

MANITOBA CLEAN ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION

HOG PRODUCTION INDUSTRY REVIEW

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

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Held at Arborg-Bifrost Hall

Arborg, Manitoba

THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 2007

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APPEARANCES:

Clean Environment Commission:

Mr. Terry Sargeant	Chairman
Mr. Edwin Yee	Member
Mr. Wayne Motheral	Member
Ms. Cathy Johnson	Commission Secretary
Mr. Doug Smith	Report Writer

Presentations:	PAGE
Bob Cherepak	356
Ron Johnstone	361
Darcy Pauls	372
Henry Traverse	387
Jason McNaughton	389
Larry Hofer	402
Murray Hedges	415
Bill Cochrane	417
Joe Wift	420
Alvin Caners	429
Ron Plett	433
Joe Leschyshyn	436
Peter Marykuca	441

INDEX OF EXHIBITS

NO EXHIBITS MARKED

1 Thursday, March 8, 2007

2 Upon commencing at 1:02 p.m.

3

4 THE CHAIRMAN: Good afternoon, I think
5 we will get the proceedings underway. I would
6 like to thank you all for coming out here this
7 afternoon. My name is Terry Sargeant, I'm the
8 chair of the Manitoba Clean Environment
9 Commission, as well as the chair of this panel
10 that is undertaking the investigation of the hog
11 industry.

12 With me on the panel are Mr. Wayne
13 Motheral from Morden and Edwin Yee from Winnipeg.

14 I have a few comments by way of
15 opening comments. The Clean Environment
16 Commission has been requested by the Minister of
17 Conservation to conduct an investigation into the
18 environmental sustainability of the hog industry
19 in Manitoba. The terms of reference from the
20 Minister direct us to review the current
21 environmental protection measures in place
22 relating to hog production in this province, in
23 order to determine their effectiveness for the
24 purpose of managing the industry in an
25 environmentally sustainable manner.

1 Our investigation is to include a
2 public component, to gain advice and feedback from
3 Manitobans. This will be by means of public
4 meetings such as this one today, in the various
5 regions of Manitoba, to ensure broad participation
6 from the general public and affected stakeholders.

7 We have also been asked to take into
8 account efforts underway in other jurisdictions to
9 manage hog production in a sustainable manner.
10 Further, we are to review the contents of a report
11 prepared by Manitoba Conservation entitled "An
12 Examination of the Environmental Sustainability of
13 the Hog Industry in Manitoba."

14 At the end of our investigation, we
15 will consider various options and make
16 recommendations in a report to the Minister on any
17 improvements that may be necessary to provide for
18 the environmental sustainability of the hog
19 industry in this province.

20 To ensure that our review includes
21 issues of importance to all Manitobans, the panel
22 has undertaken to hold 17 days of hearings in 14
23 communities throughout agri Manitoba. These
24 meetings started on Monday, this past Monday,
25 March 5th, and will continue through much of March

1 and April, with the final public meeting currently
2 scheduled to be held in Winnipeg on April 27th.

3 It is open to any groups or
4 individuals to make a presentation to this panel
5 on issues related to hog production in Manitoba.
6 For the most part, presentations are to be limited
7 to 15 minutes. Exceptions may be made in some
8 cases where a presenter needs more time, but this
9 must be arranged with the Commission secretary
10 prior to the presentation. All of those making a
11 presentation will be asked to take an oath
12 promising to tell the truth to this Commission.

13 Presentations should be relevant to
14 the mandate given the Commission by the Minister
15 and to the issues described in the Guide to Public
16 Participation in this review. If a presentation
17 is clearly not relevant, it may be ruled out of
18 order, and if a presentation is clearly
19 repetitive, it may also be ruled out of order.

20 Members of the panel may ask questions
21 of any presenter during or after the presentation.
22 There will be no opportunity for other presenters
23 to question or cross-examine presenters.

24 In addition to the public meetings,
25 the Clean Environment Commission is engaging

1 consultants to assist us in this review. The
2 results of those research endeavors will be posted
3 on our website upon receipt. For the most part,
4 this will be in late June. Parties and
5 individuals will be invited to provide comment on
6 any of those reports, if they so wish. A
7 reasonable but brief period of time will be
8 allowed for this.

9 Written submissions will also be
10 accepted. Information as to how to submit written
11 suggestions is available on our website. The
12 deadline for written submissions is May 7th.

13 We also realize that many persons are
14 reluctant to make presentations in public for a
15 variety of reasons. To address this, we have
16 engaged a person, a graduate student from the
17 University of Manitoba, to meet with or to talk on
18 the phone with people who would rather not speak
19 at meetings. These meetings will be kept in
20 confidence. Information as to how to contact her
21 is available on our website as well as at the
22 table at the back of the room.

23 Some administrative matters. If you
24 wish to make a presentation today, please register
25 at the table at the back of the room.

1 As is our normal practice, we are
2 recording these sessions. Transcripts will be
3 available on line in a day or so. You can find
4 the link to the transcripts from our website.

5 A couple of final comments. In
6 respect of cell phones, I would ask that they be
7 turned off, or that at least the ring tone be
8 turned off. If you must take a call, please leave
9 the room. I would also ask that there be no side
10 conversations in the audience. If you feel that
11 you must engage in a conversation, I would ask
12 that you leave the room for that as well.

13 That concludes my opening comments.
14 We have a number of people who have indicated they
15 wish to make presentations here today. The first
16 person on the list is Mr. Bob Cherepak.
17 Mr. Cherepak, would you please state your name for
18 the record?

19 MR. CHEREPAK: My name is Bob
20 Cherepak, Arborg, Manitoba.

21 BOB CHEREPAK, having been sworn in, presented as
22 follows:

23 THE CHAIRMAN: You may proceed,
24 Mr. Cherepak

25 MR. CHEREPAK: Thank you for the

1 opportunity to allow me to make this presentation.

2 When I was a youngster, I would take
3 my fishing rod and walk to the Icelandic River
4 which originated in the back end of our farm. I
5 would catch a half dozen pike for supper. If I
6 was thirsty, I would go to one of the springs
7 which trickled out of the river bank and have a
8 drink of cold clear water from a gem jar that was
9 left there for that purpose. I would be able to
10 stand on the bank and look at the fish lying under
11 the logs, along the boulders in the stream, as
12 they were easy to see in the crystal clear water.
13 I would be able to tilt back my head and suck in
14 the fresh clean air which, after a rain, would be
15 the most unbelievable refreshing experience, which
16 surrounded me. This was 1970.

17 Fast forward to 2005. I wake up and I
18 walk over to my tub to run a bath. The water
19 coming out of my tap is brown in colour. I had
20 the water tested a week before and it contained
21 coliforms and was not recommended for drinking,
22 cooking or washing dishes, but okay for bathing.
23 The water had been clean and clear until Manitoba
24 Highways had built a new road in front of my
25 property. Blasting of the limestone bedrock had

1 taken place to accommodate the new road. The loss
2 of water quality coincided with the blasting and
3 the subsequent run-off, the water run-off in the
4 highway ditch in the front of my property, run-off
5 from agricultural spread fields in my area.

6 After the bath in murky water, I made
7 breakfast, but not with the water from my tap, I
8 had to use water from the dispenser. I had to
9 purchase the dispenser a couple of weeks earlier
10 as my well water, after 25 years of good clean
11 water, was now polluted. Now I had to buy water
12 to drink, cook with and to do dishes.

13 I finished breakfast and I walked out
14 the front door to be hit by a wall of odour. One
15 or more of the hog factories in my area was either
16 agitating the manure storage tanks or spreading
17 the slurry on nearby fields. I was going fishing
18 to a lake an hour and a half to the north where
19 the water was still clean and clear. The
20 Icelandic River in my back yard is no longer able
21 to support pike year round. The air along the
22 river was no longer refreshing, as it has always
23 got the smells of agriculture in the wind.

24 I recently went down to that spring in
25 the river from which I used to drink. It was

1 covered with algae and was choking with lush green
2 aquatic growth, which wasn't there in the past.
3 Now the nutrient laded water irrigated the
4 vegetation and covered the cold spring, which I
5 wouldn't dare to drink from today.

6 What I have described is normal. It
7 was normal in the '70s and it is normal in 2007.
8 However, what was normal in the '70s is far from
9 normal today. The unfortunate part is, the
10 environmental degradation has been allowed to hide
11 behind the definition of normal. Where there is a
12 discussion on normal farm practices, the
13 production of 5000 hogs in one barn is a very new
14 normal. Many of the problems that plague the
15 Interlake, such as open crevices which allow
16 polluted water into the aquifer, remain
17 unaddressed. These areas have been brought to the
18 government's attention many times and nothing has
19 been done. I'm wondering if the new standard for
20 the condition of our environment, when we step
21 outside in the future and look at a desert that
22 resembles a lagoon more than it does a country
23 forest or marsh, will this also be called normal?

24 I have attached a document from my
25 records dated October 1992, where the Clean

1 Environment Commission discusses sewage lagoon
2 design, and I quote from that document,
3 "The intent would be to ensure the
4 design requirements and operational
5 guidelines adequately protect the
6 quality of surface and groundwater
7 resources in the province. The
8 Commission feels that some urgency is
9 attached to this need and that it
10 should receive prompt attention."
11 It goes on to state that the sewage lagoon
12 effluent will be dumped into the Oak Hammock
13 Marsh. Go figure. One day the Oak Hammock Marsh,
14 the next the Icelandic River, and tomorrow the
15 world. I guess the government is just acting
16 normally. Ladies and gentlemen, I believe we are
17 losing the war, and that is normal. Thank you.

18 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

19 MR. CHEREPAK: I have copies of my
20 presentation.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: Good. Thank you,
22 Mr. Cherepak.

23 MR. CHEREPAK: Any questions?

24 THE CHAIRMAN: None right now, thank
25 you.

1 Mr. Ron Johnstone? Please state your
2 name for the record?

3 MR. JOHNSTONE: Ron Johnstone.

4 RON JOHNSTONE, having been sworn in, presented as
5 follows:

6 THE CHAIRMAN: You may proceed, Mr.
7 Johnstone.

8 MR. JOHNSTONE: Mr. Chairman and
9 committee members, thank you for the opportunity
10 to address this Commission this afternoon on a
11 very important topic that this community and many
12 others in the province are dependent on.

13 I would like to first speak to you as
14 the plant manager for Arborg Feeds. Arborg Feeds
15 is one of the three feed mills that Puratone owns
16 in this province and is located just south of
17 town. Our core business is the processing of hog
18 and poultry feeds for the Interlake region. The
19 mill operates five days a week, 24 hours a day and
20 employs 16 full-time staff. This mill was
21 purchased from the Loewen family back in the late
22 '80s, and was producing about 7,000 tonnes of feed
23 each year. With the expansion of the hog
24 industry, along with poultry expansion in the
25 Interlake, the mill now produces just under 70,000

1 tonnes of feed per year. This growth has helped
2 the entire region prosper, as the grain industry
3 has consolidated and closed regional elevators
4 while we have increased our feed grain volume,
5 purchasing over 1 million-bushels of feed grains.
6 This has benefited all feed grain producers by
7 increasing their wheat and barley prices. We run
8 three semi-trailer feed trucks out of this mill
9 and contract out all the incoming feed grains
10 coming in each day.

11 Each year we are faced with more and
12 more regulations with feed traceability and record
13 keeping, and are proud of our track record and the
14 Feed Assure Certification that we have passed for
15 the past three years. Feed Assure is a
16 comprehensive feed safety management and
17 certification program that allows feed companies
18 to become certified to HACCP standards.

19 Over the past 20 years we have
20 upgraded and reinvested in the mill, with the
21 largest expansion happening in 2000, when
22 1.8 million was spent adding a completely new
23 pelleting tower to the mill. We have continued to
24 reinvest approximately \$250,000 each year into
25 this facility to make it one of the most automated

1 mills in this province.

2 Puratone is proud to be a part of this
3 community and have contributed to many of the
4 capital projects in this community, including the
5 hall that we are meeting in today, along with the
6 assisted living complex beside us. We offer
7 scholarships each year in Riverton and Arborg and
8 support all of the curling, hockey and fundraising
9 events in this community. The hog industry, along
10 with the manufacturing growth, are the reasons
11 this community has grown over the past ten years
12 to be as successful as it is today.

13 Secondly, I would like to present to
14 you today as president of Paradigm Farms Limited.
15 This 2800 sow farrow to finish operation was
16 formed or started by over 50 local area residents
17 throughout the Interlake in the late 1990's. The
18 farms are scattered throughout the Interlake with
19 sites at Petersfield, Narcisse, Skylake and
20 Ledwyn. All of these sites were granted approval
21 for construction after a lengthy technical review.

22 I have witnessed the frustration and
23 anxiety that comes forward when a municipality has
24 not prepared themselves by being up-to-date on the
25 technical review process before going into a

1 conditional use hearing. I have also witnessed
2 other municipal councils, that have been prepared
3 and knowledgeable, handle a conditional use
4 hearing and allow everybody a chance to
5 participate, and have the knowledge to answer any
6 fears that arise instead of instilling doubt in
7 the public's eyes. I think it should be mandatory
8 that municipalities have a planning statement with
9 areas clearly marked out for agriculture and
10 intensive livestock, and stick to their statement
11 if a project meets all standards. In the past,
12 intensive livestock areas have been established
13 where there was the least amount of controversy
14 and opposition.

15 Air quality for both our hogs and our
16 neighbors was very important to us when we were
17 looking at ventilation designs, and we chose to
18 install chimney ventilation over the traditional
19 side wall vents. We felt that bringing in fresh
20 air under the roof soffits, while exhausting stale
21 air beside the inlet, was not the best.

22 Exhausting stale air from the barn up an exhaust
23 chimney not only gives the hogs cleaner air, but
24 also seems to dissipate the smell up and away from
25 the farm.

1 We are very fortunate in the Interlake
2 to have such good quality and plentiful supply of
3 fresh water which is very important to our
4 industry. We monitor our usage daily and are
5 constantly checking the quality, as this is so
6 important for raising healthy hogs. All of our
7 lagoons were designed by professional engineers
8 and approved by Manitoba Environment prior to
9 being commissioned. Each lagoon had to be built
10 with a holding capacity of 500 days, to allow
11 extra surge capacity in the event of a very heavy
12 rainfall in any given year, and the ability to get
13 on the farmland to apply this nutrient. This
14 design is the envy of many rural municipalities
15 that are now dealing with lagoon overload, caused
16 by lagoons built under capacity for their current
17 needs. Each lagoon was built with a monitoring
18 well system and many were built with a synthetic
19 liner as well. This design will monitor what is
20 happening under the lagoon to ensure our most
21 precious groundwater is not contaminated.

22 I have witnessed, since our operation
23 has started up, more and more regulations on
24 manure management, and we take the nutrient
25 management of our farms very seriously. We

1 welcome these regulations and have invested in the
2 most state of the art equipment for manure
3 analysis and application. We have been soil
4 testing the spread fields we apply manure on for
5 the past seven years and have been injecting into
6 the soil wherever possible.

7 We have watched over the years as the
8 nutrient has gone from a waste product to a very
9 sought after commodity with neighbors fighting
10 over it, who receives it. We have had to mitigate
11 with the neighbors around our farms to assure them
12 they would each be offered manure equally. I have
13 seen hayfields triple their productivity while
14 still maintaining a low reserve on nitrogen and
15 phosphorous the following year.

16 In the region serviced by our local
17 commercial fertilizer dealers, each year we import
18 into the Arborg area over 2600 tonnes of
19 commercial phosphate fertilizer. Our soil tests
20 around the Arborg area show on average we have a
21 residual phosphorous level of 10 to 15 parts per
22 million or 6.25 pounds per acre on average. An
23 average wheat or barley crop will use up 35 pounds
24 per acre, with a canola field utilizing up to
25 50 pounds per acre. At these levels there is

1 certainly a place for the hog industry in this
2 province.

3 I have watched over the past few
4 years, as many smaller hog producers have quit
5 producing hogs because they could not afford to
6 update their facilities to the new standards
7 without going into a huge amount of debt, and the
8 amount of debt they could afford to take on would
9 make their operation no longer feasible to produce
10 hogs. This reality has forced many local area
11 farmers to pool their resources and build larger
12 facilities that can be state of the art and still
13 feasible to operate. Some other producers in the
14 area have signed long-term agreements with other
15 producers such as Puratone, Hytec and Maple Leaf
16 Nutrition, to simply care for their hogs on a
17 price per hog basis with little risk back to
18 themselves. The farms that have been constructed
19 in the past 10 years are built to high standards
20 and most are built with engineered stamps on the
21 construction design along with the lagoons.

