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SUMMARY #8

Rio Tinto Alcan Environmental Appeal Board (EAB) Hearings

KITIMAT – Kitimat Rod and Gun Association, 86 Haisla Blvd. | Kitimat BC | V8C 2B7

Environmental Appeal Board hearings resumed in Kitimat today and will continue for the next two weeks. One of the two appellants, Emily Toews, a long-time Kitimat resident and kindergarten teacher who suffers from asthma, was the first witness. Ms. Toews was followed by Ian Sharpe, who issued the permit amendment under appeal in his position as a Director under the BC Environmental Management Act.

Ms. Toews shared her personal experience with asthma and its impact on her ability to participate in recreational activities such as competitive swimming, cross-country skiing and hiking. She expressed concern that any increase in SO₂ in Kitimat will exacerbate her condition and put her students and 10-month old child at risk.

Prior to living in Kitimat, Ms. Toews lived in Burnaby where she experienced difficulties controlling her asthma on a daily basis as a result of pollution and allergen levels. This affected her decision to leave Burnaby and eventually settle in Kitimat. Part of Ms. Toews' decision to stay in Kitimat was because she received information that RTA was planning to modernize its smelter and reduce emissions.

Ms. Toews finished by stating that she is not opposed to the Kitimat Modernization Project but is opposed to the increase in SO₂ emissions. She asked the panel to require Rio Tinto Alcan produce the best state-of-the-art emission reduction with the technologies that are available.

In his direct examination, Ian Sharpe defended the memoranda of understanding between MOE and RTA, the decision to use an adaptive management strategy in regard to SO₂ emissions, their public consultation efforts, and the secondment of Frazer Mackenzie to RTA.

Cross-examination of Ian Sharpe will begin tomorrow. Please note that the hearing start time from this date forward is 8:30 am rather than 9:00 am.

June 1 Witnesses:

- Emily Toews, Appellant
- Ian Sharpe, a Director with the BC Ministry of Environment

Media Contacts

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