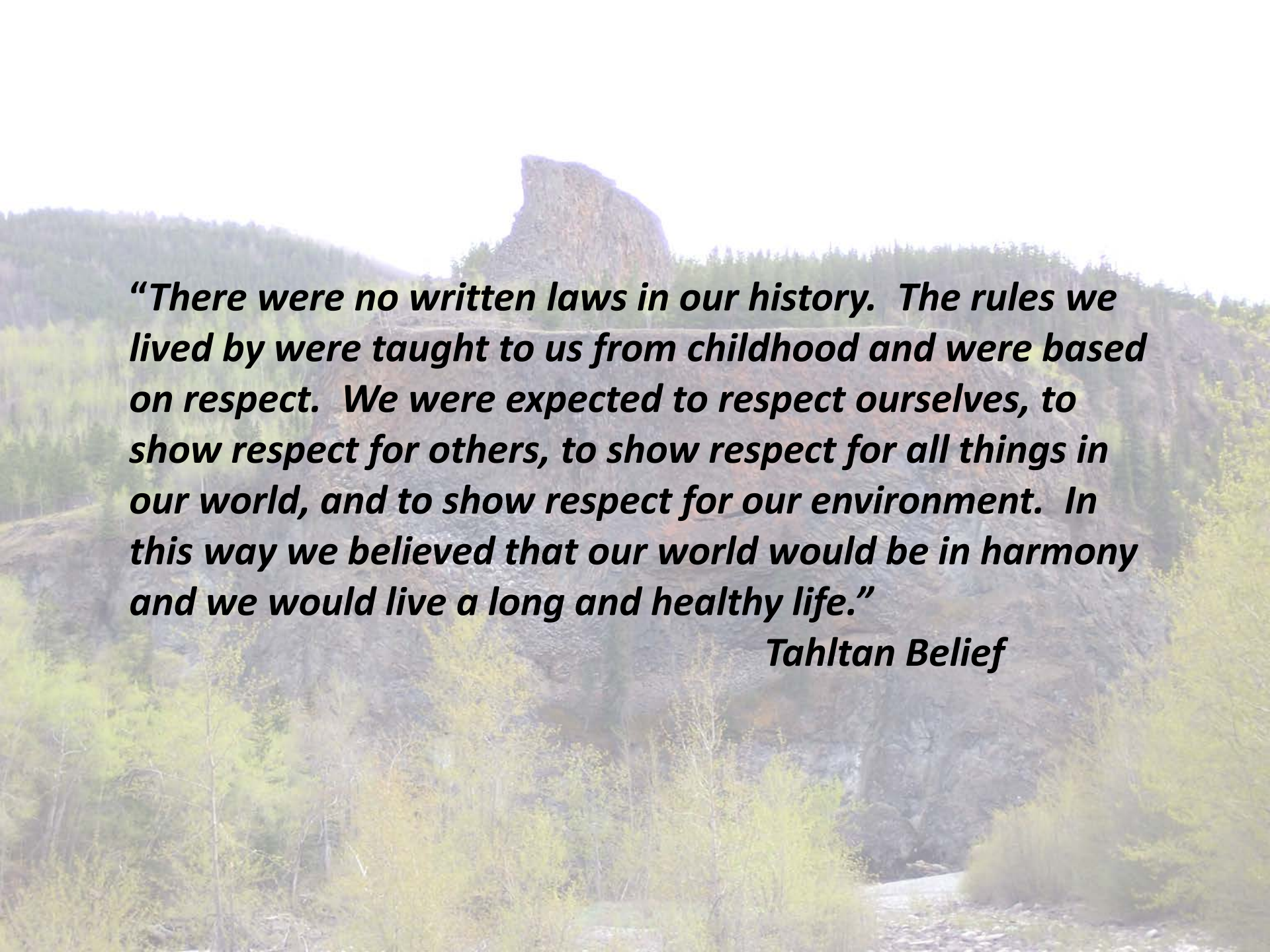


Indigenous Knowledge in Canadian Environmental Assessment

CEAA Workshop
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“There were no written laws in our history. The rules we lived by were taught to us from childhood and were based on respect. We were expected to respect ourselves, to show respect for others, to show respect for all things in our world, and to show respect for our environment. In this way we believed that our world would be in harmony and we would live a long and healthy life.”