22 Paradigm Farms has filed a voluntary
23 environmental farm plan and has purchased a
24 Biovator to dispose of mortalities at one of its
25 sites, and has composters set up at the other two

1 sites to deal with mortalities. The Biovator is a
2 composting vessel that Puratone invented and has
3 delivered to the industry to deal with
4 mortalities. This vessel simply composts dead
5 stock along with a carbon source, we use straw and
6 water, produce a fully environmentally friendly
7 compost that can be reused to speed up the
8 composting cycle or spread as a mulch on the land.

9 In closing, I consider ourselves good
10 stewards of the land and feel that this moratorium
11 is unfairly singling out a small segment of
12 agriculture that may or may not be popular with
13 Manitobans. Please consider the value this
14 industry contributes to our economy in Manitoba,
15 both rural and urban. And I have left copies of
16 my presentation at the front.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much,
18 Mr. Johnstone. I just have a couple of questions
19 arising out of your presentation. You talk about
20 the community of Arborg and how it has grown over
21 the last ten years, and you say the hog industry
22 along with manufacturing growth. What is the
23 manufacturing growth in this area?

24 MR. JOHNSTONE: We have a fairly large
25 Mennonite background people north of here that are

1 doing a lot of steel manufacturing.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: I'm aware of them. So
3 that is who you were referring to, or that is the
4 operation that you were referring to?

5 MR. JOHNSTONE: Yes.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: Could you tell me a
7 little bit more about Paradigm Farms? How many
8 barns do you have?

9 MR. JOHNSTONE: The sow barn and
10 nucleus barn is in Petersfield, we have a 7200
11 head finisher in Narcisse, two 2400 head barns in
12 Ledwyn, and one 6,000 head in Skylake.

13 THE CHAIRMAN: That is a finisher
14 barn?

15 MR. JOHNSTONE: That is a finisher
16 barn, yes. So it is a closed loop system.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: And so that would be,
18 you also referred to the lagoons, that would be
19 what, five or six lagoons? Was it five or six
20 barns?

21 MR. JOHNSTONE: We would have three
22 lagoons, and Skylake facility we are running on
23 straw.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay.

25 MR. JOHNSTONE: So it is different --

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Is that a hoop
2 structure?

3 MR. JOHNSTONE: No, it is a
4 commercially built barn with a concrete floor.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Wayne?

6 MR. MOTHERAL: Mr. Johnstone, I have
7 personally been struggling myself with the
8 phosphorous issue. I haven't got my head around
9 things properly yet. And I look at this level of
10 10 to 15 parts per million and the conversion of
11 6.25 pounds of residual left, and that doesn't
12 coincide with the -- is this the Olson test, or do
13 you know?

14 MR. JOHNSTONE: These are stats that I
15 got from our local Agricore in town. So they told
16 me it was simply a division of two to get parts
17 per million down to actual pounds.

18 MR. MOTHERAL: Okay. And in the
19 information that I had previously when we had a
20 presentation of this is different, it is 10 to 15
21 parts per million would be equivalent to about
22 600 pounds per acre or so. And we will certainly
23 find this out. I thought maybe there was a
24 mistake in the decimal point, that is all.

25 MR. JOHNSTONE: No, I got that data

1 from --

2 MR. MOTHERAL: You got that from
3 Agricore?

4 MR. JOHNSTONE: Yes.

5 MR. YEE: Just a quick question. I
6 realize that Paradigm Farms Limited is several
7 different operations. Are they in different
8 municipalities?

9 MR. JOHNSTONE: Yes, they are.

10 MR. YEE: And is this where you have
11 noticed that there is a difference between the
12 conditional land use approvals in terms of the
13 knowledge of the individual municipalities?

14 MR. JOHNSTONE: Yes, that is true.

15 MR. YEE: Do you have any
16 recommendations on how that can be improved?

17 MR. JOHNSTONE: What we have noticed
18 is that the municipalities that take the time to
19 actually meet with the technical review committee
20 prior to the meeting can get their questions asked
21 and be a little more knowledgeable before they go
22 into the meeting, rather than public opposition
23 standing before them, and it can be quite heated
24 at times, and them saying, well, we don't know the
25 answers to that. It doesn't look good.

1 MR. YEE: Thank you.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: You mentioned 50 local
3 area residents that joined together in Paradigm.
4 Are they farmers or are they investors or --

5 MR. JOHNSTONE: They are both.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: They are both?

7 MR. JOHNSTONE: Yes.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: So do a lot of these 50
9 actually operate and work these barns?

10 MR. JOHNSTONE: No.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: So it is just hired
12 staff?

13 MR. JOHNSTONE: That's right.

14 THE CHAIRMAN: I don't have any more
15 questions. Thank you very much, Mr. Johnstone.
16 Darcy Pauls. Mr. Pauls, would you state your name
17 for the record please?

18 MR. PAULS: Darcy Pauls.

19 DARCY PAULS, having been sworn in, presented as
20 follows:

21 THE CHAIRMAN: Go ahead.

22 MR. PAULS: First of all, thanks for
23 the opportunity to talk to you today. So just to
24 give you an idea of who I am and try to put things
25 into context, I consider myself still a farm boy

1 who marketed his first pig when he was seven years
2 old, and through the benefit of my father who gave
3 us some pigs. And once we finished marketing
4 them, we paid him for the weanling and feed, and
5 that was the first money I ever earned.

6 From there, a young boy's dream was a
7 motorcycle, so I borrowed the money from my dad
8 and bought a motorcycle, and from there continued
9 to pay down my debt, and was contributing to
10 society, in my opinion, and learned some valuable
11 lessons at my age through farming.

12 My father sold the farm when I was 12
13 years old. He went on to continue to work in the
14 ag industry and sell ag equipment, and I ended up
15 working on mixed farms south of Winnipeg through
16 summer jobs. What you see in the presentation is
17 some pictures of the farm in the 1970s. You will
18 see that back then, you know, we did haul manure
19 to the land and spread it on. Certainly, we
20 continue to use manure as fertilizer, but just the
21 techniques and ways we do that have certainly
22 changed.

23 I graduated from the university with
24 an Ag diploma. After graduating, I went to work
25 in the sow barn. From there, I took a job on with

1 Puratone doing production service work, and in
2 1994 got back into farming with my brothers when
3 we built a 700 head sow barn. We had a local
4 farmer that was willing to sell us the land at a
5 reasonable price because he wanted to use the
6 manure as fertilizer. And much like the previous
7 presenter mentioned, we had the opportunity to
8 work with Puratone, and they provide the equity
9 and the livestock, which was probably worth about
10 half a million dollars, so that we could build a
11 facility of size that we could actually earn
12 enough money to support the necessary income for
13 our families.

14 I have continued to work with Puratone
15 and still do, and have managed -- was the general
16 manager of a production loop of 40,000 sows where
17 we market about 1 million pigs a year.

18 A lot of things have changed since I
19 was a youngster over the 40 years, but certainly
20 one thing has stayed true, is that my entire
21 family's income has always come from agriculture
22 and mainly the hog industry. Pictures that I have
23 selected have some amount of meaning and
24 reference. The first one being, if you are
25 allowed to use a picture of your wife, you are

1 only allowed to use a select few, and this is one
2 that I could use. And also it was where we
3 recently partook in receiving a reward on behalf
4 of Puratone as one of the 50 best managed
5 companies across Canada.

6 The second picture is me and my
7 daughter at a work function. I certainly enjoy
8 the ability to involve the kids in your place of
9 work. And the last one is just a beautiful
10 picture of the kids.

11 Just in regards to rural Manitoba, I
12 just want you to be aware that -- the red doesn't
13 show up very well -- the red dot on there is
14 actually my place of residence, the green is the
15 farm that we built that I referenced earlier. So
16 certainly I do have an understanding of what it
17 means to live in rural Manitoba. And yes, when
18 people do apply fertilizer on the land, it does
19 smell for a day while you are out there, but there
20 is also many benefits as well, like seeing the
21 stars, no traffic. Urban life will never be rural
22 life and rural life will never be urban life, and
23 to think that that can be true is just silly.

24 You will also kind of notice that the
25 darker spots, those are the size of the lagoons in

1 some of the surrounding farms. And I'm pointing
2 out some of the surrounding farms that I live
3 around. Just a point, this shaded area here
4 happens to be the most recently built lagoon for
5 the Town of Niverville, and in contrast, it's size
6 to the surrounding livestock operations around
7 there.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: Are those sections
9 each --

10 MR. PAULS: This will be one section,
11 so you are looking at a quarter section. And you
12 will also notice the black line that runs through
13 there is a canal that runs directly into the Red
14 River and is the means by which rural
15 municipalities deal with their run-off,
16 their manure.

17 So what has my company, Puratone, done
18 to address environmental issues? We have adopted
19 principles under ISO1401, which is an
20 environmental management system where we both live
21 by the principles, but there are also annual
22 audits done externally so that we can maintain our
23 certification under ISO1401. In brief, the
24 commitments to that program is to comply with
25 environmental legislation and regulations,

1 continuous improvement, commitment to practices
2 related to pollution prevention, and community
3 relationships, address the environmental concerns
4 addressed by workers, neighbors and the wider
5 community, monthly reviews of the outcome, and
6 communication of the environmental policy,
7 outcomes and goals to employees, and the
8 significant aspects, mortalities, manure and
9 odour. And if you would like more details, there
10 is a web address posted at the bottom.

11 So the sustainability of a healthy
12 growing hog industry. What has been going on
13 while the industry has been growing? There has
14 been very specific diet formulas. We have moved
15 from approximately three diets during the growing
16 phase of a market animal as to as many as 12. And
17 one of the reasons this is possible is, if
18 everybody just had 100 pigs on their farm, there
19 would be about three loads of feed that would be
20 delivered during the growing phase of a group of
21 pigs. If you have 3,000 pigs on that one site,
22 there is as many as 35 loads that you can deliver,
23 so you can be much more specific in growing phase
24 and feeding formulas.

25 There has been the use of enzymes to

1 improve nutrient uptake; phytase, for example, to
2 improve the absorption of phosphorous and reduce
3 the excretion of phosphorous, that has improved
4 the situation by 20 to 40 per cent. There is even
5 Enviro pig that has been developed that has the
6 phytase gene, still in the research stage mind
7 you, but it will reduce phosphorous excretion by
8 56 to 67 per cent.

9 I just want to point out that if an
10 industry has politically motivated restrictions
11 put on it, the ability to fund this research
12 likely goes away, and we end up dealing with
13 issues like these and spend our time on this.

14 Productivity improvements from the
15 range of 15 pigs per sow year to 25. That means a
16 farrow to finish operation that was built some
17 time ago has productivity improvements and now
18 doesn't have enough space to finish all of the
19 pigs that are there. Puratone has run into this
20 situation in a couple of our facilities and
21 actually had planned to expand the finishing barns
22 this year before the pause was put in place, and
23 now we won't be able to do that. So what happens
24 when we have a pause like this put in place?
25 Companies that are looking at five-year business

1 plans start looking outside of the province for
2 opportunities instead of within.

3 Of course, a growing industry
4 increases job opportunities for all Manitobans,
5 and higher paying jobs for skilled workers. I
6 have already kind of told you my story and the job
7 opportunities that I have had because of the
8 industry. I just wanted to point out as well that
9 the pork technician, the people working in the
10 barn, has been recognized as a trade within the
11 apprenticeship branch, and they are trained both
12 on the job and in the classroom, and that means
13 there are skilled workers taking care of our pigs
14 and the environment. These doesn't happen if the
15 province legislates the industry to shrink.

16 So why have I focused on growth of the
17 industry? Certainly when the pause was announced,
18 I wrote a letter to Mr. Struthers, and he was kind
19 enough to send a response. His reason for the
20 pause was that the industry has grown. It has
21 grown by 124 per cent from '94 to 99. Between
22 2000 to 2007 it grew by 55 per cent, and a pause
23 is necessary to allow the Commission to conduct a
24 review in a manner that is both fair and objective
25 and thorough.

1 What I feel is missing in that point
2 is that apparently growth by less than 8 percent a
3 year in a business puts you in a position where
4 the government can halt your industry without just
5 cause, and the fact that just prior to the pause,
6 growth was just less than 2 per cent.

7 Certainly what is concerning is some
8 of the ads that have been put out on behalf of the
9 government. And what we as an industry end up
10 doing is focusing on the public issues around this
11 and the negative innuendos thrown out by our
12 Provincial Government. It might be a little
13 unclear in your topics, but I assume you have seen
14 these ads, so I won't get into them, other than to
15 point out how they certainly choose on referencing
16 the hog barns and hog industry as an issue around
17 water that needs to be feared.

18 So what has been missed so far?
19 These, of course, are rhetorical questions. Is
20 the CEC to help validate what the province is
21 already advertising, or is this just a case of
22 guilty until we are proven innocent? And does the
23 CEC really need a pause to do a thorough review of
24 an industry that is growing by two per cent, or
25 does a pause that the government feels only will

1 impact two per cent of the voting public best
2 serve its political desires? I, of course, hope
3 for an early release of the preliminary report so
4 that the political issues around this can be
5 resolved.

6 November 8th, new phosphorous related
7 manure regulations were put in place, and it was
8 only two weeks later that the CEC was asked to
9 review the industry and a pause was legislated.

10 Certainly, being involved in the
11 industry, you can internalize how this feels like
12 you have been stabbed in the back, after working
13 with government to make things better they say,
14 sorry, you are shut down.

15 So what are my hopes? A timely close
16 to your review before the industry is damaged even
17 more by this legislated pause, fair representation
18 of the hog industry based on its own actions, but
19 also as it would be compared to other industries.
20 I believe we are very environmentally friendly and
21 have a better environmental and sustainable story
22 to tell than many other industries.

23 Do I think we can do more? Sure, we
24 can. Everybody can. Lately you hear stories
25 about Al Gore, who is probably the green stamp,

1 and he has been criticized that his house uses too
2 much energy. I mean, we can all do more, I don't
3 doubt that.

4 This review will be forward looking,
5 assuming past environmental progress will continue
6 and that new regulations have already been passed
7 that we haven't even had a chance to implement.
8 When the CEC has completed their review and has
9 informed the government and the public of its
10 finding, that the government apologize for its
11 poor understanding of the hog industry and for the
12 damage it caused by burdening the people that work
13 every day in the hog industry with this pause and
14 the advertising campaign related to it.
15 Admittedly, my tongue is in my cheek a little bit
16 with that one.

17 Things do change. I need to realize
18 that, I have to accept that in regards to
19 regulations and how we need to improve things.
20 Our focus needs to be on our contributions to make
21 them better, not whether we can stop the change.

22 And I just show a picture, this is
23 what my dad's farm looks like now. Certainly it
24 is not a facility that he and his kids and his
25 grand kids could earn a living off of anymore.

1 Things have changed, so that we can continue to do
2 business in this province and feed my family.

3 Thank you very much.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Pauls.
5 Just a couple of questions about your own
6 operation. Do you still own a farm?

7 MR. PAULS: My brother still owns a
8 farm.

9 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. So you manage an
10 operation for Puratone now?

11 MR. PAULS: Yes, I'm an employee. I
12 don't manage a farm, I'm an employee of Puratone.
13 My title is actually VP of business development at
14 this time.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. I should have
16 asked this earlier. Mr. Johnstone also used this
17 term, and it wasn't until I saw it on paper in
18 your presentation, I'm not quite sure what it
19 means, "production loop?"

20 MR. PAULS: How would I best describe
21 it -- so within any operation you have a farrowing
22 stage that sells farrow produced piglets, what we
23 will call the nursery stage where they grow from
24 about 6 kilograms to 25 kilograms, and then the
25 finishing stage where they grow from 25 to market,

1 120 kilograms. So you combine those three areas,
2 you will call them a loop.

3 THE CHAIRMAN: We guessed right. It
4 is sort of the three different stages, in my
5 understanding of the industry, this is done in
6 different barns and different operations, each of
7 those three?

8 MR. PAULS: It is one of the ways, of
9 course. There is also, as I mentioned earlier,
10 farrow to finish where you have kept them all in
11 one site.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, but the bigger
13 operations nowadays, I believe, are more into the
14 three separate?

15 MR. PAULS: The growth in the industry
16 has generally been around that, to be fair.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay.

18 MR. MOTHERAL: Just on an
19 administrative matter, maybe you do have a
20 feeling, that the CEC is an arm's length to the
21 government, and we did not cause the pause.

22 MR. PAULS: I understand that.

23 MR. MOTHERAL: We are here to get
24 information and we need time to do it. And we
25 hope that we can do it in a quick manner, as quick

1 as we can.

2 MR. PAULS: I understand. I'm asking
3 you to do it in a quick manner and get that
4 information back to the government, I agree, and I
5 am hoping you will be that independent voice to
6 them.

7 MR. MOTHERAL: There is a lot of stuff
8 to digest.

9 MR. PAULS: I understand.

10 MR. MOTHERAL: And that is literally
11 speaking too.

12 MR. YEE: Yes, Mr. Pauls, in one of
13 your slides you have discussed the use of the
14 enzymes and the Enviro pig, and it discussed
15 essentially spending money on research. But you
16 also noted that it was preferable to spend money
17 on research on these things rather than spending
18 on perception issues. Can I just ask your
19 clarification of what you mean by perception
20 issues?

