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Subject: [EXTERNAL] Baffinland Public Hearing Community Member Comment - Anita Uuttuvak
Date: November 6, 2021 1:38:57 PM

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Saturday / November 6, 2021 - Qujannamiik iksivauta. Over the last few days, hearing other Inuit speak so lovely about Pond was extremely heartwarming. Inuit nagligivassi aksualu. Qujannamiingujusi iqqaumajaugatta. I spoke two days ago but I was cut off without being given the chance to speak again (as others were). My health hasn't been great, I gave up precious rest, time from my dear children and work to be here for days now, but Pond Inlet means the world to me, so it's worth it. I must say though, it hasn't been the most productive nor considerate way of running a hearing for the very concerned citizens of Pond Inlet. The hearing earlier this year and this week have been exhausting times for me (as for many people I am sure) as everything is trying to be crammed into such a SHORT period of time. I want to protect whatever we have left of our lands, animals and home near Pond Inlet but it's so UNFAIR to me that Inuit are made to SQUEEZE all our questions into jam packed hours ... waiting like tedious tasks to be heard. Inuit trying to cut their questions short so others can talk (tavva they shouldn't feel like that), being told "well, there were SO MANY questions ..." so the person feels like they asked too much in one go (but that's because they want to get answers WHILE THEY CAN), or just the sheer amount of hours waiting to HOPEFULLY talk ... but this is NOT how Inuit should be treated. Why are we doing it this way???

I am not sure if many of you know about the Berger inquiry for the Mackenzie Valley Pipeline? But it was notable for the voice that it gave to the indigenous people. Berger recommended a **10 year** moratorium (which is a temporary prohibition of an activity) to deal with critical issues, such as settling Aboriginal land claims and setting aside key conservation areas **before** attempting to build the proposed pipeline. You hear that? **10 years!!! Tavva, here we are** ... many Inuit from several communities being MADE to SQUEEZE their VALUABLE knowledge, insight and questions into a week! I hear Inuit saying over the course of this hearing that "Inuit don't rush", IQ is not being implemented properly and the railway is going to go through caribou calving grounds or the ships in Milne Inlet are in a narwhal breeding area... Yet here we are, being told we have till SATURDAY to get our questions in Inuit in our area had never done a blockade before as we aren't that type of people, but Inuit near Pond are being FORCED to do these things such as this because we are NOT being listened to! Naalaktaungittugut. This speaks VOLUMES about what is happening here ... Inuit hunters from Pond are in SURVIVAL MODE where we have entered into a flight or fight response. We have experienced **trauma to our land and waters, HUGE loss of our animals, and changes in our lives which we must protect.** We find ourselves doing things we never thought we would do.

Two days ago there was mention of me making "personal questions" ... well ... first of all, Pond Inlet is our home, so to us, this is PERSONAL and I felt everyone needed to be put into our current metaphorical shoes. My comments were made to bring awareness. The Pond Inlet area is not just a "job" for us, we are deeply interconnected to our land and waters and as Inuit, we love, respect and cherish our land which we are so proud to call home. For the people of Pond Inlet, the lack of narwhal, seals, and fish affects us every day in every way. Outsiders can switch their minds off of Pond Inlet and the BIM effects as it's easy to do this when you are not here physically, but for the people of Pond Inlet who live here day in and day out ... we are serious when we say, our lives are radically changing and our animals are massively depleting.

To help give the message of how MUCH Phase 1 has already affected Pond, I will share something extremely private and personally hard for me to talk about. You see, with BIM being in our backyard, BIM has DEEPLY effected my life personally and I don't want to share this with you all, but I feel this is the ONLY WAY you will truly see just how effected Pond is by BIM already. Not just with the 3 fish story that I talked about the other day, or the fact you go hunting for days for ONE narwhal and see NONE ... those things combined touch another level of loss for me. Earlier this year, both my dear grandmother - Ilisapii

Uttuvak & my dear father Jaiku Uttuvak - attended the BIM hearing in Pond Inlet with a passion! :) Their speeches touched me to my very core. I teared up after I heard them talk, I was so proud. They SPOKE OUT from their hearts to get heard ... and that took courage. You see - the reason I bring these points up now is this ... [Phase 1](#) has devastated our caribou and narwhal populations to a whole new level as I mentioned before. You can hunt for days and nothing. These huge losses of animals coming from the mine operating at the Phase 1 level alone ... have had irreversible effects to me as a person of Pond Inlet. Why?