Tahltan Belief

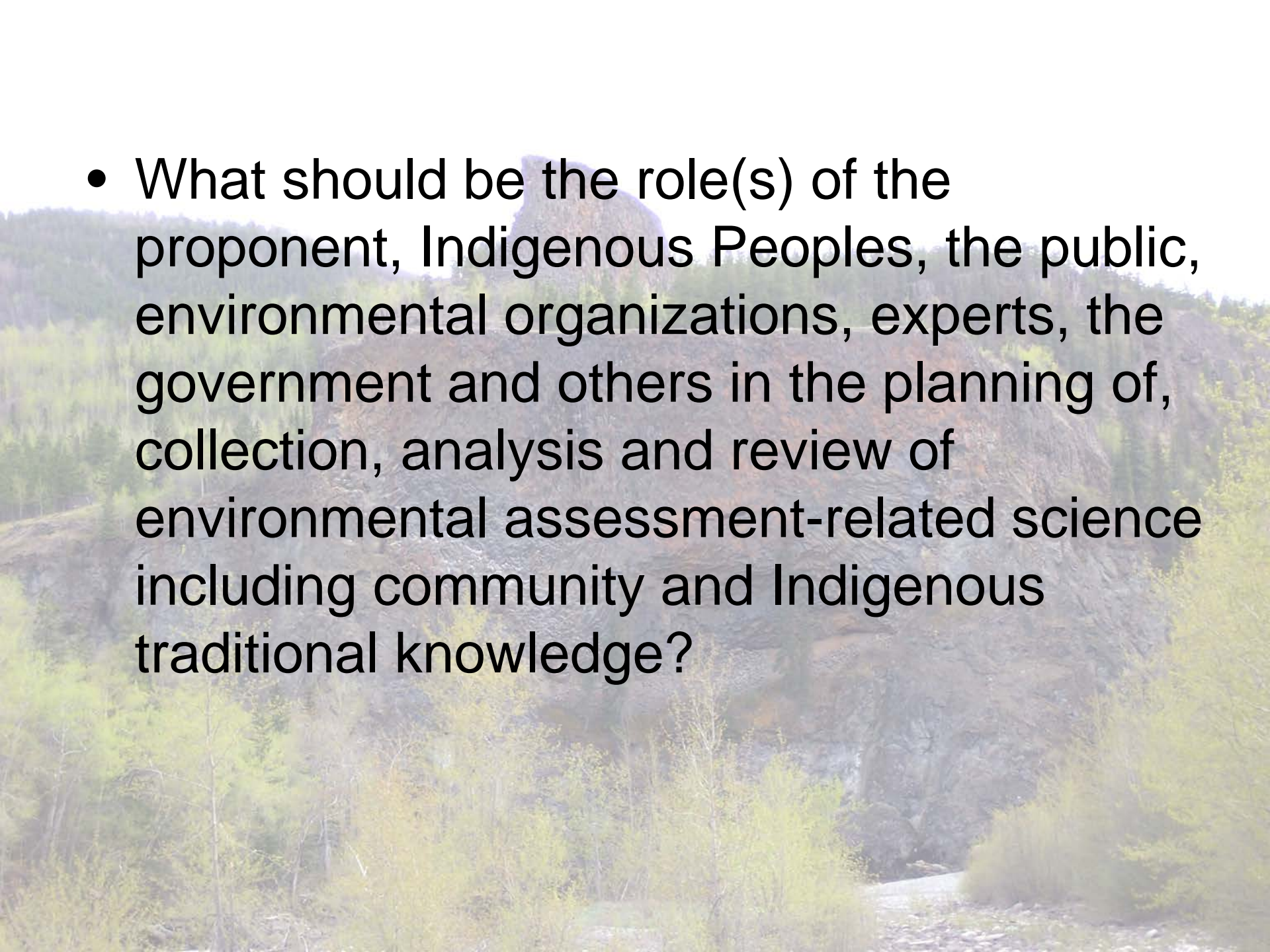
Who am I?