21 MR. PAULS: I will answer the question
22 this way. Certainly, as an industry, when we deal
23 with a pause like this that the government has put
24 in place, one of the reasons why it can be put in
25 place is because they feel that the perception of

1 the industry is negative, and they can do such
2 without repercussions in votes. And so instead of
3 the industry -- there is only so much money to go
4 around, so you will end up putting out ads to
5 defend yourself in the public's opinion, so that
6 things like this can happen. So if government
7 educates themselves before they make these
8 decisions, instead of using someone like the CEC
9 to educate them after they have made their
10 decision.

11 MR. YEE: Thank you.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: Although, I think, I
13 don't really want to get into a debate, but I
14 think by getting into some of these advertising
15 campaigns, you not only educate the government,
16 you educate the general public, and typically
17 governments react to public concerns.

18 MR. PAULS: I understand. No doubt
19 that we can't avoid that. It is just a matter of
20 balance and how much -- and where do you spend
21 your time?

22 THE CHAIRMAN: Can you tell us a
23 little bit about this Enviro pig? I read
24 something about it. Is it at Guelph?

25 MR. PAULS: That's correct. I don't

1 know a lot about it. I mean, type Enviro pig into
2 the internet and you will know more than I can
3 give you today.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Thank you
5 very much for your presentation today.

6 Next on our agenda is Henry Traverse,
7 Jackhead Fisheries. Mr. Traverse, would you state
8 your name for the record, please?

9 HENRY TRAVERSE, having been sworn, presented as
10 follows:

11 MR. TRAVERSE: Henry Traverse from
12 Kinonjeoshtegon First Nation. I didn't write that
13 on my presentation, but that is the name of my
14 reservation, where I come from.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: You may proceed.

16 MR. TRAVERSE: I guess my presentation
17 here today, I wanted to bring some people along,
18 and I informed quite a few of them. We are in the
19 midst of elections in my community right now. But
20 nevertheless, I guess I came, and I wanted to read
21 out our ancestral background to the area where we
22 come from. Like we live at the end of the road,
23 and our community, it is a small community, and we
24 have lots of diabetes in our community right now,
25 and it is growing. But I want to read this, my

1 presentation here this afternoon. I didn't come
2 here to say anything to anybody or anything like
3 that, I just came and I want to read this out this
4 afternoon.

5 To begin with, we are signators to
6 Treaty Number 5, which our ancestors historically
7 signed in 1875 in the central, east and west
8 shores of Lake Winnipeg. Historically, we agreed
9 to certain terms and conditions which the
10 government of the day has grossly violated. In
11 terms of sustainability, environment and
12 conservation, has done great harm to our homeland,
13 as well as fish, water, animals and birds. The
14 royal proclamation of 1763 and the Indian Act of
15 1871, along with the Natural Resources Transfer
16 Act of 1930, took over control of our lives and
17 land without consultation to the native
18 communities. Recovery process is not going to
19 happen in one year, or maybe not in 100 years.
20 The Creator, gave us our breath of life, along
21 with that to balance our life with nature. We
22 live with one of the oldest religions in the
23 western hemisphere, which is the sacred fire and
24 our holy medicines, along with our sacred sites.
25 And in closing, as a fisherman and grandfather,

1 I'm deeply concerned every day for my
2 grandchildren's future. That is the end of it.

3 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr.
4 Traverse. Any comments, questions?

5 Thank you very much for coming here
6 today, Mr. Traverse. We have no questions.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: Next on the agenda is
8 Jason McNaughton. Mr. McNaughton, would you state
9 your name for the record, please.

10 MR. MCNAUGHTON: Jason McNaughton.
11 JASON MCNAUGHTON, having been sworn, presented as
12 follows:

13 THE CHAIRMAN: You may proceed.

14 MR. MCNAUGHTON: Good afternoon,
15 members of the Commission. My name has been
16 stated, though I would like to give you a brief
17 background on who I am and what my position is
18 within the swine industry. I am the general
19 manager for a livestock nutrition company that
20 provides its services through the Western Canadian
21 Prairie Provinces. We at Standard-Max Pro
22 Nutrition directly employ 16 people here in
23 Manitoba. I'm a permanent resident of this
24 province where I was raised from my youth. I
25 have, through my employment, been a member of the

1 greater hog industry here in Manitoba for the past
2 12 years. Although I was raised in rural
3 Manitoba, my immediate family were not livestock
4 producers. We, as a family, left our city home
5 when I was seven years old and moved on to a
6 section of land in the Garson/Tyndall area of
7 Manitoba. Within one and a half miles of our new
8 home, there were two separate hog facilities and
9 one broiler chicken facility, from which new
10 odours emanated from time to time, new odours to
11 us. As new citizens in this area, we were taught
12 by our parents that these odours were the charm of
13 country living. We still as a family believe that
14 these pollutants, as some will refer to them, are
15 far more bearable than the ones we left behind
16 leaving the city, i.e, vehicle and industrial
17 emissions, but also noise pollution. To this
18 point, my parents now reside on an acreage just
19 north of Grunthal, Manitoba, the most dense
20 livestock area of Manitoba. My sister and her
21 family reside on an acreage near Landmark,
22 Manitoba. And my family and I reside on an
23 similar acreage in the Municipality of Ritchot.

24 My passion for the livestock industry
25 was spawned in my early years as I had employment

1 opportunities on farms close to home. When, as an
2 adult, an opportunity arose to start a permanent
3 career in the hog industry, it seemed like the
4 perfect fit for my upbringing. My family today
5 has only one income and that is thanks to the
6 Manitoba hog industry.

7 Due to my passion for this industry, I
8 can likely speak all day on how our industry has
9 been early adapters to all measures that improve
10 both the well-being of animals that we raise, and
11 also to the using of the manure fertilizer that we
12 produce. Given your need to hear from many
13 throughout your sessions, I have settled on a
14 couple of points that are somewhat unique to the
15 focus of our organization within the industry.
16 Hopefully, these points I make to you today will
17 be helpful in your deciding that the hog industry
18 is sustainable in our province, and that the
19 growth of our industry is still possible, as all
20 citizens and industries in our region make sure
21 that our environment returns to a healthy state.

22 As an industry our goal is and must be
23 to responsibly use the byproduct resources that we
24 produce, such as manure fertilizer and its
25 chemical makeup, in a way that poses no threat to

1 our environment. From this I would like to
2 present to you, from a nutrient management
3 perspective, a few ways in which our industry, and
4 especially our hog producers, are changing the way
5 that we operate in order to meet this goal.
6 Specifically, I will discuss strategies that we
7 and our clients have and will continue to adopt,
8 which are reducing the phosphorous in manure
9 fertilizer itself.

10 The management of phosphorous must
11 first begin at a starting point, which is its
12 introduction into the cycle. This happens through
13 formulation of our swine diets which must meet the
14 requirements of the animal in order for it to grow
15 and flourish. You have already heard some talk of
16 the phytase enzyme, which significantly reduces
17 the input need for hard rock phosphorous in our
18 diets. I'm not sure how technical your
19 understanding of this ingredient is, but not being
20 a nutritionist myself, I brought and will leave
21 for your review a technical data package of this
22 product which will possibly enhance your
23 understanding of phytase.

24 Our company employs three PhD and two
25 Masters degree nutritionists that have been made

1 available to your Commission should you need any
2 questions that need comment from this perspective.

3 Your Commission raised a question at
4 the Winnipeg session as to what percentage of our
5 industry in Manitoba is utilizing the phytase
6 technology. I wasn't certain that you were
7 satisfied that that question was answered, so this
8 will be the first thing I would like to address.

9 Now, unfortunately, we do not
10 formulate for the entire industry, so I won't be
11 able to completely answer your question, but you
12 may have a much better sense once other members of
13 the feed community have presented at these
14 sessions.

15 In answering your question regarding
16 phytase, I must also tell you that our formulation
17 team uses two different products to reduce
18 phosphorous outputs, the first being phytase
19 itself and the second being a product called
20 Maxizyme Plus. I would like to answer your
21 question by illustrating what percentage of our
22 total production incorporates the use of these
23 technologies. We at Standard-Max Pro Nutrition
24 feed mostly farrow to finish operations. We have
25 a strong market share with the Hutterite Colony

1 sector of the industry and we also feed a sizable
2 amount of privately owned facilities in Manitoba.
3 If you take all of these farms where our
4 consultants formulate exclusively, they will
5 represent about 460,000 hogs marketed annually
6 here in Manitoba. Through some analysis I have
7 arrived at an estimate that 70 per cent of these
8 460,000 animals are fed an enzyme product that
9 reduces phosphorous in manure fertilizer. I have
10 also reviewed our usage of both of these products
11 comparing 2006 and 2007 projected, and the usage
12 through our formulation of these enzyme products
13 has increased by 84 per cent for phytase and 85
14 per cent for Maxizyme Plus. Please note that this
15 growth demonstrates that our industry is moving
16 forward voluntarily to reduce phosphorous in
17 manure.

18 Although this process has maybe just
19 begun, I can expect that 95 per cent of our diets
20 will contain enzymes to reduce phosphorous within
21 the next two years. The momentum among producers
22 to utilize these products has begun. The research
23 is new and has been proven at the farm levels as
24 we speak. This is very important because all of
25 us take time to adapt to new technologies. Just

1 because cell phones were invented didn't mean that
2 everyone had one the next day. Although our
3 industry does realize the need to incorporate
4 these technologies quickly.

5 The next point that I would like to
6 make is on our focus of nutrient utilization as it
7 pertains to both feed conversion and feed wastage,
8 as these factors can and have contributed to the
9 amount of phosphorous left in our manure
10 fertilizer.

11 First of all, I will speak on feed
12 conversion. We that formulate diets in the swine
13 industry have incorporated again the use of
14 different enzymes than previously mentioned that
15 specifically hone in on certain feeds stuffs.
16 These enzymes increase the digestibility for those
17 feed stuffs and allow improved utilization within
18 the animal. The better an animal utilizes any
19 nutrient, the less feed it will need to reach its
20 market weight, thus reducing the amount of manure
21 fertilizer itself. The different enzymes that we
22 incorporate into our diets include xylanase,
23 glucanase, and cellulase and lysase, all of which
24 serve a different function with different feed
25 stuffs, but all respond in a way to improve

1 digestibility for the animal and thus reduce the
2 feed required by the animal. These technologies,
3 some of which were not available 12 years ago when
4 I entered this industry, but all which were
5 somewhat fringe at that point, are now common
6 place in all of our current rations.

7 Another technique that lends itself to
8 greater feed utilization is the balance of
9 particle size in our on-farm feed mills. This
10 serves two functions, the first is to provide the
11 animal with crushed feed stuffs which increases
12 the surface area of the ingredient, thus allowing
13 for greater breakdown of nutrients in the GI tract
14 of the animal. An improper particle size can move
15 through the animal too quickly before its
16 nutrients can be properly absorbed if too large.
17 Too small a particle size can remain in the animal
18 too long, potentially causing other ailments. A
19 proper particle size will enhance feed utilization
20 significantly. These are why our current feed
21 conversion rates are significantly lower than in
22 the past and are continuing to improve. Our
23 company works closely with on-farm feed mills to
24 ensure that their grind is optimal by travelling
25 with a feed sample shaker which analyzes particle

1 size at the farm.

2 Next we focused on feed wastage, which
3 is raw, unused feed matter that enters the manure
4 pit without going through the animal. Again, this
5 has changed so much with new feeder design that
6 supplies a constant and appropriate flow of feed
7 to the animal with special design features that
8 will not allow the animal to empty the feeder as
9 it roots around in the feed, as pigs like to do.
10 Most of these well-designed modern day feeders
11 were invented by a hog producer, one of which is a
12 good friend of mine who now makes his living here
13 in Manitoba manufacturing and marketing his
14 design.

15 In concluding, I hope that you serving
16 on this Commission can see that the hog industry
17 is progressive in finding and utilizing
18 technologies and techniques that will improve the
19 makeup of the fertilizer we produce, and that our
20 management of this fertilizer does not jeopardize
21 the health of our environment. I would like to
22 leave you with a question on my mind that I
23 believe I know the answers to. That is, would
24 there be a initiative started to improve the
25 environmental health of Lake Winnipeg if there was

1 no hog industry in Manitoba? Thank you.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much,
3 Mr. McNaughton. Wayne?

4 MR. MOTHERAL: I will have to read
5 this document, or pretend I read it, because it
6 gets very technical, I know that, but I will
7 attempt.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: Anything?

9 MR. YEE: I'm not sure this is a very
10 accurate question to ask, but I actually heard the
11 other night from one of the presenters, they
12 mentioned one of the enzymes that you have listed
13 here in your presentation. I'm just wondering,
14 over and above the removal or retainment of
15 phosphate, using these enzymes, as well as
16 reducing the amount of manure produced, is there
17 any other beneficial effects? What was mentioned
18 is they noticed the manure was more liquid. I
19 don't know if that makes a difference or not. Is
20 there any other attributes to the enzymes?

21 MR. MCNAUGHTON: Yes, there is. It is
22 a great question. I think you are referring more
23 to the Maxizyme Plus. Phytase, as an enzyme, it
24 really keys in on phosphorous itself, but it is
25 also clinically proven, I'm not sure in that data

1 package if you will find it, but it does reduce
2 the need for hard metals within our diets as well,
3 and our formulation can adjust to the new findings
4 on the product.

5 The Maxizyme Plus product, you will
6 probably, as I illustrated by the amount of hogs
7 in the province that are being fed a product like
8 that, you will hear more and more on the product.
9 I'm probably not the best person to speak to the
10 product, and I do know that through your sessions
11 you are going to hear from somebody that will be
12 an expert on the product. But there are other
13 functions of it. Certainly there is odour
14 reduction properties, and that is proven with the
15 product. And there is also, the product uses
16 basically a bacillus type bacteria that attacks
17 the phosphorous within the diet. It attacks it in
18 the gut of the animal and it also attacks it after
19 it leaves the animal, it is a live bacteria that
20 continues its work, and it turns the hard
21 phosphorous into a liquid form somewhat, which
22 allows it to be more soluble to the plant. Okay.
23 So the plant can utilize more of the phosphorous
24 that we put on the fields, thus hopefully allowing
25 us to not spread quite as liberally, to just to

1 hit what the plant needs. But somebody may spend,
2 you know, a whole 15 minutes discussing that with
3 you guys, I hope.

4 MR. YEE: Thank you, I appreciate
5 that.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: Maybe even more.

7 MR. MCNAUGHTON: Maybe even more.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: You started to answer a
9 question that I had, and perhaps we should wait
10 until we hear from somebody who you say will have
11 more expertise. I'm just wondering, what is an
12 enzyme and how does it work? I mean, you touched
13 on it a bit.

14 MR. MCNAUGHTON: Well, again, I am not
15 a scientist, but what an enzyme does, it is going
16 to attack a molecule and it is going to alter it,
17 it is going to break open a part of it.

18 THE CHAIRMAN: Did you say it is a
19 bacteria?

20 MR. MCNAUGHTON: No, sorry, it is not
21 a bacteria, but it is a particle that is going to
22 attach itself to a molecule and open up that
23 molecule, you know, so what is inside of that cell
24 can be absorbed. You can tell I'm not a
25 scientist, but it is described fairly well in that

1 data package.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

3 MR. MOTHERAL: One more comment on the
4 fact that, if I have got this right, did you say
5 that when the manure is more liquid that it would
6 be more available to plants? Because I don't
7 believe that.

8 MR. MCNAUGHTON: No, my
9 understanding -- I understand what you are saying.
10 I will speak exactly to phosphorous. If the
11 phosphorous is more in a liquid state, my
12 understanding is it is more available to the
13 plant, not the manure itself, the phosphorous
14 within the manure. The phosphorous within the
15 manure makes up mostly the solids of the liquid
16 manure. So if a product can convert that into a
17 more liquid form, it is more available to the
18 plant in that form.

19 THE CHAIRMAN: And this Natuphos, that
20 is just a trade name for phytase?

21 MR. MCNAUGHTON: That is a trade name
22 of a phytase. There are a number of them.

23 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. McNaughton, would
24 you have another copy of your presentation for the
25 record?

1 MR. MCNAUGHTON: You can have mine.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: Next, Mr. Larry Hofer.
3 Mr. Hofer, could you please state your name for
4 the record.

5 LARRY HOFER, having been sworn, presented as
6 follows:

7 MR. HOFER: Good afternoon members of
8 the Clean Environment Commission, ladies and
9 gentleman of the audience. My name is Larry
10 Hofer. I'm a member of the Marble Ridge Hutterite
11 Colony and hog producer. I sincerely thank you
12 for the opportunity to present my comments
13 regarding the environment sustainability of the
14 hog production industry in Manitoba.

