, 6840:1,
6844:16, 6872:11, 6888:5,
6954:2, 6954:18, 6960:9,
6971:13, 6979:17,
7027:13, 7050:1, 7061:14,
7079:4, 7080:12
B.C [25] - 6830:11, 6855:16,

6856:19, 6857:18,
6870:13, 6879:25,
6880:14, 6880:18,
6880:19, 6881:4, 6881:8,
6881:14, 6884:7, 6887:20,
6893:16, 6904:23, 6912:8,
6912:11, 6912:15,
6913:24, 6922:11,
6930:20, 6930:22, 6931:1, 7055:3
baby $[1]$ - 7052:5
back-up [1] - 6970:13
backcountry [2]-6840:13, 7031:21
backdoor [1] - 6812:4
background [4]-6804:24, 6883:5, 6971:1, 6991:4
backwards [1] - 7046:1
backyard [3] - 6747:14,
6747:20, 6999:7
Bad [1] - 7035:5
bad [3]-6905:4, 6923:18, 7039:24
balance [6] - 6945:25, 6976:18, 6987:8, 6987:10, 6992:3, 7051:19
balanced [2]-6917:12, 7002:4
ballparks [1] - 6835:22
balls [1] - 6876:18
Band [5] - 6860:19, 6910:1,
6990:7, 7001:11, 7019:4
Bands [2] - 6864:18, 7000:17
Bank [1] - 6890:17
bankruptcy ${ }_{[1]}$ - 6999:14
banks [2] - 6991:16, 6999:13
Baptiste [11] - 6732:10,
6733:23, 6734:13, 6739:7,
6807:3, 6981:24, 6998:9,
6999:2, 7041:12, 7050:15, 7057:22

BAPTISTE [15] - 6737:4, 6737:10, 6738:9, 6807:4, 6982:1, 6982:2, 6983:2, 6998:12, 6998:13, 6999:5, 7000:9, 7001:1, 7041:7, 7050:16, 7051:2
barbed [1] - 6954:7
bark [1] - 7033:12
barometer [1] - 7009:20
barrel [4] - 7035:14, 7035:25,
7036:1, 7040:15
barrels [2] - 7037:24, 7038:1
barren [1] - 7074:19
barriers [3]-6839:9,
6839:11, 6909:15
barter [1] - 6890:11
base [11]-6761:13, 6824:21,
6825:18, 6825:19,
6829:10, 6838:6, 6840:14, 6840:17, 6993:16,
6993:22, 7008:7
Base [3]-6828:5, 6831:19, 6837:10
based [39] - 6755:23, 6771:9, 6772:11, 6784:9, 6784:21, 6786:19, 6786:20,
6787:14, 6787:23,
6787:24, 6811:23, 6814:1, 6816:4, 6823:19, 6825:8, 6826:24, 6829:14, 6833:3, 6834:1, 6836:2, 6839:1, 6845:4, 6856:8, 6874:22, 6875:10, 6876:5, 6877:3, 6878:25, 6881:3, 6881:5, 6881:21, 6881:22, 6927:20, 6934:14,
6972:11, 6989:14,
6994:10, 7014:7, 7081:1
Based [3] - 6836:5, 6836:6, 6954:20
baseline [9]-6794:13, 6794:18, 6824:22, 6827:25, 6828:3, 6829:13, 6867:8, 6940:9, 6948:4
basic [3] - 6853:3, 6970:15, 7062:14
basis [6] - 6806:17, 6826:4,
6874:18, 6879:25,
6917:24, 7020:3
basket ${ }_{[1]}$ - 7052:5
bathe [2]-6781:6, 6781:11
bathing ${ }_{[1]}$ - 6750:2
baths [1] - 6752:19
Battison [1] - 6864:8
BATTISON [1] - 6864:9
Bay [3]-6780:5, 6901:24,
7033:18
BC [13] - 6844:3, 6870:5, 6876:14, 6884:2, 6884:9, 6884:13, 6917:22, 6918:5, 6918:12, 6918:24, 6925:5,

| 6929:24, 6930:10 |
| :---: |
| BCEAO $[1]-6898: 23$ |

bear [9]-6796:18, 6803:12, 6931:25, 6994:3, 7022:17, 7043:5, 7046:12, 7077:9, 7078:3
bearing [5] - 6769:12,
6807:13, 6807:17, 6810:2, 7075:18
became [3]-6885:17,
6897:9, 7054:17
become [14]-6748:17,
6759:4, 6770:14, 6771:25,
6780:21, 6791:7, 6891:23,
6894:22, 6959:23, 6965:9, 6971:12, 6971:13, 7034:4, 7035:23
becomes [7]-6858:25, 6871:23, 6907:10, 6962:21, 6973:3, 6992:14, 7010:14
becoming [2] - 6767:23, 7034:6
Bedard [5] - 6733:17,
6928:24, 7001:12,
7001:22, 7002:24
BEDARD [24] - 6736:15, 6737:13, 6738:6, 6860:21, 6929:1, 6929:2, 6929:12, 7001:14, 7001:15, 7001:23, 7001:25, 7002:10, 7002:16, 7002:19, 7002:22, 7003:2, 7003:10, 7003:16, 7003:20, 7004:4, 7027:2, 7027:3, 7027:12, 7027:19
beds [1] - 7034:19
Beece [2] - 6812:13, 6947:21
beef [1] - 6786:23
beetle [7]-6830:3, 6830:6,
6831:21, 6837:13,
6837:15, 7014:19, 7081:20
before-tax [2] - 6874:18, 6879:25
began [1] - 7067:8
begin [6] - 6739:15, 6863:7, 6959:7, 7028:20, 7062:6
beginning [8] - 6815:19, 6828:19, 6870:17, 6894:18, 7059:1, 7061:7, 7083:25, 7085:15
begins [1] - 6956:17
behalf [10] - 6741:5, 6800:4, 6970:2, 6970:11, 6977:20, 6978:8, 7006:5, 7056:25, 7057:12, 7083:15
behavioural [1] - 6782:24
behaviours [1] - 6820:25
behind [3] - 6810:12, 6835:4, 6905:8
beings' [1] - 7055:6
belabour [1] - 6744:1
belief [14] - 6766:8, 6766:11, 6778:11, 6778:25,
6798:10, 6806:1, 6808:2,
6808:3, 6808:7, 6808:15,
6808:17, 6809:14,
6809:15, 7042:16
beliefs [4]-6774:7, 6793:7, 6808:23, 7053:15
believes [1] - 7038:14
Bell [20] - 6731:14, 6817:4,
6819:1, 6823:6, 6823:13,
6855:11, 6855:15,
6856:15, 6857:17, 6858:2, 6861:3, 6900:16, 6929:5,
6969:16, 6976:4, 6987:13,
7058:12, 7058:24, 7083:23
BELL [86] - 6736:23,
6799:15, 6799:25, 6800:8, 6800:12, 6800:19, 6801:8, 6801:14, 6801:18,
6801:25, 6802:8, 6802:13, 6802:22, 6803:1, 6803:9, 6803:23, 6804:3, 6804:9, 6805:3, 6805:10, 6806:5, 6807:9, 6807:23, 6808:10, 6809:9, 6810:6, 6811:12, 6812:1, 6812:8, 6812:14, 6812:21, 6813:12,
6814:17, 6815:17,
6815:21, 6817:1, 6823:12, 6848:23, 6849:12,
6849:25, 6852:10,
6855:19, 6856:20, 6857:1, 6858:6, 6858:18, 6861:20, 6861:25, 6863:2, 6864:7,
6865:10, 6865:23, 6866:3, 6866:8, 6900:13, 6900:17, 6900:19, 6901:12,
6902:11, 6903:11,
6904:20, 6905:1, 6906:9, 6921:17, 6922:19,
6923:24, 6924:8, 6925:12, 6925:15, 6926:22, 6929:7, 6964:15, 6964:16, 6965:2, 6965:18, 6966:4, 6966:15, 6967:15, 6968:3, 6969:14, 6976:8, 6998:4, 7008:17, 7058:13, 7058:25, 7084:4
Bell-Irving [19] - 6731:14, 6817:4, 6823:6, 6823:13, 6855:11, 6855:15, 6856:15, 6857:17, 6858:2, 6861:3, 6900:16, 6929:5, 6969:16, 6976:4, 6987:13, 7058:12, 7058:24, 7083:23 BELL-IRVING [86] - 6736:23, 6799:15, 6799:25, 6800:8, 6800:12, 6800:19, 6801:8, 6801:14, 6801:18,
6801:25, 6802:8, 6802:13, 6802:22, 6803:1, 6803:9,

6803:23, 6804:3, 6804:9, 6805:3, 6805:10, 6806:5, 6807:9, 6807:23, 6808:10, 6809:9, 6810:6, 6811:12, 6812:1, 6812:8, 6812:14, 6812:21, 6813:12, 6814:17, 6815:17, 6815:21, 6817:1, 6823:12, 6848:23, 6849:12, 6849:25, 6852:10, 6855:19, 6856:20, 6857:1, 6858:6, 6858:18, 6861:20, 6861:25, 6863:2, 6864:7,
6865:10, 6865:23, 6866:3, 6866:8, 6900:13, 6900:17, 6900:19, 6901:12,
6902:11, 6903:11,
6904:20, 6905:1, 6906:9,
6921:17, 6922:19,
6923:24, 6924:8, 6925:12, 6925:15, 6926:22, 6929:7, 6964:15, 6964:16, 6965:2, 6965:18, 6966:4, 6966:15, 6967:15, 6968:3, 6969:14, 6976:8, 6998:4, 7008:17,
7058:13, 7058:25, 7084:4
Bell-Irving's [1] - 6819:1
Bella [1] - 7007:2
belonging [1] - 6774:22
below [2] - 6873:4, 6982:6
benchmark [1] - 7069:10
beneficial [2] - 6862:4,
7023:6
Benefit [5] - 6816:8, 6861:7, 6861:18, 6871:8, 6881:12
benefit [25] - 6814:6, 6842:5, 6842:18, 6842:20, 6842:22, 6846:8, 6865:5, 6888:7, 6899:15, 6902:13, 6911:23, 6914:7, 6914:14, 6914:17, 6916:7, 6916:24, 6921:1, 6923:7, 6925:1, 6925:10, 6931:11, 6931:15, 7014:23, 7042:13, 7043:15
benefiting [1] - 6914:23 benefits [56] - 6796:20, 6796:21, 6798:16, 6814:3, 6815:1, 6820:1, 6820:5, 6840:24, 6843:8, 6843:16, 6862:10, 6868:25,
6871:10, 6888:13,
6898:19, 6898:24,
6899:21, 6901:21,
6911:11, 6912:11,
6912:20, 6912:22,
6912:24, 6913:18, 6914:2, 6915:10, 6915:17, 6916:22, 6917:2, 6917:3, 6917:4, 6917:6, 6919:6, 6919:8, 6920:7, 6920:10, 6920:17, 6920:23,

6920:25, 6921:1, 6921:2, 6923:2, 6926:14, 6930:18, 6995:9, 6995:16, 6996:17, 6997:3, 7002:3, 7002:4, 7003:4, 7013:23, 7020:22, 7043:21, 7076:14
benefitting [1] - 6831:9
Berntell [1] - 7035:2
berries [10] - 6755:10,
6756:11, 6770:1, 6777:17, 6786:17, 7015:1, 7022:25, 7033:7, 7044:13
berry [1] - 7022:8
beset [1] - 6896:23
best [13] - 6766:5, 6878:3,
6951:16, 6970:7, 6996:14, 7000:20, 7009:13,
7015:10, 7029:5, 7029:10, 7047:23, 7082:25, 7087:11
Beth [1] - 6733:17
BETH [6] - 6736:15, 6737:12, 6738:6, 6929:1, 7001:14, 7027:2
better [23]-6741:8, 6751:7,
6756:4, 6765:19, 6766:5, 6792:16, 6792:25, 6807:5, 6858:20, 6905:12,
6905:21, 6968:21,
6972:20, 6989:22,
6989:23, 6995:10, 7000:3, 7020:15, 7047:19,
7064:19, 7064:22, 7068:8
Betty [5] - 6745:3, 6753:15,
6754:19, 6755:8, 6756:10
between [39] - 6753:19,
6756:24, 6820:4, 6833:11, 6833:13, 6834:3, 6873:8, 6879:14, 6879:16, 6884:3, 6890:24, 6890:25,
6891:15, 6892:25, 6893:1, 6893:24, 6929:4, 6930:6, 6932:1, 6944:25, 6948:9, 6950:1, 6950:23, 6955:7, 6955:12, 6959:4, 6961:23, 6965:4, 6979:4, 7000:7, 7014:6, 7017:23, 7023:7, 7023:8, 7033:22, 7042:24, 7067:1, 7067:12, 7068:10 beyond [7] - 6761:16,
6769:18, 6775:1, 6908:15, 6959:11, 6968:4, 7053:6
bias [1] - 7025:12
biased [2] - 7020:24, 7021:2
biassed [1] - 6821:4
bicycles [1] - 6761:11
Big [6] - 6775:15, 6801:11, 6812:5, 6941:11, 6942:1, 6944:23
big [10] - 6749:17, 6831:14, 6879:20, 6891:14, 6896:4, 6999:20, 7021:21,
7022:12, 7035:12, 7053:22
biggest [2] - 6962:19, 7000:18
Bill [10] - 6731:4, 6731:23, 6733:12, 6734:3, 6817:7, 6866:14, 6885:25, 6929:15, 6991:3, 7026:3
BILL [6] - 6736:3, 6737:8, 6738:3, 6906:22, 6990:24, 7024:11
billion [5] - 6877:7, 6994:1, 6994:5, 6994:13, 6997:2
Biny [45] - 6745:7, 6745:19, 6745:22, 6746:3, 6747:23, 6748:1, 6748:9, 6748:22, 6749:2, 6749:18, 6749:23, 6750:8, 6750:22, 6751:1, 6751:13, 6751:21, 6752:5, 6752:13, 6752:14, 6752:21, 6753:3, 6753:5, 6753:12, 6753:15, 6753:20, 6755:17, 6756:8, 6758:21, 6759:3, 6767:23, 6768:16, 6768:19,
6771:17, 6772:22, 6773:2, 6774:12, 6774:17, 6788:3, 6788:15, 6789:17, 6795:8, 6865:15
bioenergy [1] - 6768:23 biologist [2] - 7074:2, 7074:7 biomass [2] - 6795:16, 7016:20
biophysical ${ }_{[1]}$ - 6827:4 BIRD [6] - 6732:7, 6738:7,
7028:14, 7028:15, 7029:7, 7039:19
Bird [6] - 6734:10, 7028:12, 7039:17, 7040:17, 7040:21, 7050:22
birds [8] - 6760:4, 6769:25, 6778:20, 7076:18, 7076:19, 7076:20, 7077:1, 7077:7
birthday ${ }_{[1]}$ - 6750:7
bit [28] - 6815:18, 6818:24, 6826:18, 6827:6, 6832:3, 6834:7, 6835:3, 6844:8, 6850:13, 6881:6, 6901:11, 6908:15, 6953:5, 6970:25, 6971:1, 6973:1, 6973:8, 6978:17, 6979:9, 6990:19, 6994:3, 6999:10, 7000:3, 7006:11, 7012:6, 7015:9,
7057:20, 7058:10
black [1] - 6904:18
BlackBerry [1] - 6803:11
Blacklock [1] - 7020:17
blame [1] - 7034:14
blamed [1] - 7031:3
blanket [1] - 6785:1
blankets [1] - 6763:8
blasting [1] - 7062:15
bleak [1] - 7048:14
bleaker [1] - 7015:19
blend [2] - 6872:9, 6873:4
blitzkrieg [1] - 7040:5
blood [2] - 6783:19, 7031:22
blow [1] - 7014:24
blurry [1] - 6835:4
Board [2] - 6870:25, 6943:9
boat [11] - 6943:23, 6944:6,
6949:1, 6949:12, 6950:22,
6951:6, 6952:16, 6960:15,
6961:24, 6988:25, 7080:17
Boaters [1] - 6948:11
boaters [6] - 6944:3,
6948:13, 6952:14,
6954:22, 6962:5, 6966:1
Boating [2] - 6935:18,
6949:5
boating [15] - 6946:17,
6948:9, 6948:19, 6948:23,
6949:10, 6949:16, 6951:3,
6956:5, 6956:17, 6960:25,
6961:2, 6964:23, 6970:12,
6975:5, 6978:24
boats [2] - 6944:3, 6989:3
Bob [1] - 6731:3
bodies [2]-6984:24,
7075:20
body [6] - 6783:18, 6894:25, 6895:23, 6896:3, 7056:19, 7085:5
bold [1] - 7009:16
bond $[4]$ - 6976:25, 6977:10, 6977:14, 6978:6
bonding [2] - 6977:18, 6985:23
bonds [1] - 6878:9
bones [1] - 6852:18
Bonnie [2] - 6747:14, 6749:8
book [2] - 6885:24, 7032:3
boom [4] - 6870:2, 6889:2,
6897:1, 6982:17
booms [1] - 6891:19
born [3]-6998:18, 6998:19, 7052:4
bottom [3] - 6869:21, 6875:7, 6879:15
boundaries [1] - 6899:17
box [4]-6773:19, 6967:4,
6987:2, 7080:9
boxes [1] - 6792:11
boy [1] - 7050:23
Boy ${ }_{[1]}$ - 7002:17
Branch [4] - 6858:8,
6858:19, 6933:23, 7079:7
Brazil [1] - 7037:15
breached [1] - 6962:16
break [12] - 6822:19,
6853:25, 6854:8, 6910:7,
6932:10, 6955:9, 6990:19,
7004:9, 7024:16, 7041:1,

7058:10, 7079:9
BREAK [4] - 6822:21,
6854:10, 6932:12, 7004:12
break-up [1] - 6955:9
breakup [2] - 6954:21,
6955:2
breathe [1] - 6776:21
breed [1] - 7074:1
breeding [1] - 7076:20
Bridge [1] - 6982:17
bridge [10] - 6967:13,
6982:7, 6982:9, 6982:11,
6982:16, 6982:20,
6982:24, 6983:1, 6983:5
bridges [2] - 6982:13, 6982:23
BRIEF [3]-6822:21,
6932:12, 7004:12
brief [3]-6927:7, 6934:25, 6935:5
briefly [6] - 6770:18,
6837:22, 6842:8, 6842:9,
6911:16, 7028:25
bring [15] - 6748:16,
6748:17, 6835:7, 6862:24,
6862:25, 6896:1, 6922:6,
6971:23, 6971:24,
6984:21, 7013:23, 7015:6,
7057:9, 7079:18, 7085:20
bringing $[4]$ - 6833:8,
6955:5, 7010:23, 7073:18
brings [2] - 6758:5, 7011:1
British [18] - 6730:23,
6828:13, 6833:7, 6878:16,
6885:11, 6885:14,
6918:20, 6918:22,
6919:15, 6930:23,
7003:15, 7012:3, 7012:17,
7012:25, 7056:11,
7062:21, 7075:18, 7087:4
Brittany [5] - 6803:16,
6803:17, 6803:24, 6804:5, 6804:9
broad [1] - 7082:5
broader [2] - 6803:25, 6805:6
broke [1] - 6854:15
brought [13] - 6741:11,
6763:1, 6763:2, 6800:20,
6833:5, 6836:9, 6837:13,
6862:11, 6940:17, 6964:3,
6972:1, 6972:12, 7082:14
brunt [1] - 6796:18
brush [1] - 7033:12
BSc [1] - 7012:19
buffer [1] - 7078:7
buffeted [1] - 6904:7
build [3]-6768:18, 6808:19, 6852:6
building [9] - 6782:4,
6819:13, 6887:6, 6989:18,

7013:11, 7021:13,
7048:17, 7071:16, 7072:3
buildings [1] - 6894:22
builds [1] - 7038:25
built [11] - 6763:10, 6802:19,
6856:5, 6887:11, 6891:25,
6918:1, 6918:24, 6968:11,
7033:10, 7072:25, 7077:11
bulk [1] - 6758:19
bullet [6] - 6826:14, 6829:10,
6831:19, 6834:18,
6842:19, 6888:14
bullets [2] - 6829:8, 6841:23
Bulyan [2] - 6752:2, 6770:21
Burgan [1] - 7038:10
burial [2]-6751:18, 6771:24
buried [2] - 6752:5, 6752:6
busier [1] - 6944:7
Business [4]-7012:21, 7013:8, 7026:6, 7038:19
business [21]-6816:1, 6826:1, 6831:5, 6831:11, 6840:22, 6841:16, 6989:17, 6995:7, 7007:8, 7008:2, 7008:5, 7013:3, 7016:1, 7021:14, 7031:22, 7045:17, 7047:15,
7070:17, 7073:16, 7082:1
businesses [4] - 6768:17, 6831:8, 6831:16
bust [3] - 6870:2, 6889:2, 6905:7
busts [1] - 6891:20
busy [2] - 6963:18, 7006:19
buy [2] - 6786:10, 6786:11
buying [2] - 6786:18,
7022:19
BY [123] - 6735:3, 6735:8, 6735:9, 6735:10, 6735:12, 6735:13, 6735:17, 6735:18, 6735:18, 6735:20, 6735:20, 6735:22, 6735:23, 6736:1, 6736:2, 6736:3, 6736:4, 6736:6, 6736:10, 6736:11, 6736:13, 6736:15,
6736:16, 6736:17,
6736:21, 6736:22,
6736:23, 6736:24, 6736:24, 6737:1, 6737:2, 6737:3, 6737:4, 6737:5, 6737:7, 6737:7, 6737:9,
6737:10, 6737:12,
6737:12, 6737:14,
6737:17, 6737:18,
6737:19, 6737:20,
6737:23, 6737:23, 6738:1,
6738:2, 6738:3, 6738:4,
6738:5, 6738:6, 6738:7,
6738:8, 6738:9, 6738:11,
6739:4, 6740:23, 6799:13,

6817:8, 6823:8, 6823:16, 6848:2, 6855:7, 6855:8, 6861:1, 6868:3, 6900:15, 6906:21, 6906:22, 6909:5, 6910:18, 6910:21, 6913:3, 6921:15, 6927:10,
6927:11, 6928:25, 6929:1, 6929:16, 6933:2, 6933:6,
6964:14, 6969:22,
6969:23, 6978:12,
6978:13, 6981:25, 6982:1, 6983:25, 6990:23,
6990:24, 6998:11,
7001:14, 7004:24, 7005:6, 7005:7, 7005:24, 7005:25,
7009:4, 7011:16, 7024:10,
7024:11, 7025:10, 7027:1,
7028:14, 7041:6, 7058:19
Cabinet [3] - 7076:5,
7076:11, 7076:12
cabins [3] - 6772:21, 6773:2, 7033:11
caches [1] - 6751:14 calculate [3]-6884:1, 6907:7, 6907:14 calculated [3] - 6874:18, 6880:13, 6881:14 calculating [1] - 6882:9 calculations [1] - 6875:10 California [1] - 7032:2 call-out [1] - 6918:14
camas [1] - 7032:25
camera [1] - 7006:17
camp [3] - 6745:11, 6749:23, 6768:19
Camp [1] - 6746:7
campaign [1] - 7056:4 campground [1] - 6751:21 campgrounds [1] - 6761:7 camping [3] - 6745:15, 6951:6, 6970:12
camps [1] - 6755:1
campsite [4] - 6950:25, 6989:5, 6989:6, 7080:17
campsites [3]-6949:1,
6950:21, 6960:15
CANADA [30] - 6731:17, 6731:21, 6735:18, 6735:23, 6736:1, 6736:2, 6736:4, 6736:13, 6736:17, 6736:21, 6736:22, 6736:24, 6737:1, 6737:3, 6737:5, 6737:23, 6848:2, 6868:3, 6900:15, 6906:21, 6909:5, 6927:11, 6933:2, 6933:6, 6964:14, 6969:22, 6978:12, 6981:25, 6983:25, 7009:4
Canada [126] - 6731:18, 6731:21, 6731:22, 6733:7, 6733:10, 6733:16,

6733:19, 6733:20,
6739:23, 6779:9, 6781:18, 6781:21, 6783:23, 6784:5, 6784:15, 6784:18,
6784:24, 6785:1, 6785:18, 6794:1, 6814:24, 6817:17, 6821:19, 6821:20,
6847:24, 6848:18,
6850:14, 6852:1, 6854:17, 6859:19, 6860:16,
6860:17, 6868:9, 6890:18, 6894:8, 6896:20, 6905:1, 6906:15, 6909:24, 6910:10, 6927:2, 6928:21, 6932:18, 6932:21,
6933:18, 6933:23, 6934:3, 6934:8, 6934:13, 6934:18, 6935:10, 6937:1, 6937:8, 6937:23, 6939:7, 6941:7, 6941:24, 6943:9, 6943:14, 6946:7, 6946:20, 6947:19, 6948:21, 6951:11,
6952:21, 6953:3, 6953:6,
6953:8, 6953:10, 6953:13, 6953:20, 6953:24,
6954:14, 6954:24,
6955:12, 6956:6, 6956:24, 6957:8, 6957:13, 6957:17, 6959:14, 6960:8, 6960:16, 6961:6, 6961:11, 6961:15, 6961:19, 6962:25, 6963:5, 6963:20, 6964:5, 6964:8,
6965:7, 6968:24, 6972:21, 6972:23, 6973:13, 6977:6, 6977:11, 6977:17,
6977:23, 6980:17, 6981:5, 6990:10, 6990:13,
6993:16, 6997:7, 6998:7, 7008:24, 7009:6, 7024:2, 7038:17, 7064:22,
7064:23, 7066:11,
7069:21, 7075:18, 7076:4, 7080:7, 7080:15, 7080:23, 7081:7, 7082:17, 7087:5 Canada's [15] - 6785:5, 6859:17, 6934:25, 6935:6, 6935:14, 6939:5, 6940:14, 6947:2, 6952:20, 6963:9, 6964:1, 6964:20, 6976:6, 6984:5, 7029:14
CANADIAN [3] - 6730:3, 6730:8, 6731:6
Canadian [15]-6875:7,
6894:10, 6933:16, 6934:6, 6935:4, 6936:19, 6946:8,
7003:23, 7029:13, 7030:2, 7031:11, 7066:20,
7076:17, 7076:22, 7077:5
Canadians [1] - 7030:22
cancellation [1] - 7079:21
cancer [1] - 6886:2
candidate [3]-6849:23,

6850:2, 7012:24
candidates [5] - 6813:1,
6841:1, 6850:4, 6850:24, 6851:10
cannot [16] - 6778:23,
6789:8, 6792:1, 6792:17,
6798:12, 6871:22, 6928:5,
6937:4, 6996:23, 7018:4,
7029:21, 7051:15,
7052:13, 7052:14,
7075:14, 7080:5
Canoe [8] - 6822:8, 6860:19,
6910:1, 6928:23, 6990:7,
7001:11, 7010:20, 7026:24
canoe [1] - 6948:18
canoes [1] - 6944:4
Canterell [1] - 7038:12
capabilities [1] - 7070:18
capable [3] - 6835:5,
7047:16, 7075:20
Capacity [1] - 6732:6
capacity [16] - 6732:7, 6732:9, 6734:9, 6734:10, 6734:12, 6769:8, 6814:23,
6832:13, 6836:4, 6846:14,
6846:23, 6892:7, 6929:21,
7013:11, 7021:14, 7037:20
capita [1] - 6836:7
capital [5] - 6875:9, 6876:8,
6876:10, 7018:4, 7035:23
capitalized [1] - 6888:20
captivating [1] - 7063:1
capture [6] - 6947:22,
6955:24, 6956:3, 6956:4, 7044:4, 7074:23
captured [3]-6924:25,
6970:10, 6975:24
captures [1] - 6939:6
car [5] - 6802:21, 6802:23,
6886:3, 6948:17, 6994:18
car-top [1] - 6948:17
care [7] - 6874:25, 6995:20,
6995:22, 6995:25,
7007:14, 7021:17, 7035:10
career [2] - 6853:2, 6864:15
careers [1] - 6797:16
careful [1] - 6988:23
carefully [1] - 6909:14
caregivers [1] - 7021:18
Caretaker [1] - 6801:3
CARIBOO [11] - 6731:23,
6736:3, 6737:7, 6737:9,
6737:12, 6738:2, 6906:22,
6990:23, 6998:10,
7001:13, 7024:11
Cariboo [36] - 6733:12,
6734:3, 6739:6, 6821:24,
6831:23, 6831:24, 6838:9,
6840:25, 6848:12,
6848:14, 6860:7, 6887:3,
6887:12, 6891:1, 6895:18,

6896:14, 6906:17,
6910:12, 6928:6, 6932:19, 6950:16, 6961:3, 6983:16, 6990:20, 6991:18, 7000:14, 7000:23, 7010:3, 7012:10, 7013:24, 7014:11, 7015:17, 7016:24, 7017:5, 7024:6, 7081:18
CARIBOO-CHILCOTIN [11] 6731:23, 6736:3, 6737:7, 6737:9, 6737:12, 6738:2, 6906:22, 6990:23, 6998:10, 7001:13, 7024:11
Cariboo-Chilcotin [29] -
6733:12, 6734:3, 6739:6, 6821:24, 6831:24, 6838:9, 6840:25, 6848:12, 6848:14, 6860:7, 6887:3, 6887:12, 6895:18, 6896:14, 6906:17,
6910:12, 6928:6, 6932:19, 6950:16, 6961:3, 6983:16, 6990:20, 6991:18, 7000:14, 7000:23, 7010:3, 7012:10, 7013:24, 7024:6
caring [1] - 6886:6
Carolyn [1] - 6731:9
carries [1] - 6961:21
CARRUTHERS [31] - 6736:3, 6737:8, 6738:3, 6906:19, 6906:23, 6906:24, 6907:6, 6907:13, 6907:19, 6908:3, 6908:9, 6908:17, 6990:24, 6990:25, 6999:2, 6999:8, 7000:15, 7001:20, 7002:6, 7002:13, 7002:17,
7002:21, 7003:7, 7003:14, 7003:19, 7003:22, 7024:8, 7024:12, 7024:13, 7024:17, 7025:2
Carruthers [15]-6731:23,
6733:12, 6734:3, 6906:17, 6908:21, 6910:12,
6928:14, 6990:22, 6991:3,
6997:19, 7001:15, 7002:2,
7004:6, 7024:9, 7025:4
carry [2] - 6774:7, 6991:17
carrying [2] - 6835:6,
7066:23
cars [1] - 6803:7
case [42] - 6743:8, 6744:7, 6763:22, 6767:16, 6781:21, 6786:3, 6805:17, 6806:14, 6819:17, 6824:21, 6827:7, 6829:2, 6829:10, 6843:17, 6847:15, 6849:13, 6877:21, 6881:4, 6916:10, 6919:24, 6926:1, 6926:2, 6929:25, 6931:24, 6936:22, 6944:22, 6945:3,

6948:19, 6967:12,
6973:19, 6975:7, 6975:22, 6986:12, 7010:15, 7020:6, 7048:13, 7049:10, 7050:8,
7058:2, 7073:18, 7076:2
Case [3] - 6828:6, 6831:19, 6837:10
cases [3] - 6839:22, 6966:25, 6987:8
cash [7]-6786:2, 6786:9,
6786:10, 6811:24,
6820:25, 6877:13, 6880:2
Cash [1] - 6786:9
catalogue ${ }_{[1]}$ - 6773:19
catalogued [1] - 7078:12
catch [7] - 6748:18, 6932:24,
6949:21, 6949:24, 6962:6,
7033:14, 7033:22
catch-to-effort [1] - 6962:6
catching [1] - 7033:24
Catherine [6] - 6744:20,
6749:25, 6751:4, 6752:11,
6752:14, 6792:18
cattle [10] - 6746:20,
6746:22, 6770:18, 6771:7,
6771:15, 6771:16,
6777:23, 6777:25,
6790:25, 6839:13
caught [4] - 6955:21,
6956:12, 6957:2, 6961:4
caused [3] - 6762:16,
6892:9, 7026:1
causeway [1] - 6982:18
causing [1] - 6764:1
CCR [1] - 6734:24
CEAA [5] - 6731:6, 6888:10, 6921:23, 6922:16, 7079:10
cease [1] - 6769:8
ceases [2] - 7061:21,
7061:22
Cecil [1] - 6769:24
ceded [2] - 7029:22, 7029:24
celebrate [1] - 7047:3
Celia [2] - 6752:3, 6752:4
Census [7]-6833:17,
6891:2, 7017:22, 7018:13, 7018:23, 7019:2, 7022:4
cent [1] - 6882:6
Central [20] - 6744:10,
6744:15, 6745:1, 6746:11, 6746:24, 6747:10, 6748:4, 6749:21, 6750:20, 6751:17, 6752:8, 6769:6, 6769:7, 6773:17, 6775:1, 6795:2, 6796:2, 6805:2, 6805:3
central [3]-6742:7, 6805:5, 6913:16
central" [1] - 6741:24
centre [10] - 6752:23,
6768:5, 7006:9, 7007:11,

7018:7, 7019:22, 7019:23, 7020:1, 7022:18, 7040:3
Centre [1] - 6970:1
centres [2] - 6761:21,
7007:23
centuries [1] - 7031:23
ceremonial [3]-6761:3,
6971:16, 7080:13
ceremonies [5] - 6750:1,
6750:2, 6752:18, 6753:13, 6792:24
CEREMONY ${ }_{[2]}$ - 6738:12, 7086:2
ceremony [6] - 6739:16,
6739:18, 6772:14,
7085:13, 7085:23
certain [11]-6779:14,
6795:10, 6805:14, 6837:7, 6859:5, 6919:16, 6987:8, 7046:21, 7050:6, 7067:3
Certainly [2]-6783:25, 6920:5
certainly [30] - 6790:12,
6800:25, 6812:19,
6820:23, 6857:1, 6857:14, 6890:18, 6897:24,
6916:23, 6917:20,
6920:25, 6921:3, 6921:25,
6922:24, 6923:3, 6930:24,
6974:9, 6985:15, 6988:12, 6993:3, 6995:10, 6997:5, 6997:20, 7002:13, 7058:7, 7063:5, 7063:12, 7070:2,
7072:3, 7082:24
certainty ${ }^{[1]}$ - 6981:13
Certificate [12] - 6813:19,
6814:13, 6815:24,
6850:11, 6855:14,
6855:21, 6856:7, 6856:19,
6856:24, 7046:22,
7046:24, 7077:3
certificate [2] - 6855:18, 7079:22
Certificate's [1] - 6857:19
CERTIFICATION [1] - 7087:1
certifications [1] - 7021:5
certified [3]-6856:4,
6933:18, 7021:3
certify [1] - 7087:5
cetera $[7]$ - 6816:2, 6960:16, 6970:14, 6977:4, 7071:19
chain [1] - 6954:6
Chair [18] - 6731:3, 6799:16, 6817:3, 6823:12, 6854:2,
6854:24, 6860:4, 6926:24, 6927:8, 6933:1, 6969:15, 6969:20, 6983:14, 6990:25, 7001:4, 7008:17, 7009:2, 7024:5
CHAIRMAN [134] - 6735:3, 6739:1, 6739:4, 6739:5,

6740:10, 6741:6, 6793:15, 6798:19, 6799:22,
6806:25, 6807:7, 6817:4, 6818:9, 6818:24, 6820:16, 6821:12, 6822:5, 6822:18, 6822:22, 6847:19, 6848:6, 6851:22, 6852:8, 6853:19, 6854:6, 6854:13, 6855:4, 6857:7, 6857:20, 6858:21, 6859:12, 6859:15, 6860:6, 6860:9, 6860:12, 6860:15, 6860:23, 6861:2, 6861:24, 6862:6, 6864:8, 6864:23,
6866:14, 6867:24, 6900:7, 6900:9, 6900:16, 6900:18, 6906:11, 6906:20, 6907:2, 6907:22, 6908:12,
6908:21, 6908:25, 6909:3, 6909:21, 6910:6, 6913:10, 6921:10, 6926:25, 6927:9, 6927:17, 6928:3, 6928:11, 6928:15, 6928:19,
6929:13, 6930:17, 6932:4, 6932:13, 6964:10,
6969:16, 6969:21,
6970:18, 6976:3, 6976:21, 6978:3, 6978:11, 6981:1, 6981:23, 6983:10,
6983:15, 6983:18,
6983:23, 6984:1, 6984:25, 6985:10, 6985:13,
6986:12, 6987:23, 6990:1, 6990:18, 6997:19, 6998:6, 7001:2, 7001:5, 7001:21, 7001:24, 7002:24, 7004:5, 7004:13, 7005:4, 7008:15, 7008:18, 7010:2, 7010:5, 7010:13, 7011:5, 7023:24, 7024:6, 7024:9, 7024:15, 7025:4, 7026:3, 7026:20, 7027:20, 7028:10, 7029:6, 7039:17, 7040:17, 7041:5, 7048:25, 7049:4, 7049:7, 7049:18, 7050:12,
7050:25, 7055:14,
7057:16, 7058:17,
7058:21, 7083:23, 7084:6
Chairman [23]-6799:15,
6853:18, 6855:9, 6857:10,
6859:2, 6860:11, 6861:20,
6862:2, 6864:9, 6868:4,
6871:16, 6906:9, 6921:17, 6929:17, 6964:16,
6978:14, 6981:22, 6998:4, 7043:5, 7058:13, 7058:25, 7062:1, 7062:7
challenge [4]-6827:6, 6916:2, 6916:4, 7018:8 challenges [4]-6783:14, 7014:22, 7016:3, 7021:13 challenging [3] - 7062:19, 7063:5, 7063:6
chamber [1] - 6939:20
CHAMBER $[9]$ - 6732:3,
6737:14, 6737:18,
6737:20, 6737:23,
7004:24, 7005:6, 7005:24, 7009:3
Chamber [21] - 6732:4,
6732:4, 6734:5, 6734:7,
6822:2, 6860:13, 6909:1,
6928:16, 6932:20,
6983:20, 7001:7, 7004:11, 7004:18, 7005:12,
7005:19, 7006:3, 7008:8, 7011:6, 7025:6, 7081:16
chance [4]-6855:1,
6905:21, 7020:12, 7068:8
change [28] - 6776:1, 6778:6,
6828:17, 6833:21,
6837:11, 6863:23,
6876:23, 6879:19, 6908:6, 6928:9, 6928:15, 6936:21, 6940:16, 6955:6, 6956:21, 6958:24, 6995:2, 7023:3, 7024:24, 7025:25, 7059:5, 7059:15, 7059:18,
7059:22, 7059:25, 7060:4, 7060:6, 7060:13
changed [3] - 6758:6, 6865:22, 6866:2
changes [16] - 6739:22, 6845:10, 6856:3, 6878:7, 6892:8, 6946:9, 6960:11, 6960:18, 6965:7, 7045:6, 7059:14, 7059:18, 7060:23, 7061:2, 7061:3, 7074:22
changing [3] - 6754:3,
6829:12, 6908:7
channels [1] - 6953:16
chapter [2] - 6837:5, 6837:18
character [1] - 6788:6
characteristics [5] -
6890:14, 6936:5, 6938:19,
6939:11, 7045:6
characterization [2] -
6743:19, 6808:6
characterize [2] - 6810:9, 6985:17
characterizing ${ }_{[1]}$ - 6743:17
charged [1] - 6898:15
charges [1] - 6876:2
Charlene [2] - 6748:25,
6756:16
Charter [2] - 7029:13, 7031:13
charts [1] - 6940:8
check [13] - 6816:15, 6847:21, 6847:22, 6854:1, 6906:11, 6909:3, 6969:17, 6990:4, 7008:18, 7023:25, 7026:22, 7057:18, 7083:24

| checked [1] - 6871:7 | 7039:3 | clearing [1] - 6761:1 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| chemicals [3] - 6776:22, 6777:14, 6810:23 | China's [1] - 7038:22 choice [3] - 6903:17, | Clearly [2] - 7063:1, 7082:5 |
| cheque [1] - 7046:25 | 6903:18, 7052:11 | 6863:20, 6888:11, 6915:6, |
| chief [1] - 7036:6 | choices [1] - 6808:1 | 6967:11, 696 |
| CHIEF [22] - 6737:4, | cholesterol [1] - 6783:18 | 6998:24, 7053:7, 7054:6, |
| 6737:10, 6738:9, 6738:9, | choose [1] - 6807:25 | 7055:2, 7081:8, 7082:2 |
| 6807:4, 6928:13, 6982:1, | choosing [1] - 7065: | climate [2] - 6958:24, |
| 6982:2, 6983:2, 6998:11, | chose [1] - 7050:19 | 7031:25 |
| 6998:13, 6999:5, 7000:9, | chosen [3] - 6850:21 | close [15] - 6779:18, |
| 7001:1, 7041:6, 7041:7, | 7065:10, 7066:5 | 6847:22, 6895:9, 6895:1 |
| 7049:19, 7050:16, 7051:2, | Christine [1] - 6752:3 | 6902:24, 6925:20, 7014:5, |
| 7055:16 | church [1] - 6762:10 | 7045:3, 7050:6, 7062:25, |
| Chief [38] - 6732:10, | churches [1] - 7054:7 | 7067:21, 7084:22, |
| 6732:10, 6732:11 | Cindy [4] - 6744:5, 6755:23, | 7085:16, 7085:21, 7085:22 |
| 6733:23, 6734:13, | 6805:17, 6836:19 | closed [4] - 6830:10, 6832:4, |
| 6734:14, 6734:14, 6739:7, | circle [1] - 6778:16 | 6894:24, 6894:25 |
| 6739:8, 6744:16, 6745:10, | circuit [1] - 6944:8 | closer [2] - 6793:16, 7066:12 |
| 6748:15, 6750:25, 6753:1, | circumstance [1] - 6978:2 | closes [2] - 6894:20, |
| 6753:11, 6759:7, 6773:23, | Circumstances [1] - 6898:3 | 6927:23 |
| 6806:23, 6807:3, 6819:4, | circumstances [13]- | closest [1] - 7006:9 |
| 6981:24, 6998:9, 6999:2, | 6869:16, 6898:9, 6900:1, | CLOSING [2] - 6738:12, |
| 7041:12, 7041:13, 7046:3, | 6900:5, 6900:25, 6911:1, | 7086:2 |
| 7049:15, 7049:19, | 6925:18, 6940:16, | closing [27] - 6739:1 |
| 7050:12, 7050:15, | 6977:12, 7023:3, 7071:9, | 6743:15, 6784:12, 6855:3, |
| 7055:15, 7057:17, | 7072:15, 7073:3 | 6860:21, 6895:22, |
| 7057:22, 7057:23, 7083:3 | cited [2] - 6762:24, 6836:19 | 6905:21, 6927:24, |
| Chief's [1] - 6773:24 | cities [1] - 7016:25 | 7027:21, 7049:10, |
| $\begin{gathered} \text { Chiefs [6] - 6864:18, 6933:8, } \\ 7047: 6,7048: 23,7049: 9, \end{gathered}$ | citing [2] - 6783:17, 6923:12 | 7049:17, 7049:21, $7055: 17,7057: 25$ |
| 7082:21 | citizen [1] - 6886 | 7062:2, 7062:3, 7083:15 |
| CHILCOTIN [11] - 6731:23, | Citizens [1] - 6739:5 <br> citizens [1] - 6887:11 | 7084:8, 7084:9, 7084:11, |
| 6736:3, 6737:7, 6737:9, <br> 6737:12, 6738:2, 6906:22 | $\text { City [1] - } 700$ | 7084:14, 7084:25, 7085:2, <br> $7085 \cdot 5,7085 \cdot 8,7085 \cdot 13$ |
| 6737:12, 6738:2, 6906:2 6990:23, 6998:10, | $\text { city }[1]-7039:$ | closure [20] - 6847:7, |
| 7001:13, 7024:11 | claim [2] - 6957:15, 7030 | 6847:9, 6847:10, 6858:3 |
| Chilcotin [36] - 6733:12, | claiming [1] - 6898:19 | 6869:14, 6877:5, 6877:19, |
| 6734:3, 6739:6, 6780:8, <br> 6821:24, 6831:24, 6838:9 | claims [1] - 6868:2 | 894:17, 6895:7, |
| 6840:25, 6848:12, | clarification [8] - 6807:23, | 6896:19, 6897:21, |
| 6848:14, 6860:7, 6887:3, | 6852:9, 6862:7, 6929:3, 6967:16, 7006•1, 7061•17 | 6905:17, 6947:25, 6958:1, |
| 6887:12, 6895:18, | 9967:16, 7006:1, 7061:17, | 6958:20, 6962:12, 6974:10 |
| 6896:14, 6906:17, | clarify [5] - 6784:4, 6799:16 | CN [1] - 6834:25 |
| 6910:12, 6928:6, 6932:19, | 6862:18, 6970:18, 7061:8 | co [1] - 6910:24 |
| 6944:8, 6949:9, 6950:16, | clarity [2] - 6850:16, 6973:8 | co-operative [1] - 6910:24 |
| 6961:3, 6982:6, 6983:16, | class [2] - 6767:4, 7021:21 | coal [2] - 6878:18, 7037:9 |
| 6990:20, 6991:18, | classifications [1] - 6991:24 | coast [1] - 7033:3 |
| 6994:22, 7000:14, | classified [1] - 7020:19 | Coastal [1] - 6779:16 |
| 7000:23, 7007:21, 7010:3, | classified [1] - 7020:19 | Coastguard [1] - 6933:16 |
| 7012:10, 7013:24, 7024:6, | clean [3] - 6745:14, 6797:2 | coastline [1] - 6763:10 |
| 7033:16 |  | Cobb [6] - 6732:4, 6734:5, |
| Child [1] - 7021:17 <br> children [16] - 6748:12 | cleansing [1] - 6753:3 <br> clear [13] - 6790:11, 6793:6, | 7004:19, 7005:2, 7005:10, |
| children [16] - 6748:12, | 6809:1, 6819:7, 6863:4, | 7008:15 |
|  |  | COBB [5] - 6737:16, |
| 6748:23, $6749: 10,6752: 7$ $6756: 16,6756: 18,6764: 8$, | 6996:15, 7029:20, | 6737:18, 7005:7, 7005:8, |
| 6756:16, 6756:18, 6764:8, | $7031: 13,7076: 19,7082: 23$ | 7011:4 |
| 6774:8, 6904:5, 6994:19, | clearance [1] - 6944:24 | Cohen [1] - 6757:13 |
| 7020:11, 7030:23, 7033:7 |  | coincided [1] - 7033:1 |
| Children [1] - 7054:9 |  | Colette [1] - 6731:7 |
| Chilko [4]-6768:24, 6780:8, | 6886:22 | collapse [1] - 6796:1 |
| 6780:18, 6982:5 | clearcuts [2] - 6761:5, 6809:23 |  |

6984:15
colleagues [3] - 6817:6, 6972:4, 7083:15
collected [2]-7032:14, 7078:13
collectively ${ }^{[1]}$ - 7008:12
colonization [2] - 6761:24, 6820:20
Columbia [16] - 6730:23, 6828:13, 6833:7, 6878:17, 6885:12, 6912:11, 6919:15, 6930:23, 7003:15, 7012:3, 7012:18, 7012:25, 7056:11, 7062:21, 7075:18, 7087:4
Columbians [2]-6918:20, 6918:22
column [1] - 6885:21
combination [2]-6762:14, 6800:18
comfortable [1] - 7045:8
coming [14] - 6765:25, 6831:15, 6832:21, 6846:4, 6931:22, 6931:25,
6998:17, 6999:7, 7021:12, 7036:4, 7052:19, 7055:20, 7066:3, 7085:24
Command [2] - 7036:17, 7037:5
comment [18] - 6770:13, 6784:8, 6843:10, 6846:2, 6846:10, 6860:22, 6921:20, 6921:24, 6979:5, 6979:7, 6980:8, 6981:4, 6983:2, 7027:20, 7049:21, 7050:10, 7056:16, 7057:11
commentary [1] - 6844:8
commenting [1] - 6784:24
comments [11] - 6784:5,
6784:12, 6816:4, 6869:15, 6934:5, 7009:25, 7028:22, 7052:17, 7064:16, 7080:3, 7083:3
COMMERCE [9] - 6732:3,
6737:14, 6737:18, 6737:20, 6737:23, 7004:25, 7005:7, 7005:25, 7009:4
commerce [1] - 6939:20
Commerce [19] - 6732:4,
6732:4, 6734:6, 6734:8,
6822:3, 6860:13, 6909:1,
6928:16, 6932:20,
6983:21, 7001:8, 7004:11, 7004:18, 7005:12,
7005:19, 7008:8, 7011:7, 7025:7, 7081:17
commercial [3] - 6831:8, 6835:21, 6939:19
Commission [6] - 6757:14, 6873:24, 6930:22, 6931:1,

6931:13, 6931:17
commission [2] - 6927:14, 6928:1
commissioned [2] -
7003:22, 7003:25
commit [2] - 6841:9, 6871:10
commitment [8] - 6814:8,
6814:13, 6814:19,
6816:10, 6816:23, 6859:5, 6967:24, 7072:10
Commitments [5] - 6816:10, 6840:20, 6847:3, 6850:8, 6850:10
commitments [26] - 6814:17, 6816:6, 6840:19, 6851:21, 6852:4, 6852:12, 6852:15, 6853:1, 6855:12, 6855:13, 6857:13, 6857:21, 6858:5, 6858:15, 6859:4, 6859:9, 6862:18, 6863:14, 6864:5, 6869:23, 6870:5, 6870:8, 6883:9, 7069:18, 7072:19, 7079:8
commits [1] - 6841:21
committed [9] - 6814:15,
6840:22, 6862:14,
6919:16, 7000:21,
7000:24, 7011:8, 7065:18, 7077:4
committee [1] - 6842:1
commodity [3] - 6869:25,
6875:14, 6904:10
common [4] - 6880:25,
6938:24, 6987:5, 6987:6
commonlaw [1] - 6937:4
commonplace [1] - 7062:20
communicated [1] - 6850:25
communities [94] - 6742:6,
6747:1, 6751:12, 6756:21, 6757:21, 6760:3, 6764:3, 6764:6, 6765:14, 6779:11, 6779:24, 6794:8, 6795:6, 6799:2, 6799:4, 6810:19, 6811:2, 6811:23, 6813:15, 6815:14, 6820:14,
6830:12, 6834:9, 6834:10, 6846:18, 6846:20, 6851:4, 6852:19, 6862:14,
6862:22, 6864:3, 6867:23, 6868:16, 6869:1, 6890:7, 6891:15, 6892:8, 6895:9, 6898:1, 6902:9, 6903:23, 6904:2, 6904:3, 6905:10, 6921:1, 6957:9, 6981:12, 6988:4, 6992:16, 6995:21, 7006:10, 7011:19, 7011:23, 7012:4, 7012:9, 7012:11, 7012:13, 7013:4, 7013:6, 7013:12, 7013:13, 7013:24, 7014:1, 7014:3, 7014:5, 7014:7, 7014:8, 7014:24, 7015:3, 7015:24,

7016:2, 7016:12, 7016:22, 7018:6, 7018:14, 7018:20, 7019:3, 7019:14, 7020:6, 7021:5, 7021:19, 7022:2, 7023:8, 7023:18, 7026:10, 7026:12, 7027:18, 7027:25, 7029:23, 7045:2, 7048:8, 7063:7, 7082:8
Community [1] - 6886:19 community [103] - 6741:12, 6742:10, 6742:11,
6743:16, 6744:3, 6746:7, 6750:10, 6756:6, 6757:7, 6757:20, 6761:23,
6764:25, 6765:9, 6765:20, 6766:1, 6766:8, 6772:10, 6773:3, 6775:2, 6782:13, 6783:15, 6783:17,
6784:13, 6785:11, 6787:1, 6787:24, 6787:25,
6794:21, 6798:21,
6805:10, 6808:12,
6809:20, 6810:8, 6810:10, 6810:18, 6815:13,
6815:15, 6817:12, 6819:3, 6819:9, 6819:16, 6821:7, 6826:8, 6829:21, 6830:11, 6831:12, 6832:6, 6833:19, 6833:25, 6835:20,
6835:22, 6841:2, 6845:24, 6851:19, 6861:4, 6865:6, 6868:13, 6887:4, 6889:2, 6895:21, 6896:2, 6896:6, 6896:10, 6896:25,
6897:14, 6903:13,
6903:25, 6904:23,
6905:13, 6912:22,
6915:19, 6920:13,
6956:15, 6982:6, 6987:11, 6988:4, 6988:11, 6992:16, 6999:22, 7006:9, 7006:13, 7006:16, 7007:8, 7008:12, 7009:17, 7013:10, 7016:8, 7018:15, 7018:16, 7019:8, 7021:25, 7023:8, 7023:13, 7029:11, 7035:15,
7039:25, 7042:6, 7045:3, 7046:4, 7050:1, 7050:6, 7079:17
community's [6] - 6783:2,
6783:7, 6903:16, 6903:17, 6903:21, 7009:20
community-based [1] -
6787:24
compaction [1] - 6761:4 companies [9] - 6841:19,
6877:12, 6879:7, 6880:25, 6894:5, 6894:24, 6909:18, 7057:2
company [42] - 6806:10,
6823:18, 6841:4, 6841:11, 6855:13, 6857:11, 6858:9,

6858:25, 6859:7, 6864:16, 6868:24, 6869:4, 6869:7, 6869:21, 6870:12,
6870:17, 6871:4, 6871:11, 6873:10, 6874:12,
6874:14, 6877:14,
6877:18, 6879:15, 6881:2, 6883:10, 6894:16, 6897:13, 6897:19, 6898:9, 6898:19, 6899:1, 6901:15, 6901:16, 6925:19,
6972:11, 6984:17,
6993:22, 7057:6, 7069:18,
7072:21, 7082:19
Company [2] - 7033:18,
7036:11
company's [4] - 6813:17,
6813:18, 6883:12, 6889:20
company-town [1] - 6897:13
compare [4] - 6806:3,
6810:1, 6814:9, 6815:2
compared [3] - 6879:6,
6919:1, 6999:6
comparison [1] - 6999:9
compassion [1] - 7043:2
compatibility [1] - 7013:17
compatible [1] - 7026:13
compelling [1] - 6979:6
compensate [7] - 6787:2,
6811:18, 6880:20,
6951:20, 6979:12,
7044:21, 7076:25
Compensation [21] -
6781:20, 6795:13, 6813:2,
6818:12, 6818:13,
6953:15, 6966:10, 6988:2,
7067:2, 7067:4, 7069:15,
7070:14, 7070:20,
7070:22, 7071:4, 7071:14,
7071:24, 7072:1, 7072:11,
7073:22, 7075:11
compensation [18] - 6787:6,
6811:24, 6875:22,
6945:13, 6965:10,
6966:13, 6973:5, 6973:8,
6985:16, 6987:15, 7015:5,
7067:23, 7072:16,
7072:23, 7075:2, 7076:24,
7077:6, 7077:7
competitor [1] - 7074:13
compiled [1] - 7078:12
complaint [1] - 7079:15
complaints [2]-7079:15, 7079:19
complement [1] - 7051:1
complete [11] - 6740:1,
6796:1, 6907:22, 6938:13, 6961:20, 6963:12,
6965:23, 6967:1, 7045:13,
7078:11, 7087:10
completed [1] - 6907:24
completely [3] - 6790:2, 6821:4, 6982:3
completes [4] - 6990:2, 7004:6, 7011:5, 7026:21
completing [1] - 7069:15
complex [6] - 6903:23,
6904:3, 6904:19, 6980:20,
7062:12, 7062:18
Complex [1] - 6730:22
compliance [3] - 6856:1,
6856:18, 7079:7
complications [1] - 6958:19
component [13] - 6788:22,
6795:12, 6825:17, 6834:6,
6834:7, 6836:16, 6922:16, 7063:1, 7070:14, 7071:20, 7073:9
components [10] - 6788:19, 6818:16, 6828:23, 6838:22, 6845:5, 6845:7, 6845:24, 6936:7, 7071:15, 7073:19
composition [1] - 7043:4
comprehensive [2] -
6841:25, 7030:10
compromise [1] - 6958:22
compromised [2] - 6790:21, 7030:14
compromising [1] - 7042:15
computer [1] - 7012:19
concentrate [4] - 6872:1,
6872:3, 6876:19, 7062:16
concentrated [1] - 6845:12
concentrating [1] - 6896:2
concentration [1] - 7060:19
concentrations [4] - 7059:8,
7059:11, 7059:16, 7060:20
concept [5] - 6848:14,
6902:12, 6953:16,
6965:12, 6968:17
concepts [1] - 6852:24
conceptually [1] - 6969:6
concern [15] - 6755:20,
6780:7, 6812:20, 6834:21, 6867:23, 6953:8, 6954:14, 6955:19, 6955:23,
6956:14, 6957:6, 6962:19,
6965:14, 7053:10, 7063:13
concerned [14] - 6757:10,
6775:5, 6793:6, 6953:24,
6954:24, 6955:13, 6956:6,
6960:16, 6975:4, 6991:10,
7017:18, 7019:13,
7020:14, 7080:20
concerning [1] - 7074:17
concerns [30] - 6769:22,
6770:17, 6775:2, 6788:13,
6846:16, 6894:17,
6898:18, 6952:11,
6953:13, 6953:20,
6957:21, 6957:25, 6960:9,