Well .. since the hearings at the beginning of this year, my dear grandmother - Elisapee Ootoovak - passed away on Tuesday, May 18, 2021. With the sheer lack of caribou, she was unable to show me how to make caribou parkas or kamiks. Her sight was not great but she would always use her hands and explain things to me as she did things. I love and miss her. She would try talk to me about certain caribou stories but without caribou these past years she couldn't show me. Now with my grandmother gone, that VALUABLE information from her is permanently vanished. Or with my sons ... my older son wanted to catch his first caribou last year or my younger son wanted to catch his first whale just to show their ittu/my father they can do it ... and so they can see the SHEER GLEEM of PRIDE or that sweet sincere twinkle in my father's eyes ... PRICELESS moments of learning from my father how to hunt these animals is what my sons LOVED about being an Inuk provider. But now ... they cannot do this. My loving father - Jayko Ootoowak - also passed away on Tuesday, October 19, 2021. Due to no animals, we are losing precious moments like these, knowledge sharing exchanges, and valuable loving pride amongst hunters in Pond Inlet because this mine has bullied their way into Milne Inlet. No million dollar compensation can EVER replace those lost moments forever. Those moments, they are GONE. I don't know anyone ... who has lost a parent or a grandparent they loved as superheroes ... that would be willing to trade those moments with their loved ones for any amount of money. I was told if BIM doesn't live up to it, they will pay us back with money... but money cannot buy back time ... vast amounts of PRICELESS knowledge not being able to be taught because animals are so few and far between now due to this mine. To that I say, bring on a 10 year moratorium!!!!!! Make BIM have a probationary period cuz we need time gather facts, protect our conservation areas and have our precious moments BACK! And why not get a probationary period since BIM brought MILLIONS of dollars worth of items over for Phase 2 without it even being approved! That was a breach of trust. Why are we being so catering to a company that tried taking advantage of us? Did BIM get consequences for this act? If so, what?

BIM says they need 2 railways as it's economically better for them in Phase 2, plus too then Inuit will get to keep their jobs at the mine and this is the better way to do it they say.... so just say yes! Yet there are Inuit elders - like the one that talked two days ago .. saying he didn't want the railway (let alone 2 railways) near Kanagjuk - an area of land where caribou go, as it will interrupt our already depleted caribou herds. Yet when Inuit speak up against the proposed railway, BIM says "we will take that into account". But why not say, "for sure! Let's PROTECT the caribou and build around their calving grounds!" Instead we are told, "the sounds of the railway will help prevent the caribou from being HIT!" Again ... its a better way to do it for BIM this way, but NOT for Inuit but the consistent theme of this hearing is, we REVOLVE around BIM or else they will walk. This is a drastic ultimatum which is a destructive way of making Inuit feel pressured, trapped, and forced into a corner.

Inuit at this hearing are told, "we give Inuit time to talk...." or "we gave Inuit a chance to talk at .. at such and such even so they were heard". When all I have observed is Inuit waiting hours, and days to talk ... if they were not cut off, Inuit being told "great job for talking" as if they were children, not given any real answers, and unlike a TRUE respected partnership where you would work collaboratively on goals over an appropriate time period, Inuit instead are being told, "we can sort it out later, just approve Phase 2 NOW". What happened to "working together"? How I see it is, "working together" means ... say "yes" to what BIM wants, and we will "Work together" on it later in a "working group" after you sign your life away.... but that is NOT working together. And working groups again for what? If we have NO animals left and our elders are dying off so we will have no one left to show us how to hunt, sew or live traditionally with these animals, that defeats the whole purpose of those working groups. What is with Inuit being PRESSURED to go at this warp speed?