15 Marble Ridge is a colony that lives
16 and breathes agriculture. Agriculture is an
17 integral part of our lives. Naturally, it is a
18 major source of revenue and our livelihood is
19 dependent on it. Agriculture is a basis of our
20 way of life and it enables us to maintain our
21 independence, our Hutterian religion and sustain
22 our communal way of life. We truly are a family
23 farm. We need to be able to foresee growth in
24 agriculture to give our children hope for the
25 future and a guarantee of jobs that will keep them

1 in our community. You see, agriculture is
2 extremely important to the sustainability of our
3 colony, our way of life and our people. Who is
4 the stronger steward of the land than the farmer?
5 Who is more concerned about sustainable
6 agriculture than the farmer? We are concerned
7 about the protection of our animals and the land
8 that provides for our livelihood and we farmers
9 care about the environment.

10 To address the current concerns
11 regarding the environment and manure management, I
12 would like to address some of the things that
13 Marble Ridge does for phosphorous levels and odour
14 control in groundwater and water, surface water.
15 All of our solids from the barns go to a manure
16 separator. This process syphons out most of the
17 phosphorous -- I can say I have tests on it, it is
18 at 96, if I am correct, 96 per cent, 96.4
19 moisture -- reduce odour and makes it a lot easier
20 to transport the liquid manure. We decided to
21 take this extra step, even though it cost well in
22 excess of \$140,000, because it greatly enhanced
23 our ability to deal with the challenges of
24 handling waste in an environmentally friendly way
25 and with the neighbors.

1 This procedure seems to work quite
2 well. The separator is located on the colony, and
3 the water contents, after the separation, are
4 pumped into an earth lagoon with a liner in there.
5 The manure, before separation, was given a
6 phosphorous test and came back at 18.2 pounds per
7 thousand gallons to be spread on the field. The
8 test after separation was at 0.0227 pounds per
9 thousand gallons.

10 In November 2006, the government came
11 to us and said nitrogen and phosphorous is now
12 turned around. Up until now, we monitored our
13 manure being put on the field by how much nitrogen
14 we will spread on the field. Now it is being
15 monitored by how many, how high your phosphorous
16 levels are. If we do the math here, there is no
17 way we can inject enough manure into the ground to
18 get our phosphorous level to a 35-pound level.
19 Let's say per acre, if I'm correct, we did a
20 little math on it, we would have to put like
21 400,000 gallons of manure to get the phosphorous
22 level up there for the 35 pounds per acre.

23 We are also in the process of working
24 with a company from Quebec with a product called
25 Maxizyme Plus, which we have an additional annual

1 cost, we figure it will be around \$60,000 a year
2 to run this through our herd. We are doing this
3 because this product reduces phosphorous levels
4 and helps reduce odour, which we feel is important
5 for our neighbors and our livelihood. We also
6 believe this product will be very helpful to keep
7 our well water clean.

8 The tests we have taken showed us the
9 phosphorous levels went -- I dare say they were
10 half within eight weeks, when we put them into a
11 slurry tank with this discharge. In the barn, a
12 job we used to do, if we were washing down pits it
13 would take us 20 minutes of on your hands and
14 knees and washing it down. Now you basically go
15 in there and stir it up a bit with a hose, and
16 there will be like an inch left in there with this
17 product.

18 The environment is healthier thanks to
19 the soluble phosphates in the slurry and better
20 assimilation of nutritional elements by soil and
21 plants. The animals absorb feed better and their
22 immune system is reinforced. We breathe better
23 air and the neighborhood no longer has to tolerate
24 unpleasant smells.

25 It was quite impressive just last week

1 when one of our neighbors, who I might add had
2 quite a struggle to see a lagoon go up three
3 quarters of a mile from his house, he met with one
4 of our members in town, and this member was our
5 secretary, Darius, and he asked him, when do you
6 guys figure you will start up the lagoon? And
7 Darius was quite shocked when he heard this. He
8 said we started up the lagoon November 20th,
9 around there, of '06. This neighbour was taken
10 quite aback. He figured there was no manure being
11 pumped into this lagoon. So it was quite
12 impressive to hear that.

13 The Government of Manitoba's decision
14 to implement a pause in the building of barns
15 causes us grave concerns. Marble Ridge is forced
16 to sell weanlings because we do not have a
17 matching hog finisher barn to our sow production
18 facilities. This law only makes it tougher on us,
19 the farmer. I would like to add here, I think
20 these laws that you are making should not be just
21 for the big corporation. I think if there is big
22 problems out there in the lakes with the
23 phosphates, we have to start with the small guy
24 right to the big guy. There is a lot of problems
25 here and everybody has to get involved in this to

1 clean it up.

2 We live by the rules put in place, but
3 this pause makes it nearly impossible for us to
4 make a living and to develop future Hutterite
5 colonies which will house our young people. As
6 farmers and hog producers, we work hard to produce
7 safe quality pork for our customers in an
8 environmentally sustainable manner. We take
9 responsibility for wise stewardship of air, soil,
10 natural plants, wildlife and water resources very
11 seriously.

12 We support the Manitoba Government's
13 efforts to protect and maintain our surface and
14 groundwater supply for current and future use.
15 Manitoba's industry and Manitoba hog producers
16 very existence are tied to a sufficiently reliable
17 source of high quality water, water that is
18 critical to the raising of our livestock. Good
19 water is also important to me and my fellow
20 livestock farmers who live, work and raise
21 families on our colony. We must have the ability
22 to raise our livestock cost effectively. We must
23 have the ability and freedom to be able to grow
24 and make our living in a responsible manner.

25 We also concern ourselves with

1 nutrient management by testing all of our lands so
2 the right amount of nutrients are applied.
3 Phosphorous is a natural occurring mineral in
4 humans. It is the second most abundant mineral.
5 It is also important for crop nutrition, for
6 helping root development and helping crops grow
7 faster.

8 As most of us are aware, too much
9 phosphorous in water increases the presence of
10 algae blooms that threaten other plants and
11 organisms in lakes and rivers. However, only
12 about 13 per cent of the phosphorous in Lake
13 Winnipeg comes from agriculture, but one per cent
14 of phosphorous entering Lake Winnipeg can be
15 linked to hog farms. We can have a real argument
16 on that one.

17 If every pig in Manitoba would
18 disappear tomorrow, do you think one acre of land
19 would go unfertilized? The answer is practically
20 none. The question is, would you prefer to use a
21 chemical fertilizer or an organic hog fertilizer
22 in the form of liquid manure injected into the
23 soils to feed our crops?

24 Hog producers are not the only cause
25 for this increase in phosphorous levels. The

1 rising levels of phosphorous in Lake Winnipeg come
2 from a variety of sources, for example, industry,
3 human waste, cities and municipalities, natural
4 deposits, dishwasher detergent and lawn
5 fertilizers.

6 In our everyday life in our community,
7 we can remove phosphorous from our households by
8 using phosphorous free laundry soap. We make our
9 own. It came back testing -- we have got some
10 test reports here -- it came back at 2 per cent,
11 while the bought store was 18 per cent. So it is
12 quite a difference.

13 THE CHAIRMAN: What do you make it out
14 of?

15 MR. HOFER: All kinds of good stuff,
16 secret recipe. You can come and buy some. We
17 might have to start making our living with this
18 stuff. Plus, I dare say, it does twice the job,
19 that is a fact.

20 Dishwashing soap and lawn fertilizers
21 and reducing the use of car and truck wash soap --
22 that is another big one. When you watch a car
23 wash out there, and the soap they are using, I
24 think I can just about say that three of these car
25 washes make more phosphorous than our hog barn

1 does, when I watch them. It is quite feasible to
2 wash a vehicle mechanically without soap.

3 We believe that we are very
4 responsible in our manure management, along with
5 the rest of our day-to-day farm life. We invite
6 everyone and anyone to visit our colony and see
7 our lifestyle and our life on the farm and how we
8 go about with the manure systems. Thursday is a
9 good day, that is when we have our special chicken
10 and chips.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: We should have gone
12 there for lunch.

13 MR. HOFER: Yes, today is Thursday.

14 In 1970 the Government of Canada
15 banned the production of all detergents containing
16 more than 20 per cent phosphate. Exempt from the
17 ban were detergents used in dishwashers, car
18 washes and manufacturing. We are as concerned
19 with the protection of our environment as you are.
20 Attitudes of water consumers have evolved over
21 time and over many generations. There is no
22 question that we must be more careful in our
23 stewardship of this precious life sustaining
24 resource.

25 Agriculture is our livelihood and the

1 livelihood of our neighbors, but it is getting
2 increasingly harder to sustain. We have got four
3 neighbors at home right now, they left the family
4 at home, the kids, wives, the industry is not
5 there any more for them to get the farm going.
6 They are up in Alberta on the oil rigs. And that
7 is a very sad situation to us.

8 We don't want to see our children from
9 Marble Ridge Colony leave our Hutterite way of
10 life and our traditions to find work elsewhere
11 because our farming way of life loses its purpose
12 or is no longer substantial. This could lead to a
13 very sad future for our Colony and our way of
14 life. We are depending on a sustainable
15 environment in the future to offer hope to the
16 children on our colony so that they will have
17 choice to remain in the community, to work and
18 live.

19 Thanks for your time and consideration
20 of my comments and concerns. And as my grandpa
21 used to say, that we all got to go that extra mile
22 here. I think he had a good comment there. If a
23 man does only what is required of him, he is a
24 slave. If a man does more than is required of
25 him, he is a free man. Thank you.

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Hofer.

2 How big is the hog operation on your colony?

3 MR. HOFER: 1100 sows, and half -- we
4 have about enough finisher space for them, like to
5 finish them off in the colony. We either sell
6 weanlings or we will get other farms to raise them
7 for us.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Wayne.

9 MR. MOTHERAL: I'm a little more
10 curious, Mr. Hofer, you say that your solids go
11 through a manure separator. Can you describe that
12 process a little bit?

13 MR. HOFER: Well, it is a manure
14 separator, I guess what it is, it is a piston and
15 it plunges it through, and by the time -- once
16 that piston pushes it through, basically the dry
17 matter comes out one end and the water, it is
18 basically water that we could probably drink it.

19 MR. MOTHERAL: So you squeeze the
20 liquid out?

21 MR. HOFER: We squeeze it out.

22 MR. MOTHERAL: It is not like a
23 centrifuge or force or something, you are actually
24 just squeezing it out?

25 MR. HOFER: No, it is very clean water

1 coming out of there. We got this from Northwest
2 Labs. The moisture was 99.4 per cent, correction,
3 so that is pretty impressive, there is a .6 per
4 cent left in there, in that water content after
5 this separator takes care of it.

6 MR. MOTHERAL: Then what do you do
7 with the solids?

8 MR. HOFER: We have an old slurry at
9 home with a concrete floor, and we put them in
10 there in the winter time. In the summer we take
11 our phosphorous tests on them, and into the soil,
12 and we will spread them accordingly on the field
13 and work them in there, the good way.

14 THE CHAIRMAN: This particular
15 separator, I think you said it cost about
16 \$140,000?

17 MR. HOFER: With the building and
18 everything, it cost \$140,000.

19 THE CHAIRMAN: How many hogs could
20 it --

21 MR. HOFER: It is good for this
22 operation.

23 THE CHAIRMAN: So about 1100?

24 MR. HOFER: It could probably take a
25 1500 sow, farrow to finish.

1 MR. MOTHERAL: Was this your own
2 technology or was this --

3 MR. HOFER: I wish.

4 MR. MOTHERAL: I guess the answer is
5 no.

6 MR. HOFER: No. We bought it off a
7 guy who gave us, you know -- we weren't forced to
8 do this, we just did it for the environment and
9 for future.

10 MR. MOTHERAL: The reason why I ask is
11 that we are hearing lots of new technologies on
12 how to improve, as some people call it, waste or
13 the byproduct or the fertilizer, whatever. We are
14 hearing different technologies and I never heard
15 the squeeze yet.

16 MR. HOFER: It is a plunger and it
17 actually squeezes it through. And the liquids,
18 they are forced on one end, and it is an auger
19 type thing and it augers it out.

20 MR. MOTHERAL: Thank you.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much for
22 coming down here today, Mr. Hofer.

23 That brings us to the end of our list
24 of people who have registered for this afternoon.
25 We have three people who have indicated they wish

1 to speak after supper. If there are any others in
2 the audience right now who would like to make a
3 presentation this afternoon, please just stand up
4 and come forward?

5 Please introduce yourself, sir.

6 MR. HEDGES: I'm Murray Hedges from
7 Hodgson.

8 MURRAY HEDGES, having being sworn, presented an
9 follows:

10 MR. HEDGES: I was very impressed with
11 what I heard from the Colony, Marble Ridge. I
12 live approximately one and a half miles north of
13 the ridge, and they are higher than I am because
14 of the way the land flows from the south to the
15 north, to the lake.

16 I moved to Hodgson in 1990. And
17 around about 5:00 o'clock to 6:00 o'clock in the
18 evening, we would get this awful smell from the
19 Marble Ridge Colony. And as a joke we would say,
20 oh, they must be changing shifts, because the
21 smell came around the same time. Over the years,
22 I have knocked the way things were going and
23 disapproved of some of the things, but one of the
24 things that was always in the back of my mind was
25 that Marble Ridge was a family farm, not a

1 stockholders farm where shares are sold.

2 So common sense told me that the
3 Hutterite people would not be devastating their
4 own land and ruining their own water, because they
5 live there, not like a person who had shares in a
6 hog barn, couldn't care less what happened at the
7 hog barn as long as he got his dividends from the
8 shares. It was a totally different situation with
9 the Hutterites. But I do know from living there
10 that things have changed, a couple of 100 per cent
11 compared to what they were when I first went
12 there. We don't get the smell and that, and we
13 have no problems with anything there. So I would
14 congratulate the Marble Ridge Colony on the
15 achievements. And I wasn't aware of all of the
16 new technology that they had there. I knew they
17 did have new technology, but I wasn't aware of
18 what they were. So I would like to mention the
19 fact of that.

20 But I also, I'm concerned about large
21 hog barns which are just strictly a commercial
22 thing with shareholders, and really what is a
23 shareholder's concern about people that live in
24 the area? Couldn't care less as long as he gets
25 his dividends. And that is my argument against

1 large industrial hog barns. Thank you.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Hedges.

3 Questions? Thank you, sir.

4 Bill Cochrane? Is Bill Cochrane here?

5 I will get you next, sir.

6 BILL COCHRANE, presented as follows:

7 MR. COCHRANE: I hold here in my hand
8 the first agreement that holds jurisdiction over
9 all of this land. My people agreed to share the
10 water because we couldn't sell it, the air because
11 we couldn't sell it, the land because we couldn't
12 sell it, the minerals because we couldn't sell it,
13 because we know it didn't belong to us. We agreed
14 to share. We have never ceded, we have never
15 sold, we have never relinquished, me being the
16 caretaker, the steward of this land, we have never
17 ceded.

18 I personally take offence at people's
19 inability to comprehend ecological terrorism. We
20 all know what terrorism is. My people have been
21 subject to that for 500 years plus. Now, many of
22 us are being subjected to ecological terrorism.
23 Where are my children going to get clean water?
24 Lake Winnipeg is already looking at losing its
25 commercial fisheries in 50 years because of the

1 pollution.

2 There are laws out there that state
3 specifically that I have jurisdiction, as a treaty
4 Indian, I have jurisdiction on whether that lake,
5 on who to hold accountable when that lake, if that
6 lake becomes polluted with pig shit and piss, or
7 human shit and piss. There needs to be proper
8 guidelines as how to deal with all of the
9 effluent -- one 6,000 hog operation produces the
10 same amount of effluent, that pig piss and shit,
11 as a city the size the Brandon. And yet it is a
12 farm, so you can just throw it on the ground,
13 throw it in the ditch.

14 That flows through my reserve. That
15 flows to all of the native people who live along
16 the lakes and rivers. Maybe you don't care, but I
17 care about my children. I care about your
18 children. I have jurisdiction and there is laws
19 providing that. I don't want to, but if I have
20 to, I will use them. Maybe no one else has enough
21 guts to stand up here and speak the truth, but
22 this right here is the truth. No one can lie to
23 this. And if anyone tries to lie to this, then
24 they will be the loser. I stand here and
25 challenge anyone to prove me wrong.

1 Think of your children. I'm telling
2 you right here, right now, I do not want piss and
3 shit in my native waters. There is no time now
4 for environmental and/or ecological terrorism. If
5 any of you here are thinking about the future --
6 one of our spokespeople is here and I am glad to
7 see him here -- approach your governments, demand
8 that there are strict guidelines in the disposal
9 of those effluents, and as a matter of fact, even
10 the air quality that comes out of those
11 operations, demand it.