6963:2, 6963:4, 6964:4,
6970:10, 6982:8, 6988:5,
6988:9, 6989:15, 7009:22,
7028:1, 7028:22, 7044:25,

7065:3, 7077:8
conclude [2] - 6809:10,
6964:22
concluded [4] - 6912:23,
6938:8, 7063:18, 7067:1
concludes [6] - 6821:14 6867:24, 6932:5, 6983:10, 7037:5, 7061:6
conclusion [9] - 6807:19,
6920.23, 6935.24, 6963:9

6967:25, 6997:24,
7012:14, 7023:4, 7061:3
conclusions [14] - 6741:14, 6829:5, $0829: 8,6012: 17$ 6934:10, 6964:18, 7012:7, 7014:10, 7015:9, 7066:4, 7066:12
concurred [1] - 7063:20
condition [4] - 6765:20,
6812:15, 6902:15, 6949:3
conditional [1] - 6816:5
conditions [14] - 6783:17,
814:18, 6815:23,
6824:22, $6824: 23$
6936:22, 6942:9, 6946:11, 6949:4, 6973:14, 7077:2,
7081:17
condoning [1] - 6794:10 conduct [4] - 6757.14,
conducted [4] - 6912:4,
6938:17, 6943:5, 6954:20

6957:13
Cone [1] - 6771:19
confer [1] - 6861:21

6995:5, 7078:19
confirm [3] - 6800:2,
6957:14, 6980:9
confirmed [3] - 6759:21,
6790:12, 7069:3
confirms [2] - 6755:24
conflict [2] - 6767:19, 6815:13
conflicting [1] - 7068:9
conflicts [1] - 7067:12
confluence [6] - 6742:1,
6976:14, 7059:12,
7050.17, 7060.2, 7060.12
conforms [1] - 7036:14
confrontation [1] - 7050:3
confusion [3] - 6914:5,
6914:6, 6917:19
conical [1] - 7033:19
connect [2] - 6774:10,
7044:7
connected [2] - 6777:11, 6778:12
connection [20] - 6747:10,
6749:14, 6751:1, 6751:2,
6753:19, 6757:23,
6760:13, 6773:25, 6774:5,
6774:13, 6774:23,
6788:12, 6792:17, 6795:3,
6809:14, 6818:21,
7043:13, 7044:12,
7051:10, 7052:1
connections [2] - 6747:1, 6749:18
Connelly [1] - 6731:3
conscious [1] - 6851:23
consensus [1] - 6949:24
consent [2] - 6902:19,
7031:2
consequence [2] - 6918:4, 6931:21
consequences [3] - 6918:20,
6923:10, 6926:16
conservation [2] - 6931:3, 6931:5
conservative [1] - 6875:16
consider [20] - 6791:11,
6791:18, 6812:25,
6818:16, 6863:23, 6907:8,
6907:12, 6920:19,
6926:14, 6945:11,
6945:21, 6966:12,
6970:16, 6985:25, 6987:1, 6987:18, 7023:19, 7038:2, 7039:22, 7083:1
considerable [9] - 6871:25,
6877:12, 6913:16, 7032:4, 7066:10, 7067:17, 7070:3, 7072:2, 7072:3
considerably [6] - 6872:18,
6876:6, 6878:24, 6883:7, 6883:8
consideration [8]-6833:18, 6866:6, 6937:19, 6979:15, 6980:5, 6984:5, 7023:17, 7076:13
considerations [3] - 6813:7, 6875:21, 6961:12
considered [26] - 6750:17,
6809:6, 6874:19, 6890:15, 6938:10, 6941:5, 6941:17, 6942:2, 6942:16, 6942:21, 6946:22, 6949:23, 6954:1, 6960:21, 6965:7, 6967:19, 6970:22, 6971:14,
6980:17, 6982:16,

6987:14, 6989:4, 6995:19,
7034:8, 7065:8, 7080:11
Considering [1] - 7040:2
considering [5] - 6849:24,
6971:3, 6971:23, 6988:15, 7066:17
considers [3] - 6941:24, 6943:14, 7081:12
consistency [1] - 6744:8
consistent [3]-7041:14, 7042:1, 7042:17
consistently [3] - 6787:1, 6982:8, 7043:11
constant [2] - 6761:18, 6761:19
constituents [1] - 6991:12
constitute [1] - 7069:24
constitutes [1] - 6914:7
Constitution [1] - 7029:14
constructed [2]-6937:12,
6972:9
construction [13] - 6769:17, 6795:1, 6830:19, 6833:22, 6876:25, 6919:20,
6951:19, 6967:8, 6968:16,
6974:9, 6982:22, 7069:1
Construction [1] - 6951:5
construction-level [1] -
6968:16
consult [3]-6813:10,
6852:3, 6979:24
Consultants [4] - 6731:16, 6733:4, 6740:22, 6741:3 consultants [6] - 6824:2, 6873:19, 6893:11, 7064:6, 7083:11, 7083:12
CONSULTANTS ${ }_{[1]}$ - 6735:7
consultation [4] - 6838:23,
6939:18, 6953:1, 6980:5
consulted [2] - 6871:4,
6892:14
Consulting [5] - 6731:14, 6733:6, 6823:11, 6823:14, 6823:18
CONSULTING [1] - 6735:16
consulting [2] - 6823:25, 6911:20
consumables [2] - 6876:17, 6876:22
Consumables [1] - 6876:18
consume [3]-6757:7, 6956:12, 6957:4
consumed [1] - 7038:20
consumerism [1] - 6897:4
consumes [1] - 6787:15
consuming [2] - 6781:16,
7058:5
Consumption [1] - 6794:13
consumption [14]-6765:22,
6783:9, 6784:21, 6794:2,
6794:5, 6952:17, 6956:21,

6957:14, 6957:18,
6957:22, 6962:7, 6962:10, 6994:7, 6994:18
cont'd [1] - 6732:1
contact [4] - 6862:23,
6862:24, 6937:22, 7055:22
contained [3] - 6829:6,
7070:4, 7078:18
contains [1] - 7066:22
contaminant [7]-6770:17,
6784:10, 6784:19,
6784:23, 6788:12,
6790:25, 6974:23
contaminants [4] - 6755:20, 6769:22, 6777:24, 6784:14 contaminate [9]-6766:15,
6766:18, 6778:13,
6778:18, 6778:23, 6793:9, 6808:5
contaminated [17] - 6756:7, 6776:2, 6776:3, 6776:22,
6777:4, 6779:13, 6779:19, 6780:9, 6780:17, 6780:18, 6780:20, 6781:16,
6972:14, 6972:15, 6973:3, 7034:21, 7035:1
contaminating ${ }_{[2]}$ - 6776:19, 6776:20
contamination [10] - 6775:3, 6778:3, 6779:1, 6779:4,
6782:25, 6793:7, 6793:24, 7015:1, 7022:25
contemplated [1] - 6881:8
contemplates [1] - 6974:25
content [3] - 6872:19,
7005:21
contention [1] - 6996:7
context [17] - 6760:18,
6773:17, 6784:9, 6784:17, 6799:16, 6801:8, 6801:9,
6802:9, 6805:4, 6805:6,
6805:19, 6865:16,
6903:15, 6904:15,
6917:16, 6931:2, 6931:19
contextual [3] - 6801:9,
6806:18, 6865:17
contexturalize ${ }_{[1]}$ - 7010:1
continents [1] - 7012:16
contingency [3] - 6876:8,
6876:9, 6878:8
continually [1] - 6753:2
continue [19] - 6746:22,
6748:3, 6797:8, 6858:11,
6892:22, 6892:24, 6966:2,
6968:17, 6968:20,
7014:20, 7034:1, 7035:15,
7042:11, 7044:11,
7044:12, 7046:4, 7048:19,
7052:22, 7068:17
CONTINUED [6] - 6731:12,
6733:3, 6735:4, 6735:13,

6740:19, 6823:8
continues [7]-6744:20,
$6745: 11,6775: 23$,
$6778: 10,6897: 17$,
$6937: 25,7038: 18$
continuing [5] - $6734: 1$,
$6747: 10,6798: 13,6832$ 6747:10, 6798:13, 6832:6, 7053:4
continuity [2] - 6748:4, 6760:15
continuous [1] - 6939:1
contracted [1] - 6991:19
contractors [3] - 6831:7,
6841:8, 6841:11
contracts [1] - 6902:3
contrary [2]-6926:20,
7081:5
contribute [4] - 6758:13,
6790:13, 6797:17, 6919:2
contributes [6] - 6759:5,
6759:25, 6760:10,
6768:21, 6899:6, 6976:18
contributing [1] - 6885:22
contribution [5] - 6843:4,
6849:18, 6885:11,
6976:13, 7081:20
Contributions [1] - 6851:1
contributor [1] - 6759:6 contributors [1] - 6785:9
control [1] - 7048:4
controlled [1] - 6877:23
controversy [1] - 7063:13
conveniences [3] - 6765:6,
6966:3, 7032:1
conventional [2] - 7036:8,
7036:23
conversation [2] - 6812:6, 6979:4
conversations [1] - 6980:14
convince [2]-6793:11, 6994:21
convinced [2] - 7029:4, 7029:9
Coola [1] - 7007:2
Cooper [1] - 6752:3
cooperation [1] - 6910:8
coordinating [1] - 7013:3
coordinator [2] - 6868:8, 6901:25
cope [1] - 6785:16
copper [12] - 6871:17,
6871:20, 6871:22,
6871:23, 6872:14,
6872:19, 6872:21,
6872:25, 6874:23,
6875:16, 6877:3, 6877:7
Copper [4] - 6937:3,
6937:19, 6941:3, 6963:21
COPPER ${ }_{[1]}$ - 6730:2
copy [1] - 6922:18
corporate [2] - 7071:23
corporation [1] - 7000:16
Corporation [1] - 6901:20
Correct [2] - 6803:7, 6804:2
correct [21] - 6740:8,
6784:20, 6856:6, 6856:19,
6912:19, 6924:1, 6924:19,
6925:3, 6926:5, 6950:11,
6967:20, 6970:23,
6975:20, 6976:5, 6977:13,
6981:5, 6981:6, 6987:14,
7080:4, 7087:10
correctly [6] - 6799:1,
6866:19, 6866:23,
7004:19, 7011:12, 7069:12
corresponds [1] - 6882:6
corridor ${ }_{[1]}$ - 6839:7
cost [36] - 6787:16, 6811:16,
6842:18, 6842:20,
6842:21, 6843:11, 6846:8, 6875:19, 6875:23,
6875:24, 6876:14, 6884:3, 6884:23, 6911:24,
6916:24, 6917:17, 6918:2, 6918:6, 6918:22, 6918:25, 6919:5, 6920:4, 6920:14, 6922:1, 6929:22, 6931:7, 6931:11, 6931:18,
6931:25, 6932:1, 6932:2,
7022:20, 7036:3, 7065:17, 7069:15
Costanza [1] - 6886:12
costing [1] - 6908:2
costs [43] - 6785:24, 6825:6,
6842:25, 6844:1, 6874:24, 6875:3, 6875:10, 6875:19, 6875:22, 6876:9, 6876:10, 6876:11, 6876:12,
6876:18, 6876:24, 6877:2, 6877:16, 6877:20,
6881:19, 6882:18,
6883:21, 6884:9, 6884:13, 6885:1, 6885:2, 6895:12, 6912:12, 6912:20,
6912:22, 6917:14,
6917:25, 6918:1, 6918:23,
6919:6, 6919:11, 6920:10,
6923:2, 6923:7, 7035:10,
7039:8, 7040:12, 7072:3
Council [3]-6766:5,
6943:11, 6971:3
council [1] - 6943:1
counsel [1] - 6743:24
counselling [3] - 6991:15, 6999:11, 6999:12
counted [1] - 6884:23
counting [1] - 6867:10
countries [2] - 7020:9,
7025:18
country [14]-6765:22,
6783:10, 6786:9, 6786:15, 6787:5, 6811:17, 6869:2,
6887:23, 6890:9, 6899:25,

6904:12, 6904:17,
7038:14, 7038:25
country's [2] - 7029:15, 7030:18
counts [1] - 6944:6
couple [9] - 6821:3, 6842:6,
6844:5, 6855:24, 6862:9,
6967:2, 6978:21, 6986:3,
7028:10
coupled [1] - 7039:6
course [28] - 6800:12,
6819:7, 6826:24, 6835:12,
6836:23, 6837:20,
6840:24, 6864:2, 6885:5,
6968:19, 6977:21, 6983:3,
6986:14, 6986:18,
6998:17, 7005:15,
7008:19, 7035:22,
7050:17, 7050:19, 7053:9,
7054:9, 7054:12, 7054:19, 7057:25, 7062:4, 7084:8, 7085:13
courses [4] - 6768:1, 7013:7, 7015:23, 7016:5
Court [2] - 6836:23, 7050:8
court [2] - 6806:16, 7050:4
COURT [1] - 6734:22
cover [2] - 6855:3, 7062:4
covered [5] - 6816:7,
6884:21, 6949:18,
7010:22, 7033:12
covers [2] - 6910:3, 6990:11
craft [2] - 6944:4, 7022:9
create [14] - 6783:14, 6784:1,
6788:24, 6807:16,
6825:14, 6833:10,
6834:16, 6954:16,
7013:13, 7016:16,
7031:24, 7040:5, 7040:6,
7056:23
created [12] - 6817:14,
6885:13, 6887:20,
6968:12, 6968:15,
6977:19, 6992:11,
7073:12, 7075:16,
7075:20, 7075:21, 7077:21
creates [4]-6831:5,
6958:16, 6989:23, 7018:8
creating [4]-6841:9,
6962:15, 7013:21, 7071:16
creation [5] - 6762:8, 6768:3,
6945:12, 6945:16, 6971:11
creature [1] - 6780:20
Credit [1] - 6978:5
credit [2] - 7067:18, 7069:14
Cree [2] - 6779:24, 6780:6
Creek [42] - 6741:24, 6742:1, 6781:22, 6798:7, 6812:13, 6822:8, 6860:19, 6910:1, 6928:23, 6941:10,
6941:11, 6941:23, 6942:2,

6942:12, 6944:10, 6944:13, 6944:23, 6945:4, 6947:11, 6947:14, 6947:17, 6947:21, 6948:4, 6949:7, 6963:13, 6976:11, 6976:13, 6976:18,
6984:18, 6985:11, 6990:7, 6992:21, 6993:3, 7001:11, 7010:20, 7026:24, 7059:9, 7060:12, 7060:23,
7067:23, 7073:23
creeks [1] - 6766:22
cremation [2]-6751:16,
6772:17
creole [1] - 6954:20
crew [1] - 7078:16
crime [1] - 6765:18
crisis [2] - 6891:13, 6897:8
criteria [3] - 6826:25, 6996:8, 7045:18
critic [1] - 7000:17
critical [8] - 6757:8, 6759:4, 6764:16, 6787:8, 6951:2,
6953:10, 6992:14, 7034:6
Crook [3]-6733:22, 6854:1, 6970:1
CROOK [18] - 6736:25,
6854:2, 6854:24, 6859:14, 6969:20, 6969:23,
6969:24, 6970:21,
6971:19, 6972:8, 6972:25, 6973:23, 6974:19, 6975:10, 6976:2, 6976:24, 6977:13, 6978:7
Crook's [1] - 7064:1
crossing [3] - 6982:5,
6982:9, 6982:13
crowded [1] - 6896:10
Crown [5] - 6858:3, 6858:13, 6859:6, 6885:3, 6885:5
crucial [1] - 6791:7
crunched [2] - 6829:7, 7039:14
crushed [1] - 7062:16
cry [1] - 6742:17
CSR(A [4] - 6734:23,
6734:24, 7087:3, 7087:19
cubic [1] - 6871:5
culminates [1] - 7077:15
culminating [1] - 7079:21
cultural [39] - 6741:10, 6741:13, 6741:16, 6744:9, 6746:24, 6747:10,
6747:11, 6748:4, 6753:9, 6761:21, 6764:4, 6764:12, 6767:24, 6771:22, 6773:4, 6774:3, 6774:7, 6774:13, 6785:10, 6788:11, 6788:20, 6789:7, 6795:15, 6796:14, 6797:16,
6798:10, 6805:25,

6818:19, 6865:4, 6865:8, 6866:5, 6886:6, 6899:11, 6978:25, 6979:18,
6996:18, 7026:15,
7041:17, 7043:23
culturally [8] - 6743:2,
6772:11, 6792:9, 6792:13, 6886:17, 6902:2, 6974:20, 7045:15
culture [35] - 6749:7,
6749:11, 6749:20,
6758:13, 6760:15,
6760:21, 6761:19,
6761:25, 6762:9, 6762:11, 6762:15, 6764:15, 6765:4, 6765:5, 6767:7, 6774:1, 6774:5, 6774:23, 6785:8, 6785:14, 6787:3, 6797:18, 6798:12, 6836:17, 6988:7, 7015:13, 7026:7, 7032:5,
7044:4, 7046:11, 7052:2, 7053:14, 7053:25, 7057:7, 7071:24
cumulative [1] - 6798:14
cure [1] - 6993:15
cured [1] - 7024:20
curious [3] - 6930:20,
7002:2, 7002:4
currency [2] - 6869:25,
6876:4
current [30] - 6741:10,
6741:13, 6741:16, 6742:7, 6742:25, 6743:9, 6743:17, 6743:21, 6743:23,
6743:25, 6744:9, 6778:21,
6791:12, 6863:17,
6865:21, 6866:1, 6867:2,
6875:21, 6881:17,
6883:17, 6936:11, 6938:2,
6954:3, 6956:21, 6992:13, 6993:16, 6996:8, 7013:12,
7048:11
Current [3] - 6755:23,
6802:5, 6805:13
curriculum [1] - 6909:17
customer [1] - 7008:6
cut ${ }_{[2]}$ - 6832:25, 6844:9
cycle [1] - 7032:11
cycles [1] - 6870:2
daily [3]-7020:3, 7033:23, 7052:3
dam [14]-6941:22, 6942:13,
6947:12, 6958:15,
6958:17, 6958:22,
6962:15, 6973:4, 6973:9,
6973:19, 6973:25, 6977:3,
6982:17, 6986:4
damage [2] - 6754:2,
6764:22
dams [3] - 6958:21, 6959:16, 6974:2
dangerous [1] - 6937:17
data [17]-6794:14, 6828:2, 6828:20, 6828:24, 6893:9, 6898:25, 6899:1, 7010:8, 7018:19, 7019:2, 7022:1, 7022:5, 7059:10, 7060:9, 7060:21, 7065:1
database [1] - 6770:24
date [3]-6772:22, 6874:8, 6963:16
daughter $[1]$ - 6777:20
daunting [1] - 7045:10
DAVID [1] - 6910:21
David [6] - 6731:20, 6753:23, 6911:3, 6913:4, 6924:8, 7036:7
daycare [2]-6748:22, 6749:1
Daycare [2] - 6749:1, 6756:17
days [30]-6806:14, 6810:8, 6817:17, 6817:18, 6834:20, 6851:19, 6874:21, 6925:19, 6926:4, 6926:6, 6926:7, 6927:23, 6927:24, 6950:2, 6950:3, 6950:5, 6950:6, 6950:7, 6950:9, 6950:24, 7033:24, 7046:13, 7046:16, 7058:2, 7084:2, 7084:3, 7084:13, 7084:21, 7085:25
deal [16] - 6831:12, 6834:15, 6846:23, 6847:25,
6848:20, 6878:12, 6915:3, 6915:4, 6920:18, 6923:13, 6972:17, 6972:22,
6986:22, 7006:11, 7027:7, 7064:11
dealing [8] - 6776:4,
6922:16, 6959:15,
6974:25, 6987:4, 6995:24,
7001:25, 7006:5
dealings ${ }_{[1]}-7057: 6$
deals [1] - 6877:25
Dean [1] - 7033:17
debate [3] - 6923:22,
7066:14, 7066:17
debit ${ }_{[1]}-6885: 20$
debt [1] - 6895:4
decade [1] - 7038:15
decades [3] - 7037:14, 7073:12, 7077:11
December [5] - 6872:5,
6874:20, 6875:1, 6875:9, 7061:12
decent ${ }_{[1]}$ - 6891:16 decide [5] - 6898:6, 6898:11, 6899:5, 6899:6, 6903:17
decides [1] - 6773:12
decimated [1] - 6763:5 decision [9] - 6888:4, 6898:15, 6898:22,

6925:22, 6927:20,
6997:15, 7064:8, 7075:23,
7080:6
decision-makers [1] 6888:4
decisions [2] - 6980:18, 7031:18
deck [2] - 6933:19, 6983:7
Declaration [6] - 6767:13,
6803:10, 6803:12, 6804:3, 6804:11, 6805:9
declare [1] - 6805:6
declared [2] - 6805:9, 6805:10
declaring [1] - 6806:8
decline [8] - 6757:9,
6757:13, 6783:6, 6908:18,
6993:6, 7038:11, 7038:13
declines [3]-6761:12,
6815:20, 6832:17
declining $[4]-6832: 1$,
6832:11, 6996:5, 7070:18
decommissioning ${ }_{[1]}$ 6838:18
decrease [1] - 6786:4
dedicate [1] - 6813:4
dedicated [3] - 6997:17,
7075:1, 7083:17
deemed [1] - 6942:9
deep [2] - 6793:19, 7051:9
deep-rooted [1] - 6793:19
deeper [2]-6951:24, 7045:12
deeply [1] - 6785:11
deer [9]-6754:10, 6754:15,
6760:3, 6775:7, 6776:11,
6776:14, 6780:24,
6786:21, 6786:23
default [1] - 6878:6
defaults [1] - 6877:19
defence [1] - 7031:6
defer [3]-6860:5, 6860:21,
7050:19
deferred [3] - 6807:5, 6838:17, 6882:18
deficiency [1]-6805:12
define [4]-6863:13, 6914:2,
7001:19, 7002:22
defined [2] - 6827:9, 7061:16
defining [1] - 6741:22
definitely [1] - 6975:3
definition [5] - 6846:13,
6939:4, 6964:20, 7061:8, 7061:11
definitive ${ }_{[1]}$ - 6980:21
deforestation [1] - 6837:15
degree [3]-6981:12,
7012:21, 7031:20
degrees [2]-6991:25, 7066:4
delay [3]-6961:24, 6965:8,

6965:21
delay" [1] - 6838:13
delayed [1] - 6955:10
delays [1] - 6955:8
Delgamuukw [1] - 6789:3
Delia [1]-6747:14
deliberations [1] - 7081:13
deliver [8]-6743:2, 6814:3,
6869:5, 6869:19, 6869:20,
6937:2, 7016:1, 7072:14
delivered [2] - 6814:19,
6814:20
delivery [5] - 6933:12, 6966:21, 6971:6, 7015:24, 7079:8
demand [12] - 6826:11, 6833:21, 6834:16, 6835:1, 6835:10, 6836:2, 6914:11, 6914:12, 6918:4, 6930:1, 7037:2, 7039:6
demands [1] - 6858:4
democracy [1] - 6897:13
demonstrate [1] - 6857:12
demonstrated [3] - 6790:7,
7016:10, 7053:7
Demonstration [1] - 6768:24
dent ${ }_{[1]}$ - 6993:14
deny [1] - 6981:21
denying [2] - 7030:17, 7030:21
department $[7]$ - 6858:22, 6934:11, 6934:14, 6935:17, 6945:23, 6974:8, 6979:5
Department [4] - 6975:3, 6975:8, 7059:4, 7073:6
department's [1] - 6935:2
departmental [2]-6938:2, 6940:17
departments [10]-6821:19, 6851:24, 6860:16, 6909:23, 6928:20, 6963:6, 6990:5, 7001:9, 7010:19, 7025:8
depended [3] - 7014:16, 7018:25, 7019:6
dependence [4]-6889:3,
7019:10, 7022:6, 7022:22
dependency [1] - 6896:14
dependent $[7]$ - 6759:8,
6829:14, 6829:19,
6869:25, 6898:1, 7006:25
deposit [2] - 6859:7, 6901:17
deposited [1] - 7062:17
depression [1] - 6762:17
depressive [1] - 6783:21
depth [1] - 7073:24
describe [6] - 6741:12,
6805:1, 6824:7, 6936:18, 6946:16, 6949:3
described [7] - 6753:8,

| 6802:16, 6852:13, |
| :--- |
| 6880:23, 6900:25, |
| 6925:16, 7033:18 |
| describes [7] - 6803:13, |
| 6803:18, 6804:3, 6804:17, |
| 6934:9, 7032:5, 7074:8 |
| DESCRIPTION $[1]-6735: 2$ |
| description $[4]-6771: 10$, |
| 6824:8, 6831:20, 7066:23 |
| desecrate $[1]-6795: 2$ |
| desecration $[1]-6791: 24$ |
| design $[8]-6810: 11$, |
| 6875:21, 6945:2, 6946:15, |
| 6953:14, 6953:16, 6954:2, |
| 6954:3 |

designate [1] - 6770:10 designated [1] - 6838:21 designed [3] - 6806:15, 6880:20, 6952:10 desirable [6] - 6891:24, 6948:24, 6952:13, 6961:2, 7078:23, 7082:7
desire [1] - 7043:3
desktop [1] - 6938:20
despite [6] - 6743:4, 6797:5,
7030:2, 7054:21, 7064:9, 7067:17
Despite [1] - 7038:16
destroy [8] - 6769:5,
6776:18, 6777:9, 6778:13, 6778:18, 6793:9, 6795:2, 6798:7
destroyed [5] - 6744:25, 6761:3, 6761:4, 6773:7, 6775:16
destroying [4] - 6776:23, 6776:24, 6797:25, 7040:4 destruction [11] - 6761:20, 6774:12, 6791:24, 6792:15, 6809:3, 6945:13, 6945:15, 6961:20, 6963:12, 6987:3, 7053:20 destructive [1] - 6886:17 detail [7] - 6749:1, 6756:17, 6883:24, 6953:5, 6968:15, 7073:25, 7078:18
detailed [5] - 6782:10, 6916:23, 6976:9, 7063:17, 7078:9
details [4]-6856:12, 6935:14, 6972:2, 6985:9 deteriorate [1] - 6783:17 determinant ${ }_{[1]}$ - 6965:19 determinants [3]-6889:15, 6889:25, 6905:3
determination [11] - 6825:9, 6837:2, 6865:7, 6865:19, 6865:20, 6865:25, 6871:1, 6925:24, 6967:18,
7080:24, 7081:1
determine [12] - 6796:9,

6824:18, 6826:19, 6828:5,
6865:2, 6902:20, 6903:22,
6904:4, 6940:23, 6944:20, 7031:15
Determine [1] - 6825:4
determined [3] - 6772:2,
6940:20, 6991:22
determines [1]-6902:21
determining [8]-6827:5,
6827:11, 6939:13,
6939:15, 6939:22, 6941:1,
6941:18, 6943:15
detracting [1] - 6885:23
develop [10] - 6816:12,
6870:7, 6871:13, 6930:3, 6963:1, 6963:7, 6977:10, 7014:5, 7046:4, 7077:5
developed [5] - 6767:16, 6853:7, 6912:14, 6929:22, 7030:8
developer [1] - 6868:14
developers [1] - 7008:9 developing [8] - 6850:15,
6864:15, 6951:13, 6953:7, 6961:8, 7027:10, 7045:24, 7065:7
development [51] - 6756:5,
6767:20, 6779:8, 6780:1,
6796:24, 6797:6, 6809:12,
6810:21, 6816:1, 6823:20,
6825:25, 6831:6, 6840:22,
6841:16, 6843:2, 6843:5,
6846:3, 6882:18, 6886:19, 6887:4, 6887:5, 6888:11, 6896:3, 6897:9, 6899:5, 6899:6, 6902:16, 6908:1, 7000:16, 7007:21, 7013:3, 7013:11, 7013:14,
7013:16, 7015:14, 7016:1, 7026:10, 7026:18,
7029:21, 7031:15,
7036:22, 7045:16, 7046:5, 7046:8, 7047:10, 7062:13, 7063:3, 7069:6, 7073:13, 7080:21, 7082:2
developments [2] - 6839:2, 7027:8
deviates [1] - 6744:4
deviations [1] - 6827:13
devotes [1] - 7032:4
devoting [1] - 6807:16
DFO [20] - 6934:1, 6985:23,
7067:1, 7067:6, 7067:21,
7068:4, 7068:10, 7068:17,
7068:23, 7068:24, 7069:3,
7069:12, 7069:19, 7070:5,
7070:9, 7070:19, 7073:15,
7075:4, 7075:8, 7075:23
diabetes [3] - 6765:15,
6783:18, 7051:22
dialogue [1] - 6866:10

Dick [1] - 6766:13
dictate [1] - 6849:15
dictated [2] - 6931:15,
6931:17
die [1] - 7034:25
died [1] - 6751:25
diet [3]-6765:25, 6770:2, 6783:11
differ [1] - 6845:13
difference [12] - 6759:23,
6820:4, 6820:8, 6820:12,
6875:6, 6879:14, 6884:3,
6891:14, 6901:18, 6932:1,
6959:3, 6965:4
differences [3] - 6873:8,
6955:7, 6961:23
different [44]-6741:20,
6767:11, 6801:24,
6805:18, 6806:20,
6809:19, 6809:25, 6810:3,
6840:16, 6845:1, 6849:3,
6854:3, 6873:11, 6873:12,
6876:6, 6881:23, 6883:7,
6883:8, 6883:9, 6902:2,
6904:2, 6910:16, 6943:7,
6972:6, 6972:7, 6978:19,
6989:10, 6991:24,
6995:16, 6997:6, 7006:12,
7011:2, 7011:23, 7018:20,
7025:18, 7042:7, 7059:22,
7063:9, 7071:13, 7072:7,
7073:17, 7074:16
differential [1] - 7020:18
differently [3] - 6809:18,
6973:1, 7047:22
differs [1] - 6871:19
difficult $[16]-6759: 15$,
6810:22, 6810:24,
6815:15, 6816:20,
6847:12, 6871:24,
6887:25, 6898:5, 6903:9,
6910:25, 6937:17,
6948:15, 6980:15,
6980:21, 6996:25
difficulty [1] - 6789:12
digging [2] - 6881:24, 7078:10
dilemma [2]-6994:21, 7079:24
diminish [1] - 7034:1
diminishing ${ }_{[1]}$ - 7039:7
Dinah [2] - 6746:21, 6777:20
dinghies [1] - 6948:18
Direct ${ }_{[1]}$ - 6851:2
direct [16] - 6812:17,
6812:19, 6830:14,
6830:15, 6830:17,
6850:22, 6864:25,
6914:12, 6916:12,
6943:23, 6985:25, 6996:5,
7037:6, 7046:9, 7082:23
directed [3] - 6857:24, 6858:22, 6873:20
direction [4]-6849:17, 6960:3, 6978:19, 7077:17
directions [1] - 6896:22
directly [11] - 6799:3, 6799:5, 6799:8, 6859:16, 6899:12, 6936:4, 6979:4, 6992:9, 7013:22, 7027:25, 7058:15
director ${ }_{[1]}$ - 7000:15
Director ${ }_{[3]}$ - 7005:18, 7006:2, 7035:2
disagreed [1] - 6929:8
disagreement [2]-6830:7, 6830:9
disappear [1] - 7037:21
disappointed [1] - 6785:4
disaster [1] - 6906:4
disasters [1] - 6904:17
discharge [6] - 6870:14,
6870:18, 6870:21, 6871:2, 6871:5, 6973:10
discharged [1] - 6863:5
discharges [1] - 6972:16
discipline [1] - 7052:6
discomfort [1] - 6743:4
disconnect [1] - 6773:22
discontinue [1] - 6786:6
discouraged [1] - 6962:5
discourages [1] - 7067:16
discovered [1] - 6741:20
discoveries [1] - 7036:25
discovery [1] - 7037:12
discrepancies [1] - 7053:1
discrepancy [1] - 6890:24
discuss [13] - 6861:10,
6863:12, 6870:7, 6936:23, 6937:23, 6938:12, 6964:5, 6965:16, 6967:22, 6969:7, 6979:22, 6988:21, 7039:5
discussed [7] - 6813:10,
6813:23, 6946:20, 6968:7, 6977:6, 6980:13, 6986:16
discussing ${ }_{[1]}$ - 6931:1
discussion [16] - 6849:22, 6898:18, 6908:13, 6923:6, 6946:23, 6952:22,
6965:15, 6967:23, 6978:9,
7061:9, 7061:10, 7062:11,
7065:13, 7076:17,
7078:21, 7080:19
discussions [10] - 6849:25,
6861:5, 6861:18, 6862:16,
6863:13, 6954:1, 6969:9,
6979:16, 6987:18, 7080:21
disease [2]-6763:3,
6765:16
disparity ${ }_{[1]}$ - 6888:24
dispersed ${ }_{[1]}$ - 6871:21
dispersing [1] - 6848:15
displaced [9]-6769:11,
6769:15, 6769:16
6773:10, 6794:21,
6828:21, 6849:10,
6950:17, 7076:21
displacement [6] - 6785:22, 6839:3, 6848:10, 6848:25, 6849:1, 7076:25
displacing [2] - 6848:15, 7030:15
disposable [1] - 6994:17
disposal [2] - 6886:10,
7062:17
disproportionate [1] 6820:14
dispute [1] - 6913:22
disrespectful [1] - 7056:20
disruption [1] - 6839:8
dissimilar [1] - 7066:4
Dissolved [1] - 7060:4
distance [4] - 7007:25, 7018:7, 7019:23, 7022:17
distant [2] - 6830:5, 7035:13
distinct [1] - 6820:12
distinguish [1] - 6834:3
distortion [3] - 6931:23, 6931:24
distributed [1] - 6913:7
distribution [1] - 6825:5
district [3] - 6823:22, 6839:1, 7017:1
District [15] - 6734:5, 6734:7, 6822:2, 6836:14, 6860:12, 6909:1, 6928:16, 6932:20, 6983:20, 7001:7, 7004:10, 7004:18, 7005:11, 7011:6, 7025:6
DISTRICT [9] - 6732:3,
6737:14, 6737:18,
6737:20, 6737:22,
7004:24, 7005:6, 7005:24, 7009:3
distrust [3]-6764:1,
6793:19, 6811:4
disturbance [1] - 6771:14
disturbing [1] - 6892:4
diverse [4] - 6758:8, 6760:9,
6796:3, 6887:10
diversified [1] - 7074:14 diversify [2] - 6888:5, 6888:8 diversion [2] - 6942:13, 7073:14
diversity [2] - 6760:5,
7077:23
division [1] - 6896:23
divisions [1] - 6890:15
divorce [1] - 6886:4
doctor [2] - 6928:9, 7051:19
document [12] - 6745:18, 6817:12, 6819:18, 6890:21, 6934:8, 7010:9,

7010:14, 7013:18,
7036:18, 7037:7, 7061:13, 7069:10
Document [8] - 6747:15,
6748:2, 6749:16, 6761:22, 6777:1, 6778:9, 6779:3, 6781:17
documentation [3] - 6743:8, 6837:1, 7070:21
documented [3] - 7048:2, 7065:9, 7071:1
documents [3] - 6883:5,
6889:23, 6940:7
dog [1] - 6999:18
dollar [2]-6787:4, 7040:2
dollars [8] - 6875:7, 6883:4, 6884:14, 6886:13, 6911:8, 6931:5, 6994:1, 7040:15
domestic [1] - 6888:25
Domestic [3] - 6869:8, 6885:8, 6885:11
dominant [3]-6830:1, 6897:2, 6897:11
donations [1] - 6911:7
done [41] - 6747:8, 6773:1,
6779:5, 6780:3, 6786:13,
6795:22, 6796:9, 6801:22,
6802:12, 6805:15,
6805:16, 6811:23,
6836:21, 6838:23,
6842:14, 6843:13,
6856:25, 6859:9, 6859:11, 6859:14, 6859:15,
6871:13, 6874:14,
6889:18, 6890:17,
6891:12, 6897:24, 6908:5,
6912:20, 6925:17,
6927:18, 6930:21, 6971:8,
6991:19, 7011:23, 7014:4,
7026:12, 7064:18, 7071:8,
7078:14, 7080:6
dooming [1] - 6906:4
door [1] - 7046:25
double [1] - 6918:7
doubt [4] - 6795:19, 6996:2, 7009:17, 7043:16
down [27] - 6759:3, 6775:15,
6780:16, 6780:17,
6780:19, 6827:17, 6829:8, 6831:13, 6832:25,
6844:10, 6850:17,
6879:18, 6897:12,
6930:15, 6968:15,
6975:19, 6989:4, 6993:7,
6999:16, 7002:7, 7002:8,
7009:16, 7019:19, 7029:5,
7029:8, 7038:3, 7087:7
down" [1] - 7032:19
downsized [1] - 6993:4
downsizing [1] - 6993:5
downstream [11] - 6944:10,

6947:18, 6976:1, 7059:12,
7059:17, 7059:20,
7059:23, 7060:5, 7060:8,
7060:12, 7065:19
Downstream [1] - 7060:2
downturn [1] - 7044:16
downward [1] - 6992:18
Dr [31]-6731:19, 6733:14,
6779:9, 6783:23, 6785:17,
6883:24, 6884:12,
6898:21, 6910:13,
6910:17, 6910:20,
6911:15, 6911:18,
6912:17, 6913:1, 6921:10,
6921:18, 6927:12, 6929:4,
6929:6, 6929:18, 6930:17,
6932:6, 6993:18, 6996:11,
7044:23, 7064:3, 7067:25,
7070:24, 7073:7, 7079:25
DR [13] - 6736:8, 6736:10,
6913:3, 6913:4, 6913:12,
6922:5, 6922:20, 6924:3,
6924:10, 6925:14, 6926:7,
6929:24, 6930:24
drain [4] - 6958:25, 7030:25, 7045:19, 7046:2
drainage [5] - 6905:18,
7060:24, 7063:23, 7065:3, 7065:6
drained [2] - 6947:4, 6965:5
draining [1] - 7034:9
dramatically [2] - 6876:21, 6877:14
drawing [2] - 6812:2,
6968:16
Drawing [1] - 7070:5
drew [2] - 6899:17, 7069:13
Drill [1] - 7062:14
drink [11] - 6780:13,
6780:21, 6781:6, 6781:9,
6791:1, 6797:25, 6798:3,
6808:12, 6809:17,
6809:22, 6811:8
drinking [4] - 6745:14,
6775:8, 6776:2, 6777:24
driven [1] - 7079:15
drops [2] - 6871:23, 6959:6
drug [1] - 6889:1
drugs [1] - 7054:10
DRUMMING [2] - 6738:12, 7086:2
drumming [4] - 6739:16,
6739:18, 7085:13, 7085:23
ducks [2] - 7032:16, 7032:21
Due [4] - 6948:15, 6949:15, 6951:1, 6962:3
due [12] - 6806:5, 6945:14,
6946:10, 6948:5, 6950:17, 6957:2, 6959:6, 6960:4, 6960:18, 6961:3, 6963:11, 7034:25

Duncan [2] - 6984:14, 6984:16
Dunn [1] - 6731:9
duration [1] - 6827:3
During [6] - 6761:23, 6769:17, 6938:4, 6954:13, 6976:11, 7037:8
during [48] - 6741:11, 6742:8, 6750:10, 6751:25, 6755:14, 6757:20,
6758:22, 6758:25, 6762:21, 6766:7, 6769:13, 6775:2, 6797:11, 6807:13, 6816:18, 6830:18,
6830:20, 6830:23,
6833:12, 6833:21,
6833:22, 6833:23,
6862:12, 6865:6, 6885:14, 6885:15, 6895:13,
6900:10, 6919:19, 6919:20, 6944:14, 6945:2, 6947:7, 6947:15, 6949:11, 6953:3, 6957:6, 6957:7, 6959:24, 6976:9, 6988:3, 6988:12, 7004:22, 7024:16, 7030:19, 7060:20, 7081:25, 7085:24
dust [2] - 6776:4, 6776:12
dwellers [1] - 7039:4
Dyble [1] - 6731:8
EA [6] - 6790:19, 6921:21,
6921:22, 6921:23, 6938:4, 6938:8
EA's [1] - 6843:4
EAO [3] - 6921:23, 6925:5, 7079:13
early [5] - 6758:22, 6807:17, 6833:23, 6954:23, 7037:22
Early [1] - 6911:10
earn [1] - 6991:13
earned [1] - 6894:8
earnings [3] - 6890:25, 6891:2, 6891:5
Earth [6] - 6747:22, 6747:25, 6767:3, 7042:8, 7042:11, 7044:7
earthquake [1] - 7034:22
earthquakes [1] - 7035:6
ease [1] - 6955:21
easier [1] - 6817:24
easily [3] - 6897:2, 6961:4, 7026:17
easily-caught [1] - 6961:4
Eastern [1] - 7038:17
eastern [1] - 6804:10
easy [3]-6859:24, 6949:23, 6981:7
eat [11] - 6775:7, 6775:25, 6776:15, 6776:23, 6780:5, 6780:10, 6780:23, 6798:3,
6956:18, 6956:20, 6957:16
eaten [3] - 6758:20, 6777:10, 7045:21
eating [3] - 6776:2, 6778:7, 6779:25
echoed [1] - 6777:2
eco [2]-6767:21, 6768:5
eco-tourism [2] - 6767:21, 6768:5
ecological [1] - 6875:20
ecology [2] - 7075:13,
7075:16
econometrics [1] - 6911:25 economic [104] - 6739:14, 6785:21, 6786:8, 6787:12, 6796:14, 6804:14,
6804:18, 6805:7, 6822:20, 6823:20, 6823:21, 6824:2, 6824:8, 6825:21, 6825:25, 6827:6, 6827:10, 6829:7, 6832:1, 6842:15, 6842:25, 6843:8, 6843:16, 6843:23, 6844:21, 6845:2, 6845:16, 6845:17, 6847:2, 6847:13, 6868:11, 6869:9, 6869:10, 6869:12, 6869:13,
6869:22, 6870:5, 6870:9,
6871:19, 6873:19,
6879:24, 6884:18,
6886:19, 6887:4, 6889:8, 6889:12, 6894:17,
6894:25, 6896:2, 6896:19,
6897:11, 6897:22,
6898:18, 6898:24,
6899:11, 6899:18, 6908:2, 6911:11, 6912:5, 6913:18, 6913:22, 6913:23, 6914:1, 6914:6, 6915:10, 6915:17, 6920:7, 6923:12, 6923:13, 6925:6, 6925:7, 6925:9,
6925:16, 6927:15,
6936:22, 6946:1, 6946:10, 6949:4, 6987:10, 6992:16, 6992:19, 6995:7, 6995:15, 6996:4, 6996:17, 7000:16, 7003:4, 7013:10, 7013:14, 7013:20, 7013:23,
7015:14, 7020:21, 7023:7, 7026:10, 7027:13,
7042:13, 7045:15, 7046:5, 7046:8, 7078:21, 7081:17, 7081:23
Economic [3] - 6851:1, 6914:20, 7025:16
economically [6] - 6868:16, 6869:4, 6886:1, 6963:24, 7029:12, 7065:22
Economics [1] - 7051:16
ECONOMICS [6] - 6731:12, 6733:3, 6735:4, 6735:13, 6740:19, 6823:9
economics [16] - 6825:4, 6829:9, 6880:9, 6911:18,

6911:23, 6911:24,
6935:16, 6987:8, 6987:10, 6996:11, 6996:12,
6996:13, 7006:6, 7028:23, 7051:11, 7052:8
economist [5] - 6911:20,
6923:14, 6924:18, 6925:8, 6996:12
economists [4] - 6907:17, 6914:2, 6916:13, 6931:8
economy [23] - 6760:1, 6790:14, 6829:14, 6829:19, 6830:4, 6887:10, 6888:5, 6889:2, 6896:10, 6914:13, 6915:24, 6916:15, 6916:20, 6916:21, 6996:6, 7007:17, 7018:12, 7019:11, 7022:6, 7022:13, 7027:14,
7027:18, 7081:25
ecosystem [5] - 6796:3,
6958:7, 6958:11, 7075:14, 7077:23
ecosystems [1] - 6886:12
Edmond [2] - 6745:13, 6797:23
education [10] - 6836:10, 6992:8, 7007:14, 7012:19, 7018:1, 7051:20, 7054:13, 7054:14, 7054:16
education-wise [1] - 7012:19
effect [19] - 6778:15,
6789:22, 6826:20,
6826:21, 6863:19, 6880:8, 6892:7, 6920:2, 6931:24, 6964:19, 6967:18, 6971:13, 6975:19, 6988:6, 6993:6, 7015:3, 7020:9, 7023:2, 7081:19
effected [1] - 6936:11
Effective [1] - 6879:5
effective [6] - 6852:20,
6879:8, 6901:6, 6956:7,
7065:16, 7073:9
effectively [2] - 6866:11, 6987:11
effects [75] - 6741:12,
6794:25, 6795:5, 6796:12, 6824:18, 6824:19, 6825:9, 6825:12, 6825:13,
6825:14, 6826:5, 6826:25, 6828:25, 6829:4, 6830:8, 6830:13, 6830:15,
6830:16, 6831:2, 6834:15, 6836:3, 6837:23, 6840:6, 6840:7, 6841:3, 6844:11, 6844:16, 6845:11, 6845:25, 6846:11, 6847:2, 6847:7, 6865:3, 6865:8, 6865:14, 6866:5, 6866:7, 6889:17, 6890:1, 6897:22, 6898:7, 6898:12, 6899:18,

6913:20, 6920:13,
6920:22, 6921:5, 6934:20, 6935:8, 6935:12, 6936:2,
6936:9, 6938:9, 6946:9,
6946:18, 6957:20,
6963:22, 6975:25,
7009:11, 7018:5, 7028:4, 7043:12, 7059:7, 7060:16, 7065:25, 7066:6, 7066:19, 7066:21, 7076:8, 7080:11, 7081:2, 7081:14, 7081:24, 7082:6
efficacy [1] - 6741:14
effluent [1] - 6870:14
effort [13] - 6786:4, 6806:13, 6807:16, 6848:16, 6864:2, 6864:4, 6885:16, 6945:25, 6950:18, 6956:3, 6962:6, 7067:17, 7083:17
efforts [14] - 6764:5, 6765:2, 6850:23, 6862:23, 6862:25, 6896:21, 6977:9, 7000:13, 7030:1, 7037:17, 7063:17, 7064:9, 7068:12
EIS [49] - 6824:7, 6824:14,
6825:2, 6825:20, 6835:25, 6839:10, 6843:1, 6843:6,
6843:7, 6843:9, 6843:15,
6844:2, 6844:12, 6844:14, 6845:21, 6847:3, 6847:16, 6848:12, 6849:20,
6862:20, 6864:24,
6873:10, 6883:11,
6889:13, 6889:14, 6892:4, 6892:10, 6913:23, 6917:1, 6920:5, 6923:1, 6924:21,
6925:4, 6925:13, 6936:14, 6936:17, 6942:11,
6943:19, 6943:25,
6945:12, 6947:13, 6951:9, 6975:16, 6987:21,
7002:16, 7065:9, 7066:22, 7080:1
either [13] - 6771:24,
6808:19, 6865:16,
6895:12, 6902:15, 6924:3, 6954:8, 6958:21, 6958:22, 6962:14, 6980:15, 7075:18, 7078:12
Either [2] - 6786:4, 7006:17
Elder [5] - 6749:25, 6752:15, 6766:13, 6777:19, 6969:25
Elders [10] - 6739:8,
6748:23, 6749:19, 6767:7,
6770:5, 6773:25, 6774:3,
6774:6, 6792:20, 6933:7
electoral [1] - 7017:3
electric [2]-6931:6, 6931:21
electric-intensive [2] 6931:6, 6931:21
electricity [12] - 6844:1,
6917:18, 6917:22, 6918:4,

6918:6, 6918:13, 6920:15, 6929:19, 6929:20, 6930:1,
6930:20, 7032:1
electron [1] - 6930:6
element [2] - 6984:24,
7067:23
elements [7] - 6937:23,
6938:5, 6941:13, 6941:20,
6941:24, 6987:2, 7067:4
Elevation [1] - 6961:23
elevation [5] - 6746:13, 6954:25, 6955:6, 6955:7, 6959:3
eliminate [5] - 6840:6,
6949:16, 6950:14,
6960:24, 7067:8
Eliminate [1] - 6964:23
eliminated [1] - 7063:13
elimination [3] - 6965:3,
6965:20, 6965:23
Elliot [4] - 6896:16, 6897:1, 6897:8, 6897:17
embankment [1] - 6959:17
embrace [1] - 7031:16
embraces [1] - 6956:15
emergency [1] - 6884:16
emission [1] - 6919:17
emissions [3]-6884:13, 6919:13, 6919:18
emotional [4] - 6762:16, 6782:24, 6783:14, 7021:17
emotionally [1] - 7063:6
emphasis [1] - 6839:15
emphasized [1] - 6813:14
employ [1] - 6916:3
employed [6] - 6797:7,
6797:8, 6992:9, 6994:9, 7017:16
employees [5] - 6841:2, 6851:7, 6893:18, 6894:8, 7082:16
employer [4] - 6888:2, 6888:14, 6888:20, 6889:3 employment [50] - 6796:25, 6797:10, 6813:13,
6813:16, 6814:3, 6815:1, 6815:19, 6816:2, 6816:19, 6819:24, 6820:2, 6825:23, 6829:23, 6830:18, 6830:20, 6831:3, 6832:5, 6832:19, 6832:21, 6840:23, 6850:6, 6850:9, 6850:22, 6850:24, 6851:5, 6871:11, 6890:12, 6891:5, 6891:10, 6893:4, 6899:2, 6900:21, 6901:23, 6909:8, 6909:16, 6914:9, 6915:12, 6915:16, 6917:3, 6919:9, 6924:17, 6925:1, 6992:22, 6993:11, 7018:2, 7025:13, 7044:15, 7047:8, 7082:2

Employment [2] - 6851:2, 6862:10
empowering [1] - 6774:21
empty [1] - 6993:1
enable [1] - 6890:7
encompasses [1] - 6778:21
encourage $[1]$ - 7075:10
encouraged [1] - 7007:4 encouragement [2] -
6887:14, 6887:15
encourages [4] - 6841:7,
6841:19, 7079:18, 7081:15
encroached $[1]$ - 6761:5
encroachment [4] - 6782:1,
6790:8, 6791:17, 6798:14
encroachments [2] -
6760:20, 6810:4
end [28] - 6739:18, 6741:25,
6784:12, 6847:18, 6858:5,
6858:16, 6859:10,
6869:15, 6886:20,
6920:18, 6926:12,
6927:21, 6927:22,
6927:23, 7023:9, 7038:15,
7044:24, 7049:1, 7049:2,
7049:4, 7050:19, 7070:3,
7070:10, 7084:9, 7084:15,
7085:14
End [1] - 6804:24
endeavoured [1] - 7065:2
ended [6] - 6870:24, 7050:3,
7050:4, 7050:8, 7050:9
ends [1] - 7070:23
endure [1] - 7043:17
energy [13] - 6754:24,
6878:20, 6887:16, 6888:3, 6912:1, 6918:12, 6930:3, 7037:4, 7037:11, 7038:17, 7039:8, 7039:15, 7040:12
enforceable [1] - 6816:13 enforcement [5] - 6816:24, 6857:14, 7075:10, 7079:5, 7079:21
engage [5] - 6842:21, 6863:12, 6967:24, 6979:4, 7030:1
engaged [2] - 6764:7, 6767:14
engagement $[1]$ - 6783:8
engaging [4] - 6951:3, 6952:22, 6952:25, 6989:20
Engineering ${ }_{[1]}$ - 6873:21
England [1] - 7012:17
English [4] - 6744:6,
6805:17, 6836:20, 7012:22
English's [1] - 6755:23
enhanced [1] - 7036:21
Enhancement [1] - 6934:1
enhances [1] - 6774:23
enhancing [1] - 6951:12
enjoy [5] - 6758:13, 6892:19,

6948:11, 6966:2, 7048:20
enjoyable [1] - 6956:5
enjoyment [1] - 6955:19
enlarging [1] - 6895:23
enormous [6] - 6764:12,
6773:3, 6787:13, 6793:19, 6794:5, 6899:11
enrolment ${ }_{[1]}$ - 6832:12
ensure [14]-6790:20,
6856:1, 6859:9, 6954:9,
6963:3, 6963:6, 6974:18,
6977:1, 7023:21, 7069:25,
7072:10, 7072:14, 7078:2, 7079:7
ensured [1] - 6814:20
ensures [2]-6937:12, 7023:6
ensuring [3]-6850:24,
7066:21, 7071:18
entail [1] - 6954:19
enter [2] - 6861:17, 7076:23
entered [1] - 7038:10
enterprises [2]-6888:23, 6995:17
entertain [3]-6908:13, 6951:11, 7045:22
entire [12]-6769:16, 6773:6, 6773:11, 6868:12, 6877:6, 6881:22, 6942:12, 7039:4, 7041:15, 7064:3, 7078:7, 7078:18
entirely [5] - 6800:9,
6825:11, 6881:5, 7037:20, 7042:17
entirety [1] - 6904:22
entities [1] - 7056:22
entity [1] - 6974:13
entrepreneurship [1] 6841:20
Entrepreneurship [1] 7013:9
entrusted [1] - 7047:22
Environment [12] - 6821:20, 6860:16, 6909:24,
6928:21, 6955:18,
6959:13, 6960:8, 6972:20, 7036:16, 7064:22,
7076:10, 7077:5
environment [17] - 6766:9,
6767:2, 6788:8, 6788:21,
6824:8, 6870:15, 6886:10,
6934:21, 6936:21,
6937:10, 6946:9, 7009:12, 7032:7, 7034:16, 7057:8, 7076:16, 7081:3
Environmental [46] -
6742:16, 6785:18,
6791:10, 6795:17,
6805:20, 6850:11,
6855:16, 6855:22,
6856:16, 6856:24, 6857:4,