Board/Panel Experience

- Prosperity CEAA Panel
- Geosciences BC
- MEND
- MAC Tailings Advisory Board
- BC Mine Code Review

Project Experience

- Galore Creek Project
- Schaft Creek Project
- Red Chris Mine
- Arctos Project
- Kutcho Creek Project
- Prosperity Project

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- A scenic landscape featuring a river in the foreground, a dense forest of green trees, and a large, dark rock formation in the background. The scene is captured in a slightly hazy or overcast light, with the text overlaid on the upper portion of the image.
- What should be the role(s) of the proponent, Indigenous Peoples, the public, environmental organizations, experts, the government and others in the planning of, collection, analysis and review of environmental assessment-related science including community and Indigenous traditional knowledge?

Scoping

- It is paramount that collaboration takes place with FN government to develop the scope of what is to be considered in an EA
- This is the only way to ensure that indigenous knowledge is collected, used, and considered properly
- Transparency is Key, Government needs to be clear on how they will engage
- We need to establish our own expectations for the process

Community Costs

A photograph of a rocky, forested hillside with a river in the foreground. The hillside is covered in dense green trees and shrubs. The river is visible at the bottom of the frame, flowing through a rocky bed. The sky is bright and overcast.

- Loss of livelihood (hunting, fishing, tourism)
- Loss of employment (job at the mine)
- Aboriginal Rights (fishing, hunting)
- Ecosystem impacts and social impacts
- Cultural Impacts (teaching, sacred areas)

“You see those mountains over there. The snowpack on them feeds our rivers and lakes. What do we do if the mountain is gone? Where will the waters for our streams come from?”

Tahltan Elder



“And the community has to tell the mining companies. They can’t just move into your land and start developing mines, that’s not right. You have to let them know how you use your land, how you use it to survive, trapping, even berry picking, even the plants is medicine, even the rocks is medicine for use.”

Lutsel K’e trapper

Baseline



- Baseline should consider:
 - the sustainability of being able to carry out our cultural practices, within our territory
 - the timeframe of natural cycles that intersect with our practices
 - Seasonal variation
 - understanding that indigenous knowledge comes in different forms but with equal or greater value

Environmental Factors

A scenic landscape with a large rock formation in the foreground and a forested valley in the background. The rock formation is a prominent, dark, craggy outcrop. The valley below is filled with dense green trees and vegetation. The sky is bright and slightly hazy.

- Similar to previous legislation that provided for more environmental components.
- When seeking to develop these components with indigenous knowledge it is paramount to know that one size does not fit all and the EA legislation needs to be flexible enough to fit the region an EA is being done in.
 - 5(1) provides for consideration of current land use for traditional purposes
 - Need to look at whole picture
 - 19(3) of CEAA is a must not a “may”