Well, if you search on google, manipulation tactics, it will read how a person may try manipulate another person by moving very quickly in a relationship to overwhelm their victims and act with kind gestures to lower their guard or make them feel indebted. And as you scroll down that same list, you find many other tactics BIM is using. Like generalization .. how vague accusations are often hard to dispute, and more times than not, BIM answers Inuit with run around general answers like that.. "what is the percent of damage done to the land, animals or waters so far?" .. "Oh it will minimal damage" or "Or we value Inuit, IQ, and we will use IQ." No specifics given at all on how they will use that though. NOTHING. Or using Fear to control people, "if you don't agree to Phase 2 then that new Co-op Store won't be built!" Or I have been told how one BIM employee was told if she took photos of all the dead birds near the mine site after certain mining activities, that he/she would be threatened with being fired on the spot. Brutal! 2 days ago when a genuine question was asked about why the mine size had to increase in Phase 2, to which BIM replied, "well this mine here in NU is actually small compared to the rest of Canada or other parts of the world" that was NOT answering the question at all, that was taking the focus off of actually answering the question directly and minimizing that persons genuine concerns. And just because large mines work in the rest of Canada, that does NOT mean it will work for Nunavut too. Take basements for example, you have basements all over southern Canada, but you cannot have basements in Nunavut due to permafrost or solar power street lights can't be used in Pond as we have 24 hour darkness in the winter time. etc. Moreover, the reason the question was asked in the first place was a little mine can still have HUGE effects on the tundra (as Phase 1 has already illustrated) so why is no responsibility put on BIM to answer questions honestly, directly and factually?

Even the BIM technical supporting doc 26 shows BIM employee numbers now and the BIM Employee numbers in Phase 2 and it shows more than 200 less jobs in phase 2, so what they are promising more jobs and publish are two different things? Which is untrue? BIM states there are 200 less jobs state in Phase 2 because their numbers on their technical document 26 are conservative, but does that mean their numbers listing damages to the land in the Nuluujaat area conservative too? Even the WWE warns of likely spills if the mine expands and gave way higher numbers than BIM did. This is all cause for concern and major red flags arise from BIM statements.

How about those posters which I referenced about on Wednesday stating if INUIT say "YES" to Phase 2 then Inuit say "YES" to getting money, jobs and funding, but if Inuit say "NO" to Phase 2 then Inuit will be punished and Inuit will be responsible to saying "NO" to a harvesting fund, training programs, and NO to ongoing donations), this puts ALL the ownership onto Inuit without making BIM accountable for anything because the message sent is all in the wording! The actions of putting up posters like these, speak louder than the words themselves. It's sheer manipulation. INUIT SHOULD NOT BE TREATED THIS WAY. **Why does NIRB keep information about what is being told to community members out of the record but allows the public to see the pro Baffinland propaganda?** Why are the GN, the GOC and QIA allowing BIM to treat or communicate to Inuit in that way? Inuit sirnaqtaalukka. Is it because they haven't caught on to BIM communicational habits? (if so, what will they do about it now?) or is it because they support BIM methods of communication? (If so, why are they doing that?)

The hunters of Pond Inlet are brilliant, bright, and extremely talented hunters. Yet what is verbally being said by them are not being given the same merit as the results produced on paper or computer by BIM or by the Gov't entities. No matter how many experiences are told by elders, photos shown by Inuit, and the IQ knowledge passed down by Inuit, this info fall onto def ears when told to its outside counterparts. It is the written word of BIM that is taken as gospel. Why are Inuit being punished for having an oral tradition of communication?

I realize BIM has a strategy carefully planned to achieve a specific end (which is Phase 2), a statement of terms, which if rejected will result in a breakdown in relations to BIM. But what I also wanted to point out something mentioned after I talked the first time on how Health Canada or the government bodies base their responses from the BIM findings ... First of all, isn't that a conflict of interest? Secondly, why aren't Inuit consulted alongside as equals when the governments examines findings? Why is it only BIM? Furthermore,