6870:5, 6870:13, 6870:24, 6875:20, 6875:24,
6877:22, 6885:1, 6890:16, 6890:19, 6913:24,
6922:11, 6922:15,
6922:21, 6924:14,
6933:22, 6933:24, 6934:6, 6935:4, 6935:25, 6936:20, 6938:1, 6946:8, 6946:25, 6947:3, 7003:23, 7003:24, 7009:11, 7012:23, 7013:1, 7046:22, 7054:25, 7064:7, 7079:5, 7079:6, 7081:5
environmental [23] - 6766:9, 6816:14, 6875:25, 6897:6, 6898:6, 6899:12, 6899:16, 6899:20, 6900:4, 6912:21, 6913:15, 6920:12,
6920:16, 6920:22, 6921:5, 6922:15, 6926:16, 6938:9, 6996:8, 7028:21, 7064:14, 7066:19, 7076:8
ENVIRONMENTAL [3]-
6730:3, 6730:8, 6731:6
environmentally [5] -
6886:17, 7002:15, 7029:11, 7045:14, 7057:3
envisage [1] - 6798:24
epidemic [3]-6751:25,
6763:4, 6793:21
equally [1] - 6786:22
equipment $[4]$ - 6877:18,
6894:22, 6895:3, 6895:7
equity ${ }_{[1]}$ - 6909:10
equivalent [2] - 6814:5, 6816:4
erosion [1] - 6962:16
erred [1] - 6950:11
errors [1] - 6907:6
escalates [1] - 7039:11
escapes [1] - 6984:17
Eskay [2] - 6984:18, 6985:10
Esket [1] - 6819:4
ESKETEMC [6] - 6736:15,
6737:12, 6738:6, 6928:25, 7001:14, 7027:1
Esketemc [9] - 6733:17,
6822:9, 6860:20, 6910:2,
6928:24, 6990:9, 7001:12, 7010:21, 7026:25
especially [8] - 6758:17,
6843:24, 6845:24, 6889:9, 6997:1, 7014:13, 7084:21
espousing [1] - 7002:3
essence [5] - 6864:21,
7004:20, 7044:4, 7064:2, 7064:3
essential [1] - 7082:7
essentially [1] - 6820:16
Establish [1] - 6851:9
establish [2]-6851:16,

6930:19
established [6] - 6757:14, 6842:2, 6856:15, 6952:5, 6958:6, 7069:9
establishing [2] - 6774:20, 6866:10
establishments [1] 7056:22
esteem [1] - 6785:12
estimate [6] - 6787:14,
6867:9, 6914:16, 6917:6, 6919:8, 6992:8
estimated [7] - 6836:3, 6880:1, 6883:15, 6893:17, 6950:1, 6993:23, 7077:1
estimates [6]-6786:14, 6787:4, 6836:7, 6873:18, 6875:19, 7076:19
estimation [1] - 6968:21
et $[8]-6816: 2,6960: 16$, 6970:14, 6977:4, 7071:2, 7071:19
Ethics [1] - 7013:9
European [4]-7051:16, 7054:10, 7054:15, 7055:22
Europeans [1] - 6758:6
evaluate [1] - 6845:16
evaluated [1] - 6885:19
evaluating [2] - 6885:8, 6886:16
evaluation [3]-6873:19, 6912:15, 7060:15
evaluator $[1]$ - 6874:15
evening [4] - 7084:11, 7084:22, 7085:16, 7085:22
event [13]-6759:9, 6795:25, 6922:20, 6958:20,
6958:24, 6962:16,
6975:24, 7030:13,
7035:16, 7039:10, 7039:15, 7039:21, 7040:14
events [3]-6760:21,
6761:24, 6820:19
eventually [8] - 6870:18, 6947:25, 6948:7, 6974:1, 7031:9, 7035:23, 7066:17, 7076:4
evidence [35] - 6741:10, 6741:11, 6742:15, 6743:11, 6743:20, 6744:3, 6744:6, 6746:15, 6751:13, 6754:5, 6757:20, 6770:19, 6772:12, 6772:13, 6772:16, 6772:17, 6772:18, 6785:13, 6791:15, 6800:24, 6801:6, 6802:5, 6809:20, 6912:24, 6913:16, 6914:5, 6921:2, 6921:3, 6922:9, 6923:13, 6926:17, 6927:20, 6981:11, 7070:24, 7071:4

Evidence [2] - 6750:19, 6785:10
evidenced [1] - 6855:21
evident [1] - 7045:9
evolution [1] - 6908:10 exacerbate [1] - 6821:1 exact [2] - 6772:1, 7075:12
exactly [7] - 6792:5, 6794:22, 7038:3, 7038:4, 7059:20, 7068:2, 7079:12
exaggerated [2]-6911:13, 7036:9
examination [2]-7063:16, 7078:10
examine [1] - 7071:3
examined ${ }_{[1]}$ - 6899:3
example [27] - 6744:16,
6748:11, 6753:23, 6767:22, 6779:24, 6791:3, 6801:11, 6806:12, 6811:5, 6816:17, 6880:25, 6882:16, 6901:15, 6903:23, 6904:2, 6905:16, 6914:9, 6916:17, 6924:21, 6938:25, 6950:3, 7018:21, 7020:24, 7021:1, 7044:8, 7067:13, 7067:20 examples [11] - 6902:10,
6902:23, 6939:2, 6945:5, 6966:6, 6967:5, 6967:6, 6967:13, 6986:3, 6986:4, 7019:5
exceed [2] - 6920:17, 6957:10
exceedingly [1] - 7048:2
exceeds [1] - 7036:4
except $[3]$ - 6827:7, 6929:14, 6937:5
exception [1] - 7037:15
exceptions [1] - 6984:10
excess [3]-6870:17, 6959:6, 6994:13
exchange [10] - 6861:12,
6869:25, 6875:3, 6875:6, 6876:4, 6876:6, 6878:9,
6929:4, 7044:17, 7044:18
Exchange ${ }_{[1]}$ - 6873:23 exclusive [2] - 6813:5, 6840:9
exclusively [2] - 6836:18, 6878:19
excuse [1] - 6942:11
excused [1] - 6819:1
Executive [1] - 7035:2
exempt [1]-6943:2
exemption [2] - 6971:4, 6985:8
exemptions [1] - 6985:2
exercise [2] - 6843:12, 6997:21
exercises [1] - 6784:20
exhausted ${ }_{[1]}$ - 7000:9
Exhibit [5] - 6747:25,
6750:24, 6752:2, 6752:21, 6768:19
exist $[7]-6820: 10,6824: 22$,
7003:5, 7044:6, 7067:1,
7067:10, 7067:12
existence [4]-6812:3,
6815:23, 6857:13, 7014:24
Existing [1] - 6982:23
existing [10] - 6796:10,
6836:4, 6836:22, 6887:15,
6955:14, 6968:22,
6982:24, 6982:25, 6989:1, 6989:24
exists [4] - 6858:9, 6967:3,
7076:4, 7077:19
Expand [1] - 6850:23
expand [4]-6851:16,
6852:6, 6870:7, 6884:14
expanded [1] - 6878:20
expanding [1] - 6851:6
expansion [6] - 6953:19,
6958:2, 6960:18, 6960:21, 6960:22, 6962:18
expect [13]-6827:20,
6827:21, 6831:15, 6832:3,
6832:6, 6863:10, 6879:1,
6879:2, 6915:12, 7031:11,
7034:4, 7038:6, 7040:12
expectancy $[1]$ - 6892:23
expectation [2] - 7049:7, 7068:20
expected [9] - 6834:4, 6837:6, 6840:5, 6846:1, 6867:15, 6938:4, 6950:16, 7037:2, 7039:3
expecting [2] - 6884:1, 6918:15
expects [2] - 6887:9, 6958:5 expenditures [1] - 6915:2 expense [3] - 6983:6,
7043:22, 7067:18
expenses [1] - 6881:19
expensive [1] - 7035:24
experience [25] - 6762:2,
6778:5, 6798:13, 6798:17,
6814:2, 6814:23, 6814:25,
6815:4, 6816:3, 6819:8,
6819:25, 6921:19, 6922:6,
6922:21, 6940:2, 6956:5,
6971:5, 6992:7, 7009:9,
7015:19, 7021:10, 7038:6,
7066:10, 7070:5, 7073:4
experienced $[3]$ - 6810:4,
6833:16, 6992:19
experiences [3] - 6752:13,
6760:23, 6819:5
EXPERT [13]-6731:13,
6731:15, 6731:17, 6731:19, 6731:21, 6735:6,

6735:14, 6736:7, 6736:18,
6740:21, 6823:10,
6910:19, 6933:3
expert [2] - 6911:14, 6926:19
expertise [5]-6934:15,
6972:24, 7009:14,
7009:18, 7081:9
experts [1] - 6911:9
explain [9] - 6742:3,
6790:21, 6810:22, 6811:3,
6858:2, 6913:2, 6917:18,
7001:24, 7043:8
explained [17]-6744:23,
6751:4, 6751:23, 6753:15,
6756:5, 6756:17, 6759:17,
6772:24, 6782:3, 6783:7,
6790:16, 6790:24,
6797:15, 6807:20, 6968:7, 6992:22
explaining [2] - 6746:11, 6810:17
explanation [1] - 6969:3
explicitly ${ }_{[1]}$ - 6936:18
exploration [1] - 6893:19
Exploration [1]-6882:18
exporter ${ }_{[1]}$ - 7038:17
express [8]-6764:15,
6955:19, 6955:22, 6988:5, 7043:19, 7045:7, 7047:25, 7062:7
expressed [7]-6755:20, 6780:7, 6852:19, 6957:6,
7045:12, 7063:25, 7066:11
expressing [2] - 7044:20,
7046:10
extended [1] - 7048:16
extending ${ }_{[1]}$ - 6954:7
extension [1] - 7060:15
extensive [3] - 6787:23,
6896:18, 7078:6
extensively ${ }_{[1]}-6828: 18$
extent [13] - 6770:12, 6819:6,
6832:2, 6837:8, 6839:5,
6863:7, 6873:13, 6914:1,
6914:7, 6914:25, 6921:20,
6923:18, 6986:11
external [1] - 6904:7
extinguish [1] - 6946:16
extinguishment [2] - 6967:1, 6967:2
extract [1] - 7035:24
extraction [2] - 6993:17,
7061:24
extranalities [1] - 6919:11
extranality $[1]$ - 6919:15
extrapolated $[1]$ - 6994:2
extreme [2] - 7042:24,
7066:6
Extreme [1] - 6986:3
extremely [3]-6782:10,
6810:24, 6847:12
exuberance $[1]$ - 6859:20
Exxon [1] - 6885:21
eyes [1] - 7044:18
fabric [3] - 6890:6, 6892:7, 7072:21
face [9] - 6761:19, 6859:6, 7001:18, 7014:22,
7015:19, 7021:12,
7045:10, 7056:3, 7056:9
faced [2] - 6888:19, 6895:10
faces [1] - 6889:2
facilitate [1] - 6989:1
facilities [7] - 6761:6,
6835:22, 6918:1, 6949:1, 6951:2, 6952:18, 6961:14
facility $[2]-6767: 21$,
7062:18
Facility [12] - 6947:10,
6947:24, 6948:1, 6957:3,
6958:16, 6958:17, 6959:5,
6959:7, 6960:1, 6960:3,
6960:5, 6962:15
facing [3] - 6895:19, 6897:8, 7016:2
fact [21]-6743:3, 6790:1,
6795:17, 6800:20,
6819:11, 6853:3, 6860:1,
6881:22, 6892:13,
6895:18, 6908:8, 6918:19,
6919:7, 6930:7, 6931:13,
7010:14, 7016:7, 7030:2,
7038:13, 7069:13, 7085:17
factor [5] - 6778:7, 6972:16,
6973:6, 6995:19, 6997:2
factored [1] - 6994:15
factors [2] - 6763:9, 6970:22
Faculty [1]-7012:2
fail [6] - 6789:2, 6815:9, 6956:7, 6974:2, 7071:5, 7072:21
failure [8] - 6763:19, 6961:21, 6973:9, 6973:17, 6974:16, 7070:22, 7071:3, 7071:9
failures [1] - 7071:7
fair [5] - 6857:20, 6895:15,
6903:10, 6985:17, 7009:23
Fair [1] - 6908:3
fairly [6] - 6814:9, 6977:15, 6980:18, 7028:11,
7040:24, 7085:9
fairness [3] - 6740:3,
6857:23, 7008:22
faith [3]-6782:22, 6786:5, 7050:7
fall [6] - 6754:10, 6771:18, 6827:20, 6831:14, 6859:18, 7033:4
falling [2] - 6763:24, 6974:5
Falls [1] - 6944:11
falls [2] - 6891:20, 6949:7

| familiar $[1]-6868: 15$ |
| :--- |
| Families $[1]-7054: 9$ |
| families $[12]-6749: 23$, |
| $6757: 6,6757: 21,6757: 25$, |
| $6760: 7,6786: 8,6817: 24$, |
| $6820: 11,6832: 5,6832: 8$, |
| 7033:8, $7081: 21$ |
| family $[11]-6745: 16,6746: 2$, |
| $6747: 1,6749: 21,6770: 19$, |
| $6770: 25,6787: 15$, |
| $6787: 17,6790: 18$, |
| $6815: 12,7032: 8$ |
| family's $[2]-6748: 2$, |
| $6754: 23$ |
| far $[11]-6742: 17,6780: 19$, |
| $6850: 1,6870: 11,6915: 16$, |
| $6981: 2,6996: 18,7007: 2$, |
| $7018: 24,7038: 3,7054: 20$ |
| farm $[1]-7056: 11$ |
| farming $[1]-6886: 7$ |
| fascinating $[1]-6821: 8$ |
| fast $[1]-7032: 18$ |
| faster $[1]-6958: 25$ |
| fat $[1]-6786: 22$ |
| fate $[1]-7076: 4$ |
| fault $[1]-6918: 18$ |
| fear $[4]-6762: 17,6764: 18$, |
| $6779: 4,6780: 2$ |
| fears $[1]-6782: 25$ |
| feasibility $[4]-6873: 14$, |
| $6953: 7,6961: 17,6991: 20$ |
| Feasibility $[1]-6873: 16$ |
| feasible $[3]-6790: 7$, |
| $6963: 24,7065: 22$ |
| features $[3]-6768: 7$, |
| $6946: 15,7077: 24$ |
| February $[3]-6785: 20$, |
| $6934: 12,6959: 13$ |
| FEDERAL |
| $674]-6730: 6$, |
| $6731: 2,6735: 12,6735: 22$, |
| $6736: 5,6736: 16,6737: 6$, |
| $6738: 4,6817: 9,6861: 1$, |
| $6909: 5,6929: 16,6983: 25$, |
| $7025: 10$ |
| Federal $[39]-6821: 18$, |
| $6823: 23,6851: 24$, |
| $6857: 16,6860: 16,6880: 4$, |
| $6880: 12,6882: 10,6883: 1$, |
| $6884: 25,6898: 11,6909: 9$, |
| $6909: 23,6921: 23,6922: 2$, |
| $6925: 20,6925: 23,6926: 1$, |
| $6928: 19,6937: 5,6963: 6$, |
| $6977: 15,6990: 5,6994: 1$, |
| $6997: 11,7001: 9,7010: 19$, |
| $7025: 8,7029: 25,7030: 20$, |
| $7043: 20,7044: 15$, |
| $7044: 20,7048: 15$, |
| $7063: 19,7066: 9,7067: 12$, |
| 7067:15, $7076: 11$ |
| Federally $[2]-6882: 12$, |
| $6972: 4$ |

-6843.18, 6843.21
fee-for-service [2] - 6843:18, 6843:21
feed [2]-6775:18, 6886:24
feelings [2] - 6769:20,
6783:13
fees [1] - 6771:1
feet ${ }_{[2]}$ - 6856:10, 6955:6
felt $[10]-6756: 4,6763: 24$,
6763:25, 6778:19,
6833:22, 6852:23,
6911:12, 6960:8, 6988:14, 6989:21
female [1] - 7019:17
females [1] - 6892:25
fence [1] - 6954:5
fences [1] - 6761:2
few [30] - 6745:1, 6745:22,
6753:19, 6768:15,
6796:19, 6797:11, 6817:6,
6821:15, 6834:20, 6842:4,
6855:2, 6855:5, 6860:25,
6869:15, 6870:8, 6888:17,
6893:6, 6894:19, 6900:19, 6916:16, 6925:19,
6936:25, 6959:14, 6990:3,
6997:11, 7011:8, 7031:10,
7048:24, 7049:14, 7050:1
fewer ${ }_{[1]}$ - 6841:3
fibre [1] - 6887:17
fiduciary [1] - 6979:23
field [4] - 6810:3, 6921:21,
6933:24, 7038:12
fields [3] - 7009:15, 7037:13, 7037:18
fifth [3] - 6739:13, 6836:15
Fifthly ${ }^{[1]}$ - 7075:17
Fighting [1] - 7054:23
fighting [2] - 6896:8, 7054:23
figure [5] - 6878:17, 6886:21, 6894:3, 6902:8, 6948:8
figures [9] - 6816:19,
6881:25, 6894:10,
6900:22, 6950:10,
7003:17, 7003:20,
7017:10, 7027:15
file [2] - 6868:22, 6974:14
filed [2] - 6913:9, 7079:1
fill [3] - 6888:21, 6984:24, 7031:1
filled [5] - 6948:2, 6965:5,
6992:4, 6992:5, 7034:9
filling [4] - 6828:24, 6942:14, 6965:9, 6984:12
film [2] - 7004:22, 7009:7
final [8] - 6796:17, 6826:14, 6849:14, 6898:14, 6938:6, 7012:14, 7023:4, 7085:12
Finally [1] - 6957:24
finally [4] - 6741:16,

6825:16, 6826:13, 6847:1
financed [1] - 6911:5
Financial [1] - 7072:13
financial [12] - 6873:9,
6875:5, 6881:24, 6882:9,
6882:14, 6976:25,
6991:12, 6991:13,
6991:15, 6999:11, 7015:4,
7072:5
financing [3]-6870:1,
6876:2, 6876:3
findings [9]-6913:2, 6935:6,
6935:11, 6964:18,
6964:22, 6965:19,
7063:21, 7076:9, 7078:20
fine [7]-6816:24, 6859:19,
6861:24, 6908:9, 7000:10,
7058:17, 7062:16
fines [1]-7069:22
finished [1] - 6854:16
finishing [2] - 6980:6,
7039:20
Fire [1] - 6835:24
fire [1] - 6856:10
firm [3] - 6741:2, 7083:4, 7083:9
first [40]-6739:15, 6739:25, 6742:6, 6742:15, 6747:4, 6779:10, 6782:17, 6799:7, 6799:11, 6817:7, 6821:18, 6829:10, 6831:19, 6842:19, 6847:22,
6848:10, 6857:7, 6859:17, 6863:10, 6864:1, 6865:24, 6869:3, 6869:18, 6877:17, 6893:7, 6894:20, 6902:17, 6907:23, 6909:11,
6964:12, 6978:15, 6998:2, 7004:23, 7005:10,
7008:16, 7025:9, 7043:7, 7047:1, 7050:21, 7074:23
First [150] - 6733:17,
6733:23, 6739:9, 6739:10,
6739:16, 6742:13,
6764:25, 6765:1, 6765:13,
6766:4, 6768:1, 6769:5,
6774:2, 6779:6, 6779:16,
6779:20, 6781:23,
6784:22, 6797:3, 6797:6,
6810:19, 6813:20,
6814:23, 6815:5, 6818:3,
6818:14, 6818:16,
6819:22, 6819:24, 6820:2,
6820:5, 6820:13, 6820:20,
6822:9, 6825:4, 6834:9,
6839:24, 6841:6, 6841:19,
6849:16, 6849:23, 6850:7,
6850:9, 6850:18, 6850:23,
6852:3, 6852:5, 6853:9,
6855:25, 6860:20,
6861:19, 6862:11,
6862:16, 6862:21,

6862:22, 6863:11,
6864:13, 6865:1, 6870:10, 6870:22, 6871:3, 6871:9, 6875:23, 6881:1, 6884:23, 6890:3, 6892:7, 6893:10, 6893:12, 6901:1, 6901:14, 6902:5, 6902:19, 6902:21, 6903:6, 6903:9, 6904:12, 6909:7, 6910:2, 6928:24,
6933:9, 6936:16, 6939:20, 6943:21, 6949:11,
6949:19, 6953:1, 6954:10, 6956:13, 6956:19, 6957:5, 6957:9, 6963:3, 6965:14,
6965:17, 6969:18,
6971:14, 6971:16,
6972:10, 6978:23,
6978:25, 6979:16,
6979:24, 6980:15,
6981:13, 6981:19,
6987:19, 6988:4, 6988:19,
6988:22, 6989:15, 6990:9,
6994:22, 6995:2, 6995:8,
6995:20, 6995:21,
6996:16, 6998:17,
6999:22, 7000:14,
7000:16, 7001:12,
7002:22, 7003:6, 7010:21, 7012:4, 7013:8, 7013:13,
7013:25, 7015:14,
7026:25, 7027:14,
7027:17, 7029:15,
7031:14, 7031:17, 7034:2,
7042:10, 7042:14,
7048:18, 7054:20,
7055:21, 7063:7, 7079:16, 7079:18, 7080:11,
7083:12, 7085:18, 7085:20
FIRST [10] - 6736:15, 6737:4,
6737:10, 6737:12, 6738:6, 6928:25, 6981:25,
6998:11, 7001:14, 7027:1
first-hand [1] - 6747:4
firstly [1] - 6863:2
fiscal [1] - 6880:20
fish [112] - 6745:7, 6745:8,
6745:13, 6748:18,
6749:23, 6750:14,
6755:22, 6759:2, 6759:4,
6759:8, 6759:10, 6759:15, 6759:17, 6759:18, 6760:4, 6761:17, 6762:3, 6766:20, 6769:11, 6769:12,
6769:15, 6769:25,
6774:10, 6775:20,
6776:21, 6777:4, 6777:9,
6780:1, 6780:3, 6780:4,
6780:5, 6780:17, 6780:18, 6781:7, 6788:6, 6788:7,
6788:14, 6788:16,
6788:17, 6788:25, 6789:1,
6795:12, 6795:20, 6798:1,

6801:4, 6801:16, 6801:17, 6801:18, 6801:23, 6802:2, 6807:13, 6807:17,
6808:12, 6811:24,
6812:23, 6813:2, 6813:5,
6945:14, 6951:20, 6952:2, 6952:17, 6953:17,
6953:18, 6955:18,
6955:21, 6955:22,
6955:23, 6955:25, 6956:2, 6956:4, 6956:12, 6956:18, 6956:20, 6956:22, 6957:1, 6957:18, 6957:22, 6958:7, 6960:14, 6961:4, 6962:4, 6962:9, 6965:9, 6965:10, 6966:8, 6968:13, 6977:18, 6977:19, 6985:16, 6989:2, 6989:4, 6989:9, 7014:25,
7019:7, 7022:14, 7022:24, 7033:15, 7033:23, 7040:7, 7044:12, 7052:15, 7055:9, 7060:16, 7066:25,
7070:17, 7074:1, 7075:1, 7075:12
Fish [137]-6741:24, 6742:1, 6744:18, 6745:10,
6747:17, 6748:12,
6748:16, 6748:18, 6749:8, 6749:14, 6752:22, 6758:15, 6767:6, 6775:8, 6777:7, 6778:13, 6778:19, 6779:1, 6780:15, 6781:20, 6781:22, 6789:1, 6789:2, 6789:14, 6798:7, 6800:22, 6801:10, 6802:15,
6802:19, 6802:22,
6803:20, 6803:25, 6804:4, 6804:25, 6808:5, 6837:23, 6839:5, 6941:8, 6941:9, 6941:10, 6941:21,
6941:22, 6941:23,
6942:12, 6942:14,
6943:20, 6944:7, 6944:10, 6944:12, 6944:13, 6945:3, 6945:4, 6945:16, 6947:3,
6947:9, 6947:11, 6947:12, 6947:13, 6947:17,
6947:21, 6948:3, 6948:10, 6948:11, 6948:13,
6948:17, 6948:23, 6949:4, 6949:6, 6949:7, 6949:9,
6949:13, 6949:15,
6949:17, 6949:18,
6949:22, 6950:2, 6950:13, 6950:14, 6950:20, 6951:1, 6951:21, 6951:23, 6952:2, 6952:9, 6952:10, 6952:13, 6953:14, 6954:21, 6954:23, 6955:1, 6955:7, 6955:11, 6955:16,
6955:20, 6956:9, 6956:23, 6957:2, 6957:20, 6961:1,

6961:23, 6962:4, 6962:7, 6963:12, 6963:13, 6965:4, 6968:13, 6968:22, 6975:5, 6976:11, 6976:13,
6976:18, 6979:17, 7030:5, 7030:12, 7040:4, 7048:19, 7059:9, 7060:12, 7060:23, 7063:2, 7067:2, 7067:4, 7067:23, 7069:15, 7070:13, 7071:14,
7073:22, 7075:11,
7075:13, 7075:18,
7075:24, 7080:13
fish-bearing [2]-6807:13, 6807:17
fished [1] - 7032:13
fisheries [8] - 6886:7, 6971:11, 6987:15, 7034:4, 7069:5, 7069:9, 7074:2, 7074:7
Fisheries [16] - 6795:13, 6818:12, 6818:13, 6860:17, 6909:23, 6928:20, 6953:12, 6975:3, 6975:8, 6977:9, 6977:17, 6977:20, 6978:4, 7059:4, 7069:19, 7073:7
fishermen [2]-6748:17, 6838:1
fishers [3] - 6950:17,
6952:14, 6962:5
fishery [25] - 6756:21,
6787:7, 6787:10, 6788:15, 6788:17, 6788:19, 6795:8, 6795:11, 6795:14,
6795:15, 6795:16, 6796:1, 6796:13, 6796:15,
6818:17, 6952:3, 6952:4, 6953:9, 6955:20, 6956:11, 6957:19, 6962:2, 6974:20, 6974:24, 7047:9
Fishery" [1]-6818:14
fishes [4]-6744:21,
6745:10, 6745:17, 6755:5
Fishing [1] - 6935:19
fishing [54] - 6745:4,
6748:13, 6755:4, 6755:9, 6755:13, 6755:25,
6758:23, 6761:10,
6788:16, 6800:20,
6801:15, 6802:7, 6826:16, 6839:3, 6839:6, 6839:19, 6848:10, 6848:19, 6849:9, 6946:17, 6948:9, 6948:14, 6948:20, 6948:24, 6950:4, 6950:7, 6950:14, 6950:15, 6951:3, 6951:21, 6953:22, 6955:15, 6956:5, 6956:9, 6956:17, 6957:9, 6960:14, 6960:25, 6961:2, 6961:13, 6964:24, 6968:12, 6970:11, 6975:4, 6975:6,

6981:14, 6995:13,
7014:17, 7017:20,
7018:11, 7022:22,
7032:10, 7033:16, 7034:11
fit [3] - 6764:20, 6797:16,
7045:18
fitted [1] - 6897:2
five [21]-6793:14, 6827:18,
6829:16, 6835:6, 6871:12,
6911:7, 6950:7, 6950:8,
6950:20, 7054:17, 7062:5,
7084:1, 7084:2, 7084:3,
7084:5, 7084:13, 7084:21,
7085:25
fixed [1] - 6880:6
flaw [1] - 6885:20
flexibility [2] - 6739:22, 6910:25
flight ${ }_{[1]}$ - 6944:8
flood [1] - 6976:12
flooded [2] - 6771:25, 6773:7
flow [15] - 6877:13, 6880:2, 6939:12, 6947:25, 6975:12, 6975:22, 6976:6, 6976:8, 6976:13, 6976:14, 6976:19, 7059:18, 7060:23, 7061:1, 7074:11
flows [6] - 6947:15, 6947:17, 6948:4, 6948:7, 7059:9, 7071:18
fluctuate [3] - 6876:21, 6939:1, 6958:10
fluctuation [1] - 6958:12
fluctuations [2]-6794:15, 6876:5
flush [1] - 6882:21
flyer [2] - 6786:21, 6811:16
focus [10] - 6743:10, 6824:9,
6850:18, 6900:22,
6946:10, 7012:12,
7028:23, 7073:21,
7081:13, 7082:14
focused [6]-6755:16,
6800:22, 6864:13,
6864:22, 6936:15, 6947:19
focuses [1] - 6821:10
focusing [2] - 6739:14, 6992:6
focussed [1] - 6888:1
follow [16] - 6818:25,
6855:17, 6855:25,
6856:17, 6857:15,
6857:22, 6858:10,
6934:23, 6935:22, 6943:6,
6962:23, 6963:7, 6971:20,
7070:19, 7079:13, 7085:9
follow-up [8]-6818:25,
6855:17, 6856:17,
6857:15, 6934:23,
6935:22, 6962:23, 6963:7
followed [2] - 6875:3,

6932:18
following [11] - 6826:5,
6855:17, 6874:4, 6879:22, 6934:19, 6935:17, 7015:8, 7037:5, 7059:13, 7085:4, 7085:8
follows [3] - 6960:23,
7029:2, 7032:5
food [46] - 6745:8, 6750:1,
6751:14, 6755:4, 6755:25, 6759:4, 6765:22, 6765:23, 6768:20, 6769:5, 6770:2, 6770:3, 6770:7, 6776:2,
6777:10, 6778:8, 6779:12, 6782:22, 6783:2, 6784:2,
6786:5, 6786:10, 6786:15, 6787:5, 6787:8, 6791:8,
6794:2, 6795:24, 6796:3,
6801:13, 6802:7, 6811:11,
6813:5, 6887:18, 6970:13,
7007:13, 7018:18, 7019:5,
7019:7, 7022:14, 7022:19,
7032:2, 7034:6, 7042:8,
7043:12
Food [1] - 6794:5
foods [13] - 6758:14,
6765:25, 6779:7, 6779:14, 6783:10, 6786:9, 6786:11, 6786:12, 6811:17,
6890:10, 7034:3, 7034:14
footprint $[16]-6769: 17$,
6771:13, 6790:3, 6790:6,
6837:8, 6871:9, 6871:10,
6895:24, 6896:5, 6899:13, 6899:16, 6899:20,
6938:17, 6939:9, 6941:4, 6941:14
forage ${ }_{[2]}$ - 6790:21, 6790:23
force [11] - 6893:5, 7017:11,
7017:13, 7017:15,
7017:17, 7018:1, 7018:4,
7018:9, 7082:15, 7082:18, 7082:20
forced [2] - 7035:8, 7045:10
forces [2] - 6904:8, 6904:14
Forces [3] - 7030:19,
7036:17, 7037:4
forecast ${ }_{[1]}$ - 6834:1
foreign $[1]$ - 7038:18
Forest ${ }_{[1]}$ - 6838:24
forest $[17]-6829: 15$,
6829:19, 6831:14,
6838:14, 6839:1, 6839:2,
6991:7, 6991:11, 6991:20,
6991:21, 6992:4, 6992:6,
6992:13, 6993:4, 6995:12,
7046:14, 7046:16
forest-dependent [1] 6829:19
Forestry [2]-6763:17, 6770:24
forestry [13] - 6768:25,


6870:11, 6871:9, 6872:22, 6875:12, 6877:16,
6877:21, 6877:24, 6878:4, 6878:6, 6879:3, 6882:20, 6884:8, 6884:11, 6889:6, 6893:8, 6893:13, 6993:8, 6993:11, 7003:12, 7021:2, 7062:24, 7082:19
gift [1] - 7044:8
gigawatt [1] - 6930:1
Gill [1] - 6734:24
GIS [1] - 6828:19
Gitxan [1] - 6912:5
given [24] - 6753:24,
6770:15, 6785:19,
6787:21, 6788:12, 6792:4,
6793:7, 6798:5, 6808:14,
6851:18, 6851:20, 6855:5,
6862:17, 6866:6, 6867:2,
6919:25, 6926:3, 6931:12,
6940:15, 6960:7, 6974:7,
6992:25, 7034:1, 7067:18
Given [8] - 6769:20, 6791:15,
6865:5, 6866:4, 6904:21,
6925:18, 6986:5, 7033:24
glaring [1] - 6885:20
Global [1] - 7025:16
global [3]-7036:12, 7038:4, 7039:7
gloves [1] - 7022:8
GNP [1] - 6886:14
goal [1] - 6783:5
goals [2] - 6973:16, 7056:4
GOLD [1] - 6730:2
Gold [5] - 6763:1, 6937:3,
6937:19, 6941:3, 6963:21
gold [13] - 6797:22, 6798:2,
6798:3, 6798:4, 6871:15,
6871:19, 6871:21,
6871:24, 6872:15,
6872:18, 6872:23,
6874:23, 6875:17
Gold-Copper [4] - 6937:3,
6937:19, 6941:3, 6963:21
GOLD-COPPER [1] - 6730:2
Gottfriedson [1] - 6819:5
Government [44] - 6733:9, 6733:22, 6813:3, 6813:4, 6815:24, 6823:23, 6823:24, 6850:3, 6853:22, 6854:19, 6854:21, 6858:9, 6861:6, 6861:10, 6863:16, 6882:11, 6909:9, 6912:9, 6914:22, 6927:4, 6969:18, 6983:11, 6994:5, 6997:10, 6997:12, 6998:8, 7008:25, 7024:3, 7030:20, 7043:20, 7044:20, 7046:23,
7046:25, 7048:15,
7063:19, 7064:5, 7067:14,
7067:16, 7067:24, 7068:3,

7069:4, 7069:8, 7082:1
GOVERNMENT [15] -
6731:15, 6735:5, 6735:9, 6735:10, 6735:12,
6735:20, 6736:24, 6737:2, 6740:20, 6740:23,
6799:13, 6817:8, 6855:8, 6969:23, 6978:13
government [36] - 6760:24,
6762:2, 6762:23, 6763:20,
6764:1, 6793:24, 6794:8,
6811:7, 6816:15, 6823:22,
6823:23, 6825:24,
6830:25, 6832:12,
6832:17, 6843:21,
6843:24, 6880:24,
6883:21, 6887:9, 6925:23,
6926:13, 6931:14,
6931:17, 6992:23, 6993:2,
7025:14, 7025:20,
7025:21, 7025:24,
7045:24, 7047:7, 7067:11, 7076:2
Government's [1] - 6813:24
government's [2] - 6761:7, 7036:6
Governments [4] - 6883:2, 6884:25, 7029:25, 7044:15
governments [9]-6884:24,
6895:9, 6915:3, 7025:18,
7035:7, 7054:16, 7067:13,
7068:6, 7080:2
governor [1] - 6943:1
Governor [2] - 6943:11, 6971:3
grade [8] - 6869:24, 6870:2, 6870:3, 6871:14, 6873:3, 6896:4, 6941:21, 7061:25
grades [1] - 6872:15
Grades [1] - 6767:4
grams [4] - 6871:15,
6871:20, 6949:23, 6955:12
Grand [1] - 6739:7
grandchildren [5] - 6748:12,
6754:16, 6904:6, 7008:3
grandparents [2] - 6747:5, 6747:6
granted [6] - 6919:23,
6984:11, 6985:2, 6986:25, 7034:11, 7083:9
Granted [1] - 6879:18
grants [1] - 6881:18
grapes [1] - 6786:18
graph [1] - 6879:13
grasping [1] - 6974:12
grass [1] - 6776:2
grave [2] - 6751:20, 6792:3
gravel [1] - 7071:19
gravelled [1] - 6950:21
graves [3]-6751:24, 6752:1, 6792:5
graze [3] - 6771:8, 6771:15, 6839:24
grazing [17] - 6746:20,
6746:23, 6760:7, 6761:2,
6770:19, 6770:20,
6770:22, 6771:3, 6771:5, 6771:7, 6771:11, 6771:13, 6771:20, 6777:21,
6777:23, 6790:17, 6790:23
great [15] - 6747:6, 6749:1,
6812:20, 6815:9, 6820:4,
6831:12, 6868:25,
6883:24, 6890:24,
6901:15, 6904:6, 6906:5,
6978:7, 7064:11, 7073:24
great-grandchildren [1] 6904:6
great-grandparents [1] 6747:6
greater [6] - 6742:3, 6746:14, 6747:24, 6919:7, 6995:5, 7082:13
Greater [8] - 6754:5, 6754:6, 6756:15, 6775:24, 6793:5, 6793:18, 6805:2, 6912:9
greatly [2] - 6760:10,
7081:10
green [2] - 6771:9, 6771:13
greenhouse [1] - 6919:13
grew [1] - 6877:9
Grinder [1] - 6769:24
grinding [1] - 6876:18
grizzlies [3] - 7077:13,
7077:16, 7077:22
grizzly [2] - 7077:9, 7078:3
groceries [1] - 6994:19
Gross [4] - 6869:8, 6885:8, 6885:11, 6886:14
gross [2] - 6883:12, 6924:20
ground [7] - 6753:17,
6761:4, 6769:9, 6782:17,
6845:4, 6953:17, 7078:16
ground-based [1] - 6845:4
grounded [1] - 6789:6
grounds [1] - 6792:22
groundwater [1] - 6972:14
group [7] - 6950:6, 6950:24, 6957:12, 6991:5, 6996:25, 7057:4, 7079:7
groups [6] - 6887:21,
6889:12, 6909:18,
6939:19, 6955:24, 7032:8
grouse [1] - 6754:20
grow [1] - 6748:16
growing [6] - 6796:6, 6797:4,
6846:20, 6929:24,
7038:23, 7039:7
grown [1] - 6765:25
growth [3] - 6838:20,
6838:21, 6846:23
GST [1] - 6880:16
guarantee [1] - 6995:8 guaranteed [2] - 6748:18, 7035:16
guarantees [1] - 7029:15
guess [24] - 6798:20, 6807:8, 6816:17, 6819:11, 6820:3,
6851:23, 6852:4, 6853:13,
6857:25, 6858:2, 6860:23,
6928:11, 6970:8, 6970:15,
6971:20, 6988:25,
7004:22, 7006:21,
7009:20, 7027:20,
7041:11, 7051:2, 7052:23,
7058:5
Guichon [2] - 6750:25, 6773:24
guidance [3] - 6752:10, 6813:2, 6864:20
guide [3] - 6840:10, 6840:12, 7079:11
guided [3] - 6938:24, 6941:17, 7078:15
guidelines [4] - 6791:10, 6832:14, 6923:1, 6936:17
Guidelines [9] - 6750:16,
6824:7, 6825:2, 6835:25,
6843:2, 6843:6, 6845:22,
6847:16, 6936:14
guides [1] - 6940:25
guys [1] - 6742:23
Gwet'in [20] - 6733:23,
6742:8, 6746:5, 6748:20, 6757:6, 6757:25, 6759:22, 6760:2, 6760:7, 6764:25,
6765:12, 6768:20, 6770:20, 6771:1, 6778:2, 6782:9, 6782:12, 6789:17, 6791:3, 6819:9
GWET'IN [4] - 6737:4, 6737:10, 6981:25, 6998:11
Gwet'in's [1] - 6764:21
gym [1] - 7051:20
habitat [17] - 6744:24, 6776:20, 6945:14, 6951:21, 6965:10, 6966:8, 6977:19, 6989:2, 6989:4, 7060:16, 7066:25, 7071:16, 7073:11, 7075:13, 7075:15, 7075:19, 7076:23
Habitat [1] - 6953:14
habitats [3]-7074:10,
7074:16, 7074:19
Haiti [1] - 7034:22
half [13] - 6793:13, 6812:11, 6812:12, 6824:4, 6832:17, 6854:5, 6868:10, 6877:15, 6877:20, 6883:4, 6905:5, 6931:7, 7034:18
Haller [10] - 6744:20,
6749:25, 6751:4, 6752:11,

6752:14, 6754:21, 6756:1,
6758:3, 6777:2, 6792:18
Hance [4] - 6744:18,
6751:19, 6754:13, 6775:6
Hanceville [1] - 7016:11
hand [10] - 6742:6, 6742:15, 6747:4, 6853:9, 6859:5, 6883:22, 6917:12, 7007:22, 7036:5
hand-in-hand [1] - 7007:22
handle [5] - 6802:9, 6866:22, 6891:25, 6982:24, 6990:18
handled [2] - 6984:15, 6997:10
handling ${ }_{[1]}$ - 6835:9
hands [1] - 7036:2
hanging [2] - 6763:12, 6763:14
happy [2] - 6921:8, 6999:18
harassment [1] - 6761:18
hard [11]-6806:12, 6870:8,
6882:2, 6888:21, 6888:22,
6889:1, 6944:3, 7006:25,
7037:1, 7047:3, 7063:9
hard-hulled [1] - 6944:3
hard-pressed [2] - 6806:12, 7037:1
harder [1] - 6871:18
hardy [1] - 7073:23
harming [1] - 6778:24
harms [1] - 7044:22
harsh [1] - 7031:25
HART [15] - 6736:13, 6737:23, 6860:4, 6902:7, 6927:7, 6927:11, 6927:12, 6927:25, 6983:14, 7001:4, 7009:2, 7009:4, 7009:5, 7009:23, 7024:5
Hart [3] - 6733:16, 6927:9, 7009:5
Hartman [6] - 7044:23, 7067:25, 7070:24, 7071:1, 7073:7
Harvard [2] - 7015:12, 7026:6
harvest $[7]$ - 6745:23,
6754:20, 6756:23, 6756:25, 6786:4, 6809:17, 6974:20
Harvest [1] - 6801:18
harvested [3] - 6765:25, 6801:23, 6838:16
harvesting [13] - 6745:4, 6758:14, 6758:18, 6769:6, 6775:4, 6779:7, 6779:20, 6781:15, 6786:6, 6786:17, 6801:22, 6809:11, 6813:5
harvests [1] - 6801:17
hat $[1]$ - 6897:17
hatcheries [1] - 7073:15
hatchery [4] - 6934:2,

7067:15, 7071:17, 7073:15
hauling [1] - 7062:15
Hawaii [1] - 6754:23
head [3]-6771:15, 6947:22, 6978:17
heading [1] - 6966:4
headlights [1] - 6741:7
headwaters [2] - 7052:14, 7055:8
healers [1] - 6753:2
healing $[7]-6753: 3$,
6764:10, 6767:21, 6768:5,
6774:21, 6949:14, 7051:12
health [56]-6760:11,
6762:16, 6762:19,
6765:15, 6765:20, 6768:5,
6781:15, 6782:8, 6782:11,
6782:16, 6782:20,
6782:21, 6782:23, 6783:9,
6783:16, 6783:25, 6784:1,
6784:9, 6784:14, 6784:15,
6785:2, 6785:9, 6825:8,
6825:12, 6826:5, 6826:9,
6826:10, 6826:11,
6841:23, 6841:25, 6842:1, 6845:6, 6845:25, 6884:16, 6889:16, 6889:17,
6889:25, 6892:5, 6892:13, 6892:20, 6905:3, 6954:17, 6956:23, 6970:13,
6992:16, 6995:20,
6995:22, 6995:25,
7007:14, 7020:19,
7035:10, 7047:8, 7051:12, 7051:25
Health [21] - 6766:4, 6779:9, 6783:23, 6784:5, 6784:15, 6784:18, 6784:24, 6785:1, 6785:5, 6785:18, 6794:1, 6889:15, 6889:24,
6892:12, 6892:16, 6905:2, 6956:24, 6957:8, 6957:13, 7064:23
healthier [2]-6756:8,
6765:13
Healthy [1]-6905:2
healthy [13]-6759:14,
6783:10, 6785:2, 6869:22, 6887:10, 6904:23,
6905:10, 6905:12, 6906:7, 6952:16, 7048:10,
7066:14, 7082:7
hear [15] - 6742:15, 6788:13, 6799:7, 6865:23, 6913:12, 6914:5, 7011:8, 7011:12,
7027:25, 7049:9, 7051:22,
7056:16, 7057:24, 7058:6,
7071:6
heard [100] - 6742:5,
6742:11, 6742:20,
6743:24, 6744:11,
6746:21, 6751:11,

6751:17, 6752:8, 6756:20, 6757:5, 6758:15, 6760:19, 6761:23, 6763:6, 6763:9,
6763:12, 6763:15,
6763:19, 6763:23, 6764:2, 6764:6, 6764:11, 6764:12, 6764:17, 6764:24, 6766:7, 6766:11, 6766:25, 6768:23, 6772:21, 6775:1, 6787:7, 6798:21, 6799:1, 6819:3, 6834:20, 6852:23, 6854:19, 6865:10,
6884:20, 6901:25,
6913:15, 6913:21,
6918:15, 6921:25, 6924:1,
6928:11, 6956:13,
6957:21, 6963:19, 6974:1, 6975:12, 6976:25, 6978:3, 6979:6, 6981:11, 6986:19, 6988:11, 6988:12,
6988:19, 6995:13,
6996:11, 6997:5, 6998:21, 7001:17, 7003:11,
7006:17, 7014:1, 7023:13, 7023:14, 7044:23,
7049:24, 7050:20, 7051:9, 7052:6, 7055:19, 7057:21, 7062:22, 7063:14,
7064:11, 7065:13,
7065:14, 7065:24,
7068:16, 7070:24, 7072:4, 7072:12, 7073:6, 7076:17, 7076:22, 7078:4, 7078:21, 7078:25, 7081:16, 7081:19, 7081:23,
7084:10, 7084:13
hearing [30] - 6739:3,
6742:13, 6743:11, 6744:4, 6783:24, 6784:6, 6784:13, 6787:20, 6797:12, 6799:3, 6799:4, 6800:1, 6822:23, 6822:25, 6862:12, 6865:6, 6883:9, 6921:6, 6922:10,
6925:20, 6988:4, 7004:15, 7028:24, 7045:22,
7052:17, 7075:1, 7084:14, 7084:20, 7085:21
HEARING [2]-6730:6,
6730:13
hearings [37]-6739:11,
6739:20, 6741:12, 6742:8,
6742:10, 6742:11,
6743:15, 6743:16,
6750:10, 6755:14,
6757:20, 6761:23,
6762:22, 6766:8, 6775:2,
6779:10, 6787:1, 6798:22,
6810:8, 6813:14, 6836:19,
6851:15, 6851:19,
6855:12, 6900:10, 6926:1,
6934:13, 6949:11,
6963:19, 6982:7, 6988:11,

6998:20, 7004:22, 7051:6, 7067:8, 7083:21, 7085:18
heart [3] - 6765:15, 6822:6, 6988:13
heartbeat ${ }_{[1]}$ - 6753:17
hearts [1] - 7048:16
heavily [6] - 6779:17,
6829:14, 6857:11,
6993:16, 7018:10, 7038:18
hectare [1] - 6905:9
hectares [2]-6951:24
height ${ }_{[2]}$ - 6947:7, 6959:16
heightened [1] - 6888:23
held [2] - 6792:21, 6933:19
Held [1] - 6730:21
hello [1]-6999:19
help [17]-6751:5, 6764:10, 6792:22, 6851:9, 6852:17, 6864:20, 6864:22, 6888:7, 6890:10, 6964:19, 6988:17, 6989:2, 7016:12, 7021:15, 7077:21,
7077:22, 7078:2
helpful [2] - 6971:19, 7068:6
helping [3] - 6887:22,
6990:14
helps [1] - 6741:8
Hence [1] - 6951:14
hereby [1] - 7087:5
herein [1] - 7087:8
hereunto [1] - 7087:13
heritage [12]-6744:9,
6771:22, 6774:20,
6836:17, 6865:4, 6865:9,
6866:5, 6887:19, 6931:15,
6978:25, 7012:16, 7020:8
herself [1]-6752:6
hide [1] - 7022:12
hiding [1] - 7065:12
high [15] - 6757:1, 6765:21, 6832:23, 6872:4, 6888:1, 6897:3, 6950:2, 6954:6, 6981:12, 7019:20,
7031:20, 7042:3, 7051:22, 7074:20, 7078:20
high-wage [1] - 6888:1
higher $[7]$ - $6746: 13$, 6861:25, 6875:14, 6911:15, 6960:5, 7015:16, 7066:7
highest $[4]$ - 6996:14, 7076:1, 7076:3, 7076:5
Highland [1] - 7062:23
highlight $[1]$ - 6917:15
highlighted ${ }_{[1]}$ - 7017:25
highlights [1] - 6796:24
highly [10] - 6757:24,
6802:16, 6888:20, 6911:13, 6915:25, 6948:24, 6977:11, 7019:24, 7020:5
highwater [1] - 6945:1
Highway [5] - 6835:11, 6835:12, 6867:10, 6867:11, 7056:14 highway [3] - 6835:13, 7039:1, 7056:15
Highways [1] - 6867:9
Hill [1] - 6771:19
himself [1] - 6819:2
hindered [1] - 7022:16
Hink [1] - 6777:6
hire [6] - 6841:2, 6841:8,
6850:23, 6916:19,
7050:22, 7083:7
hired [2] - 6914:15, 6914:18
Hiring [1] - 6840:24
hiring [4] - 6841:22, 6891:19,
6993:11
Historian [1] - 7032:3
historic [9] - 6747:9,
6757:22, 6760:20,
6773:18, 6792:17, 6795:3,
6820:19, 6917:25, 6936:11
historical [4] - 6827:12,
6827:13, 6827:14, 7031:7
historically [3] - 6803:6,
6803:8, 6939:23
history [12] - 6749:7, 6749:13, 6751:8, 6788:11, 6793:1, 6810:5, 6814:4, 6818:21, 6856:12, 6870:10, 7006:12, 7083:1
hit [1] - 7006:25
hockey [1] - 6835:22
Hodgson [1] - 6730:23
Hold [1] - 6907:22
hold [6] - 6770:20, 6808:22,
6856:10, 6897:13,
6920:11, 7082:11
holders [2] - 6839:21, 6839:22
holding [4] - 6739:11, 6739:20, 6780:15, 7085:17
holds [1] - 6977:14
holes [2] - 6751:15, 6769:9
home [3] - 6905:24, 7022:20, 7045:3
homegrown [1] - 6783:10
homeland [6] - 6747:13,
6747:19, 6748:2, 6804:14, 6804:18, 6805:7
homeland" [1] - 6747:15
honestly [1] - 7051:4
hooked [1] - 6895:25
hope [9] - 6773:23, 6832:24, 6869:17, 6901:7, 6901:11, 7011:11, 7029:1, 7029:2, 7031:17
hopefully [4] - 6741:8, 6811:13, 6864:16, 7008:21 horrific [1] - 7034:22
horse ${ }_{[1]}-6887: 16 \quad 6755: 1$
hospital [1] - 7034:19
hotel [1]-6769:9
hour [12] - 6793:13, 6824:4,
6854:5, 6876:13, 6884:4,
6884:5, 6918:11, 6918:12,
6918:13, 6919:3, 6955:22
hours [1] - 6930:1
House [1] - 7017:2
house [1] - 6968:12
household [1] - 7022:4
households [1] - 6920:3
houses [2] - 6768:4, 6999:13
housing [7] - 6826:6,
6833:21, 6834:1, 6884:17,
6891:13, 6891:15, 7047:8
hub [3] - 6746:24, 6747:11, 6767:24
Huckleberry [1] - 7062:23
Hudson's [1] - 7033:18
huge [8]-6757:3, 6884:23,
6885:2, 6885:10, 6902:4,
6907:17, 6982:9, 7038:12
hugely [1] - 6796:13
Hughson [9] - 6746:5,
6748:20, 6757:6, 6759:21, 6764:19, 6764:24, 6778:2, 6782:9, 6797:14
Hughson's [1] - 6787:14
hulled [1] - 6944:3
human [8] - 6792:3, 6811:4,
6824:10, 6826:10,
6956:23, 7018:3, 7068:15,
7077:11
human-related [1] - 7077:11
humans [2] - 6780:3,
6811:10
hundred [2] - 6835:6,
6836:13
hundreds [2] - 6792:12, 6931:4
hunt [10] - 6744:18, 6745:13,
6754:15, 6754:20,
6761:17, 6762:3, 7022:11,
7044:9, 7044:13, 7045:5
hunted [3] - 7018:17,
7018:18, 7052:10
hunters [1] - 6782:6
hunting [27] - 6745:4,
6754:10, 6754:13,
6754:17, 6755:9, 6761:10,
6770:11, 6770:12,
6775:13, 6775:24,
6826:16, 6839:3, 6839:19,
6840:11, 6995:14,
7014:16, 7017:19,
7018:11, 7018:14, 7019:5,
7022:22, 7030:12, 7032:9,
7032:16, 7032:21, 7033:6, 7034:11
hunts [3]-6744:17, 6744:21,

6755:1
Hydro [8] - 6844:3, 6876:14, 6884:2, 6884:9, 6917:23,
6918:5, 6918:12, 6929:24
hydro [3] - 6787:11, 6883:23, 6931:15
Hydro's [2] - 6918:24, 6930:10
hydroelectric [3] - 6780:1, 6810:20, 6918:1
Hydroelectric [1] - 6922:17
hydrograph [1] - 6976:13
IBA [4] - 6901:3, 6901:25, 6902:12, 6902:14
IBAs [3] - 6902:24, 7078:22, 7078:23
Ice [1] - 6777:10
ice [2] - 6954:21, 7033:14
iceberg [1] - 6742:12
idea [6] - 6826:18, 6923:8, 6979:12, 6988:23, 7038:4, 7067:24
ideal [2] - 6768:2, 6989:14
ideas [2] - 6947:1, 6967:22
identification [1] - 6889:11
identified [17] - 6789:25,
6825:20, 6838:19, 6936:3, 6936:7, 6938:11, 6946:15, 6951:8, 6953:3, 6956:10,
6958:9, 6961:15, 6972:5,
7054:6, 7067:3, 7067:6,
7068:19
identifies [1] - 6974:7
identify [5] - 6802:6,
6824:17, 6854:23,
6978:23, 7006:24
identifying [1] - 7055:2
identity [4] - 6748:5, 6774:3,
6785:12, 6789:7
ignored [1] - 6889:19
ignores [1] - 7068:5
ill [1] - 6756:2
illegal [3] - 6907:1, 6907:5, 7079:2
illnesses [1] - 7034:20
illustrate [4] - 6756:24, 6814:11, 6852:23, 7003:17
illustrates [1] - 7042:23
illustration [1] - 6811:16
illustrative [1] - 6786:13
Imagine [1] - 7035:7
imagine [3] - 6806:12, 6808:13, 6853:22
immediate [1] - 7077:19
immediately [1] - 6819:8
immigrants [1] - 6904:16
immobile [1] - 7045:2
impact [52] - 6771:21,
6778:19, 6782:11, 6783:1, 6787:12, 6795:5, 6796:5, 6809:15, 6820:14,

6820:15, 6823:21,
6824:16, 6830:4, 6842:15, 6842:17, 6842:23,
6843:13, 6843:24, 6846:9, 6846:16, 6848:18,
6849:11, 6864:25,
6877:10, 6901:20,
6913:22, 6913:24, 6914:3,
6914:9, 6923:16, 6924:17,
6924:20, 6925:16, 6936:8, 6937:14, 6941:15,
6941:16, 6947:16, 6980:4,
7006:13, 7012:10,
7012:12, 7013:16, 7014:7, 7014:20, 7015:2, 7022:12, 7023:1, 7023:19, 7053:5, 7070:1
Impact [12] - 6816:8, 6861:7, 6861:18, 6871:8, 6875:24, 6881:11, 6924:14, 6936:1, 6943:8, 6946:25, 6947:3, 7083:6
impacted [4] - 6761:25,
6762:15, 6787:10, 6942:13 impacts [94] - 6741:18,
6760:16, 6760:20, 6769:4, 6774:25, 6782:8, 6782:16, 6782:18, 6782:20,
6782:21, 6782:24, 6784:1, 6785:2, 6785:10, 6785:11, 6785:21, 6786:2, 6787:24, 6789:25, 6791:12,
6791:13, 6796:19,
6798:14, 6798:17,
6817:13, 6821:4, 6824:14, 6824:25, 6825:14,
6825:17, 6827:19, 6828:9, 6832:19, 6838:3, 6844:20, 6845:25, 6850:16,
6868:15, 6889:12,
6896:19, 6899:11,
6899:14, 6913:15, 6914:6,
6914:13, 6914:20,
6914:22, 6915:16, 6920:6, 6920:16, 6923:12,
6923:22, 6924:21, 6925:6,
6925:9, 6925:10, 6935:15, 6936:19, 6936:21, 6938:7, 6940:24, 6941:18, 6943:4, 6943:15, 6945:4, 6945:6,
6945:11, 6946:6, 6946:16, 6946:21, 6951:9, 6953:11,
6953:22, 6963:25, 6964:9,
6970:14, 6988:18,
6998:16, 6998:21,
6998:23, 6998:25, 6999:5, 6999:6, 7014:25, 7020:18, 7022:24, 7054:6, 7054:8,
7054:13, 7054:21, 7076:14
impending [1] - 6896:12
implement [3] - 6814:15,
6863:13, 6863:14
implementation [3] - 6813:1, 6953:14, 7065:20
implemented [3] - 6841:15, 6963:7, 7065:23
implementing [1] - 6813:24
implications [2] - 6791:19, 6960:17
implied [1] - 7064:25
implies [1] - 6824:15
imploring [1] - 7023:20 imply [2] - 6857:13, 7056:17 importance [12] - 6753:9, 6757:17, 6788:11, 6791:18, 6801:10, 6806:19, 6894:6, 7041:17, 7052:17, 7052:20,
7055:19, 7082:13 important [57] - 6740:3, 6743:5, 6748:10, 6749:2, 6750:3, 6753:12, 6756:22, 6757:4, 6758:16, 6759:6, 6760:8, 6774:4, 6774:12, 6774:18, 6780:14, 6792:19, 6792:22, 6797:21, 6798:2, 6805:23, 6806:1, 6813:17, 6833:18, 6835:19, 6837:10, 6842:16, 6870:4, 6870:12, 6873:7, 6875:13, 6877:15, 6878:7, 6881:11, 6883:6, 6887:1, 6890:16, 6890:18, 6893:5, 6903:3, 6914:4, 6915:15, 6917:13, 6917:16, 6923:13, 6925:3, 6953:6, 6973:24, 6974:7, 6987:3, 7009:25, 7011:2, 7022:7, 7022:10, 7034:5, 7052:18, 7053:15, 7054:1 importantly [4] - 6774:7, 6788:6, 6811:19, 6813:18 importing [1] - 7038:15 impose [1] - 7069:21 impossible [2] - 6772:25, 6806:4
impossibly [1] - 7035:24 impoundment [2] - 6870:15, 6905:9
imprecision [1] - 7066:15 impress [2] - 6743:18, 6792:16
impression [3] - 6846:5, 6920:6, 6928:1
impressive [1] - 7038:16 improve [2] - 6909:10, 7039:24
improved [1] - 7036:20
improvements [1] - 6781:24
improving [1] - 6781:19
IN [1] - 7087:13
in-fill [1] - 6984:24
inability [1] - 6965:24