12 Money can't buy you love, money cannot
13 buy your children's health, and anybody that
14 thinks it can, well, they are sadly mistaken.
15 Nitrates in the water, our drinking water, causes
16 us to have born mental problems, born physical
17 problems, anywhere from minimal to maximal damage
18 to our mind and bodies because of the nitrates in
19 the drinking water, a woman drinking that because
20 they are pregnant. You don't care because your
21 children are fine. What about their children? I
22 have seen it.

23 It is time to open our eyes. Where
24 there is smoke, there is generally fire. I demand
25 accountable actions now. I command you to wake up

1 your senses, wake up your heart, wake up your
2 spirit. This thing will not be made a lie out of.
3 I have spoken.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much,
5 Mr. Cochrane. The gentleman in the second row?
6 Please introduce yourself, sir?

7 MR. WIFT: My name is Joe Wift from
8 Broad Valley Colony.

9 JOE WIFT, after being sworn, presented as follows:

10 THE CHAIRMAN: Go ahead, Mr. Wift.

11 MR. WIFT: I guess initially I was
12 asked to speak here, I thought I was on the list,
13 but anyhow, I will introduce myself. I'm Joe Wift
14 from Broad Valley Colony. Broad Valley Colony has
15 been there since 1974, it is in the Interlake
16 area. It is 11 miles west from here and three
17 north. And we have been hog producers for
18 approximately 33 years. I have been asked to
19 speak here on the challenges and the hardships
20 that we are faced, financially and physically.

21 The challenges that we face are very
22 stressful and you have to deal with them in
23 stride. We, at Broad Valley Colony, how it was in
24 1976 when we first started our hog industry,
25 versus 2007, it is a whole new era, it is totally

1 different. Mr. Hedges here said the Marble Ridge
2 Colony, and the way they were and the way they are
3 today, it is completely different. We don't
4 operate that way anymore.

5 Raising hogs has become a way of life
6 to our colony. We have become better farm
7 stewards now by managing our farm wiser, both
8 economically and environmentally. It is a big
9 concern to us in these two sectors.

10 In earlier years, I will give you some
11 background, in earlier years it used to be just
12 get rid of manure, and we used to spread where it
13 was most accessible, summer or winter, just to get
14 it out of there, that was the way it was. Today
15 that is not anymore. We have a drag hose system
16 and we can apply hog slurry up to three miles from
17 our slurry storage system. We have a metering
18 system on the injection tool and we set the
19 injection tool according to what our manure
20 management plan advises us to do.

21 The next thing is, today we have
22 enough storage on our farm for 400 days. In other
23 words, our thousand sow, farrow to finish
24 operation, we have 400 day storage there. And we
25 can do it, all of our manure injection, after

1 harvest when all our fields are accessible.

2 Today the government provides a manure
3 management plan it is called, which all hog
4 producers have to comply with. And the way they
5 do it is they send us an application, and we have
6 the soil tests on the particular fields we have in
7 mind, and we will always do two to 3,000 acres and
8 send the results back. And they will either issue
9 a permit for that particular field or they won't,
10 if it is too high in nitrogen or phosphorous.

11 Today we have learned that hog manure
12 has valuable nutrients. We got our hog manure
13 tested years ago, 1,000 gallons of manure had
14 22 pounds of nitrogen, and that is in the hog
15 slurry. So if you are putting it on 4,000 acres,
16 4,000 gallons an acre, you are getting 80 pounds,
17 and that is equivalent to \$40 an acre at today's
18 nitrogen prices which we would be saving. And a
19 ton of phos today is around \$550 a ton, and to do
20 the same math, it is \$18.36 an acre what we are
21 putting on there. So, in other words, yes, the
22 \$18.36, plus the \$40, which is around \$58 an acre,
23 so why would we be wasting it? That is \$58 an
24 acre in savings that we are saving already.

25 And it says here today, and for spring

1 annual inputs there is approximately 1100 acres
2 every year which we do not apply fertilizer,
3 either nitrogen or phosphate. We don't, no spring
4 inputs for those fields.

5 At Broad Valley Colony we have one
6 well, one well with a 15 horse submersible pump
7 down there. It feeds the entire Colony, the
8 livestock, the kitchen, school, dwellings,
9 everything. Lakeshore School Division, they come
10 and test our water semi-annually. And our feed
11 nutritionist, they come and sample our water in
12 the barns. And always those tests, they always
13 test the tests, they are fit for human consumption
14 and livestock consumption.

15 In our pumphouse, compared to
16 different colonies in the south, they have
17 filters, they have chlorine injectors to cleanse
18 and purify their water. We don't have anything
19 like that, we have no chlorine, we have no
20 filters. We drink the same water that the
21 livestock does.

22 As for surface water quality, I
23 mentioned before we used to spread hog slurry at
24 any given time of the year. If you spread on
25 frozen field, there tends to be run-off. Now to

1 correct that problem we inject all hog slurry four
2 inches deep in the fall time, when the ground is
3 not frozen, which results in virtually no run-off
4 or odour.

5 We, as hog producers, have come a long
6 way in the last ten years in being better farm
7 stewards. We at Broad Valley Colony believe that
8 we have to keep our water quality and air quality
9 healthy. It is not only for us, it is for our
10 neighbors, it is for our kids, it is for our
11 future. We don't want to drink hog slurry.

12 So we are just asking you, please be
13 careful about what you decide on this hog
14 moratorium. You are faced with very serious
15 decisions. First and foremost, we have to protect
16 our water and air quality, but at the same time
17 the government has in place strict regulations
18 that hog producers have to comply with. We have
19 straightened out our act as hog producers, and I
20 think it is time to quit pointing fingers at hog
21 producers and find out who the real polluters are.

22 Somebody here mentioned that one per
23 cent of the phosphorous level in Lake Winnipeg
24 comes from hog producers. Where does the other 99
25 per cent come from? That is my question.

1 Manitoba has natural resources, and
2 one of them is cereal grain growing. Years ago
3 the government used to pay the freight of the
4 grain going to the shipping ports in Vancouver or
5 Thunder Bay. They subsidized the farmer to pay
6 the rate. They did away with that. The
7 government, if you have sold any grains to any
8 elevator lately, which we did two weeks ago, we
9 sold some to Agricore, and out of 85 tonnes we got
10 deducted \$3,986.40, deductions that is in freight,
11 Keystone levy, weight inspection fees, removal of
12 dockage. Mr. Johnstone, when he was sitting here,
13 the manager of Puratone, when you take a little
14 bit of wheat over there, they only charge you half
15 a percent shrinkage. That is the only deduction
16 there is. If you want to sell to these people,
17 Agricore or the Wheat Board, you are faced with up
18 to dollar a bushel in deductions. So why not keep
19 these grains in Manitoba? Why not keep it here?
20 Let us benefit from it.

21 And another thing is, it is scary how
22 our young people are leaving the province, the
23 city, small towns. Don't think it is in the big
24 towns only or -- you go to Fisher Branch or Broad
25 Valley there, it is a small town. There is old

1 people there. What happened to your young people?
2 Well, they went out west, they went to the oil
3 patch, that is where the big money is made. This
4 is happening in colonies too, our young people are
5 leaving. If you take away our livelihood from us,
6 what is going to attract our people to stay in
7 colonies?

8 And in closing, I want to tell you a
9 story. I'm a Christian, I don't want to preach to
10 you, but when Jesus was baptized in the Jordan
11 River approximately 2,000 years ago, he walked on
12 this earth, he was a man, he was 5'6 feet to
13 6 feet tall. He got baptized when he was 30 years
14 old. And it was said that he could look down from
15 his waist, he was waist deep in water and he could
16 see his toes, his sandals. That is clean water.
17 Today I got this flyer from Israel, not today a
18 week ago, that same river that Jesus was baptized
19 in, it says Jordan River is a health hazard
20 because of sewage dumped into the Jordan River,
21 there are springs along the way which replenish it
22 a bit, but unfortunately it has become a dumping
23 yard of countries. And it says Israel, Jordan and
24 Syria are each grabbing as much clean water as
25 they can, and sadly it is the sewage that is

1 keeping the river alive today.

2 And we don't want that. We feel for
3 these people. We feel for our kids. We don't
4 want to pollute, but in the last 15 to 20 years we
5 have become better, we have become smarter. We
6 have straightened out our act, I think we did.
7 So, it has cost us hundreds of thousands of
8 dollars. We have enough storage at home, like I
9 said, for 400 days which is 10 million gallons.
10 And we have brought in a hose injection system
11 which is virtually no spillage or nothing
12 contaminating roads or ditches anymore. And it is
13 a very nice metering system, you can apply to your
14 field very uniform. We are not over-applying
15 anymore. So, if they are going to pressure us
16 more, it won't be feasible for us to raise hogs.
17 That is all. Thank you.

18 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much,
19 Mr. Wift.

20 MR. MOTHERAL: One question. Do you
21 cover your septic field or wintering field?

22 MR. WIFT: No.

23 MR. MOTHERAL: You don't need to.
24 Okay.

25 MR. WIFT: The question has arisen,

1 our neighbors north of us, that is where the smell
2 tends to go. We have asked them -- and there is
3 some here today if you would like to ask them if
4 they smell anything. But I have asked them and
5 they said only when the winds, sometimes they get
6 a whiff of it, but not like it used to be. You
7 see, on ours at home it tends to make its own
8 natural cover. There is a crust on top about two
9 inches thick, and it kind of seals off the liquids
10 below. It is a natural covering.

11 MR. YEE: My only question was, what
12 size of operation do you have?

13 MR. WIFT: We have a thousand sow,
14 farrow to finish, but there is 2,000 pigs in straw
15 in -- whoever did the presentation before, when we
16 first initially started the hog operation, we only
17 had 18 piglets to a sow, now we are up to 25, so
18 we ran out of space and we had to construct these
19 alternative barns.

20 MR. YEE: Are those the hoop
21 structures?

22 MR. WIFT: That is the ones, yes. And
23 there is 20 feet by 40 in front where the feeder
24 and the water is, and then the back, it is straw
25 where they sleep.

1 MR. YEE: Thank you.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: Do you use any of the
3 enzymes or technologies that Mr. Hofer from Marble
4 Ridge talked about?

5 MR. WIFT: Yeah, we do, we use it in
6 our barns to -- it is like he said, the guys
7 before, they had to wash and wash and wash just to
8 get these enzymes going so they could really flush
9 it. Now there is really nothing. You just pull
10 the plug and there is an inch of manure left, that
11 is all. We do use it in our hog feed, yes.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.
13 Does anyone else wish to make a presentation this
14 afternoon?

15 Mr. Caners, would you state your name
16 for the record, please?

17 ALVIN CANERS, having been sworn, presented as
18 follows:

19 THE CHAIRMAN: Go ahead.

20 MR. CANERS: Mr. Chairman, members of
21 the panel, my name is Alvin Caners. I take this
22 opportunity to address this public hearing today
23 because I operate an Agri-business directly
24 related to the hog industry. I own equipment and
25 custom apply liquid hog manure on annual crops and

1 forage land. I'm also a grain farmer.

2 I would like to address the
3 application of liquid hog manure to farmland, and
4 know that this liquid waste is an economical and
5 environmentally sustainable implement for
6 increasing crop production. It also provides an
7 efficient waste management system for the hog
8 industry. The nutrients in hog manure, in many
9 cases, replaces commercial fertilizers and
10 provides a value to the farmers.

11 I know that getting the maximum value
12 out of liquid hog manure requires applying manure
13 at proper rates and using good application
14 methods. I'm also well aware that overapplication
15 and improper application can lead to nutrients
16 leaching into the groundwater or throughout
17 overland flow.

18 Our business relies on GPS systems
19 that give accuracy to every application. The best
20 management practices for manure application is
21 very essential for our business, because it gives
22 our customer the accuracy of application.

23 The following steps that our business
24 takes ensures accuracy and keeps errors of
25 application at minimum or nil. Manure nutrient

1 analysis are required prior to application. Soil
2 testing is required to determine the amount of
3 nutrients that the soil requires. Matching crop
4 nutrient demand to nutrient applied must be done
5 to get optimum crop results. Using a GPS gives
6 the best accuracy of application for each field.
7 Keeping good records and monitoring those records
8 closely is very important to keeping the soil and
9 water quality healthy.

10 The intensive hog farmers or corporate
11 farm factories, as many refer to, are so regulated
12 by the Province of Manitoba. A manure management
13 plan must be filed with the Province of Manitoba
14 prior to each manure application and has to be
15 approved prior to spreading. The process also
16 sees random audits done on fields to monitor
17 accuracy of application.

18 It is of the utmost importance that
19 the Clean Environment Commission study the effects
20 of nutrients, specifically nitrogen and
21 phosphorous, entering into our water. But you
22 must do so by not only attacking the intensive hog
23 farmers, but you must consider all aspects of
24 agriculture, small or large -- yes, as well the
25 small family farm. Everyone has a part to play in

1 making sure that the soil and water remains
2 healthy for future generations. You must also
3 monitor large industrial corporations as well as
4 study the effects of municipal and city lagoons,
5 discharge and waste disposal sites.

6 You are playing with the mind of
7 intensive hog farmers and their futures being held
8 at ransom. The public has a perception and has
9 painted a dismal picture of the way they feel that
10 the hog industry has contributed to the pollution
11 of Lake Winnipeg. I would like to think that this
12 industry has been regulated way more than any
13 other in the province. I feel that those
14 regulations were set to give direction to the
15 industry, of which I'm sure is complying well
16 within the regulations, and not only because they
17 got regulated but because they reap the benefits
18 of clean water and healthy soil. This is their
19 future. This guarantees them economical
20 sustainability, one that will see them farming the
21 land for future generations.

22 My only hope is that the government of
23 the day isn't going to succumb to public pressure
24 with a provincial vote looming in the near future,
25 but rather the decision will be made by the

1 scientific data collected to determine the
2 polluters, including every sector of the
3 population and not just people who are producing
4 safe meat products for all consumers. Thank you.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Caners.
6 Mr. Caner, is it correct, do you or people that
7 apply manure to fields, do you have to have
8 certification of some kind?

9 MR. CANERS: Not yet, that is very
10 close.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: Will you be
12 grandfathered in? Not alluding to your age but --
13 you will have to go and get the certification?

14 MR. CANERS: You will have to get
15 certified.

16 THE CHAIRMAN: Even though you have
17 been doing it?

18 MR. CANERS: Yes.

19 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much,
20 Mr. Caners. Anybody else wish to make a
21 presentation this afternoon?

22 State your name, sir?

23 MR. PLETT: My name is Ron Plett.

24 RON PLETT, after being sworn, presented as
25 follows:

1 MR. PLETT: Thank you for this
2 opportunity. I am an Ag producer and poultry
3 grower locally, just north of town here. I want
4 to echo what has been said here today, that we, as
5 a small family farm, we greatly care about the
6 water, we care about the environment, we are very
7 concerned to keep the water and the environment
8 there for our children and grandchildren.

9 A few of the things we have done to
10 address some of these is we have, I think we have
11 come to realize the value of manure. On our farm,
12 we treat it as a very valuable fertilizer. It is
13 in our best interests therefore not to over-apply
14 and to grow crops that use up the nutrients. We
15 have also, one of our operations we have converted
16 from liquid manure to dry manure, which greatly
17 reduces the volume of manure, and also a lot less
18 odour and easier to apply.

19 I had the opportunity of taking the
20 environmental farm plan about a year ago, and that
21 was an excellent workshop in helping me identify
22 various concerns and addressing them on our farm.
23 Thank you.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Plett.
25 How big is your operation?

1 MR. PLETT: We have 8,000 layers and
2 we grow 26,000 pullets annually, on two separate
3 operations.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Thank you
5 very much. We don't have anybody else on the list
6 but the last two or three weren't on our list
7 either. I'm going to take a break now for about
8 ten or fifteen minutes. If any of you wish to
9 make a presentation, please speak to me or Cathy,
10 or Joyce at the back table, and just let us know,
11 or come back up again when we reconvene in about
12 ten or fifteen minutes.

13 (Proceedings recessed at 3:01 p.m.
14 and reconvened at 7:00 p.m)

15 THE CHAIRMAN: Good evening, welcome
16 back, we will now continue with our proceedings.
17 We have had three individuals indicate that they
18 would like to make presentations this evening. If
19 there are any others, would you please identify
20 yourself to Joyce at the table by the back door?

21 The first person we have on the agenda
22 for the evening is Joe Leschyshyn.

23 MR. LESCHYSHYN: My name is Joe
24 Leschyshyn, I live in Poplarfield. I don't have
25 too much to say.

1 THE CHAIRMAN: We just need to
2 administer the oath, Mr. Leschyshyn.

3 JOE LESCHYSHYN, having been sworn, presented as
4 follows:

5 THE CHAIRMAN: You may proceed.

6 MR. LESCHYSHYN: Yes, stewards of the
7 land, air and the water, Mr. Chairman, panel,
8 ladies and gentlemen, good evening. It may take
9 me more than 15 minutes, but I will still be
10 honest and I might be very critical at times, but
11 that is the only vehicle that I have left to
12 convey with, to tell the truth.