Impact Assessment



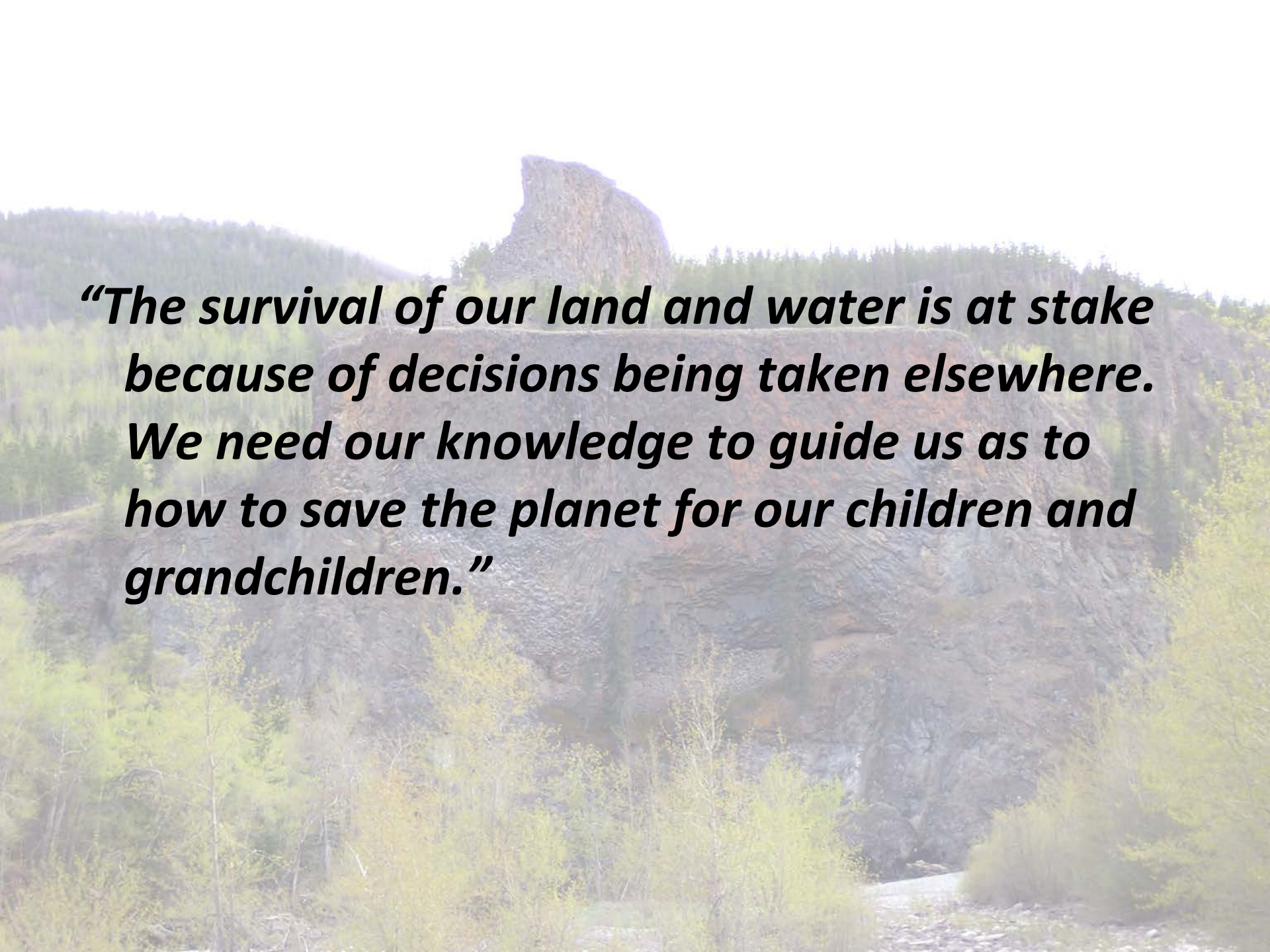
- Time needs to be properly considered
 - Indigenous people have been a part of their land for a long time and will continue to be.
 - When determining impacts this needs to be considered.
- Indigenous knowledge needs to be used when fully evaluating impacts

Indigenous Knowledge: Decision Making

- It is hard to often understand through writing how indigenous peoples talk about their land
- Engagement and materials considered in decision making process should not be limited to written communications.
- Decision statement needs to include considerations for indigenous knowledge.
- Justifiable impacts cannot be determined without Indigenous knowledge.

Indigenous Knowledge: Monitoring

- There is a need to look at regional context, not just project based
- Management is key, has to be able to influence an EA
- Need to move away from measuring and mitigating... it doesn't work with us



“The survival of our land and water is at stake because of decisions being taken elsewhere. We need our knowledge to guide us as to how to save the planet for our children and grandchildren.”

Meduh

Questions?