INAC [1] - 7019:19
INAC's [1] - 7022:1
inappropriate [2] - 6929:8, 7079:2
Inaudible) [1] - 6928:10
Inc [1] - 6734:23
incalculable [1] - 7044:19 incentive [4] - 7069:17,
7069:24, 7071:10, 7075:9
incentives [2] - 6888:1, 6901:3
inception [1] - 6868:9
incidence [2] - 6783:21
include [6] - 6816:1, 6853:3,
6878:20, 6939:9, 6945:6,
6952:15
included [8] - 6750:20,
6762:25, 6847:16,
6875:19, 6880:1, 6899:18,
6938:6, 7078:16
includes [10] - 6803:14,
6803:18, 6804:7, 6830:2,
6878:17, 6937:15,
6938:18, 6943:7, 7071:15, 7077:6
including [17] - 6754:6,
6824:8, 6826:3, 6878:1,
6890:2, 6897:25, 6935:7,
6939:12, 6953:16,
6961:13, 6983:5, 6992:16,
6997:21, 7013:8, 7065:19, 7065:25, 7078:7
income [23] - 6825:23,
6829:21, 6829:23,
6878:23, 6879:1, 6880:4,
6880:12, 6882:12, 6883:1,
6883:3, 6883:19, 6888:24,
6891:7, 6891:14, 6893:24,
6914:10, 6914:17,
6915:11, 6917:8, 6917:10,
6994:6, 6994:17, 7018:2
incomes [2]-6890:25,
6891:17
incorporate [1] - 7067:14
incorporated [1] - 7052:3
increase [23] - 6781:25,
6783:22, 6785:8, 6829:15, 6833:11, 6848:13,
6848:21, 6849:11,
6867:22, 6895:14,
6896:14, 6915:20, 6948:7, 6950:16, 6950:17, 6956:3, 6959:16, 6995:23, 6996:1, 7024:25, 7082:1, 7082:2, 7082:3
increased [14] - 6785:13, 6785:16, 6790:14, 6791:4, 6818:3, 6835:1, 6884:15, 6884:21, 6888:25, 6889:1, 6895:16, 6988:5, 6989:13, 6995:5
increases [4] - 6783:18, 6962:6, 6986:18, 7060:3 increasing [6] - 6791:2, 6848:16, 7007:21, 7023:9, 7039:8, 7077:10
increasingly [4] - 6897:3,
6897:10, 7034:4, 7035:10
incredibly [2] - 6760:8, 6787:8
Incredibly [1] - 7074:9
increment [1] - 6916:8
incremental [16] - 6825:6,
6835:14, 6843:20,
6914:17, 6914:25, 6915:2,
6915:11, 6915:13, 6917:4,
6917:8, 6917:9, 6917:10,
6918:25, 6924:24,
6924:25, 6930:4
incur [2] - 6872:7, 6915:3
incurred [1] - 6825:6
indeed [3] - 6911:12,
6940:20, 7027:24
independent [13]-6806:11, 6873:18, 6873:22, 6874:1, 6874:9, 6874:15, 6911:14,
6912:4, 6915:8, 6916:24,
6927:15, 6954:16, 7066:3
independently [1] - 6925:24
INDEX [1] - 6735:1
index [1] - 6783:18
India [1] - 7039:5
Indian [6] - 6762:7, 7015:12,
7017:3, 7017:7, 7026:7, 7054:8
Indians [1] - 6892:22
indicate [8] - 6803:3,
6840:20, 6863:11,
6866:21, 6898:1, 6913:25, 6944:7, 7076:20
indicated [31] - 6770:9,
6797:11, 6808:4, 6809:21,
6814:1, 6824:17, 6825:1,
6835:8, 6836:1, 6846:19,
6849:6, 6854:17, 6861:8,
6862:21, 6929:5, 6943:25, 6949:11, 6959:10,
6968:18, 6975:17, 6977:8,
6977:24, 7005:13,
7007:10, 7008:10,
7011:10, 7079:16, 7080:9,
7080:24, 7083:25, 7085:14
indicates [5] - 6785:10,
6797:3, 6942:11, 7060:16, 7074:3
indicating [7] - 6839:23, 6871:16, 6929:22,
6930:10, 6967:17, 6988:5, 7060:12
indication [8] - 6828:8,
6828:17, 6829:3, 6861:8,
6863:22, 6914:10, 6948:8,

7009:9
indicator [1] - 6839:9
indicators [3]-6765:14,
6825:1, 6828:4
indices [1] - 6784:25
Indigenous [5] - 6789:5,
7012:16, 7020:8, 7028:4, 7031:8
indirect [4] - 6830:15, 6914:13, 6916:12, 6992:10 indispensable [1] - 7037:10 indistinguishable [1] 7060:11
individual [4] - 6785:12, 6839:21, 6852:25, 7008:1 individualization [1] 6897:5
individually [1] - 6762:14
individuals [9] - 6742:5,
6786:8, 6798:23, 6818:4,
6864:13, 6864:14,
6864:17, 6864:22
induced [1] - 6830:15
indulge [1] - 7043:8
industrial [6] - 6779:17,
6878:18, 6917:22, 6918:7, 6918:10, 7031:15
industries [7] - 6830:1, 6879:6, 6879:9, 6895:17, 6918:8, 6920:3, 6993:2
industry [35] - 6762:23, 6764:1, 6793:24, 6829:15, 6831:14, 6864:15,
6874:11, 6876:20, 6879:4, 6889:5, 6893:21, 6894:12, 6895:20, 6901:2, 6904:9, 6908:4, 6909:14, 6991:7, 6991:8, 6991:11, 6991:21, 6992:6, 6992:13, 6993:4, 6993:6, 6995:12, 6999:7, 7000:8, 7006:25, 7025:19, 7025:20, 7028:4, 7056:6, 7082:17
industry-dependent [1] 7006:25
inequalities [2] - 7017:23, 7020:21
inequality [1] - 6869:12
inequity [1] - 6894:12
inextricably [1] - 6975:7
infected [1] - 6763:8
infection [1] - 6763:7
infer [2] - 6755:21, 6966:8
inflatable [1] - 6944:4
inflatables [1] - 6948:18
inflow [1] - 6959:6
inflows [1] - 6959:1
influence [1] - 6849:9
influenced [2] - 6762:11, 6765:5
influences [1] - 6820:22
influx [1] - 6762:12
inform [3]-6851:4, 6923:22, 7064:22
informal [2]-6890:5, 6890:11
information [48] - 6742:21, 6742:25, 6743:3, 6743:4, 6743:7, 6743:14, 6744:8, 6803:3, 6806:16, 6816:21, 6819:10, 6827:24, 6827:25, 6829:6, 6853:5, 6865:6, 6865:11, 6865:18, 6866:17, 6892:5, 6916:25, 6920:5, 6924:16, 6936:10, 6936:15, 6938:15, 6938:21, 6940:10, 6940:13, 6940:17, 6943:18, 6964:2, 6972:12, 6975:16, 6983:7, 7004:3,
7018:24, 7019:19,
7043:11, 7049:12,
7050:13, 7065:8, 7066:3,
7076:8, 7076:13, 7080:8,
7083:18, 7084:1
informative ${ }_{[1]}$ - 7044:3
informed [5] - 6762:21,
6790:8, 6902:19, 6943:12, 7064:19
Infrastructure [1] - 6835:8 infrastructure $[7]$ - 6772:1, 6772:22, 6834:14, 6894:21, 6895:1, 6895:3, 7035:18
ingesting [1] - 6777:23
inherent [3]-6765:8,
7025:12, 7066:15
inherently [1] - 7045:2 initial [3] - 6919:25, 6938:20, 6953:4
initiating ${ }_{[1]}$ - 6862:16
Initiative [1] - 6905:15
initiatives [4]-6764:7,
6887:2, 6887:17, 6887:24
injections [1] - 7048:8
injustice [1] - 6908:19
innovation [1] - 6841:20
Innu [1] - 6902:1
input $[3]-7007: 3,7027: 13$, 7085:25
inputs [2] - 7065:1, 7065:10 inquiries [1] - 7008:9
inquiry ${ }_{[1]}$ - 6757:14
Insider [1] - 7038:20
insight [2] - 6901:5, 6901:8 insofar [1] - 6965:3 inspection [1] - 6856:17 inspector [1] - 6933:15 installation [1] - 6944:22 installment ${ }_{[1]}$ - 7047:1 instance [9] - 6827:15, 6837:15, 6843:17, 6845:2,

6847:11, 6990:16, 6999:7, 7052:5, 7083:14
instances [2] - 6852:20, 7073:10
instead [5] - 6894:22, 6895:5, 6895:7, 6896:1, 7040:4
Institute [2] - 6879:11, 7035:3
institute [1] - 6817:19
instituted ${ }_{[1]}$ - 6767:11
Instrument [2] - 6873:23,
6873:25
instrument [2] - 6874:5, 6880:20
instruments [1] - 6901:4
insufficient [2] - 6795:22, 6796:9
insulated [1] - 7033:13
insult [1] - 7043:7
intact [5] - 6758:1, 6760:9,
6790:10, 6791:6, 6796:2
intangible [1] - 6771:22
integral [2] - 7070:14, 7071:20
integrity [1] - 6958:21
intend [2] - 6849:7, 7030:7
intended [2] - 6849:2, 6856:9
intending [1] - 6814:10
intense [1]-7084:6
intensive [2]-6931:6,
6931:21
intention [5] - 6813:24,
6852:21, 6968:8, 7068:16, 7070:2
interact [1] - 6838:6
interaction [1] - 6993:9
interconnectedness [1] 6778:22
interconnectiveness [1] 6808:11
interest [10] - 6772:10,
6773:2, 6797:12, 6824:10,
6848:18, 6876:2, 6935:17,
6941:7, 7063:11, 7078:12
INTERESTED [2] - 6733:1,

## 6734:1

interested [7]-6864:14,
7003:16, 7013:19,
7043:21, 7045:14,
7045:17, 7047:14
interesting [7] - 6872:16,
6882:13, 6970:3, 7001:16, 7025:2, 7079:14, 7079:24
interests [5] - 6899:7,
7028:19, 7029:5, 7029:10, 7040:9
interfered [1] - 6937:5 interference [16] - 6941:16, 6941:25, 6942:3, 6942:9, 6942:21, 6945:18,

6963:14, 6966:25, 6967:7, 6967:10, 6967:12, 6971:7, 6978:1, 6986:1, 6986:2, 6986:8
interferences [8] - 6942:7,
6942:17, 6942:19,
6944:16, 6945:10, 6961:7,
6963:17, 6966:23
intergenerational [2] -
6748:6, 6749:4
Interior [3]-6892:12,
6892:16, 6892:19
interior [2] - 6830:10, 6983:6
intermediary [1] - 6959:20
intermediate [1]-6953:17
internal [1] - 6855:23
International [1] - 7035:3
interpretation [1] - 6844:14
interpretive [1] - 6767:24
interruption [1] - 6876:25
interruptions [1] - 6878:10
intervention [3] - 6958:6,
6962:14, 7068:15
interviewed [2]-7006:15, 7009:14
introduce [5] - 6823:6,
6911:3, 7005:4, 7005:17, 7012:6
intrusion [1] - 7054:10
Intrusive [1] - 6888:16
Inuit [2]-6901:22, 6901:23
inundated [1] - 6947:9
inundation [1] - 6941:22
invest ${ }_{[1]}$ - 6841:21
investment [7] - 6874:17, 6874:19, 6875:2, 6877:22, 6887:9, 6888:22, 7072:2
investors [1] - 7008:9
invite [1] - 6913:1
invited [1] - 6934:13
involve [3]-6941:20, 6987:2, 7064:9
involved [8] - 6763:13,
6941:7, 6977:16, 6981:10,
6984:12, 6991:4, 6993:10, 6997:9
involves [2] - 6945:15, 7071:16
involving [3]-6761:1, 6991:7, 7034:2
IR [7] - 7049:24, 7050:2, 7050:3, 7050:7, 7083:4, 7083:8, 7083:9
Irving [19]-6731:14, 6817:4, 6823:6, 6823:13, 6855:11, 6855:15, 6856:15, 6857:17, 6858:2, 6861:3, 6900:16, 6929:5, 6969:16, 6976:4, 6987:13, 7058:12, 7058:24, 7083:23
IRVING [86] - 6736:23,

6799:15, 6799:25, 6800:8, 6800:12, 6800:19, 6801:8, 6801:14, 6801:18,
6801:25, 6802:8, 6802:13, 6802:22, 6803:1, 6803:9, 6803:23, 6804:3, 6804:9, 6805:3, 6805:10, 6806:5, 6807:9, 6807:23, 6808:10, 6809:9, 6810:6, 6811:12, 6812:1, 6812:8, 6812:14, 6812:21, 6813:12, 6814:17, 6815:17, 6815:21, 6817:1, 6823:12, 6848:23, 6849:12,
6849:25, 6852:10,
6855:19, 6856:20, 6857:1, 6858:6, 6858:18, 6861:20, 6861:25, 6863:2, 6864:7,
6865:10, 6865:23, 6866:3, 6866:8, 6900:13, 6900:17, 6900:19, 6901:12,
6902:11, 6903:11,
6904:20, 6905:1, 6906:9,
6921:17, 6922:19,
6923:24, 6924:8, 6925:12, 6925:15, 6926:22, 6929:7, 6964:15, 6964:16, 6965:2, 6965:18, 6966:4, 6966:15, 6967:15, 6968:3, 6969:14, 6976:8, 6998:4, 7008:17,
7058:13, 7058:25, 7084:4
Irving's [1] - 6819:1
Iskut [1] - 6902:25
island $[7]-6752: 17,6768: 7$, 6949:13, 6949:17,
6978:24, 7053:18, 7080:14
issuance [1] - 6855:18
issue [15]-6838:19,
6846:14, 6846:17,
6931:10, 6967:17,
6968:25, 6969:2, 6975:4,
6980:20, 7002:12,
7021:21, 7028:25, 7034:6, 7059:6, 7068:24
issued [7] - 6856:7, 6856:24, 6857:19, 6985:8, 7036:11, 7080:1
issuer ${ }_{[1]}$ - 6874:9
issues [43] - 6739:14,
6762:16, 6765:18,
6806:15, 6810:22, 6825:8, 6839:16, 6844:24, 6855:3, 6855:23, 6856:2, 6868:12, 6869:13, 6908:17, 6908:19, 6931:2, 6931:9, 6960:20, 6972:17,
6972:23, 6978:10,
6979:11, 6986:22,
6987:17, 6995:22,
7006:12, 7013:25, 7014:2,
7021:15, 7023:5, 7025:21,
7025:22, 7025:25,

7027:10, 7047:7, 7047:8,
7047:10, 7047:11,
7063:24, 7070:9, 7075:6,
7084:13
issuing [3] - 6761:7, 6840:1, 6984:6
item [1] - 7085:12
items [4]-6766:17, 6792:11,
7022:9, 7078:12
iterate [1] - 7057:1
iterative [1] - 6937:25
itself [14] - 6768:8, 6774:9,
6782:14, 6904:1, 6915:5,
6919:8, 6920:15, 6924:20,
6924:23, 6926:13,
6947:20, 6994:12,
7006:11, 7077:12
jail [1] - 7069:22
Jamault [1] - 6731:9
James [9]-6745:6, 6745:13,
6746:1, 6746:21, 6749:17,
6754:9, 6776:8, 6780:5, 6797:23
January $[1]$ - 6856:7
Jaron [1] - 6731:8
Jason [8] - 6732:4, 6734:7, 7005:3, 7005:17, 7005:20, 7005:23, 7008:14, 7071:1
JASON [2] - 6737:16, 6737:20
jeez [1] - 7029:7
jeopardize [2] - 7035:9, 7040:7
Jimmy [1] - 6768:17
Joan [4] - 6731:17, 6733:10,
6859:20, 6868:1
JOAN [2]-6735:24, 6868:3 job [9] - 6853:2, 6914:18, 6916:8, 6917:9, 6978:18, 6991:24, 6992:3, 7047:6, 7058:6
jobs [34] - 6797:9, 6797:10, 6797:15, 6797:19, 6818:5, 6863:24, 6887:19,
6888:22, 6891:11,
6893:20, 6915:24,
6916:11, 6916:13,
6992:10, 6999:15,
7013:22, 7015:11,
7015:14, 7015:20,
7016:13, 7016:16, 7020:1, 7020:24, 7021:1, 7021:3, 7021:6, 7021:8, 7021:9, 7035:16, 7040:6, 7040:7, 7043:21, 7044:16, 7048:7 JOE [2] - 6738:9, 7041:7
Joe [6]-6732:11, 6734:14, 6753:1, 6759:7, 6822:10, 7041:13
John [7]-6731:21, 6733:19, 6933:4, 6933:11, 6966:14,

6966:18, 7032:3
JOHN [3] - 6736:19, 6736:21, 6933:6
Joint [5] - 6763:24, 7036:16, 7036:17, 7037:4, 7055:3
Jones [6] - 6872:5, 6872:24,
6873:20, 6876:15,
6879:22, 7079:1
Joseph [1]-6731:7
judge [1] - 7019:22
Judge [1] - 6763:21
July [2] - 6758:19, 6944:14
June [4] - 6950:23, 6954:23,
7060:21, 7060:25
Junior [5] - 6745:6, 6745:13,
6754:9, 6776:8, 6797:23
jurisdiction [2] - 6975:14, 7081:9
Justice [1] - 6856:9
justifiability ${ }_{[1]}$ - 6898:8
Justifiable [1] - 6898:3
justification [6] - 6843:8,
6844:15, 6846:3, 6907:10,
6923:4, 7016:19
Justified [1] - 6869:16
justified [1] - 6898:12
justify [6] - 6796:21, 6798:16, 6846:6, 6900:1, 6926:15, 7043:17
justifying [3] - 6844:17, 6844:18, 6844:19
K-12 [1] - 6836:9
K-U-N-K-E-L [1] - 7012:1
Kamloops [2] - 7007:24, 7062:23
kayaking [1] - 6944:13
keep [15] - 6754:24, 6774:2, 6805:13, 6807:11, 6816:22, 6831:16, 6832:5, 6848:8, 6879:17, 6879:20, 6904:8, 6959:1, 7023:9, 7052:17, 7063:12
keeping [1] - 6963:1
keeps [2] - 6930:16, 6958:17
Kemenade [1] - 6785:17
Kemess [4]-6912:5, 6922:10, 7062:24
key [6] - 6934:17, 6935:6, 6938:24, 6952:8, 6957:19, 7075:3
Key [3] - 6934:20, 6941:20, 6987:2
kick [1] - 6823:4
kids [2] - 6886:25, 6906:4
kill [1] - 6837:16
kills [1] - 7035:5
kilogram [2]-6786:19, 6952:3
kilometre [2] - 7016:7, 7016:19
kilometres [4] - 6789:18,

6789:19, 7020:2, 7038:25
kind $[16]$ - 6819:12, 6852:4,
6887:8, 6895:3, 6905:22,
6906:6, 6919:24, 6977:7,
6979:13, 6980:4, 6980:24,
6997:8, 6998:13, 7031:15,
7057:12, 7066:15
kinds [5] - 6878:21, 6883:9,
6972:23, 6978:1, 6998:20
King [1] - 7036:7
Kinship [1] - 6890:9
Klassen [1] - 6731:4
KLASSEN [12] - 6817:10, 6818:1, 6818:8, 6866:16, 6866:25, 6867:5, 6867:12, 6867:17, 6867:20,
6929:17, 7026:4, 7026:19
knock [1] - 7039:12
know-how [1] - 7041:24
knowledge [13]-6747:4, 6748:8, 6749:5, 6764:9,
6774:4, 6774:18, 6774:19,
6801:21, 6871:7, 6921:19,
6939:17, 6940:4, 7009:13
Known [1] - 6773:14
known [3] - 6766:22, 7067:7, 7073:23
knows [4] - 6752:1, 6840:2, 6855:15, 6876:20
Kunkel [6] - 6734:9, 7011:11, 7011:25, 7023:24, 7027:5, 7082:14
KUNKEL [16] - 6732:6, 6738:1, 6738:2, 6738:4, 6738:5, 7011:16, 7011:17, 7024:10, 7024:22,
7025:10, 7025:16, 7026:9, 7027:1, 7027:9, 7027:15, 7028:8
Kuwait [3] - 7036:10,
7036:11, 7038:10
Kuyek [6] - 6731:17, 6733:10, 6859:20, 6868:1, 6900:7, 6910:4
KUYEK [17] - 6735:24,
6868:3, 6868:4, 6901:10, 6901:13, 6902:17,
6903:20, 6904:24, 6905:2, 6907:4, 6907:9, 6907:16,
6907:25, 6908:7, 6908:20,
6909:11, 6910:5
L-A-R-C-O-M-B-E [1] -
6741:2
labour [15] - 6825:22,
6843:11, 6914:11,
6914:12, 7017:9, 7017:11, 7017:12, 7017:14,
7017:17, 7018:1, 7018:4,
7018:9, 7082:15, 7082:18, 7082:20
Labrador [3]-6745:21,

6984:18, 6985:7
LACEESE [3] - 6738:9,
7041:7, 7049:19
Laceese [7] - 6732:10,
6734:14, 7041:12, 7049:19, 7050:12, 7057:22, 7083:3
lack [9] - 6798:8, 6896:24,
6974:11, 6974:12, 7016:3,
7016:4, 7021:19, 7074:12
lacking [1] - 6968:2
ladies [1] - 6907:3
Ladies [7] - 6739:1, 6739:6,
6822:22, 6854:13,
6932:13, 6933:8, 7004:13
lady [3] - 6906:24, 6993:9, 7057:12
Lagos [1] - 7012:20
laid [2] - 6939:2, 6993:1
lake [49] - 6745:17, 6755:4,
6755:22, 6759:5, 6759:14, 6759:17, 6767:6, 6769:12, 6775:18, 6776:24,
6778:16, 6778:17,
6788:25, 6803:5, 6807:13, 6807:17, 6849:2, 6943:22, 6943:23, 6949:25, 6958:9, 6958:10, 6958:11,
6958:14, 6958:16, 6959:2, 6959:24, 6960:14,
6961:25, 6966:12,
6968:11, 6978:23,
6984:12, 6989:1, 6989:24,
6996:15, 7034:4, 7034:9,
7052:16, 7052:18, 7063:3, 7063:10, 7063:12,
7071:16, 7074:6, 7074:10, 7074:19
Lake [256] - 6730:23, 6734:5, 6734:7, 6739:6, 6741:1,
6741:25, 6744:19,
6745:11, 6747:17,
6747:24, 6748:12,
6748:16, 6748:18, 6749:8, 6749:15, 6752:22, 6754:7, 6754:8, 6755:3, 6755:6,
6755:8, 6755:13, 6755:14, 6755:21, 6755:24,
6756:14, 6758:15, 6767:6, 6770:21, 6771:17, 6775:8, 6775:15, 6775:16,
6775:17, 6777:7, 6778:13, 6778:19, 6779:1, 6780:15, 6780:19, 6781:19, 6784:6, 6786:20, 6788:2, 6788:14, 6788:18, 6789:1, 6789:2, 6789:14, 6789:19,
6795:18, 6795:20,
6800:21, 6800:22,
6800:25, 6801:10,
6801:11, 6802:16,
6802:19, 6802:22,

6803:21, 6804:1, 6804:4, 6804:25, 6807:16, 6807:22, 6808:5, 6812:1, 6812:5, 6812:9, 6812:22, 6822:2, 6833:13, 6833:14, 6834:5, 6837:23, 6839:5, 6846:24, 6860:12, 6888:19, 6889:4, 6896:16, 6897:1, 6897:17, 6899:19, 6899:21, 6904:1, 6908:25, 6928:16, 6932:20, 6941:8, 6941:9, 6941:22, 6942:14, 6943:20, 6944:7, 6944:11, 6944:13, 6945:3, 6945:13, 6945:17, 6945:19, 6947:3, 6947:9, 6947:12, 6947:23, 6948:10, 6948:11,
6948:13, 6948:17,
6948:23, 6949:4, 6949:6, 6949:9, 6949:13, 6949:16, 6949:17, 6949:18,
6949:22, 6950:2, 6950:13, 6950:14, 6950:20, 6951:1, 6951:20, 6951:21, 6951:22, 6951:23, 6952:1, 6952:2, 6952:5, 6952:8, 6952:9, 6952:10, 6952:13, 6952:16, 6953:8, 6953:9, 6953:19, 6953:25,
6954:12, 6954:15,
6954:21, 6954:23,
6954:25, 6955:1, 6955:2, 6955:4, 6955:8, 6955:11, 6955:13, 6955:16, 6955:20, 6956:7, 6956:9, 6956:12, 6956:16,
6956:23, 6957:2, 6957:19, 6957:20, 6958:5, 6958:13, 6958:25, 6959:4, 6959:5, 6959:8, 6959:18, 6959:19, 6959:21, 6959:22, 6959:25, 6960:3, 6960:6, 6960:11, 6960:19, 6961:1, 6961:23, 6961:24, 6962:3, 6962:4, 6962:9, 6962:13, 6962:15, 6962:21, 6963:12, 6963:13, 6965:4, 6965:5, 6965:8, 6965:15, 6966:11, 6968:5, 6968:8, 6968:11, 6968:13, 6968:22, 6968:24, 6970:16, 6971:12, 6972:9, 6972:13, 6973:2, 6974:21, 6975:5, 6979:17, 6981:9, 6981:14, 6983:20, 6984:14, 6984:16, 6986:15, 7001:7, 7003:5, 7003:13, 7004:10, 7004:18, 7004:23, 7005:11, 7006:6, 7006:8, 7007:10, 7007:12, 7007:19, 7011:6, 7013:4,

7016:25, 7018:15, 7019:4, 7019:8, 7022:19, 7025:6, 7027:14, 7027:16, 7030:5, 7030:12, 7039:23, 7040:4, 7048:20, 7062:25, 7063:2, 7074:8, 7075:13, 7075:24, 7080:13, 7081:16, 7081:18
LAKE [9] - 6732:3, 6737:14, 6737:17, 6737:19,
6737:22, 7004:24, 7005:6, 7005:24, 7009:3
Lake's [1] - 6897:9
lakes [46] - 6745:8, 6759:3,
6759:12, 6759:16,
6759:23, 6766:21,
6774:12, 6775:20,
6776:24, 6777:12,
6778:14, 6781:20,
6795:23, 6801:6, 6801:24, 6802:1, 6802:6, 6808:5, 6812:24, 6813:4, 6813:5, 6848:14, 6849:8, 6849:14, 6849:21, 6849:24, 6850:2, 6944:8, 6949:10, 6950:16, 6950:19, 6951:16,
6986:16, 6986:19, 6988:3, 6989:10, 6989:11,
6989:14, 7031:1, 7032:12, 7052:21, 7052:22,
7071:17, 7073:13,
7073:14, 7080:17
lakeside [1] - 7033:9
land [80] - 6750:13, 6751:24, 6752:1, 6753:17, 6760:21, 6761:9, 6761:13, 6762:6, 6764:14, 6765:11,
6766:24, 6774:5, 6774:9,
6774:22, 6778:4, 6778:19,
6778:20, 6778:22, 6785:8,
6785:15, 6786:12, 6787:3,
6788:1, 6789:3, 6789:5,
6789:6, 6792:15, 6793:8,
6797:21, 6798:1, 6815:12, 6825:16, 6825:18,
6825:19, 6826:13,
6826:16, 6827:7, 6828:18, 6829:2, 6829:3, 6837:7, 6838:3, 6838:5, 6838:6, 6838:19, 6839:17, 6840:6, 6840:8, 6840:14, 6840:17, 6845:2, 6845:3, 6845:23, 6849:3, 6858:10, 6858:11, 6885:3, 6885:6, 6903:24, 6940:7, 6991:5, 6996:13, 7029:21, 7030:22,
7031:18, 7041:21, 7042:2, 7042:4, 7042:5, 7043:13, 7045:4, 7051:10, 7051:11, 7051:13, 7051:14, 7052:1, 7052:2, 7052:13, 7076:6, 7078:8
Land [3] - 6836:21, 6838:8,

6881:15
lands [11] - 6747:8, 6760:25, 6767:8, 6791:12, 6797:18, 6798:10, 6865:21, 6866:1, 7030:17, 7053:11, 7053:24
landscape [3] - 6773:6,
6837:12, 6838:18
lane [3] - 6982:10, 6983:5, 7039:1
language [9] - 6764:8,
6810:22, 6810:25,
6844:16, 6850:13,
6850:21, 6856:8, 6889:22,
7056:19
LARCOMBE [46] - 6735:7,
6735:9, 6740:9, 6740:24,
6740:25, 6741:9, 6793:17,
6800:6, 6800:10, 6800:18,
6801:5, 6801:12, 6801:16,
6801:20, 6802:5, 6802:10,
6802:20, 6802:24, 6803:7,
6803:22, 6804:2, 6804:7,
6805:2, 6805:8, 6805:11,
6807:20, 6808:8, 6808:25,
6809:20, 6810:13,
6811:22, 6812:6, 6812:10, 6812:18, 6813:8, 6814:12, 6815:4, 6815:18, 6816:6, 6817:22, 6818:6, 6818:18, 6818:22, 6820:13,
6820:17, 6822:17
Larcombe [12] - 6731:16,
6733:4, 6740:6, 6740:22, 6741:1, 6798:19, 6799:19, 6807:1, 6817:5, 6823:2, 6865:13, 6981:12
Larcombe's [3] - 6739:24, 6970:9, 7050:18
Large [1]-7075:20
large [20]-6765:8, 6834:8, 6864:12, 6888:13,
6895:17, 6915:23,
6991:22, 7002:1, 7027:8, 7042:24, 7045:1, 7046:1, 7062:13, 7067:10, 7071:14, 7077:20, 7078:1, 7078:7, 7078:8, 7079:17
largely [5] - 6771:17, 6797:8, 6938:24, 6944:14, 6997:22
larger [8]-6778:21, 6796:7, 6951:23, 6993:21,
7007:23, 7026:8, 7047:10, 7056:1
largest [4] - 7006:9, 7038:8, 7038:9, 7038:13
last [39]-6743:10, 6743:22, 6744:2, 6745:22, 6746:6, 6748:21, 6758:1, 6758:3, 6761:20, 6774:5, 6790:10, 6810:8, 6813:12, 6823:24, 6829:16, 6834:20, 6851:19, 6868:20,

6894:10, 6904:21, 6905:5, 6929:4, 6933:20, 6982:14, 6983:7, 6997:7, 7011:25, 7028:17, 7038:23, 7059:2, 7062:5, 7071:21, 7084:1, 7084:2, 7084:4, 7084:13, 7084:21
last-minute [1] - 7071:21
late [9] - 6744:13, 6771:18,
6794:13, 6794:19,
6794:24, 6831:21,
7008:20, 7067:21, 7080:10
lately [1] - 6757:10
latest [1] - 6799:24
launch [5] - 6949:2, 6951:6, 6952:16, 6960:15, 6988:25
launching [1] - 6950:22
law [7]-6858:10, 6931:14, 6938:24, 6987:5, 6987:6, 7030:2
lawyer [4]-6807:10, 6814:14, 6814:22, 6886:4
lawyers [1] - 6807:6
lay [1] - 6897:7
lay-offs [1] - 6897:7
laying [1] - 6978:18
leaching [3]-6780:15,
7065:4, 7065:6
lead [4]-6824:4, 6956:4, 6963:22, 7000:3
leaders [1] - 6763:13
leadership [2] - 7007:4, 7055:23
leading [2] - 6844:9, 7056:15
leads [1] - 7039:9
leak [1] - 6775:14
Leakage [1] - 6958:22
leakage [2] - 6959:6, 6973:10
leaks [1]-6775:19
learn [4] - 6856:23, 6887:22, 6997:11, 7044:11
learned [2] - 6865:11, 7045:4
learning [1] - 6997:20
lease [9] - 6770:22, 6770:23, 6770:25, 6771:4, 6771:5, 6771:7, 6771:12, 6771:20, 6777:21
leaseholder [1] - 6880:24
leases [2] - 6761:2, 6878:22
least [25] - 6748:21, 6752:1, 6769:12, 6771:23, 6773:8, 6789:19, 6792:5, 6802:1, 6803:25, 6806:17, 6819:15, 6828:19, 6854:3, 6854:5, 6861:14, 6863:23, 6877:15, 6908:15, 6914:2, 6915:25, 6955:22, 6984:5, 6985:5, 7072:8, 7073:1
Leave [1] - 6959:21
leave [12] - 6740:7, 6772:15,

| $\begin{aligned} & \text { 6772:17, 6772:18, } \\ & \text { 6799:19, 6806:21, 6817:2, } \\ & \text { 6854:22, 6905:8, 7040:9, } \\ & 7040: 11,7050: 20 \end{aligned}$ |
| :---: |
| leaves [1] - 6920:6 <br> leaving [2] - 6809:9, 7081:21 <br> left [11] - 6745:1, 6774:6, 6774:8, 6774:9, 6789:15, 6823:13, 6844:7, 6860:24, 6895:1, 6926:4, 7035:17 |
| leftover [1] - 7062:17 legacy [2] - 6897:12, 7021:23 legal [12] - 6743:24, 6813:18, 6814:5, 6814:12, 6814:17, 6815:25, 6852:15, 6856:8, 6858:25, 6863:3, 6902:15, 7030:5 |
| $\begin{gathered} \text { legally }[3] \text { - 6814:14, } \\ 6814: 15,6862: 13 \end{gathered}$ |
| legends [1] - 6749:12 <br> legislated [1] - 6926:3 <br> legislation [9] - 6772:5, <br> 6772:20, 6792:8, 6855:16, <br> 6857:16, 6937:5, 6970:5, <br> 6970:23, 7069:20 |
| legislative [1] - 6922:3 <br> lends [1] - 6768:8 <br> length ${ }_{[1]}$ - 6855:11 |
| Less [1] - 6891:4 <br> less [12] - 6878:15, 6878:24, 6879:8, 6881:18, 6891:9, 6894:8, 6909:7, 6918:11, 6942:21, 6955:13, 6956:5, 7015:11 |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { Letter }[1]-6978: 5 \\ & \text { letter [2] - 6959:13, } 7069: 14 \end{aligned}$ |
| level [27] - 6779:12, 6810:9, 6814:8, 6816:4, 6833:20, 6840:4, 6852:25, 6892:20, 6897:3, 6937:20, 6939:13, 6941:16, 6955:4, 6959:2, 6959:5, 6959:20, 6960:4, 6960:6, 6968:16, 6992:18, 7060:1, 7061:4, 7076:3, 7077:10, 7078:18, 7078:19, 7082:18 |
| levels [23]-6783:19, 6785:13, 6833:1, 6833:16, 6839:16, 6925:23, 6944:9, 6958:10, 6958:23, 6962:13, 6992:7, 7024:20, 7059:5, 7059:16, 7059:19, 7059:20, 7059:21, 7060:4, 7060:7, 7061:5, 7076:1, 7082:3 |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { liability [6] - 6894:22, } \\ & \text { 6895:5, 6954:17, 7045:1, } \\ & 7045: 12,7048: 3 \end{aligned}$ |
| liberty [2] - 6741:22, 6994:4 |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { licence [2] - 6839:21, } \\ & 6839: 22 \end{aligned}$ |

6772:17, 6772:18,
6799:19, 6806:21, 6817:2,
6854:22, 6905:8, 7040:9,
7040:11, 7050:20
leaves [1] - 6920:6
leaving [2] - 6809:9, 7081:21
left [11] - 6745:1, 6774:6,
6774:8, 6774:9, 6789:15,
6823:13, 6844:7, 6860:24,
6895:1, 6926:4, 7035:17
leftover [1] - 7062:17
legacy [2] - 6897:12, 7021:23
legal [12] - 6743:24, 6813:18,
6814:5, 6814:12, 6814:17,
6815:25, 6852:15, 6856:8

7030:5
legally [3] - 6814:14,
6814:15, 6862:13
legends [1] - 6749:12
legislated [1] - 6926:3
egislation [9] - 6772:5, 6772:20, 6792:8, 6855:16, 6857:16, 6937:5, 6970:5, 6970:23, 7069:20
6922.3
lend [1] - $685: 8$
Less [1] -6891:4
less [12] - 6878:15, 6878:24, 6879:8, 6881:18, 6891:9, 6894:8, 6909:7, 6918:11, 7015:11
Letter [1] - 6978:5
letter [2] - 6959:13, 7069:14
[27-6779.12, 6810.9
6814:8, 6816:4, 6833:20,
6840:4, 6852:25, 6892:20, 6897.3, 6937:20, 6939.13, 6950:5, 6950:20, $0900: 4$ 6960:6, 6968:16, 6992:18 7060:1, 7061:4, 7076:3,
7077:10, 7078:18,
7078:19, 7082:18
6783:19
6785:13, 6833:1, 6833:16, 6839:16, 6925:23, 6944:9, 6962:13, 6992:7, 7024:20, 7059:5, 7059:16, 7059:19, 7059:20, 7059:21, 7060:4, 7082:3
liability [6] - 6894:22,
6895:5, 6954:17, 7045:1, 7045:12, 7048:3
liberty [2] - 6741:22, 6994:4 6839:22
licences [3] - 6761:8, 6840:1, 6840:16
licensed [1] - 7083:8
licensees [1] - 6840:4
lied [1] - 7055:23
life [22]-6767:9, 6773:13,
6776:18, 6797:24, 6798:3,
6868:12, 6892:23,
6895:13, 6947:8, 6958:4,
6959:11, 7023:22,
7030:16, 7031:22,
7051:17, 7053:15,
7054:11, 7054:15,
7054:18, 7061:11,
7061:16, 7061:22
lifespan [1] - 7074:24
lifestyle [3] - 6760:2,
6995:17, 7014:21
lifetime [1] - 7038:6
light [2] - 6896:11, 7082:11
lights [1] - 6741:7
likelihood [2] - 6826:22, 7074:18
likelihoods [1] - 6828:9
likely [14] - 6769:18, 6891:9, 6909:7, 6915:17, 6916:9, 6944:17, 6960:9, 6969:8, 7007:20, 7015:11, 7024:25, 7043:3, 7060:16, 7065:15
limit [3] - 6873:1, 6960:12, 7028:22
limited [6] - 6836:25,
6862:21, 6898:10,
6898:19, 6939:9, 7071:6
LIMITED [19] - 6731:13,
6735:10, 6735:13,
6735:18, 6735:20,
6735:22, 6736:1, 6736:11, 6736:23, 6738:11, 6799:14, 6823:8, 6848:2, 6855:7, 6861:1, 6900:15, 6921:16, 6964:14, 7058:20 Limited [12] - 6731:14,
6739:12, 6936:1, 6946:20, 6952:23, 6954:14,
6954:21, 6961:6, 6962:25, 6963:16, 6964:6, 6983:3 limits [1] - 7005:15
Linda [15] - 6731:22, 6733:7, 6733:20, 6752:22,
6767:22, 6774:16, 6792:2, 6848:6, 6933:5, 6933:21, 6933:23, 6946:4, 6964:17, 6979:20, 6985:22
LINDA [3] - 6735:18,
6736:20, 6848:3
line [25] - 6782:4, 6789:15,
6789:16, 6803:19, 6804:8, 6804:10, 6804:11, 6837:9, 6839:12, 6839:14,

6840:12, 6865:12,
6869:21, 6875:7, 6879:15, 6966:5, 7016:7, 7016:19, 7026:16, 7049:23, 7083:6, 7085:10
lines [7]-6926:3, 6942:1,
6942:22, 6944:23,
6944:25, 6988:25, 7074:13
link [1] - 6954:6
linkages [1] - 6793:8
linked [3] - 6948:20, 6975:7, 7034:20
Lions [6] - 6731:14, 6733:6, 6823:11, 6823:14,
6823:18, 6892:14
LIONS [1] - 6735:15
list [26] - 6821:22, 6822:5,
6850:1, 6850:4, 6853:21,
6855:6, 6906:12, 6910:11,
6927:1, 6929:14, 6932:15,
6969:17, 6989:10, 6990:3,
6990:12, 6990:22, 6998:6,
7008:19, 7008:23,
7010:20, 7011:10, 7024:2,
7026:23, 7027:22,
7028:12, 7085:1
listed [6] - 6816:23, 6826:25,
6828:1, 6831:2, 7028:12,
7064:1
listen [1] - 6868:6
listened [1] - 6749:13
listening [2] - 6800:1, 7001:16
literature [7] - 6787:23,
6797:3, 6818:6, 6821:10,
6895:15, 6897:25, 7070:25
litre [7]-7059:14, 7059:20,
7059:23, 7060:2, 7060:3,
7060:7, 7060:8
Livain [1] - 6731:8
live [20] - 6750:20, 6751:6, 6766:19, 6766:23,
6766:24, 6768:12,
6776:11, 6792:24, 6834:8,
6899:10, 6899:13,
6899:16, 6903:22,
6903:24, 6906:2, 7000:4,
7011:3, 7022:21, 7047:21
lived [17]-6745:11, 6746:1, 6747:2, 6747:6, 6750:5,
6751:3, 6751:9, 6792:20,
6793:2, 6891:18, 6998:18, 6998:19, 7012:15,
7012:17, 7020:8, 7032:8, 7051:18
livelihood [2] - 6758:14, 7052:1
livelihoods [1] - 6887:20
lives [8] - 6904:5, 6904:14,
6997:15, 7020:10,
7034:23, 7052:3, 7054:24
livestock [1] - 6777:16
living [10] - 6776:14,
6778:23, 6780:20,
6905:23, 6991:13,
6994:22, 6995:18,
7015:17, 7023:18, 7052:2
load [3]-6930:7, 6931:21, 6931:25
loads [1] - 6931:6
local [29] - 6767:25, 6827:16,
6831:5, 6831:6, 6832:15,
6839:16, 6840:3, 6841:5,
6841:7, 6841:17, 6841:18,
6843:24, 6846:14,
6848:11, 6850:23, 6851:4, 6865:16, 6876:1, 6887:25,
6903:13, 6939:17,
6939:18, 6946:1, 6979:16,
6987:19, 7044:14, 7081:24
Local [3] - 6845:4, 6899:17, 7034:6
locally [8] - 6765:25, 6841:8, 6841:21, 6984:22, 6985:6,
7016:11, 7016:13, 7016:16
locate [1] - 7008:10
located [1] - 6751:21
LOCATION [2] - 6738:15,
7086:5
Iocation [7] - 6948:12, 6948:15, 6961:3, 6976:16, 6976:20, 6995:16, 7056:13
locations [2] - 6772:1, 7033:10
lock [1] - 6986:7
logged [1] - 6746:12
logging [9] - 6744:24,
6761:5, 6761:17, 6763:18, 6767:14, 6809:21, 6810:1,
6887:17, 6967:13
logical [1] - 7034:3
logistics [1] - 6989:11
long-term [9] - 6785:11,
6896:9, 6916:2, 6973:16, 7018:5, 7029:5, 7029:10,
7040:6, 7081:14
Look [1] - 6869:13
look [40] - 6769:7, 6821:9,
6825:13, 6826:6, 6827:11, 6828:8, 6828:16, 6829:9, 6835:16, 6835:25,
6842:13, 6842:14,
6849:20, 6869:4, 6869:8,
6881:6, 6882:14, 6899:4, 6902:9, 6908:1, 6909:15, 6914:17, 6915:23,
6917:14, 6919:5, 6923:1, 6923:21, 6946:23,
6966:23, 6971:9, 6997:14, 6998:24, 7004:2, 7016:14, 7020:1, 7022:2, 7047:5,
7056:8, 7084:14, 7085:23
looked [23] - 6817:21,
6818:2, 6819:19, 6819:21,
6834:11, 6834:24,
6834:25, 6838:4, 6845:3,
6850:20, 6888:17,
6955:25, 6972:1, 6988:15, 7003:9, 7013:18, 7014:2,
7014:7, 7016:6, 7027:10,
7060:19, 7079:10
looking [41] - 6768:17,
6786:24, 6789:14,
6804:25, 6808:21,
6825:22, 6825:23,
6825:24, 6825:25,
6826:15, 6837:10,
6837:17, 6849:21,
6850:14, 6850:17, 6852:7,
6852:11, 6864:20,
6874:21, 6883:25, 6901:7, 6908:2, 6909:19, 6915:19, 6915:24, 6920:6, 6945:23, 6955:18, 6966:25, 6967:2, 6984:21, 6984:22,
6986:13, 6994:13,
7003:12, 7008:9, 7017:9,
7020:23, 7061:4, 7074:25
looks [4] - 6905:7, 6912:21, 6952:21, 7080:21
loose [2]-6759:15, 6786:4
Loretta [2] - 6747:17,
6752:11
lose [2] - 6774:4, 6782:21
losing [5] - 6774:3, 6832:9,
6832:10, 6836:13, 7070:23
loss [42] - 6757:15, 6783:14,
6785:8, 6785:14, 6787:2,
6787:3, 6788:3, 6790:6,
6790:17, 6790:22,
6792:14, 6795:8, 6795:19,
6795:21, 6811:19,
6811:24, 6831:22,
6831:25, 6837:23,
6863:21, 6880:21,
6895:10, 6945:21, 6951:5, 6951:20, 6952:9, 6955:15, 6956:8, 6965:13, 6973:2, 6973:18, 6979:1, 6979:13, 6985:18, 7043:17,
7043:22, 7045:13, 7063:2, 7075:12, 7081:21
Loss [5] - 6771:21, 6985:15, 6985:23, 6986:10, 7067:19
losses [3] - 6781:22, 6787:5, 6798:13
lost [6] - 6773:16, 6788:10, 6822:5, 6885:1, 6974:24, 6999:15
love [3] - 6748:13, 6748:14, 7046:7
Iow [25] - 6757:2, 6758:17, 6759:22, 6784:23, 6786:22, 6795:25, 6797:8,

6797:9, 6869:24, 6870:2,
6870:3, 6871:14, 6872:25, 6891:13, 6896:4, 6918:2, 6941:21, 6944:9, 6955:15, 6956:24, 6975:17, 6976:9, 7018:3, 7061:25, 7074:24
low-fat [1] - 6786:22
low-grade [7] - 6869:24,
6870:2, 6870:3, 6871:14,
6896:4, 6941:21, 7061:25
low-paying [1] - 6797:9
Lower [8] - 6941:23,
6942:12, 6947:11, 6948:3,
6949:6, 6963:13, 7067:23,
7073:22
lower [7] - 6765:16, 6765:17, 6872:18, 6872:21,
6876:14, 6888:21, 6891:11
lowering [1] - 6832:13
lowest [1] - 6944:25
LSA [3] - 6833:11, 6833:12, 6839:16
Lucille [1] - 6731:9
Luddite [1] - 6913:5
Lulua [21] - 6744:23, 6745:3, 6745:6, 6745:21, 6746:1,
6746:21, 6749:17, 6750:6,
6753:15, 6754:1, 6754:9,
6754:16, 6754:19, 6755:3,
6755:8, 6756:10, 6768:17,
6775:12, 6776:8, 6776:17, 6777:20
Luluas [1] - 6771:6
lumber [1] - 6904:9
lunch [4] - 6847:22, 6853:25,
6854:8, 6854:16
Lutz [2] - 7032:3, 7033:5
luxurious [1] - 6749:9
M-A-C-K-I-E [1] - 6933:11
Mabel [2] - 6777:19, 6777:20
machinery [1] - 6877:18
Mackenzie [3] - 6785:7,
6785:19, 6890:19
MACKIE [21] - 6736:19,
6736:21, 6933:1, 6933:6, 6933:7, 6966:20, 6969:1, 6970:24, 6971:22, 6973:7, 6974:4, 6975:15, 6979:14, 6981:6, 6982:12, 6984:14, 6985:5, 6985:12, 6985:21, 6986:23, 6990:17
Mackie [6] - 6731:21,
6733:19, 6933:4, 6933:11,
6964:11, 6984:9
macro [1] - 6911:23
Madaline [2] - 6745:19, 6756:13
Maest [1] - 6974:2
magically [1] - 6884:19
magnitude [6] - 6827:2,
6913:19, 6921:4, 6926:14,

6930:8, $7030: 8$
main [1] - 7074:4
Mainland [1] - 6734:23
maintain [2]-6958:23, 6992:15
maintained [4]-6962:14, 6968:14, 6969:12, 7082:4 maintenance [2] - 6884:21, 6977:3
major [18] - 6770:1, 6771:21, 6829:5, 6830:4, 6838:19, 6839:13, 6845:22, 6893:5, 6894:20, 6897:25, 6900:2, 6912:3, 6912:15, 6995:19, 7021:18, 7036:1, 7037:18, 7040:11
majority [4] - 6770:2, 6779:2, 6834:4, 6871:1
makers [1] - 6888:4
Makivik [1] - 6901:19
Makuk [1] - 7032:3
males [1] - 6892:25
man [6] - 6929:8, 6947:23,
6958:13, 6958:14, 6973:18, 7074:19
man-made [5] - 6947:23,
6958:13, 6958:14,
6973:18, 7074:19
manage [3] - 6840:5, 6902:3, 7072:10
managed [3] - 6846:1, 6901:19, 6901:20
Management [4] - 6767:16, 6836:22, 6838:10, 7013:9
management [11] - 6838:5,
6838:20, 6838:21, 6842:3,
6977:8, 6979:21, 7069:5,
7069:9, 7073:14, 7080:19, 7082:18
managers [1] - 6829:3
managing [2]-6910:9, 7071:18
mandate [13]-6851:25,
6888:12, 6898:11, 6907:7,
6907:11, 6907:15,
6907:20, 6907:25,
6908:15, 6934:6, 6934:16, 6997:8, 7076:7
mandates [1] - 6851:24
manifest [1] - 6853:1
manifested [2]-6762:18, 6845:11
manifests [1] - 6779:6
Manitoba [4] - 6741:4, 6779:25, 6922:14, 6922:16
manner [3] - 6863:11,
7042:1, 7042:16
mantra [1] - 7044:6
map [3] - 6770:22, 6771:3, 6788:4
maps [1] - 6801:7