13 Someone has taken away my goodwill for
14 the last 15 years. My finger points at what I
15 call the order, the assembly of politicians,
16 bureaucrats, and other rats, and the hog industry,
17 who without any respect have caused enormous
18 strain on our well-being and more so on our
19 environment. We can't live our lives without
20 being affected by this sordid industry.

21 This same order has continually fudged
22 the real intent of the citizens and denied us of
23 our rights. This order has no respect for
24 democracy. When the trumpets blew last November,
25 with the moratorium in the air, its facts were

1 slowly trimmed. A little more than a handful of
2 areas were selected for the hearings. Our First
3 Nations, who unknowingly suffer from the
4 consequences, were left out of these
5 presentations. I know that we can communicate by
6 letter and that, but there is nothing like the
7 real thing like we have here. But they are not
8 forgotten on election day. We have no right to
9 pollute their sacred water. It is the essence of
10 their survival.

11 Your economic contaminants pour into
12 their communities as if it is poured out of a
13 factory. There are provisions for prosecution for
14 polluting their water, no political balls. This
15 order even has the power to have me leave my
16 birthplace where my family farmed and worked very
17 hard, by simply ignoring me and not answering my
18 requests for rectifying anything. Do nothing, say
19 nothing, he will move on his own. That is what I
20 had to do. One consolation was to prepare me for
21 the old folks home.

22 A person by the name of Ruth Pryzner,
23 who I'm sure you are well aware of, has given me
24 consent to endorse her many questions that she has
25 provided to your department, and no one is

1 answering. I'm asking on her accord that these
2 questions be answered to me as well in due time.
3 Section 238 of the Criminal Code provides
4 certification to this cause, but it could be cost
5 prohibitive -- cost effective. It should not cost
6 anyone to secure the truth. I am not asking for
7 military secrets, neither is she. These questions
8 are in reference to her observations of the state
9 of the art hog industry.

10 And I don't want -- I take exception
11 to the beautiful picture on television that the
12 government is portraying of a native child and the
13 beauty of clean water. It is a total farce. It
14 is to fudge our minds. In reality that child
15 should be standing beside a pool of filthy water,
16 not a clean pool of clean water. That way
17 television could even be more realistic.

18 Our vast array of laws and regulations
19 have a numbing effect, they are more crooked than
20 a dog's hind leg. These numerous laws only give
21 the culprits a chance to sneak around and hide in.

22 More important than anything else is
23 the question of jurisdiction in your hearings. Is
24 the CEC bound by the Charter of Rights and
25 Freedoms of 1982?

1 THE CHAIRMAN: I don't know where it
2 would be relevant.

3 MR. LESCHYSHYN: Regardless, okay,
4 let it be irrelevant.

5 Back in 1985 when Harry Enns endorsed
6 the building of a barn in Chatfield, he stated
7 that regardless of what Interlakers think, the
8 barn will be built. Further, he sent his regional
9 director, Andrew Dickson, who crashed our meeting
10 at the RM chambers in Inwood and rudely stated
11 that Harry Enns said that this project goes
12 through, whether we like it or not. This order
13 again has had control over us since. Obviously,
14 this order is not working for the people.

15 Further to my interest, people with
16 the likes of Mr. Enns and others will continue to
17 dictate to us and against our wishes. It is
18 because they are serving us in an uncharted
19 jurisdiction and to our detriment.

20 A reference to section 25, section A,
21 paragraph A, sorry, of the Canadian Charter of
22 Rights and Freedoms of 1982, of which we are all
23 bound to, it states, that all lands not ceded or
24 surrendered to George III are lands reserved to
25 the Indians. Section 25, paragraph A, deals with

1 pledges laid down by George III in his Royal
2 Proclamation of 1763 as enunciated from his
3 private abode, the St. James Palace.

4 I have also found no evidence that any
5 bona fide treaties which would have caused the
6 Royal Proclamation of 1763 to have been abandoned
7 since 1763, and I hold the CEC to the strictest
8 proof that the land currently under scrutiny have
9 been ceded or surrendered by the Indians to Queen
10 Victoria. My research has yielded that Ottawa's
11 authority and the elected officials that carry on
12 business under the guise of being our elected
13 members of the legislatures and the parliament,
14 are in point of fact trespassing on Indian
15 territory in violation and out of contempt of the
16 royal instructions and pledges as found in the
17 Royal Proclamation of 1763.

18 We will require a quorum in order to
19 make any consensus practical and binding. We can
20 not have a small percentage of people making a --
21 for you to make a consensus on for the rest of
22 Manitobans. We have a million Manitobans and only
23 a few are responding to the hearings. We should
24 not be able to have that happen. I think we need
25 a quorum, more than 50 per cent at least, to

1 qualify to be put into law, that either we sail or
2 else we don't. It is not fair that such a small
3 majority of participants have to name the rules of
4 the game after the hearings are heard and done
5 with.

6 Thank you. Any questions?

7 THE CHAIRMAN: No. Thank you, very
8 much, Mr. Leschyshyn.

9 MR. LESCHYSHYN: Thank you. Pardon
10 me, I do have some literature that I understand
11 might be pertinent to your cause from other
12 jurisdictions. Would you like to have it?

13 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, please.

14 MR. LESCHYSHYN: I will do that after
15 the program.

16 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Peter
17 Marykuca.

18 MR. MARYKUCA: Yes. My name is Peter
19 Marykuca.

20 PETER MARYKUCA, having been sworn, presented as
21 follows:

22 MR. MARYKUCA: Chairman, panelists,
23 ladies and gentlemen, my name is Peter Marykuca.
24 I live on a small acreage not far from the Silver
25 hog barns. I'm not a farmer.

1 I welcome this panel to Arborg and
2 thank you for taking a genuine interest in some
3 serious issues. My presentation consists of
4 exhibits and documents, photographs, to bring into
5 focus and better explain my views, opinions and
6 conclusions.

7 I would like to say that I'm sure that
8 governments must already know that there are
9 health and environmental problems in Manitoba
10 stemming from hog barn activities. There have
11 been many boil water, no swimming notices posted
12 throughout the province in recent years. As well,
13 David Green reported -- stated that the Icelandic
14 River basin was in toxic phosphorous overload. It
15 made front page news in the Interlake Spectator a
16 number of years ago.

17 The physical properties of the
18 Interlake. The Interlake is mainly gently rolling
19 land dotted with potholes, sloughs, much of which
20 is marginal, non-arable land.

21 Poor soils and substrates. The land
22 is drained by various rivers, creeks, drainage
23 ditches that eventually point to Lake Winnipeg.
24 The land was once fairly uniformly populated by
25 settlers with hundreds of homesteads and hand-dug

1 wells. Fortunately, for some homesteads, they
2 even had Artesian wells. Natural springs also
3 occur in frequent locations, with high water
4 tables and sink holes if the water table drops low
5 enough, thus making a direct conduit to the
6 aquifers in many known and unknown places.

7 A dangerous pollutant. The creation
8 of this liquid hog waste byproduct called hog
9 slurry is not regulated under the Dangerous Goods
10 and Handling Transportation Act. It should be.
11 Liquid hog manure contains known pathogens,
12 viruses, bacterias, parasites and other known hog
13 diseases, and residue from hormones, antibiotics,
14 detergents and disinfectants. It is passed off as
15 a fertilizer. It doesn't get transferred -- it
16 does get transferred and occasionally spilled on
17 public roads where there is public travel and the
18 possibility of exposure. As if that risk was not
19 enough, many of these pathogens, hormones and
20 antibiotics are systemic to plants and find their
21 way into the food chain, demonstrated by the
22 recent contamination of spinach from the Salinas
23 Valley in California. I think the headings were,
24 "E coli Outbreak Takes Its Toll in California's
25 Salinas Valley."

1 As the public is getting aware of
2 healthier living lifestyles and conscientious of
3 their food intake, I remind you that liquid hog
4 slurry is not organic. Therefore, we must be
5 cognizant of what we are allowing to enter the
6 food chain through agriculture.

7 The documents and exhibits. Number 1,
8 the documents that I have touch base on the
9 following things: The municipality of Bifrost,
10 November 12, 1993, writes a letter to Interlake
11 Weanlings Inc. and carbon copied to the
12 Conservative Filmon government officials and
13 others, that mentions negative impacts.

14 Number 2, the transmission of diseases
15 from hog barns is possible, air, water and soils,
16 and from animals to people and from people to
17 animals. You have a copy of that exhibit.

18 Staying back on number 2,
19 cryptosporidium is even more resistant to chlorine
20 than giardia. In 1996 an outbreak of
21 cryptosporidiosis, an intestinal illness similar
22 to giardia, was reported in Kelowna where an
23 estimated 15,000 people became ill. In Dauphin,
24 Manitoba, in 1996, the latter incidents involved
25 over 30 confirmed cases of giardias. And that was

1 published by the Manitoba Government, 1997. And
2 that is in exhibits 2, 3 and 4.

3 A contributing factor to Lake Winnipeg
4 by means of sewage entering drains -- a
5 contributing pollution factor to Lake Winnipeg by
6 means of sewage entering drains from agriculture
7 operations is no longer acceptable in the
8 Interlake region. Native people and fishers of
9 Lake Winnipeg must be considered when it comes to
10 their health and their families as they are
11 constantly working in that environment. I guess
12 we all need to find out from the CEC just where
13 does the hog industry relate to when it comes to
14 the medical clinic?

15 Now, that would be indicated up here
16 on the screen. If you look on the screen there,
17 that was a picture taken of a drainage ditch, and
18 you can see the algae, and that is near the
19 headwaters of the Willow Creek which drains into
20 Lake Winnipeg just south of Gimli. And that is
21 off, about a mile, mile and a half west of -- or
22 east of number 7 highway at Malontin.

23 Number 6, transmission diseases from
24 hog barns is possible by air, water and soils and
25 from road spillage. So you can look into here.

1 This picture shows a tanker truck, actually two
2 tanker trucks making deposits of fertilizer on
3 cattle pasture, probably an old homestead, most of
4 them are in the area, particularly near the Silver
5 barns and other places.

6 It is with, I would say condolences,
7 and unfortunately that three people died when they
8 were overcome by poisonous gas from their liquid
9 system a few years ago in a local colony. If it
10 was treated and regulated as a hazardous byproduct
11 in an industry, it should not have happened. It
12 should be.

13 The Municipality of Bifrost imposes a
14 restriction on the importation of hog manure from
15 the outside of its boundaries because Mrs. Kay
16 Bergman presented council with a letter from her
17 doctor stating that the stench from the hog waste
18 contributed to her medical condition. You have in
19 your package, there will be an affidavit from Kay
20 Bergman, and now I came up with the actual note
21 from her doctor.

22 This is an interesting one. Number 7,
23 obvious overapplication in 1995, it shows the
24 ponding on selected spread field. I want to draw
25 to your attention to that area right there, okay,

1 that was a spread field that you can see was
2 flooded. Okay. What is this here? Okay.

3 I requested the CEC delegate the
4 Environment Department to do a complete study of
5 any seepage at this Interlake weaning operation,
6 including their lagoons, as well as all other hog
7 barns located in the Interlake and make their
8 findings public.

9 Now, even though it was in 1995,
10 nothing has changed. That stuff has got to go
11 some place. And yeah, there are scientific means
12 of doing this and we should find out exactly what
13 is going on underneath that soil.

14 THE CHAIRMAN: Where is that,
15 Mr. Marykuca?

16 MR. MARYKUCA: That is on the west
17 side of the Interlake weanling hog barn on road
18 number 124, and about half a mile west of east 15,
19 mile 15 east of this principal meridian on highway
20 124, 124 north of the 49th parallel, which is a
21 border, it is 149 miles, I believe, north of the
22 Manitoba border, okay, which gives you your
23 east/west roads and the principal meridian is
24 running north and south. That is exhibit number
25 9.

1 Now, staying with this one, this is
2 their lagoon, okay. You see this? What is this
3 here? Now, I don't expect you to answer that
4 because you don't know, so I'm going to tell you.
5 Unfortunately, they had an accident, the roof
6 collapsed, I think it was seven pigs died in the
7 first year, first or second year of operation, and
8 this hole ended up there. As I did not trespass,
9 we flew over the site. Why? Because that is a
10 thing that I had to do. Same as the other
11 gentlemen who were with me. So I took that
12 picture, and then I have sat on it until this
13 time. I might be old but I have got a real good
14 memory. That is why I want it checked, I want to
15 know what is going on, because these are marginal
16 lands. If this untreated sewage is so great a
17 fertilizer, why are some producers spreading it on
18 marginal land and cattle pasture without
19 incorporating it into the soil? I heard two
20 people, and I commend them, Mr. Hofer, Mr. Wift
21 said, yeah, we did things wrong in the past, here
22 is what we are doing now. They were men enough to
23 stand up here and say we made mistakes. I don't
24 hear anybody else saying I made a mistake. I
25 commend them.

1 And I am saying this is cattle
2 country. As I said, I'm not a farmer. Cattle
3 pasture, that grass is going to grow with their
4 stuff or without it, because they are using
5 marginal land. Not being incorporated, as in
6 exhibit number 2, when Dr. Joe Cummings said it
7 should be. Why is it not?

8 They selected the sites, gentlemen,
9 not us. And it was approved by the regional
10 advisory committee and the municipalities. If
11 they don't know what they are doing, I suggest
12 that they be man enough to stand up and say they
13 made a mistake too.

14 Why is it even allowed to be spread on
15 marginal land, considering that government
16 officials publicly stated that there was plenty of
17 arable lands near Silver? I guess they were right
18 to say that because there is, but not for pig
19 barns. Weasel words -- these are nothing but
20 evaporation fields as far as I'm concerned, and
21 they contribute to global warming.

22 Exhibits number 9 and 10, which were
23 there, the CEC should investigate the damages done
24 to pastures and Crown lands if used from untreated
25 sewage. And why I say untreated sewage, because

1 in exhibit number 10 it also refers to, by a
2 letter from a Mr. Gary Plohman, engineer, dated
3 back in 1994, that these are not meant to treat
4 the sewage, it is just raw sewage, keep it for a
5 year and throw it on the land, so it is untreated
6 sewage.

7 The reference made to Crown lands
8 used, or any other arable lands, to receive this
9 untreated sewage, and on pastures, in exhibit 12
10 it covers chronic copper poisoning in sheep
11 grazing pastures fertilized with swine manure.
12 Number 12 is, the Municipality of Gimli puts in to
13 action a bylaw, number 10-96, prohibiting the
14 importation and spreading of hog manure from
15 outside of their boundary, inside to their
16 boundary.

17 We had some new hog barns being built
18 just recently, just west of Silver, and number 14
19 covers a question that I have asked the
20 Environment Department about to check the water in
21 the ditch that flows past that area because it
22 looks very, very sensitive to me. I am not a
23 professional engineer, I am not an agricultural
24 specialist, I'm Peter Marykuca. And I asked for
25 the Environment Department, before these barns go

1 into action, come and do a sampling of the water,
2 because I know you can look at it, it is crystal
3 clear, I wouldn't be afraid to drink that water
4 because it is Artesian fed by many wells in the
5 area, and springs, okay. And there it is, and the
6 barns are like a hop, skip and a jump away, just
7 so they can have some legal thrust that they can
8 put into play if -- not accusing anybody -- but if
9 something was to go wrong, if there was run-off,
10 and this water we got contaminated where fish
11 frequent, it comes under the Department of
12 Fisheries and Oceans, and they in turn say, no, it
13 is a Provincial authority. So you have the
14 documentations there with the copies of letters
15 that I sent, and we will keep, or maybe somebody
16 will keep their eye on it.

17 We need to scrap some laws, and we
18 have to put into place, like that of the U.S.A.,
19 under the defence Criminal Code investigation,
20 responding to terrorism, where people get fined
21 \$1 million plus court costs for polluting a river.

22 There is also a number 17 exhibit, a
23 review of the effects of livestock industry on the
24 environment and human health. That is by Dr. Eva
25 Pip. She said I could use this information and I

1 am. You have a copy of that.

2 The Peguis people printed in the
3 paper, wary of nitrate levels. A couple of
4 comments were made, they were printed in there, we
5 will all be dead in 50 years. Another gentleman
6 said, yeah, I have children, and a question was
7 made about three 15,000 tankers hauling water
8 every day, paying for it by tax dollars, on the
9 roads and the trucks, et cetera, just concerns of
10 that particular paper.

11 Number 17, corporations and investors
12 appear to be more concerned about their cost of
13 production than health and the environment. This
14 attitude, in my opinion, was not acceptable then
15 and nor is it now. Sometimes you wonder who we
16 are dealing with, or who do they think they are
17 dealing with, or who do they think they are. No,
18 it doesn't work like that.

19 We have questions here regarding
20 contaminants in Lake Winnipeg. That was the hog
21 industry calls government's action to the manure
22 spillage.

23 Some contaminants like ammonia,
24 nitrogen are not common to groundwater. Somewhere
25 from someplace it has percolated down through the

1 soils into the aquifer because there is traces in
2 my well. I don't know where it came from. It
3 might have been there for five years, it could
4 have been there for 1,000 years, who knows? But
5 it is not common to groundwater, which brings us
6 up to the porosity of the substrates of the soil
7 in the Interlake region. They are susceptible to
8 pollution.

9 And exhibit 21, the government
10 authorizes Interlake swine breeders to spread
11 slurry in water hazardous zone, which was this
12 one.

13 Number 22, the CEC should take and
14 check out every law pertaining to agriculture
15 production to make sure that they were not
16 deliberately written to be unforcible, as
17 described by Mr. Markus Buchart, laws that can't
18 be broken.

19 Exhibit 23, handling of dead livestock
20 always needs to be investigated to make sure dead
21 animals be identified as to why and how they died.
22 They often, the mortalities, who are they reported
23 to? The wildlife must be protected. All pig
24 farms should be identified by GPS location and
25 then unannounced random inspections be done by the

1 health authority without restriction. That is a
2 picture of something that happened years ago where
3 dead carcasses were piled on the side of the
4 Icelandic River, but I believe I read in the paper
5 that there was another minor incident, that these
6 things have to be looked at again.

7 I would request that the CEC please
8 request and provide me information from the Water
9 Resources Branch, and detail the monthly and
10 yearly water consumption for each barn to
11 ascertain the total number of billions of gallons
12 of sewage that we are dealing with in this
13 province. As well from each and every barn, large
14 or small, that are utilizing slurry in the RMs of
15 Armstrong, Bifrost and Fisher, showing the amounts
16 and the exact GPS location of all of them,
17 including their storage facilities. I thank you
18 for that information in advance.

19 Effect of population and environment.
20 It has been shown and well publicized for the last
21 many years, it has been shown to be severely
22 detrimental to population environment. For
23 example, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Walkerton, Ontario,
24 Salinas, California, Kelowna, B.C., Dauphin,
25 Manitoba, and in our local area where groundwater

1 had been polluted by animal waste. We have not
2 yet had a major catastrophe here, but Mrs. Kay
3 Bergman's health was affected, three hog barn
4 workers did unfortunately die as a result of the
5 poisonous gas from liquid hog manure.

6 Conclusions: In view of these facts,
7 our soils are very porous and much land is not
8 arable. Liquid manure is a dangerous material.
9 The effect on the environment and the population
10 is detrimental if not catastrophic. All vectors
11 of disease must be identified and secured. My
12 logical conclusions causes me to believe that
13 these factory style barns, with their liquid
14 manure, as well as those with massive amounts of
15 solid waste, have no place in the Interlake. The
16 proliferation of hog barns has been hasty and
17 reckless. We have had our share of defective
18 construction on a building, a faulty lagoon, and
19 overspreading of manure. We do not need -- do we
20 need a judicial inquiry into negative effects on
21 the health and the environment?

22 Once findings have been published,
23 then an educated decision can be made by the
24 public, including the suspension of any further or
25 current construction to stop immediately, that

1 there be a public referendum on the acceptance or
2 rejection of the hog industry in Manitoba. If
3 there is to be continued pollution posing a health
4 threat to my children, my grandchildren, then I,
5 or we, the people, shall decide, not the
6 government. If we are not careful of what we are
7 dealing with when it comes to public health and
8 environment, sooner or later, we will have a
9 catastrophe like that of Milwaukee, Walkerton,
10 Salinas, Kelowna. As for Dauphin, we were lucky
11 to some extent, but maybe not the next time.

12 Gentlemen, I thank you for your
13 consideration that you give my presentation.
14 There is also an amendment, an addendum that I
15 have included because of some information that
16 just came out, where the Manitoba Pork Council's
17 general manager, Mr. Andrew Dickson, stated
18 instead the government should be looking into
19 collaboration with the producers, investing new
20 research, perhaps offering tax incentives. That
21 is what he said on March 6th. Also Dickson and
22 others from the Pork Council said that the public
23 fails to appreciate the rigorous environmental and
24 planning regulations that hog barns already
25 follow, so new barns that comply with the rules

1 get the kibosh by municipalities caving into
2 public pressure that is fueled by bad science. It
3 puzzles me that Mr. Andrew Dickson would make a
4 comment. Is he suggesting that they need more
5 research? I thought all barns were state of the
6 art.

7 Secondly, I think, asking governments
8 to participate is an admission that the hog
9 industry is in fact not sustainable. Does
10 Mr. Andrew Dickson agree with the science that
11 injection of slurry is required of good -- is a
12 requirement of waste management? Could it be that
13 Mr. Dickson felt before these meetings the hog
14 industry was not sustainable and was not being
15 held accountable? Also, saying new barns that
16 will comply with the rules often get kiboshed.
17 Are there some new barns that comply to the
18 rules -- pardon me, are there some that don't, Mr.
19 Dickson, is the question we should be asking him.
20 I request that Mr. Dickson give a complete
21 up-to-date list of GPS locations of every barn and
22 spread field that has ever been used in Manitoba.
23 I read in the paper 1,400 producers, 1,700
24 producers. How many barns are there? How many
25 producers are there? How many sewage facilities

1 are there? How many evaporation fields are there?
2 Yes, sir. And also ascertain -- the spread fields
3 be ascertained on non-arable land without
4 injection.

5 Basically, I think that there is a lot
6 of work that has to be done and answers, questions
7 for all of these answers, so we can make the
8 decision as to what direction we are going to end
9 up with. Maybe we will reach the saturation
10 point. Thank you.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much,
12 Mr. Marykuca.

13 MR. YEE: Just one question for you,
14 Mr. Marykuca. In your presentation you noted that
15 liquid hog slurry is not organic. Can you clarify
16 that statement?

17 MR. MARYKUCA: Certainly. Liquid hog
18 manure that contains known pathogens, viruses,
19 bacterias, parasites, and other hog diseases, and
20 residue from hormones, antibiotics, detergents and
21 disinfectants is passed off as fertilizer. Has
22 anybody thought to ask an organic farmer if this
23 is organic? Has anybody thought to ask anybody if
24 this is spread on a field and if it comes to pass
25 in three or four or five years time that the land

1 was bought by an organic farmer that it will be
2 designated as organic? I'm not the specialist.
3 That is your job. Thank you for asking the
4 question. Now you should find out by asking
5 somebody who can confront the Organic Association.
6 I read in the paper the other day that Barber
7 House in Winnipeg, they said they found -- that is
8 in Point Douglas, it is an historic building --
9 that they found traces of copper, zinc, and there
10 was another trace element in there, and it is
11 going to cost \$100,000 to remove it. So tell me,
12 when you turn around and say that sheep could die
13 from overgrazing on land that has been placed with
14 manure, hog manure, because of the abundance of
15 copper. Do you know why they give animals copper?

16 MR. YEE: The reference to organic
17 means by use of organic farming; is that your
18 context of organic?

19 MR. MARYKUCA: Yes, organic farming,
20 but is it organic? How could it be organic with
21 all of the stuff that is in it? Has anybody done
22 an analysis on that stuff? We know it is in there
23 because it is in those documents that I gave you.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much,
25 Mr. Marykuca.

1 MR. MARYKUCA: Thank you for listening
2 to me. Do you people want this disk or do you
3 have some related information there?

4 THE CHAIRMAN: We have this -- we have
5 the exhibits that you have given us.

6 MR. MARYKUCA: And the point I'm just
7 trying to make with that, for example, that could
8 be a homestead with hand dug wells. We don't know
9 where that stuff is ending up.

10 THE CHAIRMAN: We accept your point.

11 Next up is Mr. Gary McLean, is Mr.
12 McLean here? I guess not. Does anybody else wish
13 to make a presentation this evening? Going
14 once -- this will be the last opportunity, unless
15 you want to come to Morden on Monday. Anybody
16 else wish to make a presentation this evening?
17 Okay.

18 Thank you very much for coming out
19 this afternoon and this evening, I think we had
20 some excellent presentations on all sides of the
21 issue presented today, and it will give us a lot
22 more food for thought over the next few weeks and
23 months as we consider this very important issue.
24 This will adjourn our hearing here in Arborg, and
25 we do reconvene Monday in Morden, and next week we

1 have a series of meetings in southern Manitoba.

2 So thank you very much again and good night.

3 (Adjourned at at 7:40 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE

I, CECELIA REID, duly appointed Official Examiner
in the Province of Manitoba, do hereby certify the
foregoing pages are a true and correct transcript
of my Stenotype notes as taken by me at the time
and place hereinbefore stated.

Cecelia Reid

A				
aback 406:10	416:15	advice 353:2	429:23	398:16 399:6
abandoned 440:6	acre 366:22,24,25	advises 421:20	ahead 372:21	408:2 418:10
ability 365:12 375:8	370:22 404:19,22	advisory 449:10	420:10 429:19	431:2
378:11 403:23	408:18 422:16,17	affected 353:6	ailments 396:18	amounts 454:15
407:21,23	422:20,22,24	436:20 455:3	air 357:14 358:21	455:14
able 357:9,13	acreage 390:18,21	affidavit 446:19	364:15,20,21,22	analysis 366:3
358:20 378:23	390:23 441:24	afford 367:5,8	364:23 405:23	394:6 431:1
393:11 402:23	acres 422:7,15	afraid 451:3	407:9 417:10	459:22
407:23 440:24	423:1	after 354:21 357:14	419:10 424:8,16	analyzes 396:25
abode 440:3	across 375:5	358:6,10 363:21	436:7,25 444:15	ancestors 388:6
about 361:22	act 388:14,16	366:9 373:24	445:24	ancestral 387:21
368:19 369:7	424:19 427:6	381:12 386:9	AI 381:25	Andrew 439:9
370:21 374:9,17	443:10	399:18 404:3,8	Alberta 411:6	456:17 457:3,10
377:19 381:25	acting 360:15	413:4 415:1 420:9	algae 359:1 408:10	and/or 419:4
383:5,24 386:23	action 450:13 451:1	421:25 433:24	445:18	animal 377:16
386:24 387:1	452:21	441:4,14	alive 427:1	392:14 395:18,18
394:5 403:5,7,9	actions 381:18	afternoon 352:4,7	allow 357:1 359:15	396:1,2,11,14,15
408:12 409:24	419:25	361:10 388:1,4	364:4 365:10	396:17 397:4,7,8
410:8 412:4	activities 442:10	389:14 402:7	379:23 395:17	399:18,19 455:1
413:15,23 415:17	actual 370:17	414:24 415:3	397:8	animals 388:13
416:20,23 418:17	446:20	429:14 433:21	allowed 355:8	391:10 394:8
418:17 419:5,21	actually 371:19	460:19	359:10 374:25	403:7 405:21
424:13 428:8	372:9 374:11	ag 373:14,14,24	375:1 449:14	444:16,17 453:21
429:4 434:5,6,20	375:14 378:21	434:2	allowing 396:12	459:15
435:7,11 445:21	383:13 398:10	again 395:13 397:4	399:24 444:5	announced 379:17
447:18 450:20	412:23 414:17	400:14 435:11	allows 362:17	annual 376:21
452:7,12	446:1	439:13 454:6	399:22	404:25 423:1
above 398:14	adapt 394:25	461:2	alluding 433:12	429:25
absorb 405:21	adapters 391:9	against 416:25	along 357:11	annually 394:5
absorbed 396:16	add 406:1,19	439:17	358:21 361:24	435:2
400:24	addendum 456:14	age 373:11 433:12	363:5,9 367:21	another 396:7
absorption 378:2	adding 362:22	agenda 387:6 389:7	368:5,22 387:17	401:24 409:22
abundance 459:14	addition 354:24	435:21	388:15,20,24	425:21 452:5
abundant 408:4	additional 404:25	agitating 358:16	410:4 418:15	454:5 459:10
accept 382:18	address 355:15	ago 378:17 396:3	426:21	answer 364:5
460:10	361:10 376:18	422:13 425:2,8	already 379:6	385:21 393:11,20
acceptable 445:7	377:3,10 393:8	426:11,18 434:20	380:21 382:6	400:8 408:19
452:14	403:10,12 429:22	442:16 446:9	392:15 417:24	414:4 448:3
acceptance 456:1	430:2 434:10	454:2	422:24 442:8	answered 393:7
accepted 355:10	addressed 377:4	agree 385:4 457:10	456:24	438:2
accessible 421:13	addressing 434:22	agreed 388:8 417:9	alter 400:16	answering 393:15
422:1	adequately 360:5	417:13	alternative 428:19	437:17 438:1
accident 448:5	adjourn 460:24	agreement 417:8	Although 386:12	answers 371:25
accommodate 358:1	Adjourned 461:3	agreements 367:14	390:2 394:18	397:23 458:6,7
accord 438:1	adjust 399:3	agri 353:23	395:2	antibiotics 443:13
according 421:19	administer 436:2	Agricore 370:15	Alvin 350:20	443:20 458:20
accordingly 413:12	administrative	371:3 425:9,17	429:17,21	anxiety 363:23
account 353:8	355:23 384:19	agricultural 358:5	always 358:22	anybody 388:2
accountable 418:5	admission 457:8	450:23	374:21 415:24	419:13 433:20
419:25 457:15	Admittedly 382:15	agriculture 358:23	422:7 423:12,12	435:5 448:24
accuracy 430:19,22	adopt 392:7	364:9 368:12	453:20	451:8 458:22,23
430:24 431:6,17	adopted 376:18	374:21 402:16,16	amendment 456:14	458:23 459:21
accurate 398:10	ads 380:8,14 386:4	402:19,24 403:1,6	ammonia 452:23	460:12,15
accusing 451:8	adult 391:2	408:13 410:25	among 394:21	anyhow 420:13
achievements	advance 454:18	431:24 444:6	amount 364:13	anymore 382:25
	advertising 380:21	445:6 453:14	367:7,8 374:23	421:4,15 427:12
	382:14 386:14	Agri-business	394:2 395:9,20	427:15