March [13]-6752:24, 6768:10, 6774:24,
6842:12, 6844:6, 6879:12, 6892:9, 6913:9, 6935:1, 6953:4, 6954:13, 6956:24, 6963:11
marginal [4] - 6879:8,
6931:18, 6932:1, 6995:15
Marginal [1] - 6879:5
marginalization [1] - 7018:5
marginalize [1] - 7031:10
marginalized [2] - 7013:11, 7031:8
margins [1] - 7023:11
Marie [1] - 6766:13
MARILYN [6] - 6737:4,
6737:10, 6738:9, 6982:1,
6998:11, 7041:7
Marilyn [7] - 6732:10, 6733:23, 6734:13, 6806:23, 7041:12, 7046:3, 7049:16
marine [1] - 6933:15
mark [1] - 6793:14
market [5] - 6825:22, 6879:19, 6912:13, 7022:6, 7022:13
Marlene [1] - 6777:6
Marvin [5] - 6731:19,
6733:14, 6748:11,
6910:20, 6911:15
MARVIN [3] - 6736:8, 6736:10, 6913:3
mass [2] - 6783:18, 6897:7
massive [1] - 7048:3
Master's [2] - 7012:20, 7012:22
match [1] - 6993:5
material [2]-6849:7, 6942:24
materialize [1] - 6814:11
materials [1] - 6836:23
matter [17] - 6789:7,
6863:16, 6891:20, 6896:4, 6908:7, 6918:19, 6920:12, 6921:22, 6930:7, 6950:12, 6978:4, 6980:4, 7034:8,
7052:25, 7053:5, 7070:8
matters [7]-6847:15,
6869:7, 6934:15, 7064:20,
7064:24, 7068:23, 7084:17
maximizes [2] - 6840:24,
6912:13
maximizing [1] - 6841:17
maximum [1] - 6771:14
MAY [2] - 6738:15, 7086:4
Mayor [1] - 6888:4
McCrory [2] - 7077:8, 7077:18
McKay [2]-6984:14, 6984:16

| McKeage [1] - 6731:10 | medicinal ${ }_{[1]}$ - 6761:4 | 6987:13, 6989:22, | 6920:11, 6922:10, 6926:5, |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| McKibben [1] - 6885:25 | Medicine [1] - 6746:7 | 6992:17, 7002:14 | 6926:8, 6945:6, 6945:17 |
| Meadows [1] - 6752:2 | medicine [11] - 6744:22, <br> 6746:11, 6752:19, 6781:3, | 7003:10, 7009:15 <br> mentioning [2] - 6920:16 | 6946:21, 6946:22, <br> 6952:15, 6954:18, 6959:7, |
| mean [36]-6743:21, | 6781:7, 6781:10, 6804:21, | 7034:10 | 6960:12, 6967:7, 6969:6, |
| 6747:21, 6747:23, 6754:6, | 7042:9, 7043:13, 7053:18, | Mercury [1] - 6872:7 | 6977:10, 6978:20, |
| 6794:20, 6800:7, 6804:6, $6820: 9,6831: 23,6832: 9$ | 7053:20 | mercury [2]-6780:2, 6872:3 mere ${ }_{[1]}$ - 7067:7 | 6979:12, 6986:4, 6987:21, 6988:1, 6988:16, 6988:17, |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { 6820:9, 6831:23, 6832:9, } \\ & 6833: 12,6835: 21,6853: 8, \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{\|l\|} \hline \text { medicines [11] - } 6745: 5, \\ 6745: 14,6745: 20,6746: 3, \end{array}$ | mere [1] - 7067:7 <br> merit [1]-7047:17 | 6988:1, 6988:16, 6988:17, 6989:6, 6989:22, 6994:23, |
| 6877:8, 6898:9, 6905:10, | 6746:8, 6746:13, 6756:4, | message [3] - 6797: | 7008:3, 7016:12, 7027:14, |
| 6905:25, 6922:24, 6955:1, | 6756:6, 6756:11, 6760:5 | 6805:13, 6853:14 | 33:5, 7033:22, 7039:18, |
| 6996:21, 7000:22, 7002:8, | 6777:3 | met [4]-6836:2, 683 | 7065:16, 7065:17, 7068:8, |
| 7015:18, 7017:22, 7020:9, | medium [2]-6916:1 | 6846:12, 6936:13 | 7083:2 |
| $\begin{aligned} & 7020: 24,7020: 25,7021: 3, \\ & 7022: 15,7022: 20, \end{aligned}$ | 6973:15 meet [11] - | metal [7] - 6847:11, 6873:5, | $\begin{aligned} & \text { migration [2] - 6832:7, } \\ & 6915: 3 \end{aligned}$ |
| 7023:20, 7039:8, 7043:10, | 9:22, 6886:3, | 7065:3, 7065:6 | migratory [4] - 7076:18, |
| 7043:25, 7061:16, 7061:18 | 6930:4, 6930:9, 6930:12, | metaphysically ${ }_{[2]}$ | 77:1, 7077:7 |
| meaning [6] - 6803:20, <br> 6864:4, 6917:4 6924:16, | $7030: 20,7037: 1,7037: 10$ | 7043:24, 7043:25 | Mike [3] - 6734:10, 7028:12, 7050.22 |
| 6864:4, 6917:4, 6924:16, 6971:16, 6975:25 | $\begin{array}{\|l\|} \hline \text { meeting [6] - 6919:16, } \\ \text { 6933:10, 6954:13, 7033:2, } \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { methodological." [1] - } \\ & 6924: 7 \end{aligned}$ | MIKE [3] - 6732:7, 6738:7, |
| meaningful [4] - 6814:3, | 7065:18, 7067:19 | methodologically [6] - | 7028:14 |
| 6866:9, 6924:23 | meetings [1] - 7023:13 | 6912:19, 6924:1, 6924:19, | Mile [1] - 7017:2 |
| meaningfulness [1] - 6859:3 | meets [2] - 6887:5, 6996:8 | 6925:3, 6926:5, 7080:4 | miles [1] - 6792:1 |
| meanings [1] - 6741:20 | megawatt [7] - 6876:13, | methodology [4]-6742:18, | Miles [1] - 7071:1 |
| means [26] - 6741:24, | 6884:4, 6884:5, 6918:11, | 6824:13, 6922:1, 6923:20 | mill [3] - 6894:21, 6895:1, $7061: 21$ |
| 6778:23, 6790:5, 6791:6, 6803:5, 6833:4, 6840:16, | 6918:13, 6919:3 <br> member [2]-6933:17 | methods [1] - 6880:7 <br> metre [2] - 6949:7, 6959 | 7061:21 <br> millennia [1] - 7014:16 |
| 6845:12, 6847:8, 6848:15, | 7006 | metres [11]-6871:5, 6947:7, | milligrams [7] - 7059:13, |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { 6869:21, 6869:22, } \\ & 6871: 23,6872: 25, \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Member }[3]-6731: 4,6731: 4, \\ & 7012: 2 \end{aligned}$ | 6951:25, 6954:6, 6954:7, <br> 6954:25, 6955:1, 6955:5, | $\begin{aligned} & 7059: 19,7059: 23,7060: 2, \\ & 7060: 3,7060: 7,7060: 8 \end{aligned}$ |
| 6918:17, 6948:23, 6950:3, | Members [7] - 6739:9 | 6955:6, 6959:18 | milling [1] - 7061:24 |
| 6958:8, 6962:17, 6965:25, 6987:19, 7021:8, 7022:18 | 6739:11, 6746:25, 6933:7, <br> 6991:1, 7010:7,7025:9 | Metres [1] - 6944:11 | million [27] - 6830:22, <br> 6830:24, 6871:5, 6872:4 |
| 6987:19, 7021:8, 7022:18, 7036:22, 7061:18, 7071:22 | 6991:1, 7010:7, 7025:9 <br> members [6] - 6782:12, | metric [2]-6947:4, 6947:5 <br> Mexican [1] - 6811:7 | 6830:24, 6871:5, 6872:4, 6875:8, 6877:8, 6882:4, |
| meant [4] - 6742:19, | 6794:21, 6810:18, | M | 6882:5, 6882:17, 6882:23, |
| 6843:21, 6924:12, 7084:2 | 7006:13, 7045:3, 7078:17 | Mexico's [1] - 7038:12 | 6882:24, 6882:25, 6883:4, |
| measurable [3] - 6920:17, | members' [2] - 7006:5, | mic [2] - 6913:12, 6982 | 883:13, 6883:14, |
| 6920:24, 7061:3 | 47:11 | Michaud [1] - 6731:8 | 6883:16, 6884:2, 6884:14, |
| measure [11]-6864:13, 6869:9, 6886:18, 6925:1, | membership [2] - 7007:1, 7007:3 | $\text { microphone) }{ }_{[1]}-6740: 9$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 6917:6, 6919:3, 6923:16, } \\ & \text { 6994:10, 7027:17, } \end{aligned}$ |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { 6869:9, 6886:18, 6925:1, } \\ & \text { 6951:18, 6952:9, 6956:8, } \end{aligned}$ | 7007:3 <br> memories [1] - 6758: | $\operatorname{mid}_{[1]}-6954: 22$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 6994:10, 7027:17, } \\ & \text { 7037:24, 7038:1, 7040:2 } \end{aligned}$ |
| 6986:21, 7044:21, | memory [1]-6922 | mid-1990s [1]-6937:1 | millions [2] - 6931:5, |
| 7065:21, 7067:10 | men [8]-6890:25, 6891:2, | middle [4]-6747:18, 6771:4, | 7034:25 |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { measured }[2] \text { - 6824:25, } \\ & 6845: 14 \end{aligned}$ | 6891:4, 6891:6, 6891:8, <br> 6894:9, 7033:5, $7033 \cdot 18$ | 6949:13, 6949:17 | mills [2] - 6830:10, 6832:4 <br> mimicking [1] - 6952:11 |
| measures [23]-6741:15, | $\text { mental }[4]-6762: 1$ | might [79] - 6759:15 | mind $[7]$ - 6796:11, 6873:17, |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { 6789:24, 6856:18, } \\ & 6934: 22,6935: 7,6935: 21, \end{aligned}$ | 6765:20, 6782:21, $7051: 25$ mention [1]-6985:1 | 6815:18, 6817:19, 6820:6, | 6902:5, 6964:17, 6976:3, $7022: 17.7075: 3$ |
| 6934:22, 6935:7, 6935:21 6936:19, 6936:23, | mention [1] - 6985: | 6825:6, 6825:18, 6827:8, | $\text { minds }[2]-6793: 22,6975$ |
| 6938:10, 6945:6, 6951:8, | $6753: 9,6755: 5,6755: 13,$ | 6833:7, 6838:25, 6839:2, | mine [178] - 6753:21, |
| 6957:25, 6961:12, |  | $340: 8,6843: 11,6848: 25,$ | 6753:24, 6754:1, 6760:17, |
| 6961:16, 6961:18, | 6798:23, 6799:1, 6800:21, | 49:16, 6850:17, | 6764:11, 6764:20, |
| 6962:11, 6963:6, 6963:24, | $6802: 15,6807: 12$ | 51:18, 6851:2! | 6767:20, 6769:17, |
| 6967:24, 7025:15, 7040:3, | 6811:15, 6812:1, 6813:13, | 2:1 | 6770:11, 6771:4, 6771:14, |
| 7069:11, 7079:5 | 6841:1, 6851:15, 6866:17, | 院3:24, 6854:4, 6854:19, | 6772:1, 6773:6, 6773:13, |
| Measures [1] - 7061:13 | 6866:25, 6902:11, 6909:6, | 57:25, 6861:11, | 6775:16, 6776:9, 6777:13, |
| meat [4] - 6786:22, 6852:17, 6853:15, 7022:14 | 6943:10, 6949:7, 6951:10, 6952.14, 6954:1, 6961.9 | 6863:10, 6863:13, | 6778:3, 6780:9, 6781:8, 6781:14, 6782:11 |
| median [3] - 6891:2, 6891:5, | 6952:14, 6954:1, 6961:9, 6963:10, 6968:5, 6968:6, | 11, | 6782:16, 6783:2, 6783: |
| 6891:7 |  |  | 6783:12, 6783:20, 6784:8, |
| medical [1] - 6995:22 | 6985:6, 6985:10, 6985:22, |  | 6788:9, 6790:2, 6790:6, |
|  |  | 6903.13, 6915.21, |  |

6794:17, 6794:20, 6795:1, 6796:19, 6796:25,
6797:13, 6798:6, 6807:14, 6808:19, 6808:24, 6809:3, 6810:20, 6815:16,
6817:19, 6828:21, 6831:4, 6831:9, 6831:10, 6831:15, 6833:2, 6833:13, 6837:6, 6837:8, 6845:7, 6847:7, 6847:10, 6869:1, 6869:10, 6869:24, 6870:11, 6871:9, 6871:14, 6871:21, 6873:20, 6876:12, 6877:6, 6877:9, 6877:18, 6878:10, 6886:18, 6886:20,
6887:10, 6888:6, 6889:8, 6892:9, 6893:3, 6893:4, 6894:20, 6894:21, 6895:1, 6895:7, 6895:13, 6895:23, 6896:19, 6898:6, 6898:15, 6898:23, 6899:15,
6899:16, 6899:20,
6899:23, 6900:1, 6900:4, 6901:19, 6905:18, 6905:20, 6905:21,
6907:10, 6911:12, 6912:6, 6915:25, 6918:18, 6919:22, 6919:23, 6930:11, 6934:21, 6941:4, 6942:14, 6942:15,
6946:15, 6947:7, 6947:15, 6947:20, 6948:1, 6949:5, 6949:15, 6949:18,
6950:13, 6950:15, 6951:5, 6953:19, 6954:3, 6954:4, 6954:9, 6955:3, 6958:2, 6958:3, 6958:20, 6959:11, 6959:23, 6960:18,
6960:21, 6960:22,
6960:24, 6962:1, 6962:22, 6968:18, 6972:15,
6984:15, 6992:9, 6994:12, 7002:7, 7009:10, 7012:10, 7013:21, 7014:8, 7015:20, 7023:3, 7023:19, 7025:12, 7027:8, 7030:13, 7035:14, 7036:3, 7039:21, 7045:8, 7056:17, 7061:16,
7061:17, 7061:20,
7061:22, 7062:13,
7062:23, 7062:24,
7063:10, 7069:1, 7070:1,
7072:25, 7073:2, 7074:24, 7078:7
MINE [1] - 6730:2
Mine [23]-6770:6, 6871:10, 6872:18, 6872:22, 6873:16, 6877:16, 6878:4, 6878:6, 6879:2, 6881:13, 6882:20, 6891:10, 6912:18, 6937:19, 6941:3, 6962:18, 6963:21, 6993:8,

6993:11, 6995:4, 7013:18,
7021:2, 7062:24
mine" [1] - 7061:11
mine's [2] - 6895:22,
6899:12
mined [1] - 6959:11
Mineral [2] - 6881:15
mineral [16] - 6871:15,
6871:17, 6878:24,
6880:15, 6880:18,
6880:19, 6881:4, 6881:5,
6881:9, 6881:10, 6881:14,
6881:25, 6893:18,
6917:10, 6959:10, 7002:7
minerals [4] - 6878:18,
6878:21, 6880:22, 7041:22
mines [16] - 6817:16, 6818:5, 6819:24, 6820:7, 6828:12, 6828:13, 6829:17, 6870:3, 6872:15, 6878:15,
6878:18, 6878:19,
6895:17, 6917:21, 6918:8, 7062:22
MINES [19] - 6731:13,
6735:10, 6735:13,
6735:18, 6735:20,
6735:22, 6736:1, 6736:11, 6736:23, 6738:11, 6799:14, 6823:8, 6848:2, 6855:7, 6861:1, 6900:15, 6921:16, 6964:14, 7058:19 Mines [30] - 6731:14, 6733:6, 6739:12, 6814:9, 6823:13, 6858:8, 6858:19, 6862:3, 6863:4, 6905:15, 6936:1, 6936:18, 6946:20, 6951:9, 6952:20, 6952:23,
6954:14, 6954:21, 6961:6, 6962:25, 6963:16, 6963:23, 6964:6, 6964:12, 6983:3, 7039:13, 7044:18, 7053:2, 7083:16
minimal [1] - 6789:22
minimize [4] - 6880:8,
6937:14, 7008:22, 7065:2
minimizes [1] - 6912:12 minimum [2]-6992:1, 6992:2
Mining [7] - 6809:25, 6841:13, 6851:14, 6853:6, 6862:12, 6862:19, 6864:12 mining [84] - 6774:25, 6777:7, 6777:22, 6797:4, 6797:7, 6798:9, 6809:2, 6810:1, 6810:9, 6810:10, 6810:23, 6817:13, 6819:6, 6826:16, 6829:16, 6830:2, 6864:15, 6868:15, 6868:19, 6868:24, 6869:21, 6871:22, 6874:11, 6876:20, 6879:4, 6879:7, 6879:14, 6879:15,

6879:17, 6879:18,
6879:19, 6879:25,
6880:25, 6881:2, 6891:18, 6893:16, 6893:25, 6894:5, 6894:8, 6895:25, 6896:15, 6897:25, 6900:23,
6900:24, 6901:14,
6901:16, 6904:23,
6905:10, 6905:23, 6906:5, 6906:8, 6909:14, 6909:16, 6909:18, 6917:16, 6982:9, 6984:12, 6984:23, 6985:1, 6985:3, 6985:8, 6985:11,
6991:6, 6991:21, 6991:22, 6998:22, 6999:6, 7000:7,
7001:19, 7006:12,
7009:11, 7014:23,
7015:24, 7020:18,
7020:22, 7020:23,
7020:25, 7021:10, 7028:3, 7029:3, 7030:7, 7061:18, 7069:22, 7082:17

## MININGWATCH [13] -

6731:17, 6735:23, 6736:1,
6736:2, 6736:4, 6736:13,
6737:23, 6868:3, 6900:15,
6906:21, 6909:5, 6927:10, 7009:4
MiningWatch [23] - 6731:17, 6733:10, 6733:16,
6821:23, 6842:9, 6844:6,
6844:8, 6844:24, 6845:18,
6845:20, 6846:2, 6847:8,
6859:19, 6860:2, 6868:8,
6927:6, 6983:12, 7001:3,
7009:1, 7009:5, 7024:4,
7078:22, 7078:25
Minister [6] - 6898:13,
6942:8, 6942:20, 6973:12, 7076:10, 7081:12
ministerial [1] - 6982:19
Ministry [13] - 6763:16,
6770:23, 6835:7, 6838:23,
6839:25, 6856:9, 6867:9,
6955:17, 6992:24, 6993:5,
7046:17, 7054:9, 7077:4
minor [1] - 6966:3
Minto [1] - 6881:13
minute [5] - 6861:23,
6966:20, 6996:9, 7038:24, 7071:21
minute's [1] - 6900:14
minutes [3]-6793:14,
6821:15, 6932:10
misinterpretation [1] 6844:13
mispronouncing [1] 6773:23
misread [1] - 6924:4
miss [2] - 6815:11, 6815:12
Miss [1] - 6746:5
missed [3] - 6859:21,

7001:10, 7039:22
missionaries [1] - 7054:7
mitigable [1] - 6979:2
mitigate [25]-6781:21, 6788:2, 6790:17, 6790:22, 6792:14, 6795:13,
6798:12, 6866:7, 6909:9, 6945:2, 6945:18, 6961:7, 6963:24, 6965:24, 6966:17, 6970:17, 6971:7, 6978:1, 6979:13, 6986:2, 6986:8, 6986:10, 6986:17, 6987:11, 6988:18
mitigated [11] - 6792:1,
6792:6, 6792:18, 6793:5,
6844:22, 6846:11,
6846:18, 6897:21,
6946:22, 6971:21, 6980:11
mitigating [8] - 6790:5,
6850:15, 6946:18,
6953:11, 6957:19,
6963:17, 6980:3, 6988:8
Mitigation [1] - 6951:8
mitigation [67] - 6741:15,
6789:24, 6792:9, 6792:12, 6824:18, 6839:15, 6840:3, 6840:20, 6846:1, 6846:25, 6847:3, 6934:22, 6935:6, 6935:21, 6936:18,
6936:20, 6936:23,
6938:10, 6944:20, 6945:5, 6945:10, 6945:21,
6945:24, 6946:3, 6951:18, 6952:8, 6952:22, 6953:21, 6956:8, 6961:9, 6961:12, 6961:16, 6961:18,
6961:19, 6962:11, 6963:1, 6963:6, 6963:13, 6964:6, 6965:6, 6965:16, 6966:7, 6966:11, 6967:5, 6967:7,
6967:11, 6967:17,
6967:19, 6967:24, 6968:4, 6970:19, 6971:10,
6971:22, 6971:24, 6972:2,
6972:11, 6972:17, 6973:2,
6978:20, 6980:13,
6981:16, 6986:13,
6986:21, 6987:2, 6989:14,
7065:14, 7080:25
mitigation" [1] - 6964:21
mixed [2] - 6760:1, 6907:3
mixing [1] - 6927:22
MMER [1] - 7072:5
moccasins [1] - 7022:8
model [4] - 6764:25,
6879:24, 6880:2, 6908:13
modelling [2] - 6784:19, 6833:10
modern [5] - 6758:4, 6765:5, 6913:5, 7032:1, 7041:24 modifications [1] - 6938:6
modified [1] - 6938:5

## Prosperity Gold-Copper Mine Project - Volume 33 - April 30, 2010

MoE [1] - 6849:22
molybdenum [1] - 6872:23
moment $[7]$ - 6819:2, 6881:6,
6976:15, 6992:6, 7035:25,
7043:6, 7043:8
moments [1] - 7048:24
Monday [5] - 7049:10,
7058:1, 7084:9, 7084:15, 7085:16
monetary [1]-6885:15
money [17] - 6785:24, 6787:2, 6787:5, 6797:22, 6798:12, 6811:6, 6811:18, 6811:20, 6820:23,
6871:24, 6891:23, 7003:22, 7020:5, 7022:20, 7067:25, 7068:4
monies [1] - 6797:19 monitoring [15] - 6779:5,
6793:10, 6794:20, 6794:23, 6816:14, 6816:24, 6847:1, 6857:15, 6870:6, 6934:23, 6957:14, 6957:22, 6963:7, 7009:10, 7070:20
Monitoring [1] - 6962:23 month [3]-6743:22,
6993:12, 7003:12
monthly [2]-7060:19, 7061:5
months [9] - 6927:13,
6927:19, 6944:14,
6959:14, 6976:10,
7032:15, 7032:20,
7038:23, 7060:20
moose [7] - 6744:24, 6745:2, 6754:15, 6760:3, 6775:7,
6780:24, 6786:24
moot [1] - 6770:15
morally [1] - 6862:14
morbidity [1] - 6785:16
MORIN [17] - 6818:10,
6818:20, 6818:23, 6862:9, 6864:6, 6864:24, 6865:20, 6865:25, 6866:4, 6866:13, 6909:6, 6909:20, 6987:25, 6989:12, 6989:25,
7025:11, 7026:2
Morin [2] - 6731:4, 7064:3
morning [20] - 6739:1, 6739:5, 6740:13, 6740:18, 6740:25, 6819:20, 6822:14, 6823:1, 6850:8, 6850:19, 6865:13, 6913:21, 6923:6, 6970:9, 6981:11, 6999:19,
7050:18, 7084:25, 7085:3, 7085:16
mortality [3] - 6785:16,
6834:21, 6834:22
mortgage [1] - 6994:18
most [46] - 6755:18, 6758:4, 6761:11, 6762:24,
6763:23, 6765:1, 6765:13, 6788:18, 6792:22,
6797:20, 6821:10,
6825:11, 6826:4, 6833:23, 6833:24, 6868:11, 6870:3, 6872:16, 6873:17, 6875:2, 6886:6, 6887:21, 6892:5, 6895:21, 6896:18,
6899:20, 6916:9, 6931:8,
6941:1, 6944:21, 6951:18, 6957:12, 6966:24, 6991:7, 6991:14, 7022:2, 7022:21,
7031:24, 7034:1, 7036:19,
7043:3, 7063:1, 7066:23,
7069:20, 7074:9, 7078:5
mostly [1] - 6870:6
Mostly [1] - 6823:21
Mother [1] - 6767:3
mother [3]-6751:19,
6756:2, 6756:3
motivation [1] - 7071:10
motorcycles [1] - 6761:11
Mount [4] - 6828:15, 6889:6, 6896:12, 7062:24
mountain [9] - 6753:22,
6776:5, 6830:3, 6830:6, 6831:20, 6837:12, 7014:19, 7032:24, 7081:20
Mountain [8] - 6754:7,
6754:10, 6754:14,
6754:17, 6754:19, 6756:3, 6776:5
mountains [3] - 6750:13, 6756:8, 6776:11
Mountains [4] - 6754:7, 6754:18, 6754:22, 6756:11
move [10] - 6768:14,
6811:13, 6859:16,
6859:21, 6878:13,
6891:22, 6910:11, 6972:8, 6999:24, 7058:14
moved [2] - 6740:12, 6993:3
movements [1] - 6839:13
moves [1] - 6888:21
moving [3] - 6983:12,
7040:20, 7057:4
Moving [1] - 6975:11
MR [212] - 6732:7, 6735:15, 6735:17, 6735:21, 6736:3, 6736:13, 6736:19,
6736:21, 6736:23, 6737:2, 6737:8, 6737:16, 6737:16, 6737:18, 6737:20,
6737:23, 6738:3, 6738:7, 6799:15, 6799:25, 6800:8, 6800:12, 6800:19, 6801:8, 6801:14, 6801:18,
6801:25, 6802:8, 6802:13,
6802:22, 6803:1, 6803:9,
6803:23, 6804:3, 6804:9,

6805:3, 6805:10, 6806:5, 6807:9, 6807:23, 6808:10, 6809:9, 6810:6, 6811:12, 6812:1, 6812:8, 6812:14, 6812:21, 6813:12, 6814:17, 6815:17, 6815:21, 6817:1, 6817:10, 6818:1, 6818:8, 6823:12, 6823:16, 6823:17, 6848:23, 6849:12, 6849:25, 6852:10, 6855:8, 6855:9, 6855:19, 6856:14, 6856:20, 6856:22, 6857:1, 6857:3, 6857:10, 6857:25, 6858:6, 6858:12, 6858:18, 6859:2, 6860:4, 6861:20, 6861:25, 6863:2, 6864:7, 6864:9, 6865:10, 6865:23, 6866:3, 6866:8, 6866:16, 6866:24, 6866:25, 6867:4, 6867:5, 6867:8, 6867:12, 6867:16, 6867:17,
6867:18, 6867:20,
6900:13, 6900:17,
6900:19, 6901:12, 6902:7, 6902:11, 6903:11,
6904:20, 6905:1, 6906:9, 6906:19, 6906:22, 6906:24, 6907:6, 6907:13, 6907:19, 6908:3, 6908:9, 6908:17, 6910:21,
6910:22, 6921:17,
6922:19, 6923:24, 6924:6, 6924:8, 6925:12, 6925:15, 6926:22, 6927:7, 6927:11, 6927:12, 6927:25, 6929:7, 6929:17, 6933:1, 6933:6, 6933:7, 6964:15, 6964:16, 6965:2, 6965:18, 6966:4, 6966:15, 6966:20,
6967:15, 6968:3, 6969:1,
6969:14, 6970:24,
6971:22, 6973:7, 6974:4,
6975:15, 6976:8, 6978:13,
6978:14, 6979:8, 6979:14, 6979:25, 6980:23, 6981:6, 6981:8, 6981:22, 6982:12, 6983:14, 6984:14, 6985:5, 6985:12, 6985:21,
6986:23, 6990:17,
6990:24, 6990:25, 6998:4, 6999:2, 6999:8, 7000:15, 7001:4, 7001:20, 7002:6, 7002:13, 7002:17,
7002:21, 7003:7, 7003:14, 7003:19, 7003:22, 7005:7, 7005:8, 7005:25, 7006:1, 7008:17, 7009:2, 7009:4, 7009:5, 7009:13, 7009:23, 7010:11, 7011:4, 7024:5, 7024:8, 7024:11, 7024:13, 7024:17, 7025:2, 7026:4,

7026:19, 7028:14, 7028:15, 7029:7, 7058:13, 7058:25, 7084:4
MS [173] - 6732:6, 6732:9, 6735:7, 6735:9, 6735:18, 6735:24, 6736:15, 6736:20, 6736:25, 6737:12, 6738:1, 6738:2, 6738:4, 6738:5, 6738:6, 6738:8, 6740:9, 6740:24, 6740:25, 6741:9, 6793:17, 6800:6, 6800:10, 6800:18, 6801:5, 6801:12, 6801:16, 6801:20, 6802:5, 6802:10, 6802:20, 6802:24, 6803:7, 6803:22, 6804:2, 6804:7, 6805:2, 6805:8, 6805:11, 6807:20, 6808:8, 6808:25, 6809:20, 6810:13,
6811:22, 6812:6, 6812:10, 6812:18, 6813:8, 6814:12, 6815:4, 6815:18, 6816:6, 6817:22, 6818:6, 6818:10, 6818:18, 6818:20,
6818:22, 6818:23,
6820:13, 6820:17,
6822:17, 6848:3, 6848:4, 6848:8, 6849:6, 6849:19, 6850:5, 6852:2, 6853:16, 6854:2, 6854:24, 6859:14, 6860:21, 6862:9, 6864:6, 6864:24, 6865:20,
6865:25, 6866:4, 6866:13, 6868:3, 6868:4, 6901:10, 6901:13, 6902:17, 6903:20, 6904:24, 6905:2, 6907:4, 6907:9, 6907:16, 6907:25, 6908:7, 6908:20, 6909:6, 6909:11, 6909:20, 6910:5, 6929:1, 6929:2, 6929:12, 6946:5, 6965:1, 6965:6, 6965:22, 6966:14, 6966:18, 6967:20,
6969:20, 6969:23,
6969:24, 6970:21,
6971:19, 6972:8, 6972:19, 6972:25, 6973:23,
6974:19, 6975:2, 6975:10, 6976:2, 6976:24, 6977:5,
6977:13, 6977:17, 6978:7, 6979:3, 6980:12, 6981:19, 6987:25, 6988:10,
6989:12, 6989:16,
6989:25, 7001:14,
7001:15, 7001:23,
7001:25, 7002:10,
7002:16, 7002:19,
7002:22, 7003:2, 7003:10, 7003:16, 7003:20, 7004:4, 7011:16, 7011:17,
7024:10, 7024:22,
7025:10, 7025:11,

7025:16, 7026:2, 7026:9, 7027:1, 7027:2, 7027:3, 7027:9, 7027:12, 7027:15, 7027:19, 7028:8, 7039:19, 7041:3, 7041:6, 7041:9,
7049:2, 7049:6, 7049:14
MTO ${ }_{[1] ~-~ 6884: 22 ~}^{2}$
multi [1] - 7040:2
multi-million-dollar [1] -
7040:2
multiple [2] - 6840:15,
7071:15
multiple-use [1] - 6840:15
multiplier [1] - 6993:6
multitude [2] - 6758:9, 6796:3
municipal [1] - 6884:24
municipalities [1] - 7017:1
museum [1] - 6773:20
mushrooms [1] - 6745:23
must ${ }_{[12]}$ - 6750:17, 6758:5,
6791:18, 6820:1, 6820:2, 6874:5, 6889:14, 6905:11, 6956:18, 7024:15, 7055:8, 7073:8
must" [1] - 6889:22
mutual [1] - 7024:13
mutually [1] - 6862:4
Myers [6] - 6744:16,
6745:19, 6747:14, 6749:8,
6753:11, 6756:13
Nabas [60] - 6741:19,
6741:23, 6742:3, 6742:7, 6744:10, 6744:15,
6744:25, 6745:1, 6746:11, 6746:22, 6746:24, 6747:6, 6747:10, 6747:18, 6747:24, 6748:1, 6748:4, 6749:6, 6749:21, 6750:19, 6751:17, 6752:8, 6754:2, 6754:5, 6754:6, 6756:15, 6757:17, 6758:3, 6758:8, 6759:25, 6760:10,
6768:12, 6768:16,
6768:21, 6769:6, 6769:7, 6769:22, 6770:13,
6770:16, 6773:16, 6775:1, 6775:24, 6790:9, 6791:18, 6791:25, 6793:5, 6793:19, 6795:2, 6796:2, 6803:20, 6804:25, 6805:3, 6805:5, 6809:3, 6809:12, 6812:4, 6812:13
Nadilinyex [1] - 6754:8
nailed [1] - 6968:15
Nalaine [6] - 6731:4, 6818:9, 6862:8, 6864:23, 6987:23, 7025:9
name [11] - 6741:1, 6741:19, 6773:24, 6798:23,
6933:11, 6991:3, 7005:10,

7011:12, 7011:25, 7012:1, 7087:14
named [4] - 6872:20,
6888:15, 6982:16, 6982:17
Namely [1] - 6797:16
names [3] - 6747:4, 6932:16, 6985:1
Nancy [3] - 6734:23, 7087:3, 7087:19
narrowed [1] - 7068:11
narrows [1] - 6755:9
nation [1] - 7044:22
NATION [10] - 6736:15,
6737:4, 6737:10, 6737:12, 6738:6, 6929:1, 6982:1,
6998:11, 7001:14, 7027:1
Nation [57] - 6733:17,
6733:24, 6739:9, 6739:10, 6764:25, 6765:13, 6768:1, 6781:24, 6784:22, 6797:3, 6797:7, 6800:16, 6801:19, 6806:6, 6809:1, 6810:19, 6811:19, 6815:5, 6820:14, 6822:9, 6860:20, 6863:17, 6863:22, 6864:13,
6870:23, 6871:3, 6893:10, 6901:1, 6901:14, 6902:5, 6902:20, 6902:21, 6903:9, 6910:2, 6928:24, 6957:9, 6970:11, 6978:8, 6990:9, 7001:12, 7010:21, 7012:4, 7013:8, 7013:13, 7014:1, 7026:25, 7027:18,
7031:14, 7044:19, 7046:5, 7048:6, 7055:21, 7055:22, 7056:23, 7057:4, 7057:10
Nation's [2] - 6811:21, 7038:16
NATIONAL [15] - 6731:15, 6735:5, 6735:8, 6735:10, 6735:11, 6735:20, 6736:24, 6737:2, 6740:20, 6740:23, 6799:13, 6817:8, 6855:7, 6969:22, 6978:12
National [19]-6733:9,
6733:22, 6853:22,
6854:18, 6854:21, 6861:6, 6861:10, 6863:15,
6873:22, 6873:25,
6886:14, 6905:14, 6927:4, 6969:18, 6983:11, 6998:8, 7008:25, 7024:3, 7064:5 national [3]-6876:1,
6885:18, 7019:11
Nationally ${ }_{[1]}$ - 6971:2
Nations [108]-6739:16, 6765:2, 6766:4, 6774:2, 6779:6, 6779:16, 6779:20, 6813:21, 6814:24, 6818:4, 6818:14, 6818:17, 6819:22, 6819:24, 6820:2, 6820:5, 6820:20, 6834:10,

6839:24, 6841:6, 6841:19, 6849:16, 6849:23, 6850:7, 6850:9, 6850:18, 6850:23, 6852:3, 6852:5, 6853:9, 6861:19, 6862:11, 6862:16, 6862:21, 6862:22, 6863:11, 6865:1, 6870:10, 6871:9, 6875:23, 6881:1, 6884:24, 6885:18, 6890:3, 6890:18, 6892:8, 6893:12, 6903:6, 6904:12, 6909:7, 6933:9, 6936:16, 6939:21, 6943:22,
6949:11, 6949:19, 6953:1, 6954:10, 6956:13, 6956:19, 6957:5, 6963:3, 6965:14, 6965:17,
6971:14, 6971:17,
6972:10, 6978:24, 6979:1, 6979:16, 6979:24,
6980:15, 6981:13,
6981:20, 6987:19, 6988:4, 6988:19, 6988:22,
6989:15, 6994:22, 6995:2, 6995:9, 6995:20, 6995:21, 6996:17, 6998:17,
6999:22, 7000:14,
7000:17, 7002:23, 7003:6, 7015:15, 7027:14, 7029:15, 7031:17, 7031:19, 7034:2, 7042:10, 7042:14, 7048:18, 7054:20, 7063:7, 7079:16, 7079:18, 7080:12,
7083:13, 7085:19, 7085:20
nations [1] - 7027:10
Native [5] - 6804:21,
7014:13, 7029:21,
7030:15, 7031:23
Natural [7]-6821:19,
6860:17, 6909:24,
6928:20, 6972:21,
7012:22, 7012:25
natural [10] - 6769:8, 6794:15, 6911:24, 6912:2, 6958:11, 6993:17, 7019:25, 7037:9, 7047:9, 7077:23
nature [13]-6748:16, 6749:18, 6768:8, 6778:12, 6778:15, 6809:15, 6811:5, 6849:4, 6849:25, 6922:9, 6972:6, 6986:5, 7074:4
nautical ${ }_{[1]}$ - 6940:8 navigability $[7]-6938: 16$, 6938:23, 6939:4, 6939:8, 6940:15, 6940:19, 6943:15
Navigable [23] - 6933:12, 6934:7, 6935:3, 6937:7, 6937:11, 6938:11, 6938:14, 6938:17, 6938:22, 6940:21, 6942:4,

6942:23, 6943:5, 6944:19, 6946:2, 6946:6, 6966:21, 6971:6, 6974:6, 6982:14, 6984:7, 6985:20, 6985:24 navigable [13]-6933:14, 6936:2, 6937:13, 6940:20, 6942:12, 6942:25, 6944:11, 6945:16, 6947:12, 6961:20, 6982:13, 6982:19, 6984:24 navigating [1] - 6933:19 navigation [76] - 6781:22, 6850:16, 6852:1, 6934:15, 6935:9, 6935:16, 6936:16, 6936:19, 6936:22, 6937:9, 6937:14, 6937:17, 6938:7, 6938:25, 6939:16,
6939:25, 6940:24,
6941:15, 6941:17,
6941:25, 6942:3, 6942:7,
6942:21, 6943:4, 6944:16, 6945:4, 6945:6, 6945:18,
6945:22, 6946:1, 6946:11, 6946:16, 6946:21,
6947:18, 6948:20,
6951:10, 6951:13, 6952:9, 6952:11, 6953:11,
6953:22, 6953:25, 6955:9, 6956:8, 6957:20, 6960:13, 6960:17, 6961:7, 6961:22, 6962:19, 6963:2, 6963:15, 6963:22, 6964:9, 6965:13, 6965:24, 6966:2, 6966:23, 6967:3, 6970:20, 6971:10, 6972:2, 6973:16, 6973:18, 6973:21, 6975:13,
6975:19, 6976:1, 6985:19, 6986:5, 6986:7, 6987:5,
6988:18, 7081:2, 7081:15
Navigation [1] - 6937:4
navigations [1] - 6943:16
near [3]-6779:7, 6919:1, 7062:23
nearest ${ }_{[1]}$ - 7022:18
nearly [1] - 7037:24
necessarily [7] - 6809:12, 6809:16, 6864:18, 6900:24, 6902:14, 6967:9, 7020:15
necessary ${ }^{[11]}-6798: 11$, 6862:23, 6862:25, 6951:2, 7044:2, 7065:20, 7065:23, 7068:25, 7075:8, 7082:8, 7083:10
necessity ${ }_{[1]}$ - 7070:11
neck [1] - 7058:22
need [48] - 6759:13, 6799:23, 6800:15, 6814:19, 6833:5, 6836:6, 6872:13, 6883:6, 6884:19, 6888:5, 6890:23, 6892:3, 6894:19, 6907:22, 6911:13, 6916:6, 6928:5,

6938:25, 6943:6, 6946:1, 6956:3, 6956:19, 6960:21, 6962:8, 6969:8, 6973:8, 6973:15, 6979:20, 6982:2, 6987:7, 6987:17, 6996:1,
7006:24, 7007:14,
7007:16, 7007:23,
7015:18, 7025:19,
7038:21, 7039:5, 7039:14, 7041:1, 7046:3, 7047:12,
7058:10, 7080:3, 7080:17
needed [8]-6819:12,
6832:14, 6842:24,
6853:24, 6938:13, 6954:8,
7041:11, 7043:14
needs [15] - 6796:7, 6887:5,
6887:14, 6895:16,
6897:20, 6927:13,
6929:21, 6977:2, 6987:10,
6988:20, 7007:18, 7008:1,
7034:8, 7039:14, 7047:11
negative [8]-6819:23,
6820:15, 6915:10, 6920:14, 7003:6, 7003:8, 7046:9, 7077:16
negatives [1] - 6796:22
negotiate $[7]$ - 6763:20,
6864:18, 6901:20, 6902:5,
6903:10, 7031:13, 7046:13
negotiated $[5]$ - 6881:12,
6894:4, 6912:7, 6912:10, 7030:10
negotiation [2] - 6884:25, 6903:3
negotiations [2]-6903:4, 7046:17
neighbour [1] - 6999:16
neighbours [1] - 6896:7
NEMAIAH [9] - 6731:19,
6736:6, 6736:11, 6736:12, 6736:14, 6910:18,
6921:15, 6927:10, 6928:25
Nemaiah [16] - 6731:20,
6733:14, 6822:1, 6842:7, 6842:11, 6860:10,
6908:22, 6910:14, 6911:2, 6915:7, 6932:7, 6983:19, 7001:5, 7010:5, 7025:5, 7079:23
Nemiah [7] - 6767:13, 6771:2, 6803:13, 6805:8, 6861:4, 6911:4, 7053:17
net [23] - 6842:25, 6843:7, 6843:16, 6843:23,
6843:25, 6881:2, 6881:13, 6881:17, 6881:20, 6912:22, 6912:24, 6914:1, 6915:2, 6919:4, 6920:23, 6920:24, 6921:2, 6923:1, 6923:2, 6926:14, 6930:18, 6993:19, 7038:17
Net $[4]$ - 6985:15, 6985:23,

6986:9, 7067:19
Nets [1] - 7033:13
network [3]-6903:23,
6904:3, 6907:17
Never [1] - 6884:23
never [13] - 6766:15,
6769:23, 6796:11,
6801:21, 6802:11, 6814:2, 6846:5, 6885:6, 7007:20,
7035:22, 7047:24, 7056:14
nevertheless [1] - 7077:14
New [1] - 7038:14
new [34]-6761:3, 6781:23,
6797:2, 6817:23, 6887:13,
6896:21, 6918:5, 6918:6,
6919:17, 6931:6, 6931:7,
6931:21, 6931:25,
6940:17, 6978:16,
6987:22, 6988:24, 6991:5, 6991:6, 6995:7, 6998:22, 7036:24, 7037:12,
7037:18, 7039:3, 7041:20,
7041:22, 7050:13, 7063:3,
7071:16, 7072:25,
7073:13, 7075:15, 7080:16
Newfoundland [4]-6909:13,
6909:15, 6984:18, 6985:7
newly [1] - 6814:7
news [4] - 7046:18, 7046:20,
7046:21, 7046:24
next [25] - 6767:2, 6791:13,
6791:21, 6796:11,
6821:22, 6830:12, 6832:4, 6838:16, 6853:21,
6854:17, 6859:12,
6859:16, 6859:19,
6859:21, 6860:2, 6860:19, 6896:8, 6906:16, 6928:6,
6932:15, 6936:25, 6966:5,
7004:10, 7013:22, 7037:8
Next [1] - 6908:22
nice [3]-6906:24, 7001:17, 7040:13
NICOL [9] - 6735:15,
6735:17, 6823:16,
6823:17, 6866:24, 6867:4,
6867:8, 6867:16, 6867:18
Nicol [7] - 6731:14, 6733:6,
6823:11, 6823:14,
6823:17, 6847:19, 6866:17
Nielsen [3] - 6734:23,
7087:3, 7087:19
Nigeria [1] - 7020:9
night ${ }_{[1]}-6752: 18$
nil [1] - 6882:1
nitrate [1]-7059:21
NO ${ }_{[1]}$ - 6735:2
nobody [2]-6822:12, 6893:13
non [23]-6759:19, 6760:25,
6761:9, 6762:13, 6765:4,

6765:5, 6820:6, 6820:9, 6829:23, 6839:22,
6880:21, 6892:21,
6893:23, 6893:25, 6947:4,
6947:5, 6947:12, 6995:21,
7014:6, 7017:24, 7022:6,
7035:21, 7036:23
non-Aboriginal $[7]$ -
6759:19, 6820:6, 6820:9,
6892:21, 6893:25, 7014:6,
7017:24
non-Aboriginals [1] -
6893:23
non-acid [2] - 6947:4, 6947:5
non-conventional [1] -
7036:23
non-employment [1] -
6829:23
non-First ${ }_{[1]}$ - 6995:21
non-licence [1] - 6839:22
non-market $[1]$ - 7022:6
non-navigable [1] - 6947:12
non-renewable [2] -
6880:21, 7035:21
non-Tsilhqot'in [5] -
6760:25, 6761:9, 6762:13, 6765:4, 6765:5
none [8]-6744:3, 6821:23,
6909:25, 6928:22, 7001:4,
7009:14, 7031:25, 7040:18
None [4] - 6860:18, 6890:22, 7029:23, 7072:11
nonetheless [1] - 7080:22
NOON [1] - 6854:10
normal [8] - 6958:12,
6966:22, 6971:6, 6977:21, 6986:20, 6986:23, 6987:9, 7071:13
normally [4]-6977:18,
6977:23, 6985:22, 7054:3
Normally ${ }^{[1]}$ - 6966:24
North [5] - 6754:7, 6912:5,
6922:10, 7017:7, 7038:21
north [2] - 6741:25, 7033:4
Northern [2] - 7012:3,

## 7012:24

northern [2] - 6779:25, 6817:17
not-market [1] - 7022:13
note [17]-6784:11, 6846:19,
6870:4, 6870:12, 6873:7,
6875:13, 6877:15, 6878:7,
6883:7, 6887:1, 6893:6,
6894:19, 6897:19,
6952:25, 7025:12,
7032:19, 7079:14
noted [11] - 6833:16, 6881:7,
6883:17, 6928:15, 6939:5,
6945:20, 6946:19, 6961:6,
7033:21, 7035:4, 7068:22
nothing [9] - 6853:8,

6897:20, 6969:4, 6980:1, 6980:9, 6986:23, 6999:8, 7007:7
notice [3]-6872:17, 6874:20, 6992:25
notification [5] - 6945:7,
6966:6, 6966:16, 6967:6, 6968:5
noting [1] - 7077:9
notion [2] - 6979:21, 7080:19
notions [1] - 6967:21
notwithstanding [2] -
6743:14, 7073:22
nought [1] - 6853:8
November [2] - 6743:10,
7003:25
nowhere [1] - 6747:19
NRCan [2] - 6977:10,
7064:22
Number [1] - 6961:17
number [53] - 6739:21,
6746:10, 6747:16,
6755:19, 6758:10,
6812:23, 6813:16,
6816:11, 6832:4, 6849:15, 6853:22, 6862:11, 6867:2, 6867:14, 6868:18,
6868:23, 6873:8, 6873:15,
6877:25, 6882:21,
6892:10, 6901:21, 6902:3,
6902:12, 6902:23, 6904:1,
6904:25, 6934:17,
6943:25, 6950:22,
6953:13, 6956:2, 6956:4,
6958:19, 6961:11, 6962:4, 6987:14, 6987:16,
6993:14, 7002:1, 7006:12,
7006:15, 7014:12, 7017:8,
7018:25, 7035:16, 7038:2,
7064:1, 7064:12, 7064:13,
7071:17, 7076:18
numbers [8] - 6797:6,
6801:23, 6830:14,
6830:17, 6875:15,
6875:16, 7039:13
numerous [3]-6828:12,
6840:16, 7077:19
nurse [4] - 6746:5, 6748:20,
6778:2, 6782:9
nutrient [4]-7059:5, 7059:7, 7061:2, 7061:4
nutrients [2] - 7060:10,
7061:1
nutritional [1] - 6786:11
NWPA [8] - 6937:1, 6937:12,
6937:21, 6941:2, 6969:7,
6971:2, 6975:25, 6982:12
o'clock [2] - 6854:9, 7085:1
obesity [2] - 6765:15,
7051:23
objective [3] - 6841:4,

| 7067:11, 7067:12 | 6978:4, 7059:4, 7073:7 | oil [17] - 6880:22, 7035:13, | 7027:6, 7027:11, 7028:13, |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Objectives [1] - 7065:19 | October [2] - 6771:16, | 7035:25, 7036:1, 7036:8, | 7030:6, 7030:25, 7040:22, |
| objectives [6] - 6838:5, 6862:19, 7067:3, 7068:7, | 7029:18 | $\begin{aligned} & 7036: 12,7036: 23,7037: 9, \\ & 7037: 19,7038: 5,7038: 15, \end{aligned}$ | 7041:2, 7043:6, 7045:25, 7046:15, 7048:10, |
| 7068:9, 7068:11 | OF [64] - 6730:8, 6731:19, | 7038:18, 7038:20, | 7049:14, 7049:20, 7053:9, |
| objects [1] - 6766:17 | 6732:3, 6735:1, 6735:10, | 7038:22, 7039:6, 7039:11, | 7056:3, 7056:4, 7058:1, |
| obligated [1] - 6843:6 | 6735:11, 6735:18, | 040:15 | 7062:4, 7069:20, 7073:20, |
| obligation [6] - 6815:25, 6841:9, 6863:3, 6863:5, | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 6735:20, 6735:22, 6736:1, } \\ & \text { 6736:2, 6736:4, 6736:6, } \end{aligned}$ | Oil [2] - 7035:20, 7036:11 oilfield [2] - 7038:8, 7038:10 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 7074:4, 7075:25, 7077:14, } \\ & 7078: 5,7083: 24 \end{aligned}$ |
| 6878:2, 7031:5 | 6736:11, 6736:12, | oils [2] - 7036:23, 7047:9 | one's [2]-6774:20, 6774:22 |
| obligations [6] - 6813:19, 6814:5, 6852:15, 6877:19 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 6736:14, 6736:22, } \\ & 6736: 24,6737: 1,6737: 3, \end{aligned}$ | old [6] - $6744: 12,6751: 20$, $6838: 20,7054: 17,7054: 18$ | one-and-a-half [1] - 6793:13 <br> one-lane [1] - 6983:5 |
| 7006:19, 7072:19 | 6737:5, 6737:9, 6737:11 | oldest [1] - 6744:12 | one-metre [1] - 6959:3 |
| obliged [1] - 7070:6 | 6737:14, 6737:18, | ON [4]-6735:13, 6738:14, | one-third [1] - 6879:9 |
| obliterated [1] - 6761:16 | 6737:20, 6737:22, | 6823:8, 7086:4 | one-to-one [1] - 6930:5 |
| observation [3] - 6779:24, 6810:7, 6811:18 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 6737:23, 6738:2, 6738:4, } \\ & \text { 6738:5, 6799:13, 6817:8, } \end{aligned}$ | on-Reserve [2] - 6846:22, 7019:17 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { ones }[8]-6770: 5,6860: 24, \\ & 6872: 16,6894: 10, \end{aligned}$ |
| observations [1] - 7076:9 | 6848:2, 6855:7, 6861:1, | on-stream [1] - 6930:15 | 6917:15, 7017:18, |
| observed [4] - 6801:1, | 6900:15, 6906:21, 6909:5, | Once [7] - 6774:5, 6835:11, | 7017:19, 7066:12 |
| 6812:22, 6820:2, 6957:8 | 6910:18, 6921:15, | 6938:15, 6940:19, 6967:9, | ongoing [3] - 6791:16, |
| observing [1] - 6939:10 | 6927:10, 6928:25, | 7035:21, 7067:6 | 6798:14, 7011:24 |
| obstructions [1] - 6937:16 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 6964:14, 6969:22, } \\ & \text { 6978:12, 6981:25, } \end{aligned}$ | once [8] - 6756:3, 6856:24, 6857:18, 6910:10, 6958:6, | Onion [15] - 6747:24, 6754:8, 6755:3, 6755:6, 6755:13, |
| obtaining [3]-6870:1, | 6983:25, 6998:10, | 7008:13, 7041:10, 7051:18 | 6755:21, 6755:24, |
| 6875:25, 6939:16 | 7001:13, 7004:24, 7005:6, | One [9] - 6741:23, 6765:3, | 6770:21, 6771:17, |
| Obtaining [1] - 6940:12 | 7005:24, 7009:3, 7024:10, | 6890:14, 6909:4, 6927:7, | 6775:15, 6775:16, |
| obvious [1] - 6919:12 | 7025:10, 7027:1 | 6976:24, 7031:17, | 6775:17, 6800:20, |
| obviously [21] - 6800:24, | off-Reserve [1] - 6893:1 | 7047:24, 7084:24 | 6800:24, 6812:5 |
| 6803:5, 6808:20, 6813:9, 6814:7, 6819:23, 6827:25, | $\begin{aligned} & \text { offer [4] - 6929:9, 6980:21, } \\ & 7082: 25,7083: 2 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { one [119] - } 6739: 13,6745: 1, \\ 6745: 22,6758: 1,6761: 20, \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { onus }[1]-6862: 15 \\ & \text { open }[6]-6862: 4,6872: 15 \end{aligned}$ |
| 6829:17, 6832:10, | offered [7] - 6811:24 | 65:10, 6766:5, 6776:24, | 6877:24, 7021:10, |
| 6832:13, 6836:24, 6837:6, | 6935:5, 6946:18, 6959:15, | 6778:23, 6789:14, | 7062:13, 7080:16 |
| 6838:12, 6838:17, | $\begin{aligned} & 6961: 8,6963: 16,7009: 7 \\ & \text { offering }[1]-6934: 18 \end{aligned}$ | 6789:18, 6789:19, 6790:9, 6793:13, 6805:22, | OPENING [2] - 6735:3, 6739:4 |
| 6968:9, 6997:23, 6999:23, | offers [3] - 6749:8, 6862:5, | 6805:25, 6806:1, 6806:3 | opening [2] - 6782:5, |
| 7033:25 | 074:17 | 6806:8, 6807:2, 6807:24, | 6923:24 |
| Obviously [2] - 6841:5, $6858 \cdot 24$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Office [9] - 6855:22, } \\ & \text { 6856:16, 6856:25, } 6857: 5, \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 6808:6, 6808:22, 6809:7, } \\ & \text { 6810:15, 6815:15, } \end{aligned}$ | openness [1] - 6896:24 <br> operate [2] - 6887:10, 69 |
| occasional [1] - 6944:12 | 6870:6, 6913:25, 6922:12, | 6818:10, 6828:14, 6829:9, | operates [3] - 6858:9, |
| occasions [4] - 6984:10, | 6922:22, 7079:5 | 6832:3, 6834:19, 6836:13, | 6955:3, 6960:19 |
| 6984:11, 7062:11, 7063:8 | office [3]-6857:9, 6921:22, | 6842:6, 6848:25, 6851:8, | Operating [1] - 7036:16 |
| occupational [1] - 6842:1 | officer [4] - 6933:15, | 6858:1, 6859:5, 6861:2, 6865:12, 6866:11, | operating [15] - 6828:13, 6870:11, 6875:3, 6875:10 |
| occupations [2] - 6893:9 6992:3 | 6933:19, 6933:20, 6940:2 | 6868:19, 6873:2, 6873:17, | 6876:9, 6876:12, 6876:17, |
| occupied [1] - 7034:19 | Officer [1] - 6933:22 | 6876:11, 6879:9, 6884:1, | 6881:18, 6882:3, 6882:5, |
| occupy [1]-7074:16 | officers [2] - 6836:6, 6933:8 Official [2] - 7087:3, 7087:20 | $\begin{aligned} & 6896: 15,6902: 24, \\ & 6904: 19,6904: 21, \end{aligned}$ | 6882:7, 6882:18, 6883:13, 6883.20, 7016.5 |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { occur }[15]-6750: 2,6750: 8, \\ & 6764: 20,6772: 16, \end{aligned}$ | Official [2] - 7087:3, 7087:20 official [1] - 6839:22 | 6904:19, 6904:21, <br> 6905:14, 6915:12, | 6883:20, 7016:5 <br> operation [15] - 6769:13, |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { 7764:20, 6772:16, } \\ & \text { 7777:22, 6782:21, } \end{aligned}$ | offs [4] - 6897:7, 6899:2 | 6917:13, 6917:17 | 6769:18, 6795:1, 6807:18, |
| 6809:12, 6839:2, 6839:4, | 6920:19, 6920:20 | 6919:12, 6919:14 | 6833:24, 6917:7, 6918:21, |
| 6839:5, 6856:4, 6896:22, | offset [8] - 6795:19, 6913:19, | 6924:13, 6926:23, 6927:7, | 6947:16, 6957:25, |
| 6950:2, 6958:25, 7085:14 | 6919:21, 6919:22, 6920:1, | 6930:5, 6944:7, 6950:4, | 6977:21, 6984:12, |
| occurred [3] - 6780:5, | $\begin{array}{r} \text { 6920:22, 6921:4, 6926:15 } \\ \text { often [14]-6745:8, 6762:25, } \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 6952:2, 6955:25, 6959:3, } \\ & \text { 6961:17, 6975:10, 6976:2, } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 6991:23, 7061:21, } \\ & 7062: 14,7069: 25 \end{aligned}$ |
| 6793:21, 7085:15 | 6880:23, 6896:23, 6903:6, | 6977:14, 6979:12, 6982:4, | Operation [1] - 6962:11 |
| occurs [3] - 6748:6, 6847:15, | 6904:16, 6914:5, 6914:6, | 6982:18, 6983:5, 6984:1, | operational [5] - 6807:14, |
| 6954:22 | 6915:14, 6917:19, 7027:7, 7030:24, 7070:16, 7071:1 | 6984:18, 6984:19, 6985:5, 6985:6, 6985:9, 6986:7, | 6807:17, 7035:15, 7061:17, 7061:18 |
| Oceans [12] - 6860:17, | 7030:24, 7070:16, 7071:1 <br> Often [2] - 6772:17, 6786:10 | 6985:6, 6985:9, 6986:7, 6986:15, 6990:18, 6996:9, | 7061:17, 7061:18 <br> Operations [1] - 7013:9 |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { 6909:24, 6928:20, } \\ & \text { 6953:13, 6975:3, 6975:8, } \end{aligned}$ | often-quoted [1] - 7071:1 | 7000:16, 7002:10, 7008:1, | operations [8] - 6830:21, |
| 6977:9, 6977:17, 6977:20, | OGMAs [1] - 6839:1 | 7011:9, 7011:11, 7016:6, 7018:15, 7024:8, 7025:11, | 6830:23, 6839:14, |

6878:10, 6919:20,
6974:10, 7020:19, 7069:1
operative [1] - 6910:24
opinion [11] - 6783:4,
6793:4, 6798:15, 6811:23,
6911:14, 6926:19,
7002:20, 7064:4, 7064:11,
7066:22, 7068:13
opinions [6] - 7009:8,
7009:24, 7065:14,
7065:24, 7066:11, 7081:8
opportunities [36] - 6796:25,
6797:6, 6813:16, 6813:20,
6816:2, 6840:25, 6841:5,
6850:6, 6850:9, 6850:15,
6850:24, 6851:5, 6853:5,
6853:11, 6862:10, 6887:3,
6887:6, 6912:13, 6917:9,
6945:9, 6948:14, 6948:25,
6951:7, 6951:13, 6951:17,
6951:21, 6953:2, 6955:15, 6995:7, 6995:14, 7016:9, 7016:16, 7045:16,
7045:18, 7047:15, 7082:2
opportunity [40] - 6740:2,
6740:4, 6742:14, 6764:15,
6799:10, 6813:10,
6841:10, 6843:11,
6859:22, 6885:1, 6896:13, 6903:18, 6905:12, 6914:19, 6916:2, 6934:3, 6945:17, 6964:7, 6965:16, 6991:1, 6995:2, 6995:4, 6995:11, 6996:23, 6997:4, 6997:13, 7005:9, 7010:24, 7011:18, 7012:15, 7016:4, 7028:9, 7039:22, 7041:10, 7042:13, 7046:16, 7058:8, 7062:8, 7064:21, 7082:25
opposed [3] - 6774:11,
6787:25, 6870:22
opposition [1] - 7047:25
optimism [1] - 7037:17
optimistic [1] - 7036:19
option [1] - 6986:16
options [2] - 6951:12,
6952:19
oral [1] - 6743:7
order [25] - 6733:1, 6734:1, 6739:21, 6740:1, 6821:21, 6823:2, 6847:23, 6854:22, 6859:18, 6860:1, 6863:7, 6866:8, 6869:3, 6877:24, 6906:13, 6909:21, 6910:10, 6910:13, 6927:2, 6938:13, 6971:4, 6990:4, 6997:23, 6998:7, 7035:9
orders [1] - 6783:21
ore [8]-6872:15, 6894:25, 6895:23, 6896:3, 6941:21, 7061:20, 7061:24, 7061:25 organization [3] - 6892:13,

6909:12, 6993:10
Organization [3]-6889:15, 6889:24, 6905:3
organizations [2] - 6991:16, 6992:23
organizing [2] - 6868:13, 6932:7
origin [2] - 6893:10, 7014:14 original [3]-6823:3, 6923:1, 6976:22
originally [3]-6965:11, 6973:22, 7080:15
Orphaned [1] - 6905:14
Orry [4]-6744:18, 6751:19, 6754:13, 6775:6
Orthophosphate [1] 7059:25
orthophosphate [1] - 7060:1
os [1] - 6754:2
otherwise [14] - 6773:7,
6794:22, 6825:15, 6861:9, 6865:16, 6902:16,
6914:15, 6915:1, 6915:21, 6916:3, 6916:10, 6917:5, 6917:11, 7064:10
ought [2] - 6857:23, 7075:25 ourself [1] - 6808:16 ourselves [11] - 6740:3, 6808:14, 6826:19, 6852:6, 6925:19, 7001:10, 7042:24, 7047:23, 7052:13, 7063:18, 7084:19 out-migration [1] - 6832:7 out-of-pocket [1] - 6786:2 out-planting [1] - 7071:17 outcome [1] - 7008:11
outdoor ${ }_{[1]}$ - 6840:12
outfitter [1] - 6840:10
outfitters [1] - 6761:8
outlet [3] - 6754:8, 6755:13, 6947:12
outline [1] - 6935:2
outlined [7] - 6842:25,
6847:3, 6862:20, 6961:11, 7063:25, 7080:3, 7085:2
outlines [3] - 6850:9,
7079:12, 7079:20
output [3] - 6873:5, 6930:3, 7037:23
outset [1] - 6986:25
outside [10] - 6771:20,
6820:22, 6832:21, 6844:1,
6899:21, 6904:14, 6967:4,
6987:1, 7044:1, 7081:9
outsider [1] - 7044:5
outstanding [2] - 6887:21, 7059:2
outweigh [2] - 6796:22, 6996:18
overall [7]-6759:25, 6783:6, 6879:6, 6919:6, 6920:24,

6921:2, 6937:14
overburden [2] - 6941:21, 6947:5
overflow [1] - 6948:3
overgrazing [1] - 6761:3
overlooking [1] - 6788:8
overnight [1] - 6951:7
oversized [1] - 6894:21
overview [8]-6798:20,
6869:6, 6921:12, 6934:16,
6935:5, 7028:6, 7057:21,
7057:24
owed [1] - 6912:11
own [14] - 6752:6, 6759:18,
6833:3, 6879:20, 6895:4,
6904:17, 6927:15, 6928:1,
6947:1, 6967:21, 6997:11,
7031:20, 7047:17, 7062:24
owned [1] - 6870:12
owner [6]-6973:20, 6974:2,
6974:8, 6974:11, 6974:13,
6974:18
ownership [1] - 6762:5
Oxford [2] - 6868:20, 7036:7
oxide [1] - 6905:20
oxygen [3]-6886:11,
7074:12, 7074:20
P.M [3]-6738:13, 6854:12, 7086:3
pace [1] - 6879:20
PAGE [1] - 6735:2
page [71] - 6744:17, 6744:19, 6744:22, 6745:2, 6745:5,
6745:9, 6745:12, 6745:15,
6745:20, 6745:25, 6746:4,
6746:8, 6747:16, 6747:20,
6748:14, 6748:19, 6749:3,
6749:20, 6750:5, 6750:9,
6751:3, 6751:10, 6751:22,
6752:7, 6752:19, 6753:4,
6753:7, 6753:10, 6753:13,
6753:14, 6753:18,
6753:25, 6754:3, 6754:12,
6754:15, 6754:18,
6754:20, 6754:24, 6755:2,
6755:4, 6755:7, 6755:10,
6756:9, 6756:12, 6756:14,
6756:19, 6757:16, 6758:6,
6759:20, 6761:22,
6764:22, 6766:24, 6767:9,
6770:8, 6774:15, 6775:11,
6775:22, 6776:7, 6776:16,
6777:5, 6777:18, 6778:1,
6779:22, 6781:1, 6781:12,
6782:7, 6784:3, 6793:3,
6879:23, 6880:10, 6944:5
pages [1] - 6821:3
Pages [1] - 6730:17
paid [17] - 6878:23, 6879:9,
6879:14, 6879:17, 6882:3,
6882:12, 6882:20, 6883:3,

6883:19, 6915:1, 6917:11, 6918:12, 6920:2, 6924:22, 6932:2, 6932:3
painfully [1] - 6979:17
paint ${ }_{[1]}$ - 6901:6
pairs [2] - 7076:20, 7077:1
Palmantier [2]-6757:12, 6788:23
panel [1] - 6922:15
PANEL [29] - 6730:6, 6731:2, 6731:13, 6731:15,
6731:17, 6731:19,
6731:21, 6735:6, 6735:12, 6735:14, 6735:22, 6736:5, 6736:7, 6736:16, 6736:18, 6737:6, 6737:15, 6738:4,
6740:21, 6817:9, 6823:10, 6861:1, 6909:5, 6910:19, 6929:16, 6933:3, 6983:25, 7005:1, 7025:10
Panel [87] - 6731:3, 6731:4, 6731:4, 6740:25, 6742:5, 6742:15, 6742:23, 6743:6, 6743:18, 6748:9, 6750:15, 6763:24, 6785:7, 6787:22, 6791:16, 6791:18, 6805:4, 6817:7, 6849:7, 6855:15, 6860:24, 6868:6, 6888:10, 6898:4, 6898:11, 6907:8,
6907:11, 6907:25, 6909:4, 6910:23, 6913:2, 6923:16, 6923:17, 6926:9, 6926:12, 6927:13, 6928:1, 6929:14, 6933:7, 6934:4, 6934:12,
6934:19, 6935:1, 6935:11, 6943:13, 6946:14, 6953:4, 6953:12, 6956:25,
6957:11, 6961:5, 6963:18, 6964:8, 6973:11, 6980:2, 6980:6, 6980:9, 6983:24,
6991:2, 6992:21, 6997:16, 6997:21, 7001:10, 7005:9, 7006:18, 7010:7, 7010:17, 7011:18, 7023:16, 7025:9, 7026:21, 7028:16,
7040:21, 7043:19,
7044:20, 7045:22,
7047:15, 7048:15, 7055:4,
7068:16, 7070:6, 7074:25,
7076:3, 7076:7, 7079:24,
7083:16, 7085:5
Panel's [4]-6846:11,
6899:4, 6990:2, 7069:13
paper [2]-6921:25, 6969:4
papers [2] - 6930:25
par [1] - 6876:7
paragraphs [1] - 7039:19
parameter [2] - 6845:3,
6847:17
parameters [9] - 6824:10,
6826:3, 6826:15, 6827:21, 6835:17, 6845:2, 6845:18,

6958:9, 7060:14
parent [1] - 6891:21
parenting $[1]$ - 6750:3
parents [1] - 6747:5
parks [4] - 6761:6, 6951:14, 7077:20
parsnip [1] - 7032:23
part [46] - 6758:2, 6765:8, 6767:7, 6771:25, 6779:6, 6781:20, 6794:6, 6800:21, 6820:18, 6835:12,
6845:22, 6850:11,
6852:21, 6865:24, 6878:1, 6890:19, 6907:11, 6917:8, 6917:9, 6922:2, 6942:23, 6943:2, 6944:25, 6946:12, 6959:23, 6962:21,
7003:19, 7007:7, 7010:15, 7013:19, 7029:14, 7052:9,
7052:10, 7052:11,
7052:12, 7053:11,
7053:22, 7054:14,
7054:16, 7054:18,
7055:11, 7061:13,
7067:15, 7070:12,
7070:19, 7077:21
partially ${ }^{[1]}$ - 6795:18
participants [3]-6922:22,
6990:4, 7084:20
participate [6] - 6794:9, 6810:16, 6853:12, 7018:4, 7026:18, 7064:8
participated [1] - 7064:6
participating [3] - 6767:15, 7017:14, 7017:17
participation [5]-6797:4, 6902:24, 7018:1, 7018:9, 7053:12
particular [17] - 6798:9, 6806:7, 6827:16, 6837:3, 6837:17, 6838:14, 6839:18, 6847:17,
6849:21, 6856:25,
6917:17, 6954:2, 6976:15, 6981:16, 6986:6, 7029:4, 7029:9
Particularly [1] - 7059:3 particularly [14] - 6743:1, 6745:24, 6754:8, 6757:24, 6833:23, 6855:21, 6921:21, 6931:2, 6935:16, 6946:11, 6957:18,
7060:20, 7063:7, 7063:25
PARTIES [2] - 6733:1,
6734:1
parties [5] - 6750:7, 6761:8, 6863:6, 7065:24, 7066:2
partly [2] - 6997:22, 7070:16
partner [1] - 6741:2
partners [1] - 6815:6
partnerships [1] - 7047:16
parts [6] - 6800:10, 6872:4, 6882:8, 7048:3, 7072:18, 7073:9
pass [1] - 6996:23
passed [3] - 6767:8, 6770:6, 6774:6
passing [2] - 6774:1, 7038:24
passion [1] - 6764:13
Past [1] - 7048:11
past [23]-6743:18, 6747:3,
6791:5, 6791:16, 6827:23,
6832:7, 6833:20, 6846:19,
6916:16, 6933:15,
6933:25, 6980:17, 6985:3,
6994:24, 6995:3, 7000:11,
7000:12, 7014:4, 7037:14,
7042:15, 7047:20, 7073:1
patently [1] - 7065:11
paternally [1] - 7047:18
patience [1] - 7084:18
patient [1] - 6886:2
Patricia [1] - 6731:10
PATT [2] - 6735:7, 6735:9
Patt [19] - 6731:16, 6733:4,
6739:24, 6740:22, 6741:1,
6800:1, 6807:1, 6807:12,
6811:13, 6817:2, 6823:2,
6839:23, 6842:6, 6846:19,
6865:13, 6970:8, 6981:12,
7050:18, 7053:13
pattern [2] - 6817:24,
7059:21
patterns [2] - 6784:21,
6956:21
pay [14] - 6877:12, 6879:1, 6879:3, 6879:7, 6881:2, 6882:23, 6883:10,
6883:17, 6885:6, 6891:23,
6918:19, 6918:23, 7008:7, 7022:15
payable [1] - 6880:24
paying [6] - 6771:1, 6797:9, 6891:11, 6917:21, 6918:9, 6918:18
payment [1] - 6843:20
payments [4]-6829:24,
6843:17, 6917:4, 6994:19
payroll [4] - 6830:23, 6831:4, 6994:10, 6997:3
payrolls [1] - 6994:13
pays $[2]-6771: 1,6879: 4$
PDF [1] - 7042:21
peace [2] - 6753:10, 7030:25
peak [4] - 6833:12, 7036:12,
7038:5, 7038:8
Pearse [11] - 6733:9,
6855:10, 6857:7, 6858:6,
6858:18, 6877:11,
6978:11, 6981:1, 7079:4, 7079:9, 7079:12

PEARSE [18] - 6735:21, 6737:2, 6855:8, 6855:9, 6856:14, 6856:22, 6857:3, 6857:10, 6857:25,
6858:12, 6859:2, 6978:13, 6978:14, 6979:8, 6979:25, 6980:23, 6981:8, 6981:22
peer [1] - 6868:19
peer-reviewed [1] - 6868:19
Pembina [1] - 6879:11
penalties [3]-6872:1, 6872:7, 6872:12
people [157] - 6743:3,
6744:11, 6744:14,
6746:10, 6747:7, 6748:9,
6749:10, 6749:22,
6750:10, 6751:4, 6751:24,
6752:9, 6752:17, 6753:6,
6753:19, 6755:12,
6755:15, 6755:20,
6756:20, 6757:9, 6759:12,
6759:22, 6760:19,
6760:23, 6761:24,
6762:21, 6763:2, 6763:6,
6763:12, 6763:19,
6764:13, 6764:17,
6765:12, 6766:7, 6766:25, 6768:23, 6770:2, 6770:5, 6770:16, 6772:15, 6773:4, 6774:23, 6775:1, 6775:3, 6775:10, 6778:7, 6780:7, 6780:23, 6782:17, 6782:19, 6782:21, 6782:25, 6783:8, 6784:2, 6786:4, 6786:10, 6787:1, 6787:11, 6788:10,
6793:20, 6794:6, 6795:6,
6797:7, 6798:24, 6799:2,
6799:8, 6800:22, 6804:18,
6809:22, 6811:20,
6815:10, 6815:13,
6816:20, 6834:4, 6854:20,
6884:19, 6887:22,
6887:23, 6888:21, 6890:8, 6890:11, 6891:14,
6891:16, 6891:23, 6892:2, 6893:15, 6895:21,
6899:15, 6904:16,
6905:25, 6906:5, 6914:15, 6914:18, 6916:3, 6916:9,
6916:13, 6916:19, 6920:3, 6921:8, 6923:8, 6931:25, 6950:8, 6989:3, 6991:14, 6991:15, 6992:24,
6993:13, 6993:24,
6999:12, 6999:21,
7000:25, 7002:1, 7003:11,
7006:15, 7007:22,
7009:17, 7009:19,
7009:21, 7010:24, 7011:3, 7011:9, 7014:13, 7014:15, 7014:21, 7016:5, 7016:9,

7017:4, 7017:5, 7017:7, 7017:10, 7018:10, 7018:25, 7019:9, 7022:3, 7023:5, 7026:17, 7026:18, 7030:15, 7031:23,
7031:25, 7034:23,
7034:25, 7035:5, 7041:21,
7041:25, 7051:23,
7054:20, 7055:25, 7056:2, 7056:10, 7056:21, 7063:6, 7063:7, 7072:7, 7082:3,
7082:5
People [87] - 6742:25,
6746:25, 6747:12, 6748:3, 6749:14, 6750:12, 6751:7, 6751:11, 6757:22,
6758:10, 6758:16, 6759:7, 6759:19, 6760:12,
6760:25, 6761:22, 6762:1,
6762:13, 6762:22,
6767:10, 6767:20,
6769:16, 6769:21, 6770:4,
6770:14, 6772:18,
6777:16, 6779:6, 6786:16, 6787:9, 6790:5, 6792:2,
6792:25, 6793:6, 6793:18, 6795:4, 6796:18, 6797:11, 6797:15, 6797:21,
6798:17, 6801:4, 6804:15,
6805:24, 6806:7, 6807:21, 6813:11, 6820:6, 6820:9, 6824:12, 6886:20,
6886:21, 6887:13,
6891:21, 6892:18,
6894:13, 6895:25, 6896:7,
6904:12, 6978:24,
6981:13, 6982:8, 6992:5,
6994:22, 6995:9, 6996:17,
6999:22, 7011:21,
7014:10, 7014:13,
7015:11, 7015:15,
7015:17, 7017:12, 7018:3,
7031:23, 7032:8, 7042:14,
7043:3, 7048:10, 7048:20,
7051:8, 7053:23, 7055:10,
7056:21, 7058:5
People" [1] - 6750:18
people's [1] - 6785:15
peoples [1] - 7031:9
Peoples [5] - 6789:5,
6889:10, 6899:10, 7017:6, 7017:24
Peoples' [1] - 6761:9
per [28] - 6757:1, 6786:19,
6835:5, 6835:6, 6836:6,
6866:21, 6867:6, 6871:15, 6871:16, 6871:20, 6872:4, 6876:13, 6877:3, 6882:6, 6884:3, 6884:4, 6884:5,
6918:13, 6919:3, 6919:19, 7027:17, 7059:14,
7059:19, 7059:23, 7060:2,

7060:3, 7060:7, 7060:8 perceived [2] - 6815:1, 6957:1
percent [55] - 6759:5, 6765:24, 6790:22, 6791:4, 6795:21, 6827:17,
6827:18, 6829:21,
6833:11, 6848:13,
6871:17, 6871:20, 6872:2,
6872:3, 6874:20, 6874:22,
6875:6, 6876:17, 6877:3,
6878:16, 6879:5, 6879:7,
6881:17, 6881:20, 6882:8,
6883:18, 6883:19, 6891:4,
6893:8, 6893:18, 6893:22,
6894:7, 6930:2, 6944:3,
6947:14, 6948:4, 6948:12,
6950:18, 6955:14,
6975:17, 6975:21,
6976:14, 6976:19,
6994:17, 7014:11,
7018:16, 7018:17, 7019:6,
7038:23, 7060:24,
7060:25, 7082:17, 7082:20
percentage [2] - 6881:9,
6975:22
perception [8] - 6778:3,
6778:6, 6779:12, 6783:25, 6784:1, 6811:8, 6962:8, 7002:5
perched [1] - 6958:14 perfectly [2] - 6784:2, 6916:16
performance [1] - 7069:11
Performance [1] - 7061:12
performances [2]-7048:11, 7048:13
perhaps [23] - 6802:3,
6804:6, 6806:19, 6807:2,
6813:3, 6813:18, 6852:13,
6853:7, 6853:25, 6856:3,
6901:3, 6903:13, 6904:13, 6927:14, 6968:7, 6968:15, 7040:3, 7064:22, 7070:17, 7073:17, 7077:15, 7078:23, 7079:2
Perhaps [6] - 6802:24,
6847:25, 6858:19, 7072:24, 7073:2, 7083:24
period [8]-6815:11, 6818:3,
6959:24, 6976:11,
6994:14, 7060:21,
7061:16, 7061:22
Period [1] - 6790:3
peripheral [1] - 6888:18
perished [1] - 6751:25
permanent [1] - 6849:5
permanently [5] - 6747:2,
6769:19, 6773:8, 6795:2, 6947:11
permit [6] - 6870:21,
6899:23, 6900:4, 6984:6,

7072:16, 7083:10
Permit [1] - 6870:13
permits [5] - 6761:7, 6871:4, 6875:25, 6884:17, 7011:10
permitted [2] - 6962:24, 7028:12
permitting [2]-7028:16, 7028:18
perpetrated [1] - 7031:4
perpetuity [2] - 6958:6, 6973:25
perplexing [1] - 7080:7
persists [1]-6743:16
person [8] - 6830:18,
6830:20, 6873:22, 6874:7, 6915:21, 7020:5, 7041:2, 7049:24
person-years [2] - 6830:18, 6830:20
personal [3] - 6940:4, 6995:6, 6999:14
Personal [6] - 6732:6,
6732:7, 6732:9, 6734:9, 6734:10, 6734:12
personalities [1] - 7005:21
personally [6] - 6752:6,
6802:25, 6821:7, 7000:21, 7031:3, 7038:4
perspective [17] - 6786:14, 6799:6, 6807:15, 6808:18, 6838:12, 6842:8, 6842:9,
6844:21, 6845:4, 6847:13,
6901:7, 6962:20, 6979:19,
6998:17, 7011:1, 7055:20, 7070:7
pervasive [1] - 6778:5
petroleum [3]-7036:20,
7036:25, 7037:13
pH [2] - 7074:12, 7074:20
Ph.D [1] - 6911:18
phase [9]-6769:13,
6769:17, 6769:18,
6807:14, 6938:1, 6938:4,
6945:2, 6974:10
phases [1] - 7081:25
PhD [1] - 7012:24
Phillips [1] - 6739:7
phosphate [2]-7060:4, 7060:6
photos [1] - 7053:19
physical [18] - 6762:19,
6765:15, 6765:19,
6772:12, 6772:13,
6772:15, 6772:17,
6772:18, 6782:23, 6783:9, 6783:16, 6936:5, 6938:19, 6939:10, 6941:13,
6973:17, 7051:20, 7051:21
physically [2] - 6765:13,
7043:24
pick [9]-6745:14, 6745:20,

6746:3, 6746:8, 6756:3,
6756:11, 6807:3, 7033:7,
7044:13
picked [1] - 7020:25
picking [4] - 6746:11,
6755:10, 7022:8, 7065:1
picks [2] - 6745:21, 6756:13
Pickton [1] - 7056:11
picnic [1]-6950:21
picture [3] - 6901:6, 6999:20, 6999:21
piece [3]-6764:14, 6838:14, 7051:25
pieces [1] - 7069:20
pine [9]-6745:23, 6745:24,
6830:3, 6830:6, 6831:21,
6837:12, 7014:19,
7032:14, 7081:20
Pioneer [1] - 6730:22
pipe ${ }_{[1]}$ - 6753:10
Pipeline [2]-6785:7, 6785:20
pit [7] - 6768:4, 6872:16, 6948:1, 6950:21, 7021:10, 7061:19, 7062:13
pitch [1]-6745:24
pits [1]-6878:18
place [46] - 6743:5, 6746:18, 6746:19, 6747:18, 6748:5, 6748:10, 6748:23, 6749:6, 6749:9, 6749:15, 6749:21, 6750:20, 6752:9, 6753:5, 6753:8, 6754:23, 6757:23, 6758:19, 6760:14, 6764:5, 6764:14, 6773:17,
6788:12, 6793:11, 6795:4,
6805:25, 6806:1, 6806:3,
6815:8, 6837:23, 6837:24, 6848:22, 6848:24,
6949:13, 6949:14, 6970:7, 6970:9, 6988:16, 6998:22, 7015:4, 7044:25, 7072:13, 7075:10, 7087:8
placed [1] - 6942:1
Placement [1] - 6950:13
placement [7]-6940:22,
6941:21, 6942:13,
6942:22, 6942:24,
6949:15, 6987:11
places [16] - 6745:1,
6745:22, 6750:4, 6755:9,
6761:3, 6772:14, 6772:19,
6773:15, 6790:10,
6791:25, 6792:21,
6888:18, 6894:24, 6928:9, 7011:1, 7045:5
Places [1] - 6772:16
Plan [18]-6781:21, 6795:13,
6813:2, 6818:12, 6818:13, 6838:8, 6953:15, 6966:10, 6988:2, 7067:2, 7067:5,

7069:16, 7070:14, 7071:14, 7071:24, 7072:1, 7073:22, 7075:11
plan [20]-6764:21, 6765:23, 6766:1, 6766:3, 6768:21, 6768:22, 6783:2, 6823:3, 6842:3, 6847:9, 6849:2, 6854:9, 6862:18, 6952:7, 6963:1, 6971:25, 7067:15, 7068:11, 7069:9, 7076:25
planes [1] - 6932:25
planet [2] - 6906:3, 7040:1
planning [7] - 6880:7,
6930:13, 6982:23,
6991:13, 7005:5, 7073:5, 7085:9
plans [12]-6767:12,
6767:18, 6767:21,
6768:11, 6768:25, 6769:1, 6848:20, 6861:16, 6952:1, 6954:3, 6960:9, 7046:8
Plans [9] - 6767:17, 6836:21, 6836:22, 6838:10, 6857:6,
7070:20, 7070:22, 7071:4, 7072:11
plant ${ }_{[1]}$ - 6768:24
planting [1] - 7071:17
plants [15]-6745:4, 6746:11,
6750:14, 6760:5, 6761:4,
6769:14, 6770:1, 6776:20,
6778:4, 6778:20, 6789:25,
7015:1, 7022:25, 7032:17,
7032:23
plate [1]-6853:12
play [2] - 7026:16, 7056:6
PLAYED [2] - 6737:21, 7006:23
playing [2] - 6810:3, 7018:6
pleased [4]-6868:5, 6902:1, 6902:2, 7011:12
pleasure [1] - 7005:17
plenty [2] - 7070:24, 7070:25
plus [1] - 7061:24
pocket [1] - 6786:2
pockets [1] - 6920:25
point [57]-6743:6, 6744:1,
6744:2, 6770:15, 6786:25, 6796:17, 6806:9, 6806:10, 6807:1, 6809:10, 6810:5, 6810:25, 6815:3, 6822:18, 6843:3, 6846:5, 6848:1, 6848:23, 6857:21, 6863:21, 6867:17, 6915:15, 6922:3, 6922:24, 6924:12, 6926:11,
6930:18, 6938:8, 6946:19, 6946:24, 6950:18, 6971:8,
6975:1, 6975:9, 6979:6,
6979:7, 6979:9, 6980:1,
6980:22, 6984:6, 6996:20,
6997:5, 6997:14, 7008:21,

7019:1, 7031:19, 7040:10, 7041:1, 7057:1, 7057:19, 7061:21, 7067:16,
7068:23, 7077:15,
7077:25, 7082:12, 7082:16
pointed [9] - 6742:23,
6805:11, 6832:20,
6877:11, 6922:8, 7069:19,
7075:23, 7077:18
points [6] - 6818:15,
6818:18, 6913:6, 6997:6,
7049:15, 7075:3
poles [1] - 7033:11
Polese [1] - 6888:15
policies [6] - 6813:17,
6841:16, 6851:9, 6851:16, 6852:14, 6912:15
Policy [5] - 6797:2, 6813:23, 6814:6, 6911:21, 6911:22
policy [18] - 6814:15,
6814:18, 6816:12,
6832:14, 6840:24, 6907:1, 6922:3, 6930:25, 6985:18, 6985:23, 6986:9, 7067:2,
7067:11, 7067:12,
7067:19, 7067:21, 7068:4, 7068:7
political [3] - 6896:6,
6896:23, 6899:24
Polley [3] - 6828:15, 6889:6, 7062:24
Polley's [1] - 6896:12
pollution [1] - 7002:11
Pond [2] - 6984:19, 6985:6
pond [9]-6771:25, 6775:14,
6780:15, 6788:9, 6791:1,
6810:2, 6947:23, 7035:18
pool [1] - 6833:4
poor [5] - 6759:3, 6763:16,
6785:9, 6891:15, 7035:11
poorly [1] - 6916:17
population [48] - 6763:5,
6791:2, 6796:6, 6796:11, 6825:9, 6825:11, 6825:12, 6825:14, 6826:4, 6827:16, 6827:19, 6831:22,
6831:25, 6832:10,
6832:15, 6832:16,
6832:17, 6833:1, 6833:11, 6833:15, 6833:20, 6834:2, 6834:3, 6836:2, 6836:5, 6841:3, 6846:15, 6846:16, 6846:24, 6892:6, 6892:21, 6895:10, 6915:20,
6953:18, 6955:14,
6968:13, 6996:18, 7008:6, 7014:12, 7017:4, 7017:24, 7019:18, 7039:4, 7039:7, 7077:9, 7082:5
populations [9] - 6791:4, 6794:16, 6801:17, 6846:22, 6889:9, 6890:2,

6893:2, 6895:16, 7033:25
portage [3] - 6945:7,
6965:25, 6977:25
portaging [1] - 6966:6
portion [6] - 6803:25,
6832:20, 6942:12,
6944:10, 6949:6, 7049:17
Portions [1] - 6941:10
portions [2] - 6803:20,
6963:13
ports [1]-6834:24
pose [1] - 6962:1
posed [1] - 7079:23
poses [1] - 7045:1
position [13] - 6789:21,
6794:12, 6798:5, 6862:17, 6863:20, 6900:3, 6901:15, 6903:7, 6930:11, 6933:19, 6973:13, 7066:6
positions [3]-6833:8,
6851:5, 6993:2
positive [13]-6820:1,
6821:3, 6830:13, 6849:10, 6849:18, 6912:24, 6915:9, 6920:12, 6920:23,
7048:10, 7081:23, 7082:6, 7082:11
possibilities [2] - 6813:6,
6945:11
possibility [6] - 6863:24,
6972:9, 6972:13, 6980:3, 6988:16
possible [23] - 6785:25,
6807:15, 6807:18, 6833:2,
6841:10, 6864:4, 6927:18, 6935:6, 6936:23, 6945:1, 6945:9, 6946:2, 6948:25, 6954:15, 6963:14, 6978:20, 6986:13, 6986:17, 6987:16, 6987:25, 6990:15,
7037:15, 7053:19
Possible [2] - 6934:22, 6935:21
possibly [2] - 6773:9, 6781:20
post $[5]$ - 6772:22, 6947:25,
6958:1, 6962:12, 7069:14
post-1846 [1] - 6772:25
post-closure [3]-6947:25,
6958:1, 6962:12
posted [2] - 6917:21, 7004:1
Postle [1] - 6870:19
potatoes [1] - 7032:24
potential [25] - 6767:23,
6824:23, 6825:5, 6829:4,
6839:8, 6851:6, 6851:9,
6867:21, 6877:7, 6935:11, 6938:9, 6943:15, 6960:11, 6960:18, 6960:21,
6962:20, 6988:6, 6995:10,

6996:4, 6997:2, 7003:7,
7015:1, 7022:25, 7065:25
potentially [11]-6824:19,
6826:21, 6826:22,
6828:21, 6844:15,
6849:22, 6936:6, 6952:8,
6958:2, 6959:11, 6992:4
pound [1] - 6877:3
pounds [1] - 6877:7
poverty [13]-6998:19,
7012:13, 7019:14,
7020:10, 7020:11,
7020:12, 7020:13,
7022:21, 7024:20, 7025:1,
7027:6, 7027:7
power [12] - 6844:4, 6863:18,
6884:6, 6884:9, 6903:2,
6903:5, 6912:11, 6918:3,
6930:9, 7016:7, 7016:11,
7016:19
Power [2] - 6876:11, 7016:10
powerful [2] - 6753:8,
7069:20
PowerPoint ${ }_{[1]}$ - 6913:5
powers [5] - 6746:14, 6752:10, 6949:14, 7069:24, 7070:3
practical [1] - 7080:5
practically [1] - 7035:21
practice [6]-6758:12,
6804:20, 7014:20,
7067:16, 7071:13, 7081:5
practices [5] - 6766:5,
6841:22, 6878:3, 7042:15, 7073:20
practitioner [1] - 7051:25
pray [2]-6751:5, 6792:23
prayers [1] - 6752:18
pre [3]-6875:10, 6902:15,
6993:11
pre-1846 [1] - 6768:3
pre-employment [1] -
6993:11
pre-requisite [1]-6902:15
pre-tax [1] - 6875:10
precarious [1] - 6996:3
precedent ${ }_{[1]}$ - 7072:23
precise [1]-6816:15
precisely [3] - 6751:2,
6760:12, 6806:10
precondition [1]-7078:24
predict $[4]$ - 6847:13, 6952:4,
7048:12
predicting ${ }_{[1]}$ - 7066:8
predictions [1] - 7065:7
predicts [2] - 6783:20,
6956:16
preempt ${ }_{[1]}$ - 7030:22
prefer [2] - 7083:11
preference [2]-6861:9,
7083:14
preferred ${ }^{[1]}$ - 6808:20 preliminary [3] - 6935:7, 6977:7, 7060:15
premature [1] - 6878:11
premise [1] - 7006:7
preparation [1] - 6815:8 prepare [2] - 6913:5, 6927:13
prepared [7] - 6861:17, 6872:9, 6874:5, 6874:12, 6965:9, 7036:17, 7068:24
preparing [2] - 6767:15, 6824:1
preponderance [1] - 7071:4
preposterous [1] - 7079:3
prerequisite [1] - 6902:18
prescribed [1] - 6741:6
prescription [1] - 6838:15 present [37] - 6739:8,
6739:25, 6741:14,
6741:17, 6742:8, 6742:25, 6799:4, 6799:24, 6810:14, 6819:20, 6855:1, 6868:5,
6887:5, 6901:25, 6913:2,
6917:5, 6922:9, 6923:19,
6924:14, 6924:15,
6924:20, 6934:4, 6935:11, 6968:24, 6993:19, 6997:4,
6997:14, 7004:21, 7005:9,
7005:20, 7006:4, 7006:18, 7011:18, 7028:9, 7028:16, 7057:13, 7058:15
PRESENTATION [31] -
6735:8, 6735:13, 6735:17, 6735:23, 6736:6, 6736:10, 6736:17, 6736:21, 6737:7, 6737:14, 6737:17,
6737:19, 6738:1, 6738:7,
6738:8, 6740:23, 6823:8,
6823:16, 6868:3, 6910:18, 6910:21, 6913:3, 6933:2,
6933:6, 6990:23, 7004:24, 7005:6, 7005:24, 7011:16, 7028:14, 7041:6
presentation [96] - 6739:24,
6740:1, 6740:17, 6741:5,
6741:9, 6741:22, 6767:5,
6768:10, 6772:3, 6779:10, 6782:10, 6782:13, 6785:5, 6785:19, 6787:20,
6798:20, 6799:9, 6800:8, 6800:11, 6800:23,
6802:15, 6817:11,
6820:19, 6821:2, 6822:13,
6822:19, 6823:4, 6823:15,
6842:4, 6847:18, 6847:20,
6850:19, 6859:16,
6859:21, 6866:16, 6869:3, 6898:20, 6898:21,
6904:21, 6906:25, 6910:4, 6910:7, 6913:6, 6921:9,
6930:21, 6932:6, 6935:1,
6935:13, 6936:24, 6939:6,

6943:10, 6946:12, 6953:4, 6953:12, 6960:7, 6963:2, 6963:10, 6966:8, 6968:1, 6968:9, 6970:3, 6970:9, 6978:16, 6990:14, 6993:18, 6997:7, 7001:16, 7002:14, 7004:7, 7004:17, 7004:21, 7006:7, 7011:6, 7011:14, 7011:22, 7012:5, 7026:5, 7028:7, 7040:22,
7040:24, 7044:24,
7044:25, 7045:9, 7049:1,
7049:3, 7049:5, 7049:8,
7050:18, 7053:17,
7055:18, 7055:20, 7061:7,
7064:3, 7069:12, 7080:8,
7080:23
Presentation [12] - 6733:5,
6733:6, 6733:11, 6733:14,
6733:19, 6733:21, 6734:3,
6734:5, 6734:7, 6734:9,
6734:11, 6734:12
presentations [7] - 6798:25,
6810:15, 6810:17,
6981:20, 6995:13,
6998:21, 7010:25
presented [10] - 6743:6, 6799:5, 6801:7, 6849:7, 6922:14, 6925:25,
6926:12, 6951:19,
7064:14, 7077:8
presenter [1] - 6823:7
PRESENTERS [2] - 6733:1, 6734:1
presenters [6] - 6821:21, 6910:24, 6911:6, 6927:2, 7009:7
presenting [2]-6821:4, 6900:21
presently [1] - 6911:20
presents [1] - 6969:1
Preserve [1] - 6803:14
preserve [2] - 7039:25,
7077:23
president ${ }_{[1]}$ - 7005:11
President [1] - 6873:21
presidents [1]-6874:12
Press [1] - 6868:20
pressed [2] - 6806:12, 7037:1
pressure [11] - 6783:19,
6790:15, 6891:20,
6891:25, 6950:15,
6986:19, 6995:20,
6995:22, 7044:14,
7077:10, 7077:15
presumably [3] - 6802:2,
6857:22, 6926:21
presume [1] - 7082:24
pretty [14]-6814:16,
6816:13, 6816:25,

6821:13, 6859:24,
6874:23, 6881:10,
6901:20, 6901:23, 6902:5, 6905:6, 6996:15, 7038:1, 7048:14
prevails [1] - 6987:6
prevent [3] - 6763:18,
6767:14, 6985:18
previous [6] - 6744:5,
6760:20, 6846:4, 6943:10, 6948:22, 7062:3
previously [4]-6832:20,
6836:19, 6902:12, 7045:14
price [7] - 6786:20, 6871:23, 6876:13, 6884:6, 6902:4, 6931:23, 7039:11
prices [11] - 6847:11, 6870:1, 6874:23, 6875:4, 6875:14, 6876:21, 6876:22, 6904:10, 6931:23, 7002:8, 7039:15
pricing [3]-6931:10, 6931:12
pride [4] - 6765:10, 6774:20, 6995:6, 7057:9
primarily [3]-6787:16, 6815:22, 7012:3
primary [2] - 6771:13, 6965:19
Prince [2]-7007:24, 7056:15
principle [3] - 6843:1,
6865:12, 7042:5
principles [8]-6852:17,
6852:18, 6852:19,
6852:24, 6853:3, 6938:24,
6939:6, 7042:18
priorities [1] - 7068:5
priority [3] - 6821:22,
6847:23, 6927:1
pristine $[4]-6761: 20$,
6768:8, 6948:12, 7035:19
private [4] - 6762:4, 6836:11,
6880:24, 6911:6
privies [1] - 6950:21
privy [1] - 6884:8
proactively [1] - 6764:7
probability ${ }^{[1]}$ - 7074:21
probable [1] - 7066:23
problem [12] - 6780:4,
6835:9, 6874:10, 6895:6,
6973:4, 6974:17, 6974:23,
6986:17, 7027:7, 7036:1,
7036:5, 7046:12
problems [16] - 6762:18,
6762:20, 6782:1, 6819:22,
6820:10, 6873:15,
6874:16, 6888:2, 6888:20,
6889:9, 6894:12, 6895:19, 6897:6, 6897:17, 6905:19, 6996:5
procedure [2] - 7079:13,

7085:4
Procedures [1] - 6932:17 proceed [15] - 6740:15, 6754:1, 6783:13, 6925:25, 6926:2, 6962:24, 6996:10, 6996:22, 7005:4, 7008:4, 7011:15, 7025:13,
7029:21, 7069:2, 7075:7 proceeding [1] - 6997:1 PROCEEDINGS [8] -
6730:13, 6735:1, 6738:13, 6738:14, 6854:11, 6854:12, 7086:3, 7086:4 proceedings [6] - 6969:4, 6971:13, 6975:20, 7058:3, 7087:7, 7087:10
proceeds [4] - 6778:3,
6881:17, 6952:24, 7030:13 process [43]-6742:13,
6743:12, 6744:4, 6784:7, 6797:12, 6824:4, 6863:7, 6911:10, 6922:23,
6925:20, 6937:1, 6937:25, 6943:7, 6943:12, 6948:6, 6979:10, 6981:10,
7003:23, 7008:11, 7030:1, 7035:24, 7041:15, 7044:2, 7044:3, 7045:19, 7046:6, 7046:9, 7047:5, 7051:7,
7054:2, 7054:3, 7054:22,
7055:1, 7055:5, 7062:20,
7067:22, 7068:5, 7079:12,
7079:14, 7079:20,
7080:10, 7084:20
Process [7] - 6816:19,
6925:21, 6925:22, 7055:1,
7064:16, 7070:11, 7076:3
processed [1] - 7062:16
processes [4] - 6764:10,
7031:7, 7045:25, 7054:20
processing [1] - 7061:20
Proclamation [2]-7029:18, 7029:19
procurement [2] - 6841:18
produce [4] - 6875:23,
6876:19, 6994:9, 6995:24
produced [3] - 6850:1,
6943:12, 7016:11
Product [4] - 6869:8, 6885:8, 6885:11, 6886:15
product [2]-6786:23, 6895:19
production [6] - 7036:12,
7036:21, 7036:25,
7037:20, 7038:5, 7038:9
productive [2]-6886:1, 6916:19
productivity [1]-6841:20
professional [3]-6779:23,
6811:22, 6911:6
professionally [1] - 7083:8

Professor [1] - 6911:21 profit [11] - 6881:3, 6881:6, 6881:21, 6881:22, 6882:4, 6882:5, 6882:7, 6883:13, 6883:15, 6883:20, 7041:17 profits [4] - 6878:25,
6879:15, 6879:18
profound [1] - 7041:16
program [19] - 6748:22,
6749:2, 6841:13, 6841:25,
6847:1, 6851:12, 6856:23,
6862:13, 6862:20,
6864:12, 6864:21,
6919:24, 6940:25,
6962:23, 6963:8, 7013:3,
7013:5, 7034:16, 7074:6
Program [8] - 6911:22,
6934:1, 6937:7, 6938:12, 6938:18, 6943:6, 6944:20, 6946:3
Programs [1] - 6933:23
programs [9]-6764:7, 6764:9, 6856:17, 6862:24, 6863:1, 6934:2, 6934:24, 6935:22, 7021:14
progress [2] - 6764:22, 6765:8
progressive [1] - 7082:9
prohibit [1] - 6960:13
prohibited [1] - 6962:21
prohibition [2]-6943:3, 7069:22
prohibits [1] - 6942:24
PROJECT [1] - 6730:2
project [25] - 6815:2, 6819:6,
6821:7, 6821:9, 6824:24,
6827:19, 6839:1, 6844:18,
6844:19, 6856:25,
6883:22, 6886:17,
6913:14, 6922:11,
6944:17, 6948:19,
6977:18, 6984:20, 6985:8, 6985:11, 7026:12, 7030:7, 7066:1, 7070:15, 7072:24
Project [178] - 6768:24,
6769:5, 6774:25, 6785:1, 6787:11, 6798:16, 6808:11, 6810:10, 6810:17, 6813:21, 6813:25, 6814:2, 6824:17, 6825:5, 6828:22, 6829:11, 6830:13, 6833:12,
6834:15, 6837:7, 6838:6, 6838:11, 6838:21, 6843:8, 6844:4, 6844:17, 6845:5, 6846:4, 6846:6, 6846:12, 6847:17, 6856:3, 6856:18, 6857:12, 6858:5, 6861:11, 6861:16, 6863:18, 6865:3, 6865:8, 6865:15, 6880:3, 6880:8, 6885:9, 6899:5,
6908:18, 6912:18,

6913:18, 6914:1, 6914:24, 6915:4, 6915:11, 6916:6, 6916:25, 6917:7, 6919:4, 6919:5, 6919:10, 6919:18, 6920:8, 6920:17, 6921:3, 6922:17, 6923:2, 6923:4, 6923:11, 6923:25,
6927:16, 6929:19,
6929:23, 6933:13,
6934:20, 6935:8, 6935:12,
6935:15, 6936:7, 6937:3,
6937:19, 6937:24, 6938:5,
6938:15, 6938:17, 6939:8,
6941:2, 6941:3, 6941:6,
6941:14, 6941:20, 6942:5,
6944:18, 6945:2, 6945:14, 6945:15, 6945:25, 6946:6, 6946:10, 6946:21,
6949:16, 6952:23,
6962:24, 6963:8, 6963:21, 6964:1, 6964:3, 6964:9, 6964:23, 6977:12, 6979:15, 6984:7, 6984:16, 6986:24, 6991:23,
6992:11, 6993:13,
6993:25, 6994:9, 6995:1,
6995:24, 6996:2, 6996:8,
6996:22, 6997:1, 6999:25,
7002:1, 7002:3, 7002:15,
7007:5, 7008:4, 7009:21,
7015:6, 7016:10, 7018:20,
7019:3, 7019:14, 7020:14,
7024:19, 7024:22,
7024:24, 7025:13,
7028:22, 7029:4, 7029:10,
7039:10, 7040:16,
7043:12, 7043:14,
7043:18, 7043:22,
7045:11, 7048:1, 7048:4,
7052:24, 7062:12, 7063:2, 7065:19, 7066:7, 7066:24, 7069:6, 7070:10, 7071:12, 7071:21, 7072:19,
7073:20, 7075:7, 7075:14, 7075:25, 7076:5, 7076:9, 7076:15, 7076:21,
7077:12, 7078:24, 7080:6,
7080:11, 7081:14, 7083:2
Project's [2] - 6741:12, 6936:2
projections [3] - 6828:4,
6867:6, 7036:14
Projects [3]-6814:8,
6917:16, 7035:8
projects [19]-6779:8,
6809:19, 6814:4, 6814:25, 6816:3, 6828:7, 6828:11, 6887:16, 6890:20, 6896:9, 6912:16, 6948:22, 6984:23, 6985:1, 6985:4, 7007:17, 7016:2, 7016:14, 7016:22
promises [5] - 6852:14, 6869:5, 6869:19, 6869:20, 7048:6
promote [5] - 6748:4, 6760:15, 6851:17, 7035:8, 7077:23
Promote [1] - 6851:14
promotes [2] - 6783:9, 6783:10
promotion [1] - 6764:4
pronounced [1] - 7011:11
pronunciation [1] - 6803:15
propensity [1] - 6820:24
proper [3] - 6889:11,
7074:19, 7074:22
properly [4] - 6861:22,
6900:22, 6905:22, 7003:9
property [3] - 6762:4,
6843:18, 6899:2
proponent ${ }^{[1]}$ - 6971:24
Proponent [8] - 6796:24,
6798:9, 6808:14, 6808:16,
6815:6, 6902:7, 6940:11
proponents [2] - 7070:12,
7070:16
proposal [6] - 6938:3,
6967:1, 6969:5, 6987:9,
7044:17, 7062:13
proposals [1] - 6963:17
propose [1] - 6945:24
proposed [39] - 6741:15,
6760:17, 6761:20,
6770:11, 6771:4, 6771:14,
6773:6, 6774:25, 6782:11,
6783:1, 6789:18, 6824:18,
6872:17, 6934:20,
6934:23, 6940:22,
6941:13, 6944:17,
6944:22, 6951:12,
6951:23, 6960:24,
6961:13, 6963:21,
6966:24, 6982:18,
6982:20, 6984:22, 6986:1,
6987:12, 7015:20,
7016:15, 7045:8, 7049:22,
7049:23, 7067:2, 7067:22,
7070:14, 7080:25
Proposed [1] - 6935:12
proposes [1] - 6784:8
proposing [5] - 6739:24,
6966:10, 6984:23,
7013:23, 7075:17
prospect [2]-6763:10,
7015:20
Prosperity [108] - 6781:19, 6788:2, 6788:14, 6788:18, 6789:19, 6795:12,
6795:18, 6795:20,
6807:16, 6807:21, 6812:1,
6812:9, 6812:21, 6814:9,
6841:15, 6851:6, 6872:18,

6873:16, 6875:12, 6879:2, 6891:10, 6909:8, 6912:18, 6913:14, 6937:2, 6937:18, 6941:3, 6945:13, 6945:18, 6947:23, 6951:19,
6951:22, 6952:1, 6952:5,
6952:7, 6952:10, 6952:15,
6953:8, 6953:9, 6953:18,
6953:25, 6954:11,
6954:15, 6954:25, 6955:2, 6955:4, 6955:8, 6955:9,
6955:13, 6956:6, 6956:12,
6956:16, 6957:19, 6958:5,
6958:13, 6958:25, 6959:4,
6959:5, 6959:8, 6959:18,
6959:19, 6959:21,
6959:22, 6959:25, 6960:3,
6960:6, 6960:11, 6960:19, 6961:24, 6962:3, 6962:9, 6962:13, 6962:15,
6962:21, 6963:20, 6965:5, 6965:8, 6965:15, 6966:11, 6968:5, 6968:8, 6968:11,
6968:22, 6968:24,
6970:16, 6971:12, 6972:9, 6972:13, 6973:2, 6974:21, 6981:9, 6981:14, 6986:15, 6991:23, 6993:13, 6995:1, 6995:4, 6995:24, 7013:18, 7039:10, 7044:18,
7071:12, 7073:5, 7074:18, 7075:14, 7076:2, 7077:12, 7081:24
prosperity ${ }_{[1]}$ - 7015:6
PROSPERITY [1] - 6730:2
Prosperity's [1] - 7073:18
prostitution [2]-7027:6,
7027:11
protect [7]-6767:2, 6767:8, 6772:8, 6878:5, 7034:15, 7055:8, 7077:21
protected [11] - 6772:4,
6772:14, 6773:5, 6773:15, 6877:17, 6878:5, 7023:22, 7053:3, 7053:5, 7077:20, 7077:21
protection [17] - 6764:4,
6766:10, 6767:12,
6772:23, 6772:25,
6773:20, 6792:8, 6797:17,
6835:24, 6933:14, 6937:8,
6937:9, 7052:25, 7053:14, 7053:24, 7078:2
Protection [24]-6870:13,
6933:13, 6934:7, 6935:3,
6937:7, 6937:11, 6938:11, 6938:14, 6938:18,
6938:23, 6940:21, 6942:4, 6942:24, 6943:6, 6944:19, 6946:2, 6946:7, 6966:21, 6971:7, 6974:6, 6982:15,
6984:8, 6985:20, 6985:25
protects [2] - 6772:9, 7023:6 proud [2] - 7056:21, 7056:22 proven [6] - 6843:11,
7072:17, 7073:9, 7073:19, 7073:25, 7075:22
proves [1] - 6952:7
provide [37] - 6788:5,
6806:18, 6812:17, 6812:19, 6813:20, 6819:10, 6840:14, 6841:5, 6844:4, 6852:12, 6853:5, 6853:6, 6865:7, 6865:18, 6869:1, 6883:5, 6887:3, 6902:10, 6903:12, 6909:17, 6914:3, 6927:14, 6934:15, 6935:14, 6952:3, 6964:8, 6989:19, 7015:4, 7016:12, 7021:14, 7041:21, 7041:25, 7042:12, 7044:15, 7062:8, 7070:6
provided [21] - 6787:20, 6795:16, 6819:11, 6839:10, 6845:9, 6866:17, 6886:9, 6892:4, 6916:25, 6935:2, 6936:5, 6936:10, 6943:18, 6943:21, 6944:24, 6946:13, 6952:10, 6956:1, 7042:8, 7069:10, 7080:7
providers [3]-6829:1, 6831:7, 6836:1
provides [10] - 6760:3, 6774:21, 6796:3, 6840:25, 6857:16, 6936:1, 6943:1, 6943:23, 6963:23, 7037:16
providing [2] - 6895:12, 7042:6
Providing [1] - 7044:16
Province [13] - 6770:10, 6814:13, 6815:24, 6847:4, 6862:19, 6877:11,
6877:17, 6877:23, 6877:25, 6878:1, 6878:16, 6912:13, 6977:14
province [8] - 6828:12,
6869:2, 6879:10, 6898:24, 6899:25, 6920:3, 7007:1, 7073:1
province's [1] - 6879:4
Province's [2] - 6861:15, 6895:6
Provinces [1] - 7087:4
provincial [4]-6876:1,
6887:25, 7074:2, 7081:25
Provincial [42] - 6761:6, 6772:5, 6792:8, 6797:2, 6813:3, 6813:4, 6813:19, 6813:23, 6823:23, 6828:20, 6835:13, 6850:3, 6858:8, 6880:4, 6880:12, 6880:16, 6883:1, 6884:24,

6912:9, 6921:22, 6922:2,
6925:21, 6925:22,
6925:23, 6994:5, 6997:10,
7029:25, 7044:14,
7046:23, 7046:25,
7063:18, 7066:9, 7067:13, 7067:14, 7067:24, 7068:2,
7068:5, 7069:4, 7069:8,
7074:6, 7077:3, 7079:6
Provincial's [1] - 6926:2
Provincially [2] - 6882:13, 7079:13
provision [10] - 6843:22,
6856:16, 6857:18,
6886:10, 6920:15, 6942:8,
6942:19, 6971:2, 6973:16, 6982:25
provisioning [1] - 7034:3 provisions [10] - 6855:17, 6874:4, 6937:15, 6937:20, 6941:1, 6966:22, 6969:7, 6973:11, 7075:10, 7079:6
Provisions [1] - 6942:4
proximity [1] - 6957:2
proxy [1] - 6784:21
puberty [3] - 6753:13,
6768:6, 6772:16
Public [2] - 6911:21
public [44] - 6783:24, 6784:5, 6829:22, 6829:25, 6832:14, 6836:10, 6836:11, 6836:12, 6838:5, 6849:15, 6863:16, 6870:16, 6880:21, 6883:21, 6899:7, 6907:11, 6909:18, 6928:4, 6934:13, 6936:16, 6937:9, 6939:14, 6943:16, 6943:19, 6943:20, 6945:7, 6951:3, 6954:9, 6954:10, 6954:18, 6956:18, 6957:5, 6960:13, 6962:20, 6966:6, 6967:3, 6967:6, 6968:4, 6968:20, 6987:17, 6987:19,
7079:17, 7079:18
PUBLIC [1] - 6730:6
publication [1] - 6868:20
publications [2] - 6868:18, 6940:6
pulling [1] - 6987:20
purchasing [3] - 6831:4,
6841:21, 6884:6
pure [3]-6781:10, 6996:11, 6996:12
purification [1] - 6753:3
purple [1] - 6789:14
purported [3] - 6796:19, 6796:21, 6798:15 purpose [4] - 6763:7, 6801:15, 6935:13, 7072:9 purposely [1] - 7009:19
purposes [15] - 6741:21,
6746:23, 6753:4, 6786:13, 6805:19, 6865:22, 6866:2, 6882:9, 6886:16, 6940:1, 6940:21, 6968:12,
6981:14, 7059:2, 7072:5
pursuant [1] - 6937:20
PURSUANT [1] - 6730:7
pursue [4] - 6802:13,
6973:24, 6987:21, 7030:7
pursues [1] - 6960:22
pursuing [2] - 7045:17,
7047:14
pursuit [1] - 7083:18
push [1] - 6979:8
pushed [1] - 6996:21
pushing [1] - 7030:19
put [28] - 6760:17, 6761:15,
6764:19, 6766:12,
6766:15, 6766:16,
6766:17, 6773:19,
6773:20, 6791:16,
6798:20, 6801:23, 6811:7, 6813:2, 6814:21, 6852:17, 6858:14, 6859:7, 6865:14, 6888:9, 6917:23, 6969:11, 6973:3, 6984:4, 6992:18,
6993:14, 7001:17, 7005:16
puts [3]-6805:4, 6945:12, 6986:19
putting [2] - 6792:11, 6946:25
qualifications [2] - 6851:11, 6992:2
qualified [2] - 6873:22, 6874:7
qualify [4] - 6874:13, 6891:9, 6909:7, 7021:8
Qualifying [1] - 6877:22 quality [16] - 6786:11, 6788:5, 6872:10, 6894:3, 6929:9, 7015:2, 7023:1, 7035:9, 7035:11, 7040:7, 7060:10, 7063:22, 7065:4, 7065:7, 7066:1, 7071:18
Quality [1] - 7065:18
quantified [1] - 6848:12 quantify [3] - 6885:15, 6920:10, 6920:13
quantitative [1] - 6801:23
quantity [1] - 6873:2
quarrel [1] - 6915:14
quarries [1] - 6878:18
quarry [2] - 6905:13, 6905:17
quarter [3] - 6799:18,
6876:11, 6962:4
Quesnel [3] - 7013:4, 7016:25, 7027:16
questioner [1] - 6859:13
questioners [7]-6821:22,
6854:3, 6854:20, 6860:2,

6929:14, 6969:17, 7027:23 questioning [9] - 6740:2,
6807:5, 6819:9, 6847:21,
6854:16, 6865:13,
6909:22, 6932:5, 6966:5
Questions [8]-6733:8,
6733:9, 6733:12, 6733:16,
6733:18, 6733:22,
6733:24, 7001:2
QUESTIONS [46] - 6735:10, 6735:11, 6735:18,
6735:20, 6735:22, 6736:1,
6736:2, 6736:4, 6736:11,
6736:12, 6736:14,
6736:16, 6736:22,
6736:24, 6737:1, 6737:3,
6737:5, 6737:9, 6737:11,
6737:22, 6738:2, 6738:4,
6738:5, 6799:13, 6817:8,
6848:2, 6855:7, 6861:1,
6900:15, 6906:21, 6909:5,
6921:15, 6927:10,
6928:25, 6929:16,
6964:14, 6969:22,
6978:12, 6981:25,
6983:25, 6998:10,
7001:13, 7009:3, 7024:10, 7025:10, 7027:1
questions [108]-6799:11,
6799:12, 6799:17,
6799:21, 6807:1, 6807:2,
6807:10, 6816:18, 6817:3,
6817:6, 6821:14, 6821:16,
6821:20, 6821:23,
6821:25, 6822:4, 6822:9,
6822:12, 6822:14,
6826:20, 6845:15,
6847:25, 6853:17,
6853:20, 6853:23,
6854:18, 6854:20, 6855:2,
6857:9, 6857:23, 6859:22,
6860:3, 6860:7, 6860:8,
6860:9, 6860:11, 6860:14, 6860:15, 6860:18, 6862:8, 6862:9, 6867:21, 6867:25, 6869:11, 6900:12,
6900:20, 6906:10,
6906:12, 6906:15,
6906:18, 6908:23,
6908:24, 6909:1, 6909:2,
6909:22, 6913:8, 6921:8,
6921:14, 6921:18, 6927:1, 6927:3, 6927:5, 6928:7,
6928:17, 6928:18,
6928:21, 6964:13, 6966:9,
6969:15, 6969:19, 6970:2,
6970:6, 6978:21, 6983:10,
6983:13, 6983:17,
6983:18, 6983:22,
6983:23, 6984:2, 6989:8,
6990:2, 6990:5, 6990:9,
6998:3, 6998:5, 6998:7,

6998:9, 7001:11, 7004:6, 7004:8, 7005:20, 7008:14, 7008:16, 7008:17,
7008:20, 7010:4, 7023:25, 7025:8, 7026:21, 7027:4,
7040:18, 7057:19,
7063:24, 7064:2, 7066:18, 7084:18, 7085:7
quests [2] - 6753:6, 6772:15
quick [1] - 7010:7
quickly [4] - 6791:23, 6811:13, 7009:2, 7040:20
quiggly [1] - 6751:15
Quilt [3] - 6752:3, 6752:4, 6767:4
Quiqley [1] - 7071:2
quit [1] - 6775:4
quite [22]-6756:23, 6759:2, 6779:16, 6797:1, 6844:8, 6855:5, 6857:11, 6868:14, 6872:4, 6877:14, 6880:25, 6900:22, 6902:1, 6975:21, 6991:10, 7014:12, 7017:8, 7045:18, 7050:2, 7050:25, 7053:6, 7069:12
quotas [1] - 6871:11
quote [9]-6803:12, 6804:11, 6804:24, 6896:16,
7021:16, 7041:19,
7042:23, 7043:1, 7047:17
quoted [1] - 7071:1
quotes [2] - 6800:12, 7037:6
quoting [3] - 6792:18,
6808:8, 7036:18
R-Y-L-L [1] - 7006:2
race [1] - 7051:23
Rachael [1] - 6776:17
racism [1] - 6900:4
radio [1] - 7050:23
raft [1] - 6949:12
rafts [1] - 6944:4
Raglan [1] - 6901:19
Rail [1] - 6834:25
Rainbow [1] - 7073:21
rainbow [9] - 6801:15,
6949:22, 7069:6, 7073:23, 7074:5, 7074:8, 7074:14, 7074:18, 7075:21
raise [2] - 6859:22, 7057:1
Raise [2] - 6959:18, 6959:19
raised [25] - 6861:4, 6867:23, 6885:4, 6889:18, 6907:9, 6911:8, 6915:15, 6953:13, 6954:24, 6955:5, 6959:24, 6959:25, 6960:1, 6960:20, 6963:2, 6975:4, 6989:15,
7013:25, 7023:5, 7028:2,
7052:5, 7061:9, 7063:24,
7075:6, 7084:19
raises [1] - 6959:22
raising [3]-6761:2, 6848:13,

6926:11
ramification [1] - 6970:4
ramp [3]-6943:23, 6951:6, 6988:25
ramps [1] - 7080:17
Ramsay [1] - 6733:16
Ramsey [1] - 7009:5
RAMSEY [4] - 6736:13,
6737:23, 6927:11, 7009:4
ran [2]-6895:1, 6897:17
ranch [1] - 6839:14
rancher [3] - 6790:20, 6839:24
ranching [3] - 6761:1,
6887:18, 6995:12
Range [2] - 6838:24, 6839:25
range [13]-6740:7, 6771:1,
6777:25, 6839:9, 6839:11,
6840:1, 6882:15, 6944:1,
6950:23, 7046:14,
7046:16, 7065:14, 7079:20
ranged [1] - 6756:25
ranging [1] - 6952:2
ranked [1] - 6949:9
rapid [1] - 7038:10
rapidly [1] - 6995:11
Rarely [1] - 7070:13
Rate [1] - 6879:5
rate [19]-6765:22, 6869:25,
6875:3, 6875:6, 6876:6, 6878:9, 6879:8, 6882:7, 6883:18, 6893:22, 6917:22, 6917:24, 6918:7, 6918:10, 6932:3, 6958:25,
7019:21, 7037:12, 7038:20
rated [1] - 6826:25
ratepayers [2] - 6918:23,
6931:16
rates [18] - 6765:17, 6785:16,
6835:16, 6867:1, 6867:18,
6878:25, 6879:9, 6883:8,
6883:16, 6893:21,
6930:20, 6930:23, 6931:6, 6931:18, 6957:14, 7018:2, 7051:22
rather [10]-6838:13, 6849:5,
6852:10, 6858:15,
6921:23, 6968:20, 6978:6,
6995:17, 7058:15, 7061:21
ratio [1] - 6962:6
rational [1] - 7031:18
RCMP [1] - 6836:6
RCR [3] - 6734:23, 7087:3, 7087:19
re [1] - 6912:17
reach [1] - 7037:23
reached [4] - 6925:24, 6972:10, 7038:8, 7066:11
reaches [1] - 7007:2 reaching [4]-6755:21, 6947:7, 6997:23, 7068:21
reactions [1] - 6782:24
read [8] - 6803:11, 6850:12,
6892:11, 6921:11,
7002:16, 7013:19, 7043:1, 7071:6
readily [2] - 7073:25, 7078:1
reading [3]-6882:2,
6885:25, 7002:18
reads [1] - 6873:25
Ready [1] - 6900:16
ready [3]-6768:14, 6886:24, 7004:17
reagents [1] - 6876:19
real [3] - 6820:12, 6901:8, 7044:21
realistic [1] - 6796:20
realities [1] - 7043:25
reality [2] - 6901:9, 6901:11
realization [1] - 6887:24
realize [6] - 6742:19, 6799:7,
6914:18, 6960:7, 6997:8,
6999:22
realized [2]-6852:25, 6911:10
really [52]-6742:12,
6770:13, 6785:4, 6811:1,
6820:7, 6824:9, 6825:8,
6826:4, 6827:9, 6829:7,
6833:2, 6834:2, 6835:14,
6836:17, 6838:4, 6841:24,
6842:13, 6844:1, 6844:8,
6844:9, 6857:9, 6857:23,
6858:12, 6859:8, 6864:21,
6892:3, 6901:17, 6906:2,
6913:8, 6914:10, 6914:14,
6914:16, 6917:25,
6923:17, 6930:21, 6931:3,
6948:21, 6968:1, 6972:3,
6973:23, 6979:5, 6979:7,
6980:15, 6989:11,
6989:17, 7007:25, 7028:6,
7039:24, 7044:3, 7047:3,
7051:3
Really [1] - 6970:3
realms [1] - 7048:7
Realtime [2] - 7087:4, 7087:20
reap [1] - 6995:9
reason [20]-6742:22,
6743:13, 6793:17, 6806:7, 6812:9, 6832:16, 6835:7, 6867:20, 6919:14,
6919:22, 6966:10, 6972:6,
6972:7, 6975:5, 6991:9,
6997:1, 7024:19, 7037:16, 7044:9, 7072:24
reasonable [4]-6801:25, 6809:10, 6855:4, 6862:4
reasonably [4] - 6853:4,
6864:3, 6916:15, 6920:10
reasonings [1] - 6865:12
reasons [11]-6742:12, 6762:24, 6781:15, 6812:23, 6931:12, 6966:8, 7044:10, 7053:9, 7065:9, 7074:5, 7083:13
rebuild [2] - 6896:9, 6897:18 recapturing [1] - 6774:20 receive [7]-6772:23, 6796:19, 6884:2, 6887:8, 6919:2, 6927:20, 6928:4
received [9] - 6861:8, 6938:15, 7028:6, 7043:16, 7044:8, 7046:18, 7046:20, 7046:21, 7046:24
receives [1] - 6856:19
receiving [2]-6993:12,
7070:3
recent [11] - 6756:23,
6763:15, 6797:4, 6827:13,
6833:20, 7030:4, 7032:3,
7034:16, 7036:15, 7068:12
recently [9]-6761:12,
6763:23, 6797:1, 6855:20,
6885:24, 6982:14, 7035:3,
7036:6, 7036:11
Recently ${ }_{[1]}$ - 6984:18
recipient ${ }_{[1]}$ - 6911:19
recite [1] - 6746:16
reclamation [13]-6849:3, 6858:3, 6858:15, 6877:2, 6877:4, 6877:16, 6877:19, 6877:20, 6878:2, 6878:4, 6878:9, 6881:19, 7045:11 recognition [4]-6739:19, 6761:16, 6836:24, 7056:5 recognize [6] - 6987:7, 6987:16, 6988:20, 7040:5, 7048:16, 7082:6
recognized [6] - 6766:4, 6772:20, 6870:17,
7029:17, 7035:20, 7054:15
recognizes [1] - 6961:19
recognizing [1] - 6862:20
recollection [1] - 6803:10
recommend [4] - 6909:8, 6973:12, 7025:15, 7025:23
recommendation [2]7023:20, 7025:19
recommendations [3]6898:16, 6997:24, 7030:21
recommended [3]-6763:21, 6794:1, 6957:13
reconcile [1] - 7068:7
reconciliation [1] - 6763:21
reconfigured [2]-6947:22, 6948:5
reconsidered [1] - 6964:2
RECONVENE [2]-6738:14, 7086:4
reconvene [1] - 6739:3
RECONVENED ${ }_{[1]}$ - 6854:12
reconvening [1] - 6854:15 record [18] - 6733:1, 6734:1, 6740:10, 6848:7, 6850:2, 6863:16, 6863:17, 6927:23, 6928:12, 6929:11, 6976:7, 7010:15, 7037:25, 7041:11, 7061:8, 7061:13, 7078:11, 7085:22
records [1] - 6955:25
recover [1] - 7036:1
recovered [1] - 7056:14
recovery [10]-6764:3,
6764:16, 6764:21, 6765:2, 6765:7, 6766:2, 6820:21,
6882:22, 6882:25, 7036:22
recreate [2]-6749:24, 6849:2
Recreation [1] - 6935:20
recreation [30]-6768:4,
6768:18, 6826:17,
6835:21, 6835:22,
6837:21, 6837:25, 6839:4,
6839:19, 6840:12,
6840:13, 6848:11,
6848:19, 6849:9, 6939:19, 6946:17, 6948:9, 6948:21, 6949:1, 6950:20, 6951:2,
6951:14, 6952:18,
6960:14, 6960:25, 6961:2,
6961:13, 6965:12, 6989:23
recreational [6] - 6944:1,
6944:2, 6944:14, 6956:15,
6964:24, 6994:20
recreationally $[1]$ - 6974:20
rectified [1] - 6974:18
red [2] - 6789:15, 6789:16
Red [8] - 6754:7, 6754:10,
6754:17, 6754:19,
6754:21, 6756:2, 6756:10, 6776:5
redress [1] - 6955:15
Redstone [1] - 6852:22
reduced [4]-6761:13,
6959:6, 6975:12, 7068:13
reduces [1] - 6873:5
reducing [2] - 6956:2, 6996:4
reduction [5] - 6947:15, 6976:6, 6995:25, 7059:9, 7060:24
reductions [2]-6976:8, 7061:1
redundant [1] - 6992:25
reeling [1] - 6978:17
refer [9] - 6803:24, 6817:14, 6839:11, 6851:12,
6924:21, 6998:15,
6998:23, 7026:4, 7085:12
reference [9] - 6800:13,
6842:24, 6843:2, 6843:5,
6850:7, 6923:3, 6924:11,

7042:21, 7052:25
Reference [5] - 6842:21, 6842:22, 6898:8, 6922:25, 7079:25
referenced [2] - 6850:20, 6879:11
references [4]-6922:25,
7003:18, 7004:2, 7078:22
referred [8]-6747:15,
6803:9, 6805:1, 6808:10, 6818:14, 6870:19, 6978:5, 6984:19
referring [5] - 6748:7,
6816:7, 6842:18, 7061:12, 7079:24
refers [6] - 6803:13, 6831:20, 6843:4, 6848:10, 6942:6, 6942:18
refinement [1]-6937:24
reflect ${ }_{[2]}$ - 6794:15, 7051:8
reflected [2] - 7053:10,
7053:16
reflecting ${ }_{[1]}$ - 6917:25
reflects [2] - 6856:8, 7054:12
refrain [1] - 6900:9
regard [6] - 6813:7, 6813:25, 6862:5, 6865:19, 6999:10, 7042:4
regarding [18] - 6741:14, 6750:19, 6753:24, 6774:16, 6793:24, 6808:2, 6817:12, 6861:6, 6861:18, 6960:20, 6964:18, 6988:5, 6999:4, 7049:22, 7065:3, 7075:24, 7077:8, 7083:4
Regarding [2] - 6775:24, 6782:8
regardless [5] - 6747:7, 6767:1, 6779:4, 6811:6, 7014:22
regards [8] - 6834:18, 6907:1, 6971:10, 6972:2, 6986:9, 6991:11, 7052:23, 7053:17
regeneration [2] - 6838:13, 6838:16
regime ${ }_{[1]}$ - 6857:18
Region [4]-6739:6, 6891:1, 7015:17, 7081:18 region [23]-6829:22, 6830:1, 6830:4, 6831:12, 6831:17, 6831:22, 6831:23, 6832:22, 6832:24, 6833:6, 6837:16, 6841:3, 6841:10, 6887:12, 6888:5, 6899:24, 6961:3, 7007:1, 7011:3, 7013:5, 7027:16, 7077:16, 7077:19 region's [1] - 6888:2 regional [7] - 6823:22, 6825:25, 6865:16, 7074:2,

7074:7, 7077:9, 7081:25
Regional [3] - 6827:17, 6892:6, 6895:9
regions [1]-6888:18
Registered [1] - 6892:22
registered [8] - 6787:19,
6828:22, 6906:13, 6910:9,
6910:16, 6932:15,
6932:16, 6990:21
REGISTRY [1] - 6730:3
regret [1] - 7083:13
Regrettably ${ }_{[1]}$ - 6865:10
regular [2] - 6944:9, 7033:9
regularly [4]-6754:22,
6755:2, 6756:13, 6757:7
regulated [5]-6917:24,
6931:19, 6931:22, 6937:13
regulation [2]-6937:6, 6974:25
regulations [3] - 6762:3, 6974:5, 6974:6
regulator [1] - 7070:5
Regulatory ${ }_{[1]}$ - 6943:8
regulatory [4] - 6937:20,
6943:7, 6969:7, 7066:20
reinhabited ${ }_{[1]}$ - 7033:10
reinterpretations [1] 7064:13
reinvent [1] - 6907:13
reiterate [3]-6963:11,
6970:25, 7055:18
relate [3]-6811:10, 6934:5, 6953:21
related [22]-6785:14, 6813:21, 6818:25,
6825:11, 6825:12,
6825:18, 6851:25,
6855:23, 6899:12,
6930:21, 6953:22,
6957:22, 6958:24,
6965:23, 6966:8, 7028:3,
7035:11, 7059:4, 7059:6,
7060:10, 7070:1, 7077:11
relates [3] - 6817:11, 6850:6, 7029:1
relating [3] - 6752:3,
6813:13, 7065:25
relation [7]-6801:10,
6818:11, 6819:14, 6852:2,
6865:15, 6921:18
relations [1] - 7039:24
relationship [16] - 6763:16,
6789:3, 6789:4, 6798:9,
6811:2, 6815:5, 6863:6,
6866:10, 6901:1, 6901:2,
6903:25, 6930:6, 6948:9,
7045:24, 7048:9, 7048:17
relative [7]-6801:10,
6802:9, 6814:10, 6916:8, 6954:25, 6955:21, 6995:25
relatively $[8]-6758: 1$,

6805:22, 6817:23, 6888:7, 6915:17, 6916:22, 6961:1, 6967:14
relax [2] - 6754:23, 6758:13
relaxation [1] - 6749:9
relevance [2]-6857:8,
6857:10
relevant [4]-6927:19,
7001:22, 7002:25, 7073:4
reliance [2]-6765:21,
6995:5
reliant ${ }_{[2]}$ - 6993:17, 6993:21
relied [2] - 6836:18, 6916:25
relies [1] - 6993:22
religion [2]-6778:11,
6804:21
relocate [1] - 7008:10
relocated [2]-6777:12,
6993:1
rely [8] - 6779:16, 6828:18,
6858:4, 6858:15, 6873:13,
7022:22, 7038:18, 7073:3
relying [1] - 6857:11
remain [5]-6862:4, 6895:12, 6938:2, 7037:10, 7068:13
remaining [6] - 6764:14, 6790:10, 6926:6, 6926:7, 7038:17, 7068:18
remains [7]-6792:4, 6797:7,
6892:1, 6956:22, 6957:1,
6964:5, 7030:2
remark [1] - 6923:25
remarks [20]-6800:19,
6803:10, 6807:12, 6814:1,
6855:3, 6903:11, 7049:10,
7049:17, 7057:25, 7059:1,
7062:2, 7062:3, 7062:9,
7084:8, 7084:10, 7084:14,
7084:25, 7085:2, 7085:5,
7085:8
REMARKS [2]-6735:3, 6739:4
remember [3] - 6754:11, 6822:6, 7057:25
remembered [1] - 7073:8
remembering ${ }_{[1]}$ - 6885:12
remind [5]-6739:17,
6746:17, 6750:15,
7056:10, 7084:24
reminded [1] - 6813:15
reminder [2]-6788:9, 7085:17
reminders [1] - 6773:18
remote [6] - 6948:11,
6948:15, 6951:1, 6961:3,
6995:16, 7007:12
remotely [2] - 6980:3,
6980:10
remoteness [1] - 6765:3
removal [2] - 6937:15, 7079:22
remove ${ }_{[1]}$ - 6773:17
removed [3] - 6773:15, 6789:8, 6792:4
removing [3]-6791:19, 6792:10, 6947:17
Removing [1] - 6792:7
render [2] - 6937:16, 7081:7
rendered [3] - 6925:22, 6947:11, 7080:6
Renee [2] - 6755:1, 6755:5
renewable [3] - 6880:21,
6887:16, 7035:21
renewed [1] - 6870:13
rent [2] - 6891:23, 7008:7
rent" [1] - 6880:23
Rentier [1] - 6888:16
repair [1] - 6973:20
repeat [1] - 6968:10
repeated [1] - 7051:5
repeating [1]-6886:5
repercussions [1] - 6899:24 replace [13]-6786:9,
6786:17, 6788:18, 6788:20, 6788:21, 6789:1, 6795:14, 6795:16, 6807:22, 6838:25, 6974:20, 7063:3
replaced [6] - 6786:22, 6787:5, 6788:17, 6789:9, 6838:22, 7075:15
replacement ${ }_{[1]}$ - 6970:16
replacing [2] - 6787:17,
6811:17
replicated ${ }_{[1]}$ - 7075:15
report [38]-6836:20,
6842:12, 6846:7, 6872:6,
6874:2, 6874:3, 6874:8,
6874:13, 6874:18, 6875:2,
6875:9, 6877:2, 6883:25,
6884:4, 6884:10, 6884:18,
6913:9, 6913:10, 6915:8,
6915:16, 6917:5, 6917:15,
6917:20, 6921:7, 6921:9,
6921:11, 6927:13,
6943:12, 6975:16, 6980:7,
6991:19, 7003:24,
7003:25, 7034:16,
7036:11, 7059:13, 7076:9, 7078:19
Report [6] - 6857:4, 6870:20,
6872:5, 6872:24, 6876:16,
6913:25
reported [2] - 6752:22,
6783:12
Reporter [2] - 7087:4,
7087:20
REPORTER'S [1] - 7087:1
reporting [1] - 6913:24
REPORTING [1] - 6734:22
Reporting [1] - 6734:23
Reports [1] - 6879:21
reports [10]-6836:18,
6836:20, 6873:9, 6873:14, 6874:11, 6875:11, 6925:4, 6925:5, 7036:18
repossessed [1] - 6999:13 represent [4] - 6914:25, 6951:16, 7014:11, 7082:20 representative [2] - 6936:5, 6957:12
representing ${ }_{[1]}$ - 6800:4
represents [4]-6764:11,
6774:13, 7072:1, 7082:17
reputation [2]-7001:18,
7071:23
request [5] - 6793:14, 6870:21, 7005:15, 7007:3, 7059:3
requested [1] - 6934:14
requests [1] - 7010:18
require [13]-6791:11,
6794:5, 6833:8, 6846:25,
6858:23, 6889:25,
6936:18, 6945:11,
6973:19, 6982:21, 6986:25, 6991:25, 6992:1
required [20]-6844:13, 6851:10, 6852:3, 6870:18, 6873:22, 6874:3, 6876:19, 6887:19, 6889:20, 6898:7, 6961:7, 6982:19, 6982:25, 6986:24, 6987:1, 7015:23, 7065:16, 7078:23, 7083:7
requirement [4]-6858:25,
6918:25, 6930:5, 6930:12
requirements [12] - 6791:9,
6795:24, 6833:3, 6918:24, 6922:3, 6930:9, 6936:14,
6938:13, 6952:21, 6992:8, 7037:11, 7072:6
requires [15] - 6786:9,
6794:14, 6814:14,
6844:12, 6844:15,
6858:14, 6859:6, 6863:6,
6877:12, 6890:20, 6908:1,
6912:19, 6923:25,
6936:20, 6977:18
requiring [1] - 6863:9
requisite [1]-6902:15
reread [1] - 6782:13
research [10]-6742:17,
6795:22, 6796:9, 6802:11, 6805:15, 6821:8, 6879:10, 7012:7, 7013:10, 7013:12 researcher [1] - 6794:7 researchers [1] - 7036:7 reserve [1] - 7049:21
Reserve [5] - 6767:13, 6846:22, 6893:1, 7019:17, 7021:20
reserves [3] - 6871:18, 6959:10, 7036:9

Reserves [5] - 6762:8,
7015:18, 7017:3, 7022:18, 7030:20
reside [2]-6834:4, 6834:5
Residential [6] - 6762:1,
7021:23, 7022:3, 7030:23, 7047:11, 7054:8
residents [2] - 6832:7, 6939:18
residual [2] - 6741:17, 6794:25
resilience [2] - 6785:15, 7074:3
resilient [1] - 6906:1
resolution [2] - 7068:18, 7068:21
resolve [2] - 6839:15, 7075:5
resolved [2] - 7030:10, 7064:5
resolves [1] - 6965:20
resort [2] - 6763:17, 6768:5
resource [20] - 6796:7,
6796:15, 6796:23,
6825:16, 6826:14, 6827:8,
6829:2, 6829:14, 6837:4,
6838:2, 6840:6, 6873:18,
6877:7, 6880:21, 6880:23,
6911:24, 7013:16,
7035:21, 7046:1, 7070:23
Resource [4] - 6836:22,
6838:10, 6860:7, 7012:25
resource-based [1] -
6829:14
RESOURCES [11] - 6731:23, 6736:3, 6737:7, 6737:9, 6737:12, 6738:2, 6906:22, 6990:23, 6998:10,
7001:13, 7024:11
resources [27]-6760:22,
6761:10, 6761:14, 6779:7, 6791:13, 6795:23,
6862:21, 6863:10,
6865:21, 6866:1, 6866:6, 6871:15, 6912:2, 6930:4,
6930:14, 6931:15,
6952:12, 6993:17,
6996:13, 7016:20,
7031:18, 7045:20, 7046:8, 7047:9, 7070:18, 7071:3
Resources [18] - 6733:13, 6734:4, 6821:19, 6821:24, 6860:17, 6906:17,
6909:13, 6909:24,
6910:13, 6928:7, 6928:20,
6932:19, 6972:21,
6983:16, 6990:20,
6991:18, 7012:23, 7024:7
respect [31] - 6766:9,
6767:3, 6797:10, 6797:19,
6806:5, 6812:21, 6848:25,
6852:1, 6856:18, 6863:15,
6880:14, 6903:14,

6929:18, 6930:22,
6967:16, 6968:3, 6970:19,
6976:6, 6982:4, 6984:4,
7005:14, 7042:4, 7048:23,
7051:11, 7052:8, 7057:7,
7059:3, 7061:2, 7062:10,
7063:21, 7083:3
respectful [3]-6766:21,
6808:23, 7064:4
respectively [1] - 6944:2
respects [1] - 7056:23
respond [10] - 6827:23,
6851:22, 6857:9, 6859:1,
6907:24, 6928:5, 6966:18,
6972:24, 7005:20, 7040:12
responded [2] - 7040:14,
7050:13
responding [4] - 6817:5,
7004:7, 7083:25, 7084:18
responds [1] - 6807:8
response [12]-6822:14,
6832:13, 6842:10,
6845:17, 6864:10,
6889:20, 6976:4, 7040:25,
7058:11, 7084:12, 7084:17
RESPONSE [2] - 6738:11,
7058:19
responsibilities [4] -
6934:16, 6935:3, 7042:3,
7081:13
responsibility [19] - 6767:1, 6767:8, 6863:3, 6863:5, 6863:25, 6888:10, 6899:4, 6903:16, 6903:21, 6904:4, 6904:15, 6912:8, 6979:23,
6982:5, 6996:9, 7066:10,
7069:4, 7072:9
responsible [7] - 6839:25,
6933:12, 6937:8, 6975:9,
7002:15, 7063:19, 7066:21
Responsible [3] - 6898:14,
6946:7, 6972:22
rest [6] - 6780:15, 6869:2,
6976:17, 7000:22,
7049:21, 7076:5
restarting [1] - 6829:17
restoring [1] - 6948:4
restricted [2] - 6762:3, 6949:5
restricting [1] - 6965:15
rests [2] - 6862:16, 6863:3
result [24] - 6782:5, 6783:13,
6800:14, 6825:6, 6878:10,
6896:5, 6908:6, 6914:18,
6914:23, 6944:17, 6951:5,
6955:8, 6992:11, 6994:9,
6996:5, 7024:21, 7046:9,
7059:8, 7059:17, 7066:23,
7068:11, 7070:16,
7076:21, 7077:10
resulted $[3]-6763: 11$,

6763:14, 6973:17
results [3] - 6819:24,
6918:15, 7027:11
resume [8]-6822:23,
6822:25, 6854:9, 6911:17, 6921:19, 6922:6, 6922:18, 7004:15
resume's [1] - 6868:22
resumes [1] - 6993:12
retail [1] - 6831:7
retain [2] - 6748:5, 7063:10
retaining [3] - 6764:13,
6901:22, 7062:18
rethink [1] - 6896:13
retired [1] - 6868:10
retrieved [1] - 6871:22
return [10] - 6769:23,
6822:19, 6849:2, 6874:17,
6874:19, 6875:2, 6881:2,
6881:13, 6912:10, 7004:9
revenue [14] - 6797:20,
6861:15, 6881:7, 6881:20, 6895:11, 6914:22,
6918:24, 6919:1, 6994:1,
6994:6, 7035:9, 7043:21,
7044:17, 7048:7
Revenue [3] - 6797:2,
6813:22, 6814:6
revenues [9]-6825:24,
6830:24, 6878:16, 6899:1,
6914:25, 6915:13,
7045:21, 7046:6, 7082:1
reverse [1] - 7067:20
reversing [1] - 6823:1
revert [1] - 6823:3
review [26] - 6782:14,
6787:22, 6787:23,
6805:12, 6843:6, 6855:23,
6885:5, 6889:19, 6897:25,
6920:9, 6922:13, 6925:20,
6926:3, 6927:15, 6936:15,
6938:13, 6938:20, 6940:5,
6940:9, 6940:18, 6947:2,
6948:22, 6973:13,
6984:16, 7054:5, 7076:3
REVIEW [1] - 6730:6
Review [13] - 6763:24,
6816:19, 6890:19,
6925:21, 6925:22,
6934:12, 6935:1, 6956:25,
6957:11, 7055:4, 7064:16,
7070:10, 7076:3
reviewed [10] - 6742:9,
6784:11, 6809:7, 6857:3,
6868:19, 6925:13,
6925:15, 6937:13,
6941:14, 6960:10
reviewers [1] - 7066:5
reviewing [4] - 6743:21,
6842:5, 6940:2, 7066:2
revitalization [1] - 6768:6

| ```revitalize [1] - 6752:10 revolution [1] - 6908:10 revolves [2] - 6826:1, 7063:2 rice [1] - 7032:24 rich [4] - 6758:8, 6760:9, 6796:2, 6901:16 rid [1] - 6894:23 rightly \({ }_{[2]}\) - 7034:24, 7077:18 Rights [12]-6743:8, 6744:7, 6763:22, 6767:15, 6789:4, 6805:17, 6806:13, 6828:22, 7002:23, 7029:13, 7030:13, 7030:21 rights [10]-6761:17, 6770:20, 6772:16, 6875:22, 6920:1, 7023:21, 7029:16, 7030:12, 7034:11, 7048:1 rights-of-way [1] - 6875:22 rinks [1] - 6835:23 ripple [1] - 6778:15 rise [2] - 6896:6, 6925:11 Rising [1] - 7039:6 rising [1] - 6976:12 risk [19] - 6755:18, 6780:22, 6780:25, 6784:9, 6784:10, 6784:23, 6790:25, 6826:10, 6956:10, 6956:23, 6957:24, 6959:23, 6960:2, 6961:21, 6972:7, 6981:17, 7048:5, 7071:24, 7077:13 Risks [1] - 6935:23 risks [23] - 6783:25, 6784:15, 6784:16, 6935:7, 6953:3, 6954:17, 6961:15, 6962:1, 6972:3, 6972:5, 6978:18, 7066:18, 7067:3, 7067:6, 7067:9, 7067:10, 7068:12, 7068:14, 7068:18, 7073:7, 7075:5, 7075:6 rituals [1] - 6768:6 Rituals [1] - 7053:25 rival [1] - 7040:1 River [33] - 6742:2, 6755:6, 6757:15, 6767:25, 6768:24, 6780:8, 6780:14, 6780:19, 6780:21, 6870:22, 6871:6, 6912:12, 6941:12, 6942:2, 6944:24, 6947:15, 6947:16, 6947:19, 6948:7, 6972:13, 6975:11, 6975:13, 6975:19, 6976:12, 6976:20, 6982:6, 7033:17, 7059:5, 7059:8, 7059:12, 7060:10, 7061:4 river [3] - 6780:16, 6780:17, 6781:4 rivers [4]-6766:22, 6775:15, 6778:14, 6787:12``` | ```road [38] - 6763:10, 6782:4, 6802:18, 6802:20, 6802:22, 6803:3, 6803:5, 6812:15, 6812:16, 6831:13, 6835:5, 6835:10, 6850:17, 6866:22, 6867:2, 6867:4, 6867:10, 6867:12, 6867:19, 6867:22, 6930:15, 6943:19, 6943:20, 6948:16, 6952:15, 6954:4, 6954:8, 6954:16, 6961:25, 6967:13, 6968:18, 6968:20, 6968:21, 6968:22, 6983:4, 6989:13, 7038:3 Road [10] - 6730:23, 6771:19, 6789:12, 6789:16, 6812:3, 6834:19, 6835:3, 6866:19, 6884:20, 6968:17 roadblock [2] - 7050:4, 7050:9 roadblocks [2] - 6763:17, 6767:14 roads [7] - 6761:3, 6761:5, 6835:15, 6884:15, 6983:6, 6988:24, 6989:18 Robert [1] - 6731:3 robust [1] - 6927:15 rock [8] - 6810:2, 6871:17, 6947:6, 7062:15, 7063:22, 7065:3, 7065:6 Rod [10]-6731:14, 6810:13, 6813:8, 6823:13, 6823:17, 6841:24, 6859:25, 6904:25, 6966:20, 6975:21 Roger [8] - 6745:10, 6753:11, 6761:15, 6772:6, 6782:3, 6797:14, 6802:24, 6812:10 role [3] - 6934:5, 6977:4, 7007:4 roles [3] - 6934:16, 6935:2, 7020:20 Ronzio [1] - 6731:7 room [3] - 6861:22, 7048:9, 7084:25 Room [1] - 6730:22 root [1] - 7032:24 rooted [1] - 6793:19 Roscoe [1] - 6870:19 rose [1] - 7038:22 rotation [3] - 6817:15, 6817:20, 6818:3 rough [1] - 6786:14 roughly [2] - 6944:2, 6955:6 roughness [1] - 6812:15 route [7]-6789:13, 6812:4, 6812:9, 6812:12, 6812:13, 6812:17, 6812:19``` | ```routes [4]-6781:23, 6945:7, 6966:1, 6977:25 Row [1] - 7005:18 Royal [2] - 7029:17, 7029:19 royalties [2] - 6994:6, 6997:3 Royalties [1] - 6880:22 royalty [3]-6880:19, 6880:20, 6881:4 RPR[3]-6734:23, 7087:3, 7087:19 rubber [1] - 7055:2 rule [1] - 6867:13 ruling [1] - 7030:4 run [7]-6759:1, 6759:22, 6879:24, 6897:17, 6911:16, 6932:24, 7033:21 running [5] - 6758:24, 6781:4, 6791:22, 6989:3, 7036:3 runs [4]-6757:10, 6758:17, 6761:12, 6795:25 rural [8] - 6824:9, 6833:13, 6834:6, 6834:7, 6846:25, 6899:10, 6967:14 Rush [1] - 6763:1 rush [1] - 6896:3 RYLL [6] - 6737:16, 6737:20, 7005:25, 7006:1, 7009:13, 7010:11 Ryll [5] - 6732:4, 6734:7, 7005:3, 7005:17, 7006:2 sacred [13] - 6750:12, 6750:14, 6752:8, 6753:16, 6753:17, 6764:14, 6766:12, 6791:25, 6798:11, 6804:21, 6949:13, 6978:25, 7031:1 sacredness [1] - 6750:19 sacrifice [2] - 7041:16, 7052:14 safe [12]-6784:2, 6793:11, 6822:15, 6952:17, 6956:12, 6956:18, 6956:20, 6957:3, 6957:15, 6962:9, 7038:5, 7069:25 safeguarding [1] - 7034:13 safety [10] - 6768:7, 6782:22, 6786:5, 6841:23, 6841:25, 6842:1, 6954:9, 6954:17, 6962:1 Safeway [2] - 6786:20, 6811:16 sake [3]-7041:17, 7053:19, 7055:5 sale [1] - 6786:20 sales [4] - 6880:17, 6881:18, 6883:12, 6924:22 Salmon [1] - 6934:1 salmon [39] - 6756:21, 6756:22, 6756:25, 6757:1, 6757:7, 6757:8, 6757:10,``` | ```6757:12, 6758:17, 6758:18, 6758:20, 6758:24, 6759:1, 6759:8, 6759:11, 6759:22, 6759:24, 6761:12, 6779:17, 6780:10, 6781:15, 6781:16, 6787:7, 6787:10, 6787:11, 6787:15, 6787:17, 6795:25, 6796:1, 6796:13, 6796:15, 6870:23, 6922:13, 7033:15, 7033:19, 7033:21, 7033:24, 7033:25 SAME [2] - 6738:15, 7086:5 sanctuary [1] - 6752:23 sand [2] - 7062:16, 7062:17 sands [2] - 7036:24, 7038:16 Sandy [2]-6984:19, 6985:6 sap [1] - 7032:13 satisfaction [1] - 6846:12 satisfactory [1] - 6974:15 satisfied [1] - 7068:24 satisfy [3] - 6952:20, 7067:21, 7068:4 satisfying [1] - 7068:8 SATURDAY [2] - 6738:14, 7086:4 Saudi [1] - 7038:22 save [2]-7039:23, 7055:16 saw [2]-6752:16, 6911:13 scale [2] - 7072:24, 7072:25 scar [1] - 7035:19 scared [1] - 6780:10 scenario [4] - 7035:7, 7035:17, 7036:20, 7039:9 scenarios [1] - 6960:12 schedule [2] - 6740:5, 6740:14 scheduled [1] - 7058:1 School [8] - 6762:1, 6836:14, 7021:23, 7022:3, 7026:6, 7030:23, 7047:11, 7054:8 schools [2] - 6767:25, 6832:11 science [5] - 6793:10, 6793:23, 6810:12, 6811:3, 7044:1 Science [1] - 6970:1 sciences [1] - 7012:20 scientific [6] - 6772:10, 6773:3, 6779:5, 6780:2, 7002:19, 7066:14 scientist [2] - 7002:21, 7036:7 Scientists [1] - 7036:10 scope [1] - 6844:23 Scott [1] - 6873:20 SEA [2] - 6824:6, 6844:11 seagoing [2] - 6933:17, 6933:20``` |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |

search [1] - 6851:6
searched [1] - 7063:9
season [1] - 7045:6
seasonal [5] - 6768:4,
6893:18, 6893:20,
6944:25, 7032:11
seasonally [2] - 6747:3,
6939:1
seasons [2]-6944:7,
6995:17
seated [1] - 6752:16
seats [3]-6739:2, 6822:24, 7004:14
Sechanalyagh [3]-7055:13, 7055:14, 7057:15
second [5] - 6742:22,
6771:21, 6850:5, 7038:9, 7063:23
Second [1] - 6885:14
secondly [1] - 6856:2
Secondly [1] - 7075:7
Secretariat [4] - 6739:12, 6854:25, 6943:9, 7083:19
SECTION [1] - 6730:8
Section [11] - 6851:2,
6879:22, 6935:25, 6942:6,
6942:18, 6942:23, 6943:1, 6971:3, 7029:13, 7031:13, 7081:12
section [6] - 6836:17, 6837:3, 6838:4, 6870:9,
7056:2, 7056:7
Sections [1] - 6946:13
sections [3] - 6825:4,
6892:10, 7015:8
sector [5] - 6797:7, 6829:22,
6829:25, 6887:19, 6890:12
sectors [1] - 6900:24
secure [2] - 6958:18,
6968:19
Securities [1] - 6873:23 security [12] - 6786:5, 6811:11, 6858:4, 6858:14, 6859:7, 6895:4, 6895:8, 7034:6, 7069:14, 7072:6, 7072:13
Secwepemc [4]-6739:10, 6899:9, 6899:22, 6903:24
SEDAR [1] - 6890:20 sediments [1] - 6809:23
see [45] - 6755:18, 6765:24, 6771:3, 6771:11, 6776:10, 6799:11, 6821:20, 6821:23, 6829:12, 6829:13, 6831:16, 6832:3, 6832:6, 6843:9, 6847:23,
6852:25, 6878:17,
6879:16, 6909:25,
6910:10, 6921:13,
6926:25, 6928:22,
6929:15, 6971:7, 6981:23,

6996:25, 7004:2, 7005:14, 7005:22, 7008:4, 7008:11, 7008:18, 7016:15, 7016:23, 7019:20, 7019:24, 7021:4, 7025:7, 7040:18, 7047:5, 7053:4, 7056:5, 7057:18, 7058:21 seeing [4] - 6891:18,
6999:18, 7038:2, 7055:2
seek [1] - 7007:24
seeking [1] - 6993:13
seeks [1] - 7031:21
seem [4] - 6747:18, 7044:5,
7084:3, 7084:4
seep [2] - 6959:8, 6960:2
sees [1] - 6766:1
seismic [2]-6958:20,
6962:16
seize [1] - 6877:18
select [1] - 6850:4
selecting [1] - 7065:9
selection [2] - 6844:24, 6849:14
self [8] - 6765:24, 6768:21,
6783:3, 6785:12, 6868:11, 6995:5, 7075:21
self-confidence [1] - 6995:5
self-esteem [1] - 6785:12
self-reliance [1] - 6995:5
self-sufficiency [3] -
6765:24, 6768:21, 6783:3
self-sustaining [1] - 7075:21
self-taught [1] - 6868:11
semi [1] - 6868:10
semi-retired [1] - 6868:10
sending [1] - 7030:23
Senior [4] - 6746:1, 6746:21, 6749:17, 6933:22
senior [3] - 6977:7, 6979:21, 7080:19
sense [13]-6774:21,
6818:21, 6835:14,
6837:25, 6839:23, 6845:8,
6931:4, 6988:17, 7000:5,
7009:20, 7022:15, 7043:2,
7044:25
sensitive [1] - 6875:2
sent [1] - 6871:1
separate [2] - 6931:9,
7052:13
separated [2] - 7051:15, 7051:16
separates [1] - 6958:15
separation [1] - 7042:24
September [3]-6758:19, 6876:5, 6950:23
series [2] - 6854:17, 6970:6
serious [9] - 6757:13,
6761:12, 6873:17,
6888:20, 6894:11,
6899:23, 6956:13, 6987:5,

7030:1
seriously [4]-7031:12,
7034:8, 7056:8
serve [3]-6832:15, 6952:8, 6956:7
served [2] - 6933:16, 7030:18
service [15] - 6829:1, 6831:7, 6836:1, 6843:18, 6843:21, 6843:22, 7006:9, 7007:11, 7018:7, 7019:22, 7019:23, 7020:1, 7022:18, 7082:3, 7083:20
Service [4] - 6857:5, 7076:17, 7076:22, 7077:5
serviced [1] - 7047:12
services [26] - 6826:8,
6826:12, 6832:11,
6832:12, 6832:17,
6834:14, 6834:17, 6835:2,
6835:20, 6836:7, 6845:6,
6845:9, 6845:24, 6845:25,
6884:16, 6884:17, 6886:9,
6886:13, 6890:4, 6895:12,
6992:15, 7007:20,
7007:23, 7081:21, 7083:20
Services [2] - 6734:23, 6785:19
session [6] - 6739:18, 6935:10, 7063:23, 7084:9, 7085:15
SESSION [1] - 6730:14
SESSIONS [2] - 6738:11, 7058:19
sessions [12] - 6739:13, 6823:5, 6862:12, 6865:7, 6939:5, 6943:11, 6957:6, 6957:7, 6971:15, 6988:4, 6988:12, 7058:11
set [5] - 6829:8, 7033:14,
7054:1, 7056:4, 7087:8
Setah [3]-6748:25, 6753:23, 6756:16
setbacks [1] - 6832:2
sets [1] - 6828:20
setting [2] - 6948:12, 6961:14
settings [1] - 6824:9
settled [1] - 7033:9
settlement [2] - 6750:22, 7029:20
settler [1] - 6903:25
seven [6] - 6791:13, 6791:21,
6796:11, 6835:6, 6952:6, 7038:21
sever [1] - 6795:3
several [7]-6794:14, 6834:9, 6959:15, 7013:7, 7028:21, 7051:6, 7065:24
severity [1] - 6795:9
sewer [1] - 6835:24

SFU [1] - 6923:8
Shaffer [23] - 6731:19,
6733:14, 6842:12,
6843:16, 6843:25,
6883:24, 6884:12,
6910:13, 6910:17,
6910:20, 6911:15,
6911:18, 6913:1, 6921:10,
6921:18, 6927:12, 6929:4,
6929:6, 6929:18, 6930:17,
6932:6, 6996:11, 7079:25
SHAFFER [13] - 6736:8,
6736:10, 6913:3, 6913:4,
6913:12, 6922:5, 6922:20, 6924:3, 6924:10, 6925:14, 6926:7, 6929:24, 6930:24
Shaffer's [6] - 6842:17,
6846:7, 6898:20, 6898:21, 6912:17, 6993:18
shales [1] - 7036:24
shall [1] - 6815:3
shame [1] - 6762:17
shape [1] - 6852:17
share [6] - 6743:4, 6760:15,
6816:21, 6889:4, 6915:9, 7053:19
SHARE [11] - 6731:23,
6736:3, 6737:7, 6737:9,
6737:11, 6738:2, 6906:21,
6990:23, 6998:10,
7001:13, 7024:10
Share [12] - 6733:12, 6734:3, 6821:24, 6860:6, 6906:16, 6910:12, 6928:6, 6932:18, 6983:15, 6990:20,
6991:18, 7024:6
shared [8] - 6750:11, 6750:23, 6752:12,
6752:20, 6760:23,
6863:25, 6931:16, 7054:3
shareholders [1] - 7072:2
shares [1] - 6953:20
Shari [8]-6757:5, 6759:21,
6764:19, 6764:24, 6778:2,
6782:9, 6787:14, 6797:14
Sharing [3] - 6797:2, 6813:22, 6814:6
sharing [7] - 6748:7,
6797:20, 6816:22, 6861:16, 6871:10, 6881:8, 7048:7
Shawnee [2] - 6757:12, 6788:23
Shearmur [1] - 6888:16
Sherry [1] - 6748:20
shift [2] - 6817:24, 6818:2
shocked [3] - 6788:13,
6993:18, 7034:24
shocking [1] - 7034:24
shore [1] - 6778:18
short [20]-6757:8, 6757:17,

6815:11, 6855:2, 6855:19, 6862:2, 6888:7, 6900:20, 6921:12, 6925:19, 6932:9, 6970:24, 6973:15,
6975:15, 7004:9, 7028:11, 7040:6, 7040:24, 7050:24, 7081:14
short-term [2] - 6888:7, 7040:6
shortages [1] - 6916:1
shorten [1] - 6854:25
shortened [1] - 7005:14
shorter [4] - 6817:20,
6818:2, 6892:23, 7024:16
shortfall [1] - 7037:23
shorthand [1] - 7087:8
shortly [3] - 6739:15, 6757:4, 6788:5
shovel [3]-6782:17,
7062:14, 7078:10
show [5] - 6770:23, 6788:4,
6872:14, 7048:11, 7048:12
showcase [1] - 7040:4
showed [4]-6812:2, 6882:1,
7017:23, 7026:6
showing [2] - 6770:21,
6910:24
shown [4] - 6739:23,
6885:22, 7018:14, 7057:6
shows [6] - 6743:5, 6785:13,
6789:14, 6879:13,
7015:12, 7048:9
shrinking [1] - 6995:12
Shuswap [1] - 7011:21
shut [1] - 7002:7
Shyanne [1]-6767:4
siblings [1] - 6752:5
sic) [1] - 7062:5
sick [1] - 6776:23
side [5] - 6827:6, 6827:10,
6831:18, 6845:23, 6954:8
sign [1] - 6753:24
signage [7] - 6945:7,
6965:25, 6966:5, 6966:16, 6967:6, 6968:4, 6977:25
signed [1] - 7046:19
significance [26] - 6741:17, 6750:18, 6805:5, 6806:19, 6824:19, 6826:19, 6827:5, 6827:12, 6837:2, 6865:3, 6865:8, 6865:21, 6866:1, 6923:11, 6923:14, 6923:21, 6924:16, 6935:8, 6935:24, 6965:20,
6965:23, 6967:18,
6996:16, 7080:13,
7080:24, 7081:1
significant [38] - 6783:13, 6785:9, 6795:7, 6795:9, 6796:6, 6796:13, 6806:8, 6826:21, 6826:22, 6840:7,

6894:17, 6898:6, 6912:24, 6915:18, 6915:21,
6918:21, 6918:22, 6919:4, 6919:14, 6920:7, 6963:22, 6964:19, 6979:18,
7014:12, 7014:19, 7015:2, 7016:3, 7017:8, 7017:23, 7021:13, 7023:2, 7045:19, 7047:7, 7066:22, 7069:21, 7072:6, 7077:13, 7078:19
significantly [6] - 6835:14,
6919:7, 6920:14, 7039:11, 7043:23, 7074:15
signs [1] - 6762:5
silver [1] - 6888:14
similar [17] - 6778:16,
6817:18, 6833:15,
6857:18, 6900:23, 6922:9,
6972:5, 6972:7, 7010:25,
7018:11, 7019:12, 7028:1,
7059:21, 7062:22,
7064:23, 7072:12, 7073:2
similarly [2] - 6914:22,
6916:12
Similarly [2] - 6956:19, 7036:3
SIMON [1] - 6736:8
Simon [4] - 6731:19,
6733:14, 6911:15, 6911:22
simple [5] - 6980:24,
6989:21, 7052:11,
7054:10, 7054:23
simply [12] - 6773:16, 6775:4, 6779:6, 6789:8, 6814:22, 6914:8, 6924:13, 6969:2, 7029:3, 7029:9, 7051:7, 7054:25
simultaneously [1] 6758:11
single [8] - 6786:23, 6888:1, 6889:3, 6891:21, 6982:10, 7021:24, 7022:4, 7077:13
single-lane ${ }_{[1]}$ - 6982:10 site [27]-6753:12, 6767:24,
6768:2, 6770:11, 6771:4,
6773:7, 6934:21, 6947:20,
6949:5, 6949:20, 6950:15,
6950:20, 6954:4, 6959:24,
6961:2, 6962:1, 6962:6,
6962:22, 6963:14,
6965:10, 6966:24,
6975:11, 6986:1, 6999:18,
7004:1, 7072:8, 7078:7
Site [2] - 6930:2, 6930:3
sites [22]-6750:17, 6751:16,
6751:18, 6771:22,
6771:24, 6772:2, 6772:4,
6772:8, 6772:10, 6772:14,
6772:17, 6772:19,
6773:14, 6774:17, 6792:7, 6951:6, 6951:14, 6952:16, 6965:12, 7032:11,

7033:16, 7053:3
sits [1] - 6771:4
sitting [2]-6752:15, 7054:22
situate [1] - 6815:22
situation [20] - 6751:8,
6756:1, 6793:1, 6827:22,
6837:5, 6863:17, 6984:4,
6986:21, 6987:9, 6991:12,
6992:22, 6996:4, 7000:4,
7002:7, 7024:23, 7025:23,
7026:1, 7039:2, 7068:3,
7071:14
six [6] - 6752:4, 6787:15,
6829:16, 6871:12,
6933:20, 7054:18
Sixthly [1] - 7075:23
size [6] - 6877:9, 6930:2,
6952:2, 6953:18, 6955:23, 6993:25
skewed [1] - 7058:16
skidoo [1] - 6758:23
skill [3] - 6833:1, 6833:3, 7087:11
skilled [5] - 6915:25, 6916:11, 7019:24, 7020:5
skills [8] - 6748:8, 6749:3, 6749:6, 6750:4, 6764:9, 6797:5, 7015:22, 7016:4
skip ${ }_{[1]}$ - 7003:2
skyrocket ${ }_{[1]}$ - 7039:15
slated [1]-7028:16
slide [4] - 6818:11, 6866:21, 6992:18, 7064:1
slides [3] - 6842:5, 6844:5, 6936:25
slightly [6] - 6871:19,
6881:23, 6883:19,
6950:17, 7059:25, 7060:6
slope [1] - 6812:5
slot ${ }_{[1]}$ - 6740:12
slow [5] - 6759:10, 7029:5,
7029:8, 7032:19
small [18]-6742:20, 6760:4, 6815:15, 6823:22, 6829:8, 6834:9, 6911:7, 6915:18,
6915:19, 6916:22,
6948:16, 6949:12,
6949:23, 6961:1, 6967:13,
6993:20, 6999:20, 7022:9
Small [1] - 6775:16
smaller [1] - 6796:8
smallpox [5] - 6751:25,
6763:4, 6793:20, 7030:17, 7054:7
smelter [6] - 6871:25,
6872:11, 6873:3, 6873:4,
6881:2, 6881:13
smelters [1] - 6872:8
Smith [4]-6752:22, 6767:22,
6774:16, 6792:2
social [47] - 6749:22,

6760:11, 6762:15,
6785:10, 6788:22, 6816:8, 6818:20, 6825:8, 6825:10, 6825:12, 6826:3, 6826:5, 6826:13, 6827:10, 6831:18, 6835:19, 6836:16, 6840:24, 6842:25, 6843:10, 6843:25, 6845:23, 6884:16, 6888:24, 6889:8, 6890:6, 6892:7, 6892:15, 6896:6, 6897:5, 6897:11,
6899:11, 6905:3, 6908:17, 6913:15, 6920:12, 6921:5, 6926:16, 6996:4, 6998:16, 6998:21, 6998:23,
6998:25, 6999:5, 6999:6, 7013:20, 7081:17
socialize [1] - 6758:12
socially [2] - 6796:20,
7029:11
societal [1] - 6888:25
society [9] - 6758:4,
6907:15, 6912:25,
7000:23, 7026:8, 7031:10, 7031:11, 7031:24, 7082:9
SOCIETY [11] - 6731:23,
6736:3, 6737:7, 6737:9,
6737:12, 6738:3, 6906:22,
6990:24, 6998:10,
7001:13, 7024:11
Society [13]-6731:23,
6733:13, 6734:4, 6821:25, 6860:7, 6906:17, 6909:13, 6928:7, 6932:19, 6983:16, 6990:21, 6991:19, 7024:7
society's [1] - 7000:13
socio [33] - 6739:14, 6824:2, 6824:8, 6827:6, 6829:7,
6842:15, 6844:21, 6845:2, 6845:16, 6845:17, 6847:2, 6847:13, 6868:11,
6869:12, 6869:13, 6870:5, 6870:9, 6884:18, 6889:12, 6894:17, 6896:19,
6897:22, 6898:18,
6899:18, 6935:16,
6936:22, 6946:10, 6949:4, 7006:6, 7023:7, 7028:23,
7051:11, 7078:21
SOCIO [6] - 6731:12, 6733:3, 6735:4, 6735:13, 6740:19, 6823:9
socio-economic [29] -
6739:14, 6824:2, 6824:8, 6827:6, 6829:7, 6842:15, 6844:21, 6845:2, 6845:16, 6845:17, 6847:2, 6847:13, 6868:11, 6869:12,
6869:13, 6870:5, 6870:9,
6884:18, 6889:12,
6894:17, 6896:19,

6897:22, 6898:18,
6899:18, 6936:22,
6946:10, 6949:4, 7023:7,
7078:21
socio-economics [4] -
6935:16, 7006:6, 7028:23, 7051:11
SOCIO-ECONOMICS [6] -
6731:12, 6733:3, 6735:4,
6735:13, 6740:19, 6823:9
sockeye [2] - 6757:15,
6787:16
soil [3] - 6776:19, 6905:6,
7033:13
Solange [1] - 6785:17 sole [1] - 7072:9
solidarity [1] - 6896:25
Solomon [5] - 6770:19,
6770:25, 6777:19,
6777:20, 6790:18
solution [2] - 6989:21, 6989:22
solve [2] - 6888:2, 6908:18
someone [1] - 6905:17
Sometimes [1] - 6878:20
somewhat [6] - 6820:21,
6823:2, 6919:20, 6993:18,
7005:14, 7070:7
somewhere [4] - 6773:20,
6786:7, 6790:5, 6905:11
Sonny [2] - 6754:1, 6754:16
Sorry [3] - 6848:8, 6907:2, 7032:19
sorry [15] - 6805:1, 6815:10, 6834:22, 6849:19,
6859:20, 6865:23,
6918:13, 6927:22,
6972:25, 6974:5, 6975:14, 7029:5, 7032:18, 7049:1,
7049:4
sort [16] - 6810:2, 6810:11,
6810:23, 6816:9, 6826:1,
6834:22, 6834:23,
6835:17, 6835:23,
6849:23, 6854:22,
6857:14, 6931:9, 6979:10,
6985:17, 7058:16
sorted [1] - 6999:25
sought [2] - 7007:23, 7009:19
sound [1] - 6976:22
sounds [4] - 6822:12, 6985:2, 6985:14, 7043:7
source [7] - 6770:1, 6770:3, 6779:13, 6919:17, 6970:13, 7007:13
sources [11] - 6770:7, 6782:22, 6796:4, 6827:24, 6829:23, 6891:7, 6891:8, 6918:2, 6918:6, 6940:13, 7037:4
south [1] - 6741:25
sovereignty [1] - 7031:20
Spagnuolo [1] - 6731:7 spawning [3]-6953:16,
7071:19, 7075:19
Spawning [1] - 7073:11
SPEAKER [11] - 6822:4,
6860:8, 6860:11, 6860:14, 6908:24, 6909:2, 6928:8,
6928:18, 6983:17,
6983:22, 7010:4
speaker [5] - 6741:21,
6847:24, 6932:15,
6990:19, 7004:10
speakers [7] - 6855:5, 6910:9, 6910:16, 6932:16, 6990:22, 7028:11, 7085:1
speaking [10] - 6785:6,
6800:4, 6800:16, 6800:17, 6837:24, 6916:18,
6977:19, 6998:1, 7035:22, 7061:15
speaks [3] - 6782:14,
7066:14, 7071:9
special [3] - 6837:23,
6837:24, 7015:5
specialist [1]-6912:1
specialty $[1]$ - 6887:18
species [4]-6802:3, 6957:15, 7073:24, 7077:22
SPECIFIC [3] - 6730:14,
6738:11, 7058:19
specific [22] - 6739:13, 6773:17, 6789:6, 6800:6, 6810:11, 6821:7, 6823:5, 6826:15, 6839:9, 6843:22, 6851:17, 6852:14, 6853:14, 6890:23, 6929:10, 6934:5, 6937:2, 7006:8, 7046:4, 7058:11, 7085:21
specifically [12] - 6750:16,
6755:12, 6755:17,
6813:24, 6830:12,
6839:11, 6850:7, 6850:19, 6951:9, 7006:5, 7069:6, 7079:15
specificity ${ }_{[1]}$ - 6852:11
specifics [1] - 6855:20
specified [2]-6835:25, 6843:15
specify ${ }^{[1]}$ - 7021:9
spectacular [2]-7035:19, 7039:25
speculating ${ }_{[1]}$ - 7036:12
spell [2] - 6803:15, 6933:11
spend [3] - 6785:25, 6931:4, 7020:3
spending [5] - 6825:5,
6825:7, 6826:2, 6831:9, 6831:15
spends [2] - 6950:24, 7068:4
spent [6] - 6767:14, 6851:19,
6868:12, 7032:16,
7032:21, 7045:23
spill [1] - 6885:22
spin [1] - 6899:2
spin-offs [1] - 6899:2
spinoff [2] - 6831:1, 6916:13
spirit [3]-6765:9, 6923:19,
7048:17
spirits [1] - 6750:21
Spiritual [3]-6750:16,
6772:14, 6818:20
spiritual [31] - 6751:1,
6752:10, 6752:12,
6752:23, 6754:24,
6760:11, 6760:13,
6761:21, 6773:16, 6774:1,
6774:13, 6778:11,
6788:22, 6791:25,
6792:15, 6793:7, 6795:3,
6795:15, 6804:13,
6804:17, 6804:22, 6805:7,
6806:3, 6949:20, 6970:12,
6971:16, 6979:18,
7041:16, 7043:13, 7080:13
spirituality [4] - 6743:1,
6768:9, 6769:21, 7051:12
spiritually [1] - 7043:24
Sport [1]-6950:15
sports [1]-6950:14
spot [1] - 6814:21
spread [2]-6778:17, 6849:4
spreading [1] - 7030:16
spring [5] - 6955:2, 6955:8,
7032:12, 7032:15, 7032:20
springs [1] - 6775:18
squarely [1] - 6888:9
SRMPs [1] - 6838:9
stabilize [1] - 6992:15
stabilizing ${ }_{[1]}$ - 6996:3
stable [1] - 6876:22
staff [13]-6746:7, 6937:22,
6938:2, 6938:12, 6938:18, 6940:25, 6941:17, 6943:6, 6944:20, 6945:11, 6946:3, 6966:22, 7070:18
stage $[3]$ - 6986:15, 7049:11, 7049:13
stages [1] - 6881:16
staggering [1] - 7038:2
stakeholders [1] - 6964:4
stamp [1] - 7055:3
standard [1] - 6908:4
standards [1] - 6851:10
stands [2] - 6832:15, 7030:11
Stanley [1] - 6780:12
staple [1] - 7022:14
start [26] - 6740:13, 6759:23, 6760:16, 6768:16,

6782:16, 6784:2, 6784:6, 6787:11, 6805:12,
6821:18, 6842:19,
6854:14, 6866:9, 6896:8,
6906:2, 6922:5, 6932:14,
6970:7, 6970:8, 6976:10,
6979:3, 6984:1, 6989:20,
7004:17, 7019:23, 7020:23
started [4] - 6760:25,
6822:24, 6823:1, 7000:2
starting [2]-6815:2,
7084:24
starts [1] - 7035:13
startups [1] - 6888:23
state [10]-6764:3, 6820:21,
6959:8, 6960:4, 6973:20,
6992:13, 7019:14,
7041:18, 7057:12, 7082:23
Statement [5] - 6875:24, 6936:1, 6943:8, 6946:25, 6947:3
statement [6] - 6785:1, 6843:4, 6860:5, 6976:22, 7028:19, 7082:23
statements [7]-6800:14, 6865:1, 6875:5, 6881:25, 6882:9, 6882:14, 7009:8
States [1] - 7036:17
states [5] - 6942:11, 6944:5,
6947:13, 7029:20, 7034:16
statistical [1] - 6828:1
statistics [3] - 6900:23, 6901:4, 6901:6
status [3] - 6772:5, 6785:9, 7082:16
statutory [6] - 6878:24, 6882:7, 6883:8, 6883:16, 6883:18, 6938:12
stay $[2]$ - 6818:5, 6832:18
stays [2] - 6951:7, 6973:25
steady [2] - 6959:8, 6960:4
steel [3] - 6876:21, 6876:22, 7032:2
step [7]-6853:11, 6863:10, 6864:1, 6864:19, 7006:16, 7045:7, 7045:25
Stephen [1] - 6734:24
steps [4] - 6909:8, 6944:19, 6969:8, 7046:1
Steve [5] - 6731:14, 6733:6, 6823:11, 6823:14, 6823:17
STEVE [3] - 6735:15,
6735:17, 6823:16
stewardship ${ }_{[1]}$ - 6768:25
stick [1] - 7045:3
sticky [1] - 7032:19
still [39] - 6744:15, 6744:17,
6744:19, 6745:3, 6745:6,
6745:15, 6745:16,
6745:19, 6746:19,
6750:22, 6752:16, 6780:4,

6811:4, 6815:9, 6829:18,
6843:23, 6861:17,
6890:20, 6892:1, 6894:11,
6901:23, 6905:24,
6968:10, 6968:24,
6978:17, 7014:17,
7014:21, 7018:6, 7018:10,
7021:24, 7043:16,
7052:12, 7052:22, 7053:6, 7053:7, 7063:10, 7068:14
stimulus [1] - 7006:25
stock [6] - 6759:16, 6788:25,
6849:8, 6951:16, 6952:1,
7074:22
stocked [1] - 6812:22
Stockholm [1] - 7035:3
stocking [6] - 6759:18,
6955:13, 6962:3, 6989:9,
7073:14, 7074:6
Stockman's [1] - 6771:2
stockpile [1] - 6947:6
stockpiled [1] - 7061:25
stocks [2] - 7052:15,
7052:18
stole [1] - 7050:23
stone [1] - 6778:16
Stone [6] - 6756:6, 6757:25,
6767:5, 6768:15, 6791:3, 6982:6
stop [2] - 6778:7, 6863:18
stops [1] - 6992:17
Storage [12] - 6947:10,
6947:24, 6948:1, 6957:3, 6958:16, 6958:17, 6959:4, 6959:7, 6960:1, 6960:2, 6960:5, 6962:15
store [2] - 6786:10, 6947:4
stories [3] - 6774:10, 6821:6, 6979:6
story [4] - 6785:3, 6852:21,
6853:3, 6893:14
straight [1] - 6775:19
straightforward [1] -
6980:19
straightlined [1] - 6994:16
strands [1] - 6954:7
strategic [2] - 6988:20,
7080:18
strategies [5] - 6931:3, 6952:23, 6961:9, 6964:6, 7046:5
strategy [6] - 6931:11, 6931:12, 6946:3, 6953:10, 6953:21, 6971:25
Stratus [2] - 7064:12, 7064:15
strawberries [1] - 6786:18
stream [3] - 6775:15, 6930:15, 7074:9
streams [3]-6766:22,
6777:10, 6778:14
street [3] - 6999:16, 6999:19, 7009:17
strength [8] - 6756:9,
6765:9, 6808:7, 6808:17,
6809:14, 6901:16, 6958:23
stress [4] - 6785:14,
6897:15, 7053:13, 7055:19
stresses [1] - 6817:21
stressors [1] - 6817:14
stretches [1] - 6789:7
strictly [1] - 6784:9
strike [1] - 6905:5
strong [11] - 6751:1,
6757:22, 6759:16,
6769:20, 6798:5, 6808:3,
6906:1, 6996:19, 7007:17,
7069:17, 7075:9
strongest [1] - 7000:17
strongly [2] - 6774:11, 6948:20
structure [3] - 6973:9,
6973:17, 6973:19
structures [2] - 6958:15, 7015:4
struggle [1] - 6774:2
students [2] - 6836:9, 6836:14
studied [4] - 6957:10,
7009:10, 7073:24, 7078:6
studies [27] - 6744:5,
6757:19, 6779:5, 6784:13,
6794:14, 6805:18, 6820:4,
6827:4, 6827:5, 6828:3,
6873:14, 6875:15,
6875:17, 6875:18,
6897:24, 6928:2, 6998:15,
6998:24, 6999:4, 7015:10,
7016:18, 7026:11, 7027:9,
7027:12, 7028:2, 7036:15, 7053:2
Studies [4] - 6873:16,
7012:23, 7013:1, 7013:8
study [26] - 6744:6, 6794:9,
6801:22, 6817:23,
6827:16, 6844:2, 6844:23,
6844:25, 6845:1, 6845:7,
6845:10, 6845:13,
6888:17, 6896:18,
6897:16, 6916:24,
6991:22, 7000:7, 7012:7,
7015:12, 7026:6, 7027:5,
7053:1, 7078:5
Study [7] - 6755:24, 6805:18,
6827:17, 6845:4, 6892:6,
6896:17, 6899:18
stuff [2] - 6776:3, 7052:23
stumbled [1] - 6924:6
Stump [2] - 6780:12,
6781:13
stunning [1] - 6894:2
sturgeon [2] - 6870:24,

6870:25
subject [21] - 6800:20, 6814:25, 6870:2, 6871:18,
6874:2, 6880:3, 6927:2,
6938:20, 6939:22, 6940:3,
6940:15, 6945:1, 6978:16,
6991:6, 6992:7, 6995:21,
7061:10, 7063:23,
7064:12, 7073:21, 7076:2
subjects [2] - 6957:11, 7009:14
Submission [3] - 6755:23, 6802:6, 6805:13
submission [15] - 6743:9, 6745:17, 6752:24, 6774:24, 6842:18, 6844:7, 6879:12, 6892:9, 6925:25, 6939:3, 6943:8, 6946:14, 6956:25, 6961:5, 7026:5
submissions [3] - 6744:5,
6842:6, 6993:25
submit [3] - 7059:2, 7064:16, 7071:12
submitted [5] - 6743:9,
6817:12, 6819:19, 6934:8, 7010:9
subscribe [1] - 7026:17
subscribed [1] - 7087:13
subsection [1] - 6874:2
subsequent [1] - 7074:23
subsidies [3] - 6881:18,
6883:23, 6884:3
subsidized [1] - 6876:13
subsidy [2] - 6918:21,
6920:14
subsistence [4] - 6760:1, 6886:7, 6957:9, 7017:21
substantial [13] - 6755:19,
6883:22, 6941:18,
6941:19, 6941:25, 6942:3,
6942:7, 6942:16, 6942:19,
6945:5, 6945:10, 6981:11,
7014:23
substantive [1] - 6815:7
succeed [2] - 6995:11,
7072:22
success [10] - 6765:8,
6821:6, 6953:21, 6957:18,
6961:13, 7068:15,
7070:20, 7070:22, 7071:3, 7071:7
successful [12] - 6765:1,
6902:16, 6905:16,
6948:24, 6952:7, 7068:20,
7069:25, 7071:11,
7072:11, 7072:17,
7075:11, 7075:22
successfully [2] - 7073:11, 7075:19
Sudbury [3] - 6868:14, 6888:19, 6905:4
suffer [1] - 6899:10
suffering [1] - 7034:20
sufficiency [3]-6765:24,
6768:21, 6783:3
sufficient [2] - 6795:23, 6957:23
suggest [22] - 6743:23,
6769:22, 6791:17, 6806:6,
6808:13, 6808:15, 6819:7,
6903:18, 6909:19, 6921:2,
6921:3, 6921:25, 6969:9,
6979:1, 6980:3, 6980:10,
6981:15, 6988:8, 6989:18,
7029:2, 7071:2, 7081:11
suggested [9] - 6765:7,
6781:19, 6800:23,
6862:15, 6953:10,
6961:16, 6998:24,
7000:11, 7015:25
suggesting [10] $-6759: 5$,
6787:4, 6817:18, 6908:4,
6917:20, 6921:24,
6929:19, 6996:10,
7009:24, 7039:16
suggestion [6] - 6790:4,
6819:11, 6920:21,
6957:17, 7078:25, 7080:16
suggestions [6] - 6862:5,
6903:12, 6926:4, 6946:18,
6959:15, 6961:8
suggests [3] - 6790:19,
6920:9, 7071:5
suitability [2] - 6845:20, 6953:15
suitable [1] - 6966:11
suite [1] - 6939:7
SULLIVAN [27] - 6735:19, 6736:20, 6848:3, 6848:4, 6848:8, 6849:6, 6849:19, 6850:5, 6852:2, 6853:16, 6933:22, 6946:5, 6965:1, 6965:6, 6965:22, 6966:14, 6966:18, 6967:20,
6972:19, 6975:2, 6977:5,
6977:17, 6979:3, 6980:12,
6981:19, 6988:10, 6989:16
Sullivan [10] - 6731:22,
6733:7, 6733:20, 6848:6,
6851:23, 6853:19, 6933:5,
6933:21, 6946:4, 6964:10
summaries [2] - 6840:23,
6844:7
summarize [2] - 6741:10, 6754:4
summarized [1] - 6865:14
summarizes [1] - 6946:12
summary [7] - 6799:5,
6913:6, 6921:7, 6960:23,
6964:18, 6964:22, 7019:16
summations [1] - 6860:5
summer [3]-6944:6,


6914:23
TC [3]-6938:17, 6944:16, 6945:20
tea [2]-6745:21, 6746:3
teach [7]-6748:24, 6749:10,
6750:3, 6760:14, 6764:8,
6774:8, 6923:7
teaches [1] - 6911:23
teaching [10]-6748:7,
6748:10, 6748:13,
6748:23, 6749:3, 6749:6, 6756:15, 6770:4, 6788:20, 6818:19
teachings $[1]$ - 7044:5
team [2]-6824:1, 6824:3
Tears [1] - 7056:14
technical [25] - 6810:11,
6833:8, 6872:6, 6873:9, 6873:13, 6874:1, 6874:3, 6874:8, 6874:11, 6874:17, 6875:1, 6875:9, 6875:11,
6877:2, 6883:25, 6884:4,
6884:10, 6938:21, 6953:7,
6961:17, 6961:21, 6992:1,
7064:16, 7075:1, 7075:5
Technical [3]-6870:20,
6876:15, 6879:21
technically [6] - 6963:23,
7062:12, 7062:18, 7063:5,
7065:22, 7068:1
techniques [1] - 7073:20
technology [2] - 6810:23, 7041:24
temperature [3] - 7071:18,
7074:11, 7074:20
template's [1] - 6835:3
temporal [7]-6849:1,
6849:4, 6849:5, 6965:3,
6965:7, 6965:13, 6972:17
tenants [1] - 6891:24
tend [1] - 6815:10
tendency [1] - 6815:9
tens [1] - 6931:4
tensions [2]-6888:24, 6896:6
tenures [2] - 6840:13
term [18] - 6785:11, 6818:14, 6888:7, 6896:9, 6914:2, 6916:2, 6916:15, 6916:18, 6973:16, 6978:6, 6985:19, 6985:21, 7018:5, 7029:5, 7029:10, 7040:6, 7081:14
terms [50] - 6739:21, 6740:3,
6750:11, 6765:9, 6796:14, 6801:12, 6801:14,
6801:22, 6803:2, 6815:23, 6815:25, 6821:21,
6828:24, 6834:11,
6834:15, 6837:4, 6841:16, 6847:23, 6850:22,
6853:15, 6855:17,

6857:15, 6858:3, 6870:10,
6872:21, 6878:3, 6898:17, 6899:25, 6910:9, 6920:9, 6936:13, 6949:10, 6965:6, 6973:14, 6981:3, 6984:3, 6985:16, 6986:7, 6987:2, 6987:6, 6990:3, 7021:13, 7025:12, 7029:20,
7031:16, 7043:1, 7059:13, 7067:18, 7080:5
Terms [5] - 6842:21,
6842:22, 6898:8, 6922:25, 7079:25
Terra [1] - 6772:24
terrestrial ${ }_{[2]}$ - 6837:14, 7076:16
terribly ${ }^{[1]}$ - 6929:7
territorial [2]-6777:8, 6789:5
territories [2] - 6761:16, 7052:15
territory [40]-6739:11,
6739:19, 6758:2, 6759:14, 6761:6, 6762:13, 6763:2, 6763:18, 6767:19, 6769:2, 6777:15, 6778:14, 6778:21, 6779:2, 6780:6, 6781:24, 6782:6, 6785:22, 6785:23, 6790:9, 6791:17, 6791:20, 6796:10, 6798:7, 6798:15, 6801:3, 6803:19, 6803:20, 6808:6, 6808:13, 6809:13, 6809:18,
6812:25, 6819:6, 6840:11, 6902:20, 6933:10,
7011:20, 7029:24, 7085:18
tested [2] - 6928:4, 6957:11
testimony [6] - 6800:21,
6803:2, 6806:14, 6943:21, 7052:7, 7067:25
tests [2] - 6780:2, 7078:11
Teztan [39]-6745:7,
6745:19, 6745:22, 6746:2,
6747:21, 6747:23, 6748:1,
6748:9, 6748:22, 6749:2,
6749:18, 6749:23, 6750:8,
6750:22, 6751:1, 6751:13,
6751:21, 6752:13,
6752:14, 6753:2, 6753:5,
6753:12, 6753:15,
6753:20, 6755:17, 6756:8,
6758:21, 6759:3, 6767:23,
6768:16, 6768:19,
6771:17, 6774:12,
6774:17, 6788:3, 6788:15,
6789:17, 6795:8, 6865:15
Thames [1] - 7012:21
thanking [1] - 7062:7
that.. [1]-6926:24
THE [172] - 6730:8, 6731:23,
6735:3, 6735:12, 6735:22,
6736:3, 6736:4, 6736:11,

6736:12, 6736:16,
6736:24, 6737:1, 6737:3, 6737:5, 6737:7, 6737:9, 6737:10, 6737:11, 6737:12, 6738:2, 6738:4, 6739:1, 6739:4, 6739:5, 6740:10, 6741:6, 6793:15, 6798:19, 6799:22,
6806:25, 6807:7, 6817:4, 6817:8, 6818:9, 6818:24, 6820:16, 6821:12, 6822:5, 6822:18, 6822:22,
6847:19, 6848:6, 6851:22,
6852:8, 6853:19, 6854:6,
6854:13, 6855:4, 6857:7,
6857:20, 6858:21,
6859:12, 6859:15, 6860:6, 6860:9, 6860:12, 6860:15, 6860:23, 6861:1, 6861:2, 6861:24, 6862:6, 6864:8, 6864:23, 6866:14,
6867:24, 6900:7, 6900:9, 6900:16, 6900:18,
6906:11, 6906:20,
6906:21, 6907:2, 6907:22, 6908:12, 6908:21,
6908:25, 6909:3, 6909:5,
6909:21, 6910:6, 6913:10, 6921:10, 6921:15,
6926:25, 6927:9, 6927:10, 6927:17, 6928:3, 6928:11, 6928:15, 6928:19,
6929:13, 6929:16,
6930:17, 6932:4, 6932:13, 6964:10, 6969:16,
6969:21, 6969:22,
6970:18, 6976:3, 6976:21, 6978:3, 6978:11, 6978:12, 6981:1, 6981:23, 6981:25, 6983:10, 6983:15,
6983:18, 6983:23,
6983:25, 6984:1, 6984:25, 6985:10, 6985:13,
6986:12, 6987:23, 6990:1, 6990:18, 6990:23,
6997:19, 6998:6, 6998:10,
6998:11, 7001:2, 7001:5,
7001:13, 7001:14,
7001:21, 7001:24,
7002:24, 7004:5, 7004:13, 7005:4, 7008:15, 7008:18, 7010:2, 7010:5, 7010:13, 7011:5, 7023:24, 7024:6, 7024:9, 7024:10, 7024:15, 7025:4, 7025:10, 7026:3, 7026:20, 7027:20,
7028:10, 7029:6, 7039:17, 7040:17, 7041:5, 7048:25, 7049:4, 7049:7, 7049:18, 7050:12, 7050:25, 7055:14, 7057:16, 7058:17, 7058:21,

7083:23, 7084:6
theirs [1] - 7064:8
themselves [10]-6742:24,
6753:4, 6853:1, 6853:10,
6897:18, 6925:9, 7006:19,
7014:6, 7025:21, 7073:15
There'Il [5] - 6769:9,
6769:12, 6788:11, 6919:2
there'II [3] - 6775:8, 6789:21, 6993:3
thereafter [1] - 7087:9
thereby [2] - 6959:1, 6960:13
Therefore [4]-6778:12,
6778:18, 6778:25, 6947:17
therefore ${ }_{[1]}$ - 6916:21
Theresa [1]-6781:13
thick [1]-7045:2
thin [1] - 7045:3
thinking [8]-6906:2,
6977:13, 6978:19,
6988:24, 6989:5, 6989:9, 7080:9
thinks [3]-6897:19,
7067:24, 7067:25
third [5] - 6761:8, 6837:4,
6879:9, 7036:9, 7038:13
Thirdly [1] - 7075:9
Thompson [1] - 6767:25
thorough [1] - 7063:16
thoroughly [1] - 7047:25
Thoughts [1] - 7047:20
three [11]-6752:6, 6818:15,
6818:18, 6825:3, 6826:20,
6926:4, 6954:6, 7012:15,
7039:19, 7061:20, 7061:24
threshold [1] - 6827:20
thresholds [2] - 6827:8, 6827:9
throughout [17]-6755:2,
6758:20, 6778:17,
6778:20, 6809:18,
6813:14, 6855:12, 6871:21, 6885:19, 6908:5, 6982:7, 7030:17, 7041:14, 7051:6, 7062:21, 7082:19, 7083:21
throwing [1] - 6778:16
thumb ${ }_{[1]}$ - 6867:14
tied [1] - 7051:13
ties [2] - 7051:10
tight [2] - 6821:13, 7085:9
time-consuming [1] - 7058:5
timeframe [2]-6849:4, 6930:11
timing [3] - 6793:15, 6799:18, 6830:8
tinted ${ }^{2}$ ] - 6771:9, 6771:12
tip [1] - 6742:12
tipping [1] - 7077:15
tissue [1]-6956:22
Titi [5] - 6734:9, 7011:11,

tomorrow [6] - 6927:21, 7049:9, 7055:17, 7058:1, 7084:25, 7085:3
tonne [3] - 6871:15, 6871:16, 6871:20
tonnes [2]-6919:19, 6947:4
tons [1] - 6947:5
Tony [2] - 6733:9, 6855:10
TONY [4] - 6735:21, 6737:2,
6855:8, 6978:13
took [3]-6957:24, 6978:19, 6988:13
tools [1] - 6939:7
top [3]-6813:22, 6897:12, 6948:17
top-down [1] - 6897:12 topic [8] - 6739:13, 6823:5, 6900:23, 6934:5, 7029:1, 7058:11, 7061:9, 7085:21 TOPIC [9]-6730:14, 6731:12, 6733:3, 6735:4, 6735:13, 6738:11,

6740:19, 6823:8, 7058:19 topic-specific [5] - 6739:13, 6823:5, 6934:5, 7058:11, 7085:21
TOPIC-SPECIFIC ${ }_{[3]}$ -
6730:14, 6738:11, 7058:19
topics [2]-6934:19, 7062:4
topped [1] - 6954:6
total [3]-6829:21, 6930:9, 6955:5
Total [1] - 7060:6
totally [4]-6779:13,
6779:20, 6978:16, 7055:22
totals [1] - 6886:2
touch [2]-6792:3, 7028:25
tough [1] - 6903:4
tour [1] - 6840:12
tourism [11] - 6761:9,
6767:20, 6767:21, 6768:5, 6826:17, 6830:2, 6837:19, 6887:16, 6988:7, 6995:14, 7040:3
toward [1] - 7056:6
towards [5] - 6771:19,
6973:14, 6996:3, 7055:25, 7068:17
town [5] - 6891:18, 6897:13, 6905:23, 6906:8, 7028:17
towns [2] - 6888:19, 6906:5
toxic [2] - 6777:24, 6905:7
track [1] - 7000:2
Tracking [1] - 6896:16
tracts [1] - 6789:6
trade [6] - 6919:12, 6920:19, 6920:20, 6920:25,
6923:23, 7040:15
trade-off [2]-6920:25, 6923:23
trade-offs [2] - 6920:19, 6920:20
traded [3] - 7035:14, 7052:9, 7052:10
trades [1] - 6992:1
trading [2] - 7032:10, 7033:2
tradition [1] - 6764:16
Traditional [1] - 6774:18
traditional [46] - 6739:10,
6739:19, 6742:7, 6742:17, 6744:25, 6748:7, 6748:8, 6749:3, 6749:5, 6750:17, 6752:15, 6755:16, 6758:9, 6764:8, 6765:21, 6774:4, 6777:16, 6778:8, 6783:8, 6785:22, 6785:23,
6789:22, 6790:13, 6791:8, 6792:22, 6801:3, 6803:24, 6804:20, 6809:13,
6812:24, 6824:11,
6836:24, 6865:22, 6866:2, 6916:21, 6933:9, 7014:21, 7020:20, 7030:16, 7032:5,

7034:3, 7034:13, 7053:17, 7085:18
traditions [3] - 6749:11,
6988:7, 7042:16
traffic [10]-6834:21,
6835:15, 6835:18,
6866:18, 6866:20,
6867:10, 6867:13,
6867:22, 6982:10, 6982:24
trailered [1] - 6948:16
train [1]-6916:5
training [9] - 6797:5, 6815:7,
6816:2, 6840:23, 6851:12,
6996:12, 7015:18,
7015:24, 7021:8
Training [1] - 6851:13
transcribed [1] - 7087:9
transcript [4]-6800:13,
6800:14, 7083:20, 7087:10
transcription [1] - 7029:6
transcripts [5] - 6742:9,
6746:16, 6755:11,
6784:11, 7048:2
transfer [1] - 6829:23
transferred [1] - 6912:8
transfers [1] - 6953:17
transgressions [1] - 6994:24
Transit [1] - 6912:8
transiting [1] - 6991:20
translate [1]-6810:24
translated [2]-6777:19, 6819:8
transmission [17]-6748:6,
6749:5, 6749:7, 6782:4,
6788:20, 6818:19, 6837:9,
6839:7, 6839:12, 6839:14,
6912:12, 6942:1, 6942:22,
6944:23, 7049:23, 7083:6
transparent [1] - 7039:14
transplants [1] - 7074:23
TRANSPORT [17] - 6731:21,
6735:18, 6736:17,
6736:21, 6736:22,
6736:24, 6737:1, 6737:3,
6737:5, 6848:2, 6933:2,
6933:6, 6964:14, 6969:22,
6978:12, 6981:25, 6983:25
Transport [94]-6731:21,
6731:22, 6733:7, 6733:19, 6733:20, 6739:23,
6781:18, 6781:21,
6821:19, 6847:24,
6848:18, 6850:14, 6852:1, 6854:16, 6859:17,
6906:15, 6910:10, 6927:2, 6932:18, 6932:21,
6933:18, 6933:23, 6934:3, 6934:8, 6934:13, 6934:18, 6934:25, 6935:6, 6935:10, 6935:14, 6937:1, 6937:8, 6937:23, 6939:5, 6939:7,

6940:14, 6941:7, 6941:24, 6943:14, 6946:7, 6946:20, 6947:2, 6947:19, 6948:21, 6951:11, 6952:20,
6952:21, 6953:3, 6953:6, 6953:8, 6953:10, 6953:20, 6953:24, 6954:13,
6954:24, 6955:12, 6956:6, 6957:17, 6960:16, 6961:5, 6961:11, 6961:15,
6961:19, 6962:25, 6963:5, 6963:9, 6963:20, 6964:1, 6964:5, 6964:7, 6964:19, 6965:7, 6968:24, 6972:23, 6973:13, 6976:6, 6977:6, 6977:11, 6977:23,
6979:21, 6979:22,
6980:17, 6981:5, 6984:5, 6990:10, 6990:13, 6997:7, 6998:7, 7008:24, 7024:2, 7080:7, 7080:15, 7080:23, 7081:7
Transportation [1] - 6835:8
transportation [11] -
6825:10, 6826:7, 6834:11, 6834:12, 6834:13,
6834:14, 6839:6, 6842:2, 6912:1, 7021:20
transported [1] - 6777:15
transporting [1] - 6792:11
trap [7]-6745:14, 6803:18, 6803:19, 6804:8, 6804:10, 6840:12
trapped [1] - 7052:9
trapper [1]-6840:11
trapping [7] - 6826:17,
6837:20, 6839:4, 6839:20,
6995:14, 7017:20, 7030:12
traps [1] - 7033:19
travel [6] - 6780:19, 6802:21,
6983:5, 7007:25, 7020:2,
7033:15
travelled [1] - 7032:9
travelling [2]-7019:25, 7020:4
Treasury [1] - 6943:9
treated [1] - 7047:21
treaties [1] - 7034:2
treatment [5] - 6811:7, 6977:2, 6977:3, 7065:15, 7065:20
treaty [4]-7029:22, 7029:24, 7030:10, 7031:14
Treaty ${ }_{[1]}$ - 6912:12
trees [6] - 6769:25, 6774:9,
6776:10, 6776:13,
6838:18, 7032:14
trend [1] - 6849:18
trends [1] - 7082:7
trespassing [1] - 6762:5
trial ${ }_{[1]}$ - 6858:7

Triangle [5] - 6803:16,
6803:17, 6803:24, 6804:5,
6804:10
tribes [1] - 7033:3
trickery ${ }_{[1]}$ - 6763:13
trillion [1] - 6886:13
trip [1] - 6822:15
trophy ${ }_{[1]}-6955: 18$
trot [1] - 6905:17
trouble [2] - 6901:22, 6991:15
troubles [1] - 7081:10
troubling [1] - 7080:8
Trout [1] - 6962:2
trout [25] - 6758:15, 6759:13, 6759:14, 6801:4, 6801:15, 6802:2, 6949:21, 6949:22, 6952:3, 6952:4, 6953:9, 6955:11, 6955:14, 6956:11, 7034:9, 7052:16, 7052:18, 7069:7, 7073:21, 7073:23, 7074:5, 7074:8,
7074:14, 7074:18, 7075:21
truck [2] - 6835:9, 7062:14
trucks [1] - 6982:9
true [7]-6778:6, 6859:2, 7021:24, 7044:4, 7065:5, 7067:20, 7087:9
truly [3] - 6789:2, 7008:12, 7051:8
trust [7]-6762:22, 6762:23, 6793:23, 6794:6, 6794:8, 6798:8, 6819:13
Trust [1] - 6877:22
trusting [1] - 6811:2
try [10]-6791:23, 6855:3,
6865:13, 6972:22,
6974:16, 6986:10, 7011:8,
7025:25, 7027:3, 7043:8
trying [20] - 6772:7, 6772:9, 6802:8, 6803:11, 6805:13, 6806:6, 6806:8, 6828:25, 6846:6, 6851:24, 6854:25, 6857:16, 6897:18,
6914:16, 6915:8, 6924:12, 6984:3, 6985:18, 6995:11, 7016:1
Ts'il?os [3] - 6753:16,
6753:20, 6753:23
Ts'yl [1] - 6754:2
Ts'yl-os [1] - 6754:2
TSILHQOT'IN [15] - 6731:15,
6735:5, 6735:8, 6735:10,
6735:11, 6735:20,
6736:24, 6737:2, 6740:20, 6740:23, 6799:13, 6817:8, 6855:7, 6969:22, 6978:12 Tsilhqot'in [138] - 6733:9, 6733:22, 6739:9, 6742:6, 6746:17, 6746:25, 6747:1, 6747:11, 6747:19,

6747:25, 6748:3, 6749:14, 6750:12, 6750:25, 6751:7, 6751:11, 6752:24, 6753:1, 6756:21, 6757:8, 6757:18, 6758:16, 6759:18, 6760:3, 6760:11, 6760:24,
6760:25, 6761:9, 6761:21, 6762:13, 6762:22, 6763:2, 6764:2, 6764:6, 6765:4, 6765:5, 6767:10, 6767:18, 6767:24, 6768:3, 6768:6, 6768:8, 6769:1, 6769:15, 6769:21, 6770:2, 6770:4, 6770:14, 6772:18, 6773:4, 6773:10, 6774:19,
6780:23, 6781:4, 6782:1, 6782:6, 6786:16, 6787:8, 6788:7, 6790:1, 6790:4, 6790:9, 6791:2, 6791:17, 6792:2, 6792:25, 6793:6, 6793:18, 6795:4, 6795:5, 6795:6, 6795:25, 6796:4, 6796:18, 6797:11,
6797:15, 6797:20, 6798:6, 6798:17, 6800:5, 6800:11, 6800:16, 6801:4, 6805:15, 6805:24, 6806:7, 6807:21, 6807:25, 6808:25, 6809:7, 6810:4, 6812:25, 6813:11, 6853:21, 6854:18,
6854:21, 6861:6, 6861:10, 6863:15, 6899:9, 6927:4, 6969:18, 6970:11, 6982:7, 6983:11, 6998:8, 7008:25, 7011:21, 7016:10, 7024:3, 7029:23, 7030:3, 7030:11, 7030:25, 7031:4, 7031:8, 7031:11, 7031:22, 7032:4, 7032:6, 7033:20, 7034:5, 7034:10, 7034:14,
7039:25, 7042:25,
7044:22, 7046:14,
7046:19, 7047:1, 7048:4, 7049:20, 7053:10,
7053:23, 7064:5, 7078:15, 7078:16, 7082:21
Tsilhqot'ins [1] - 6768:14 turn [16] - 6799:11, 6817:7, 6820:22, 6823:5, 6885:7, 6894:15, 6921:13, 6946:4, 6964:12, 6982:2, 6998:2, 7008:14, 7008:16, 7040:25, 7058:9, 7062:1
turned [1] - 7003:25
Turning [4]-7063:22,
7066:25, 7076:16, 7078:4 turning [1] - 6969:24
twice [2] - 6886:13, 6893:22 twist [1] - 7058:22
Two [1] - 6943:14
two [50] - 6741:22, 6742:12,
6746:6, 6748:21, 6752:1,

6765:3, 6773:13, 6791:5, 6804:4, 6806:19, 6812:11, 6812:12, 6813:15,
6817:15, 6824:2, 6828:13, 6829:17, 6832:4, 6836:13, 6836:20, 6838:9, 6848:4, 6856:6, 6863:6, 6874:21, 6881:16, 6881:25, 6921:18, 6926:6, 6926:7, 6927:12, 6927:18, 6927:24, 6931:9, 6950:5, 6950:6, 6950:21, 6958:14, 6975:6, 6984:23, 7008:5, 7011:9, 7016:24, 7037:14, 7046:1, 7058:2, 7067:7, 7068:6, 7084:23
two-and-a-half [2]-6812:11, 6812:12
two-weeks-in [1] - 6817:15
two-weeks-out [1] - 6817:15
type [6] - 6809:11, 6853:7, 6867:12, 6980:24, 7021:2, 7025:20
types [4] - 6750:8, 6809:19, 6967:11, 6989:23
typical $[1]-6768: 3$
Typical [1] - 6945:5
Typically [1] - 7070:9
typically [6] - 6758:22,
6815:19, 6816:7, 6843:13, 6919:24, 7018:3
U.S [2] - 6875:7, 7039:4

UBC ${ }_{[1]}$ - 6911:18
UK [1] - 7036:6
ultimately [4] - 6850:14, 6913:17, 6947:6, 7076:10 UN ${ }_{[1]}$ - 7034:16
unable [4] - 6865:2, 6865:17, 7018:24, 7025:21
unacceptable [1] - 6897:23
unauthorized ${ }_{[1]}$ - 6937:16
unaware [1] - 6971:15
UNBC [1] - 7012:23
uncertainty [2] - 6894:25, 7066:18
unclear [1] - 6834:7
uncommon [1] - 6779:19
Under [1] - 7077:2
under [38]-6761:18,
6761:19, 6772:5, 6772:20,
6772:23, 6792:8, 6813:2,
6813:19, 6825:21, 6826:5, 6846:5, 6851:1, 6869:16, 6874:6, 6881:15, 6888:10, 6897:14, 6898:3, 6900:5, 6910:25, 6912:11,
6927:25, 6934:6, 6935:3, 6938:14, 6942:9, 6946:6, 6946:8, 6970:23, 6974:6, 6975:13, 6975:14, 6984:7, 6985:19, 6985:24,

7003:22, 7033:14, 7077:10 undergone [2]-6937:19, 6937:24
underground [3] - 6776:19, 6777:11, 6777:13
underlying [1] - 6852:16 underscores [1] - 7077:25 understood [9]-6799:18, 6866:19, 6903:12, 6940:19, 6965:18, 6966:7, 6970:4, 7041:2, 7064:19
undertake [4] - 6845:16,
7083:5, 7083:7, 7083:10
Undertake [1] - 6851:4
undertaken [7]-6873:18, 6896:20, 6934:10, 7078:5, 7078:6, 7078:8, 7083:5
undertaking [3] - 7059:3, 7061:6, 7065:5
underwater ${ }_{[1]}-6775: 17$ undisturbed [1] - 6758:2
unemployed [6] - 6915:22, 6916:4, 6991:20, 6992:4, 6993:14, 7023:18
unemployment [17] 6832:23, 6832:24, 6832:25, 6833:1, 6833:4, 6998:16, 6998:18, 6998:23, 6999:1, 6999:4, 6999:6, 6999:10, 7000:7, 7015:16, 7018:2, 7019:20, 7035:18
Unemployment ${ }_{[1]}$ - 6893:21 unfamiliar [3] - 6984:20, 6985:9, 7029:19
unfettered $[1]$ - 7076:12
unfortunate [1] - 7064:15
unfortunately [2]-6802:11, 6865:17
union [1] - 6905:8
unique [4] - 6766:4, 7070:7, 7073:18, 7075:17
uniqueness [1] - 6984:3
United [3]-6885:17,
6890:17, 7036:17
units [1] - 7059:13
universities [1] - 7015:21
university $[3]$ - 6991:25,
7013:2, 7013:8
UNIVERSITY [1] - 6736:9
University [11]-6731:19, 6733:14, 6767:25, 6868:20, 6911:22, 7012:2, 7012:20, 7012:22, 7012:24, 7036:8, 7036:10 unless [12] - 6772:12, 6903:7, 6919:21, 6924:24, 6963:23, 6982:23, 7015:3, 7019:24, 7020:4, 7021:3, 7023:4, 7026:12
Unless [1] - 6891:11
unlike [2] - 6827:4, 7062:3 unlikely [4] - 6947:16,
7015:5, 7023:3, 7026:14 unmarked [1] - 6751:23 unmeasurable [2] - 6926:16, 7060:17
unpublished [1] - 6879:10 unrelated [2] - 6806:11, 6888:22
unrestricted [2]-6954:11, 6961:25
unsound [1] - 7068:1 unsustainability ${ }^{[1]}$ - 7002:9 unsustainable [4] - 6896:15, 7001:19, 7002:2, 7002:5 untouched [1] - 6758:4 untrue [1] - 7065:11 unusual [11] - 6742:24,
6838:25, 6874:10, 6945:20, 6948:18, 6966:12, 6967:1, 6977:6, 6977:11, 6977:15, 6978:2 up [86] - 6746:2, 6748:14, 6748:16, 6754:9, 6756:2, 6759:23, 6770:23, 6782:5, 6789:14, 6800:20, 6803:2, 6807:3, 6808:23, 6812:4, 6812:5, 6812:12, 6812:13, 6816:15, 6818:25,
6827:17, 6830:14,
6834:18, 6835:7, 6837:13,
6841:23, 6844:9, 6853:11,
6855:17, 6855:25,
6856:17, 6857:15, 6858:4, 6858:14, 6862:11,
6864:17, 6866:20,
6867:16, 6870:24,
6877:13, 6879:17, 6883:3,
6886:20, 6893:25, 6895:2, 6895:8, 6904:1, 6905:16,
6905:21, 6907:3, 6920:11, 6927:22, 6934:23,
6935:22, 6948:6, 6950:10, 6952:2, 6955:9, 6959:1, 6962:23, 6963:7, 6967:21, 6970:13, 6971:15, 6971:20, 6973:3, 6989:4, 6992:8, 6993:7, 6994:17, 7012:8, 7036:9, 7039:18, 7045:21, 7050:3, 7050:4, 7050:8, 7050:9, 7057:13, 7057:21, 7058:2, 7070:19, 7070:23, 7072:14, 7077:11, 7080:16 updated [2]-6873:19, 6983:7
upgrade [1] - 6982:24 upgraded [1] - 6812:16 upgrades [1] - 6884:20 upgrading $[1]$ - 7015:22 upland [1] - 6760:4
uplands [1] - 7033:8 upstream [5] - 6976:1,
7059:12, 7059:17, 7059:19, 7060:11
Upstream [3] - 7059:22, 7060:1, 7060:7
urban [1] - 6824:9
urge [1] - 6892:11
us.. [1] - 6781:5
usage [2] - 6936:11, 6936:16
useless [2] - 6886:18,
7035:18
user [1] - 6930:6
users [8] - 6825:19, 6829:3,
6838:1, 6838:2, 6918:8,
6944:1, 6944:2, 7079:11
uses [12] - 6839:17, 6839:18,
6840:6, 6840:8, 6937:1,
6939:7, 6943:19, 6943:20,
6971:21, 6985:23, 6987:7,
7035:25
usual [1] - 6965:25
Utilities [3] - 6930:22,
6931:1, 6931:13
utility $[2]$ - 6769:6, 6790:23
utilize [1] - 7052:22
utilized ${ }_{[1]}$ - 7052:21
utilizing [1] - 6983:4
vague [4] - 6814:16,
6816:13, 6816:25, 6850:13
Valdez [1] - 6885:22
valid [2] - 7009:25, 7030:6
validity [1] - 6868:25
VALLEY [9] - 6731:19,
6736:6, 6736:11, 6736:13, 6736:14, 6910:18,
6921:15, 6927:10, 6928:25
valley [1] - 6778:19
Valley [22] - 6733:15, 6771:2,
6785:7, 6785:20, 6822:1,
6842:7, 6842:11, 6860:10, 6890:19, 6908:22,
6910:14, 6911:2, 6911:4, 6915:7, 6932:7, 6983:19, 7001:6, 7010:6, 7012:21, 7025:5, 7062:23, 7079:23
valuable [2] - 6786:15, 6843:12
valuables [1] - 7042:9
value [21]-6749:15, 6773:4,
6786:21, 6786:23,
6792:15, 6799:2, 6805:5,
6839:18, 6839:19,
6845:13, 6859:6, 6875:16, 6885:15, 6886:8, 6886:14, 6916:8, 6978:25, 6993:19, 6996:18, 7036:4
valued [2] - 6757:20, 6886:12
values [40]-6741:11,
6741:13, 6741:16, 6744:9,

6749:11, 6749:20,
6750:11, 6755:17, 6764:9,
6771:22, 6774:1, 6774:3,
6824:11, 6825:19,
6825:20, 6827:1, 6827:22,
6828:1, 6828:5, 6828:17,
6836:25, 6837:11,
6837:17, 6845:3, 6865:4,
6865:9, 6897:2, 6897:12,
6957:10, 6970:11,
6970:12, 7013:15,
7013:17, 7026:13,
7026:17, 7052:2, 7056:24,
7057:7, 7082:12
van [1] - 6785:17
Vancouver [3] - 6823:19, 6834:24, 6912:9
Vanderhoof [1] - 7013:5 variable [1] - 6759:2
variables [2]-6849:15, 6878:8
variation [1] - 6757:3
variations [2]-6827:12, 6827:14
varied [1] - 6756:23
variety [2] - 6887:16, 7009:7
various [9] - 6824:10,
6827:21, 6890:10,
6893:12, 6988:3, 6992:7,
6992:10, 7065:10
varying [1] - 7066:4
Vast [1]-6761:15
vast ${ }_{[1]}$ - 6921:19
vegetation [2]-6776:11,
6776:13
vehicle [3]-6758:21, 6835:10, 6948:16
vehicles [5] - 6835:5, 6835:6, 6866:21, 6866:23, 6867:6
ventures [1] - 6768:25
verbal [1] - 6771:10
Verhaeghe [6] - 6734:12, 7028:13, 7040:23, 7048:25, 7057:23, 7082:21
VERHAEGHE [8] - 6732:9,
6738:8, 7041:3, 7041:6,
7041:9, 7049:2, 7049:6,
7049:14
verification [1] - 6871:19
verify ${ }_{[2]}$ - 7010:14, 7084:7
versatile [1] - 7074:1
version [1] - 6874:20
versions [1] - 6881:23
versus [3]-6820:5, 6951:24, 6951:25
vertical [1] - 6944:24
vessels [1] - 6948:17
via [1] - 6948:16
viability [2] - 6857:12, 6966:9
viable [7] - 6868:16, 6952:4, 6953:9, 6965:9, 7039:9, 7040:16, 7063:14
vibrant ${ }_{[1]}$ - 7082: 8
Vice ${ }_{[1]}$ - 6873:20
vice [2] - 6874:12, 7005:11
vice-president $[1]$ - 7005:11
vice-presidents [1] 6874:12
Viceroy [1] - 6905:20
Vick's [1] - 6776:5
Vickers [2] - 6763:21, 7030:4
video $[7]$ - 7005:13, 7005:22,
7006:5, 7006:7, 7006:11,
7006:22, 7007:10
VIDEO ${ }_{[2]}$ - 6737:21, 7006:23
view [28] - 6743:23, 6749:9, 6773:21, 6794:10,
6800:11, 6806:9, 6811:21, 6821:4, 6840:5, 6843:19, 6864:1, 6898:10, 6902:13, 6904:22, 6916:14, 6935:7, 6957:1, 6997:5, 6997:6,
6997:14, 7057:13, 7064:4, 7074:17, 7076:7, 7078:22, 7079:3
viewpoint [1] - 6844:25
views [17]-6799:4, 6800:3,
6800:7, 6926:20, 6934:17,
6964:8, 6998:25, 7001:1,
7010:23, 7056:23, 7058:7,
7064:23, 7082:10,
7082:12, 7082:22, 7083:18
village [1] - 6768:3
violates [1] - 7048:1
violence [2]-6888:25,
7047:10
virtually [2] - 6796:23,
7060:11
vision [5] - 6750:23,
6752:16, 6752:20, 6753:6,
6772:15
visit [1] - 6948:11
visited [4]-6904:24,
6949:25, 6992:21, 6992:23
visiting [1] - 6893:11
visitors [1] - 6950:22
visual [1] - 7078:9
vital [1] - 7031:19
vocal [2] - 6797:1, 7045:7
vocation [1] - 6999:17
voice [1] - 6764:18
voiced [2] - 6955:20, 6982:8
Voiceovers [1] - 7005:18
voices [1] - 7006:17
Voisey's [1] - 6901:24
volatile [1] - 6875:15
Volume [73]-6730:16,
6744:17, 6744:19,
6744:22, 6745:2, 6745:5,

6745:8, 6745:12, 6745:15, 6745:20, 6745:25, 6746:4, 6746:8, 6747:16, 6747:20, 6748:14, 6748:19, 6749:3, 6749:20, 6750:5, 6750:9, 6751:3, 6751:9, 6751:21, 6752:7, 6752:19, 6753:4, 6753:6, 6753:10, 6753:13, 6753:14, 6753:18,
6753:25, 6754:3, 6754:12, 6754:15, 6754:18,
6754:20, 6754:24, 6755:2, 6755:4, 6755:6, 6755:10,
6756:9, 6756:12, 6756:14, 6756:19, 6757:16, 6758:6, 6759:19, 6764:22,
6766:24, 6767:9, 6770:8, 6774:15, 6775:11,
6775:22, 6776:7, 6776:16, 6777:5, 6777:18, 6778:1, 6779:22, 6781:1, 6781:12, 6782:6, 6784:3, 6789:10, 6793:3, 6837:5, 6935:25, 6939:12, 6944:5
volume [5] - 6801:13,
6835:13, 6835:18,
6866:20, 6867:13
volumes [1] - 6866:18
vote [2] - 6871:2, 7030:18
vulnerability ${ }^{[1]}$ - 6869:11
vulnerable [6] - 6889:9,
6889:12, 6890:2, 6890:8, 6892:5, 6957:12
wage [5] - 6888:1, 6888:21, 6914:20, 6916:20, 6994:11 wages [4]-6891:4, 6893:9, 6916:8, 6923:16
walk [8]-6767:11, 6767:17, 6903:2, 6999:17, 7009:16, 7072:16, 7072:18, 7072:20
walking [2]-6889:7, 7078:8
walks [1] - 6780:20
Walter [4] - 6732:4, 6734:5,
7005:2, 7005:10
WALTER [2] - 6737:16, 6737:18
wants [6] - 6768:18, 6847:5, 6864:19, 7031:15,
7067:14, 7068:3
war [1] - 6885:15
War [2]-6763:11, 6885:14
warehouse [1] - 6828:20
warned [1] - 7036:8
warning [1] - 6753:24
warrant $[1]$ - 6926:15
wars [3]-6885:21, 7030:19, 7035:6
wary ${ }_{[1]}$ - 6811:10
Wasp [1] - 6741:25
waste [7]-6886:10, 6942:15, 6947:6, 6949:15, 6949:18,

6950:13, 7067:24
water [75] - 6745:14,
6750:13, 6766:12,
6766:15, 6766:18,
6766:19, 6766:23, 6774:9, 6775:9, 6775:10, 6775:19, 6776:3, 6777:4, 6777:12, 6777:13, 6777:24, 6778:4, 6781:3, 6788:17, 6793:8, 6793:9, 6797:25, 6798:1, 6798:11, 6809:17,
6809:22, 6811:7, 6811:9, 6811:11, 6835:24,
6843:19, 6843:23,
6870:18, 6885:2, 6886:10, 6942:14, 6943:24,
6947:22, 6947:25,
6953:17, 6958:10,
6958:23, 6959:2, 6959:5, 6959:7, 6960:2, 6960:5, 6972:15, 6977:3, 6984:24, 7015:2, 7023:1, 7028:25, 7032:23, 7034:15, 7034:21, 7035:1, 7035:5, 7035:9, 7035:11, 7040:7, 7060:9, 7062:17, 7063:22, 7065:4, 7065:7, 7065:15, 7065:20, 7066:1, 7073:14, 7075:20
Water [6]-6942:4, 6946:6, 6948:3, 6962:13, 7035:3, 7065:18
waterbodies [3] - 6936:4, 6936:8, 6936:12
waterbody [4]-6795:11, 6943:3, 6952:13, 6958:11
waterflows [1] - 6958:8
waterfowl [1] - 6760:4
Waters [21]-6933:12, 6934:7, 6935:3, 6937:7, 6937:11, 6938:11, 6938:14, 6938:17,
6938:22, 6940:21,
6942:23, 6943:5, 6944:19, 6946:2, 6966:21, 6971:6, 6974:6, 6982:14, 6984:7, 6985:20, 6985:24
waters [6]-6766:21, 6780:1, 6780:7, 6780:11, 6933:14, 6936:2
watershed [8]-6741:24, 6758:16, 6758:23, 6769:8, 6798:8, 6947:14, 6947:15, 6948:5
watersheds [2]-6776:19, 6947:21
waterway [15] - 6781:22,
6939:11, 6939:15,
6939:23, 6939:24,
6940:15, 6942:25, 6943:3,
6967:14, 6982:13,
6982:19, 6982:21, 6986:6,

6987:7
waterways [20] - 6936:3, 6936:6, 6936:8, 6936:12, 6937:13, 6938:16, 6938:20, 6939:8, 6939:14, 6940:3, 6940:20, 6941:4, 6941:6, 6941:15, 6945:1, 6945:16, 6961:20, 6967:3, 6987:3, 6987:14
waves [1] - 6778:17
Wayne [1] - 7077:8
ways [13]-6781:5, 6804:22,
6808:14, 6808:15,
6873:12, 6882:15, 6906:2,
6908:2, 6986:17, 6989:2,
7023:6, 7027:6, 7071:13
weakened [1]-6785:15
wealth [1] - 6791:15
wealthy [1] - 7031:10
weather [6] - 6754:3,
6794:15, 6876:25, 6878:8,
6904:10, 6958:12
web [1] - 7004:1
website [4] - 6874:21,
6993:24, 7079:10
websites [1] - 7020:25
weddings [1] - 6750:7
week [6] - 6779:10, 6786:21,
6911:9, 6927:23, 6983:8, 7004:23
week's [1] - 7058:11
weeks [7]-6817:15, 7062:5, 7067:7, 7084:1, 7084:3, 7084:5
welcome [3] - 6739:12, 6933:1, 6978:9
welfare [2] - 6760:11, 6786:8
well-being [7] - 6762:16,
6782:12, 6783:7, 6784:25,
6785:12, 6869:9, 6887:6
well-defined [1] - 6827:9
wellbeing [1] - 7020:20
wellness [1] - 7021:17
west [2] - 7006:10, 7007:2
western [2] - 6804:8,
6804:10
wetlands [1] - 6745:25
whatever's [2]-6864:3, 6908:5
whatnot [1] - 6809:24
whatsoever [1] - 6886:8
WHEREOF [1] - 7087:13
white [2]-6904:18, 7033:14
Whiteman [1] - 7020:17
Whitewater [3] - 6834:19, 6835:3, 6866:18
Whoa [1] - 6908:12
whole [15]-6778:17, 6785:3, 6804:17, 6813:20,
6882:15, 6885:7, 6909:16, 6912:25, 6915:24, 6943:2,

6979:10, 6996:17, 7000:2, 7000:22, 7049:5
wide [3]-6887:15, 7032:17, 7032:22
widely $[1]$ - 6912:14
wider [1] - 7023:8
wild [7]-6745:4, 6776:21,
6777:3, 6798:1, 7033:25, 7052:15
wilderness [2]-7035:19, 7040:1
Wilderness [2] - 6767:13, 6803:14
wildlife [13]-6769:25,
6776:20, 6777:15, 6789:25, 6827:5, 6834:22, 6985:16, 7014:25, 7022:24, 7040:8, 7077:22, 7078:3
Wildlife [3] - 7076:17,
7076:22, 7077:5
William [19]-6739:8, 6745:10, 6745:16, 6747:14, 6747:17, 6747:21, 6748:25, 6750:21, 6751:23, 6752:11, 6752:20, 6753:11, 6755:5, 6756:16, 6761:15, 6768:11, 6772:6, 6782:3, 6797:14
WILLIAM ${ }_{[1]}$ - 6928:13
William's [1] - 6786:20
WILLIAMS [12] - 6732:3,
6737:14, 6737:17,
6737:19, 6737:22,
6910:21, 6910:22, 6924:6, 7004:24, 7005:6, 7005:24, 7009:3
Williams [55] - 6730:23, 6731:20, 6734:5, 6734:7, 6739:6, 6741:1, 6748:1, 6748:11, 6755:1, 6784:6, 6822:2, 6833:13, 6833:14, 6834:5, 6846:24, 6860:12, 6888:19, 6889:4, 6899:19, 6899:21, 6903:25, 6904:1, 6908:25, 6911:3, 6922:8, 6928:16, 6932:19, 6983:20, 7001:7, 7003:5, 7003:13, 7004:10,
7004:18, 7004:23,
7005:11, 7006:6, 7006:8, 7007:10, 7007:12,
7007:19, 7011:6, 7013:4,
7016:25, 7019:4, 7022:19, 7025:6, 7027:14, 7027:16, 7039:23, 7056:10,
7062:25, 7074:8, 7081:16, 7081:18
willing [4]-6951:11, 6964:5, 7006:16, 7041:15
willingness [3]-6863:12,