<p>anyone 410:6 418:23,25 429:13 438:6 anything 388:2,2 398:8 416:13 423:18 428:4 437:18 438:22 anywhere 419:17 apologize 382:10 apparently 380:2 appear 452:12 APPEARANCES 350:2 application 366:3 422:5 430:3,13,15 430:19,20,22,25 431:1,6,14,17 applied 408:2 431:4 apply 365:13 366:4 375:18 421:16 423:2 427:13 429:25 433:7 434:18 applying 430:12 appointed 462:6 appreciate 400:4 456:23 apprenticeship 379:11 approach 419:7 appropriate 397:6 approval 363:20 approvals 371:12 approved 365:8 431:15 449:9 approximately 362:24 377:15 415:12 420:18 423:1 426:11 April 354:1,2 aquatic 359:2 aquifer 359:16 453:1 aquifers 443:6 arable 449:17 450:8 455:8 Arborg 349:18 356:20 361:14,14 363:7 366:18,20 368:20 442:1 460:24 Arborg-Bifrost 349:17 area 358:5,15 363:16 366:18,20 367:10,14 368:23 372:3 376:3</p>	<p>387:21 390:6,11 390:20 396:12 416:24 420:16 446:4,25 450:21 451:5 454:25 areas 359:17 364:9 364:12 384:1 437:2 argument 408:15 416:25 arise 364:6 arisen 427:25 arising 368:19 Armstrong 454:15 arm's 384:20 arose 391:2 around 366:11,20 370:8 376:3,6 380:10,16 381:4 384:16 386:4 397:9 404:12 405:1 406:9 415:17,21 422:19 422:22 438:21 459:12 arranged 354:9 array 438:18 arrived 394:7 art 366:2 367:12 438:9 457:6 Artesian 443:2 451:4 ascertain 454:11 458:2 ascertained 458:3 asked 353:7 354:11 371:20 381:8 383:16 406:5 420:12,18 428:2,4 450:19,24 asking 385:2 424:12 438:1,6 457:7,19 459:3,4 aspects 377:8 431:23 assembly 436:15 assimilation 405:20 assist 355:1 assisted 363:6 Association 459:5 assume 380:13 assuming 382:5 assure 362:14,15 366:11 attach 400:22 attached 359:24 360:9</p>	<p>attack 400:16 attacking 431:22 attacks 399:16,17 399:18 attempt 398:7 attention 359:18 360:10 446:25 attitude 452:14 Attitudes 410:20 attract 426:6 attributes 398:20 audience 356:10 402:9 415:2 audits 376:22 431:16 auger 414:18 augers 414:19 authority 440:11 451:13 454:1 authorizes 453:10 automated 362:25 available 355:11,21 356:3 393:1 396:3 401:6,12,17 average 366:20,22 366:23 avoid 386:19 aware 369:2 375:12 408:8 416:15,17 430:14 437:23 444:1 away 364:24 378:12 425:6 426:5 436:13 451:6 awful 415:18</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">B</p> <p>bacillus 399:16 back 355:22,25 357:4,13 358:20 361:21 367:17 373:18 374:2 381:12 385:4 404:6 409:9,10 415:24 422:8 428:24 435:10,11 435:16,20 439:5 444:18 450:3 background 368:25 387:21 389:17 421:11 bacteria 399:16,19 400:19,21 bacterias 443:12 458:19 bad 457:2 balance 386:20</p>	<p>388:21 396:8 balls 437:14 ban 410:17 bank 357:7,10 banned 410:15 baptized 426:10,13 426:18 Barber 459:6 barley 362:7 366:23 barn 359:13 364:22 369:9,10,14,16 370:4 373:25 374:3 379:10 405:11 406:17 409:25 416:6,7 439:6,8 442:10 447:17 454:10,13 455:3 457:21 barns 369:8,11,20 372:9 378:21 380:16 384:6 403:15 406:14 416:21 417:1 423:12 428:19 429:6 441:25 444:15 445:24 446:5 447:7 449:19 450:17,25 451:6 455:13,16 456:24,25 457:5 457:15,17,24 base 444:8 based 381:18 basically 399:16 405:14 412:16,18 458:5 basin 442:14 basis 367:17 402:19 bath 357:18 358:6 bathing 357:22 Bay 425:5 bearable 390:15 beautiful 375:9 438:11 beauty 438:13 became 444:23 become 362:18 421:5,6 426:22 427:5,5 becomes 418:6 bedrock 357:25 before 357:20 363:25 371:21,23 378:22 381:16 386:7 396:15 404:5 423:23 428:15 429:7</p>	<p>450:25 457:13 begin 388:5 392:11 begun 394:19,22 behalf 375:3 380:8 behind 359:11 390:15 being 363:24 365:9 374:24 381:10 392:19 393:18,19 399:7 404:13,14 406:10 415:8 417:15,22 420:9 424:6 432:7 433:24 436:20 440:12 449:5 450:17 457:14 believe 360:16 381:20 384:13 390:13 397:23 401:7 405:6 410:3 424:7 447:21 454:4 455:12 belong 417:13 below 428:10 beneficial 398:17 benefit 373:2 425:20 benefited 362:6 benefits 375:20 432:17 Bergman 446:16,20 Bergman's 455:3 beside 363:6 364:21 438:15 best 364:21 375:4 381:1 383:20 399:9 430:19 431:6 434:13 better 381:13,21 382:21 393:12 395:18 405:19,21 405:22 421:6 424:6 427:5 442:5 between 371:11 379:21 Bifrost 444:9 446:13 454:15 big 406:21,21,24 409:22 412:2 421:8 425:23 426:3 434:25 bigger 384:12 Bill 350:18 417:4,4 417:6 billions 454:11 binding 440:19 Biovator 367:24</p>
---	--	---	--	--

368:1 birds 388:13 birthplace 437:16 bit 369:7 382:15 386:23 400:13 405:15 412:12 425:14 426:22 black 376:12 blasting 357:25 358:2 blew 436:24 blooms 408:10 Board 425:17 Bob 350:11 356:16 356:19,21 bodies 419:18 boil 442:11 bona 440:5 border 447:21,22 born 419:16,16 borrowed 373:7 both 364:15 368:15 372:5,6 376:20 379:11,24 391:10 394:10 395:7 421:7 bottom 377:10 bought 373:8 409:11 414:6 459:1 boulders 357:11 bound 438:24 439:23 boundaries 446:15 boundary 450:15 450:16 boy 372:25 boy's 373:6 branch 379:11 425:24 454:9 Brandon 418:11 break 400:17 435:7 breakdown 396:13 breakfast 358:7,13 breath 388:20 breathe 405:22 breathes 402:16 breeders 453:10 brief 355:7 376:23 389:16 bring 387:17 442:4 bringing 364:19 brings 414:23 453:5 broad 353:5 420:8 420:14,14,23 423:5 424:7 425:24	broiler 390:9 broken 453:18 brother 383:7 brothers 374:2 brought 359:17 392:20 427:10 brown 357:19 Buchart 453:17 build 367:11 374:10 building 406:14 413:17 439:6 455:18 459:8 built 357:24 365:9 365:16,17,18 367:19,20 370:4 374:3 375:15 376:4 378:16 439:8 450:17 burdening 382:12 bureaucrats 436:16 bushel 425:18 business 361:17 378:25 380:3 383:2,13 430:18 430:21,23 440:12 buy 358:11 409:16 419:12,13 bylaw 450:13 byproduct 391:23 414:13 443:8 446:10 B.C 454:24	429:15,17,20,21 433:5,9,14,18,20 canola 366:24 capacity 365:10,11 365:16 capital 363:4 car 409:21,22,24 410:17 carbon 368:5 444:11 carcasses 454:3 care 367:16 379:13 403:9 413:5 416:6 416:24 418:16,17 418:17 419:20 434:5,6 career 391:3 careful 410:22 424:13 456:6 caretaker 417:16 carry 440:11 case 380:21 cases 354:8 430:9 444:25 catastrophe 455:2 456:9 catastrophic 455:10 catch 357:5 Cathy 350:7 435:9 cattle 446:3 448:18 449:1,2 cause 380:5 384:21 408:24 438:4 441:11 caused 365:15 382:12 436:17 440:5 causes 406:15 419:15 455:12 causing 396:18 caving 457:1 CEC 380:20,23 381:8 382:8 384:20 386:8 438:24 440:7 445:12 447:3 449:23 453:13 454:7 Cecelia 462:6,15 ceded 417:14,17 439:23 440:9 cell 356:6 395:1 400:23 cellulose 395:23 cent 378:4,8 379:21 379:22 380:6,24 381:1 394:7,13,14	394:19 403:18 408:12,13 409:10 409:11 410:16 413:2,4 416:10 424:23,25 440:25 central 388:7 centrifuge 412:23 cereal 425:2 certain 388:9 393:6 395:15 certainly 367:1 370:22 373:19,21 374:19 375:7,16 379:17 380:7,15 381:10 382:23 385:22 399:13 458:17 CERTIFICATE 462:2 certification 362:14 362:17 376:23 433:8,13 438:4 certified 362:18 433:15 certify 462:7 cetera 452:9 chain 443:21 444:6 chair 352:8,9 challenge 418:25 challenges 403:23 420:19,21 chambers 439:10 chance 364:4 382:7 438:21 change 382:17,21 changed 373:22 374:18 383:1 397:5 416:10 447:10 changing 392:4 415:20 charge 425:14 charm 390:12 Charter 438:24 439:21 Chatfield 439:6 check 450:20 453:14 checked 448:14 checking 365:5 cheek 382:15 chemical 391:25 408:21 Cherepak 350:11 356:16,17,19,20 356:21,24,25 360:19,22,23	chicken 390:9 410:9 child 438:12,14 children 402:24 411:8,16 417:23 418:17,18 419:1 419:21,21 434:8 452:6 456:4 children's 419:13 chimney 364:18,23 chips 410:10 chlorine 423:17,19 444:19 choice 411:17 choking 359:1 choose 380:15 chose 364:17 Christian 426:9 chronic 450:10 cities 409:3 citizens 390:11 391:20 436:22 city 390:4,16 418:11 425:23 432:4 clarification 385:19 clarify 458:15 classroom 379:12 clean 349:1 350:3 352:8,15 354:25 357:14,23 358:10 358:19 359:25 402:8 405:7 407:1 412:25 417:23 426:16,24 431:19 432:18 438:13,16 438:16 cleaner 364:23 cleanse 423:17 clear 357:8,12,23 358:19 451:3 clearly 354:17,18 364:9 clients 392:7 clinic 445:14 clinically 398:25 close 381:15 391:1 433:10 closed 362:3 369:16 closely 396:23 431:8 closing 368:9 388:25 426:8 Cochrane 350:18 417:4,4,6,7 420:5 Code 438:3 451:19 cognizant 444:5 coincide 370:12
--	--	--	--	--

<p>coincided 358:2 cold 357:8 359:4 coli 443:24 coliforms 357:21 collaboration 456:19 collapsed 448:6 collected 433:1 colonies 407:5 423:16 426:4,7 colony 393:25 402:11,15 403:3 404:2 407:21 410:6 411:9,13,16 412:2,5 415:11,19 416:14 420:8,14 420:14,23 421:2,6 423:5,7 424:7 446:9 colour 357:19 combine 384:1 come 374:21 387:14 387:22 388:1 409:1,16 415:4 423:9,11 424:5,25 434:11 435:11 451:1 460:15 comes 363:23 408:13 412:17 419:10 424:24 445:9,13 451:11 456:7 458:24 coming 352:6 357:19 362:10 389:5 413:1 414:22 460:18 command 419:25 commencing 352:2 commend 448:20 448:25 comment 355:5 393:2 401:3 411:22 457:4 comments 352:14 352:15 356:5,13 389:4 402:12 411:20 452:4 commercial 366:17 366:19 416:21 417:25 430:9 commercially 370:4 Commission 349:1 350:3,7 352:9,16 354:9,12,14,25 360:1,8 361:10 379:23 389:15 393:1,3 397:16</p>	<p>402:8 431:19 commissioned 365:9 commitment 377:1 commitments 376:24 committee 361:9 371:19 449:10 commodity 366:9 common 396:5 416:2 452:24 453:5 communal 402:22 communicate 437:5 communication 377:6 communities 353:23 388:18 437:12 community 361:11 363:3,4,9,11 368:20 377:2,5 387:19,23,23,24 393:13 403:1 409:6 411:17 companies 362:17 375:5 378:25 company 376:17 389:19 392:24 396:23 404:24 compared 381:19 416:11 423:15 comparing 394:11 complete 447:4 457:20 completed 382:8 completely 362:22 393:11 421:3 complex 363:6 comply 376:24 422:4 424:18 456:25 457:16,17 complying 432:15 component 353:2 compost 368:7 composters 367:25 composting 368:2,8 composts 368:4 comprehend 417:19 comprehensive 362:16 concern 407:25 416:23 421:9 concerned 389:1 403:5,6 410:18 416:20 434:7 449:20 452:12</p>	<p>concerning 380:7 concerns 377:3 386:17 403:10 406:15 411:20 434:22 452:9 concludes 356:13 concluding 397:15 conclusions 442:6 455:6,12 concrete 370:4 413:9 condition 359:20 446:18 conditional 364:1,3 371:12 conditions 388:9 condolences 446:6 conduct 352:17 379:23 conduit 443:5 confidence 355:20 confirmed 444:25 confront 459:5 congratulate 416:14 conscientious 444:2 consensus 440:19 440:21 consent 437:24 consequences 437:4 conservation 352:17 353:11 388:12 Conservative 444:12 consider 353:15 368:9,13 372:25 431:23 460:23 consideration 411:19 456:13 considered 445:9 considering 449:15 consists 442:3 consolation 437:20 consolidated 362:3 constant 397:6 constantly 365:5 445:11 construct 428:18 constructed 367:18 construction 363:21 367:21 455:18,25 consultants 355:1 394:4 consultation 388:17 consumers 410:20 433:4</p>	<p>consumption 423:13,14 454:10 contact 355:20 contain 394:20 contained 357:20 containing 410:15 contains 443:11 458:18 contaminants 437:11 452:20,23 contaminated 365:21 451:10 contaminating 427:12 contamination 443:22 contempt 440:15 content 413:4 contents 353:10 404:3 context 372:25 459:18 continually 436:21 continue 353:25 373:13,20 382:5 383:1 392:7 435:16 439:16 continued 362:23 373:8 374:14 456:3 continues 399:20 continuing 396:22 continuous 377:1 contract 362:9 contrast 376:5 contribute 449:21 contributed 363:3 395:8 432:10 446:18 contributes 368:14 contributing 373:9 445:3,5 contributions 382:20 control 388:16 403:14 439:13 controversy 364:13 conversation 356:11 conversations 356:10 conversion 370:10 395:7,12 396:21 convert 401:16 converted 434:15 convey 436:12 cook 358:12</p>	<p>cooking 357:22 copied 444:11 copies 360:19 368:15 451:14 copper 450:10 459:9,15,15 copy 401:24 444:17 452:1 core 361:17 corporate 431:10 corporation 406:21 corporations 432:3 452:11 correct 386:25 403:18 404:19 424:1 433:6 462:8 correction 413:2 cost 403:21 405:1 407:22 413:15,18 427:7 438:4,5,5 452:12 459:11 costs 451:21 council 446:16 456:22 councils 364:2 Council's 456:16 countries 426:23 country 359:22 390:13 449:2 couple 356:5 358:9 368:18 378:20 383:5 391:14 416:10 452:3 course 379:3 380:19 381:2 384:9 court 451:21 cover 427:21 428:8 covered 359:1,4 covering 428:10 covers 450:10,19 crashed 439:9 creation 443:7 Creator 388:20 Creek 445:19 creeks 442:22 crevices 359:15 Criminal 438:3 451:19 critical 407:18 436:10 criticized 382:1 crooked 438:19 crop 366:23 408:5 430:6 431:3,5 crops 408:6,23 429:25 434:14 cross-examine</p>
---	---	---	---	--

354:23 Crown 449:24 450:7 crushed 396:11 crust 428:8 cryptosporidiosis 444:21 cryptosporidium 444:19 crystal 357:12 451:2 culprits 438:21 Cummings 449:6 curious 412:10 curling 363:8 current 352:20 365:16 396:6,20 403:10 407:14 455:25 currently 354:1 440:8 custom 429:25 customer 430:22 customers 407:7 cycle 368:8 392:12	437:8 452:8 459:6 days 353:22 361:19 365:10 421:22 427:9 day-to-day 410:5 dead 368:4 452:5 453:19,20 454:3 deadline 355:12 deal 368:1,3 376:15 385:22 403:23 418:8 420:22 dealers 366:17 dealing 365:15 378:12 452:16,17 454:12 456:7 deals 439:25 debate 386:13 debt 367:7,8 373:9 decide 424:13 456:5 decided 403:20 deciding 391:17 decimal 370:24 decision 386:10 406:13 432:25 455:23 458:8 decisions 386:8 424:15 deducted 425:10 deduction 425:15 deductions 425:10 425:18 deep 424:2 426:15 deeply 389:1 defective 455:17 defence 451:19 defend 386:5 definition 359:11 degradation 359:10 degree 392:25 delegate 447:3 deliberately 453:16 deliver 377:22 delivered 368:3 377:20 demand 419:7,11 419:24 431:4 democracy 436:24 demonstrated 443:21 demonstrates 394:15 denied 436:22 dense 390:19 department 437:25 447:4 450:20,25 451:11 dependent 361:12	402:19 depending 411:14 deposits 409:4 446:2 describe 383:20 412:11 described 354:15 359:6 400:25 453:17 desert 359:21 design 360:2,4 365:14,19 367:21 397:5,7,14 designated 459:2 designed 365:7 designs 364:17 desires 381:2 detail 454:9 details 377:9 detergent 409:4 detergents 410:15 410:17 443:14 458:20 determine 352:23 431:2 433:1 detriment 439:19 detrimental 454:22 455:10 devastating 416:3 develop 407:4 developed 378:5 development 383:13 408:6 diabetes 387:24 Dickson 439:9 456:17,21 457:3 457:10,13,19,20 dictate 439:17 die 455:4 459:12 died 446:7 448:6 453:21 diet 377:14 399:17 diets 377:15 392:13 392:18 394:19 395:12,22 399:2 difference 371:11 398:19 409:12 different 369:25 370:20 371:7,7 384:4,6,6 393:17 395:14,21,24,24 414:14 416:8 421:1,3 423:16 digest 385:8 digestibility 395:16 396:1 diploma 373:24	direct 352:20 443:5 direction 432:14 458:8 directly 376:13 389:22 429:23 director 439:9 disappear 408:18 disapproved 415:23 discharge 405:11 432:5 discuss 392:6 discussed 385:13,14 discusses 360:1 discussing 400:2 discussion 359:12 disease 455:11 diseases 443:13 444:14 445:23 458:19 dishes 357:22 358:12 dishwasher 409:4 dishwashers 410:17 Dishwashing 409:20 disinfectants 443:14 458:21 disk 460:2 dismal 432:9 dispenser 358:8,9 disposal 419:8 432:5 dispose 367:24 dissipate 364:24 ditch 358:4 418:13 445:17 450:21 ditches 427:12 442:23 dividends 416:7,25 division 370:16 423:9 dockage 425:12 doctor 446:17,21 document 359:24 360:2 398:5 documentations 451:14 documents 442:4 444:7,8 459:23 dog's 438:20 doing 369:1 374:1 380:10 405:2 433:17 447:12 448:22 449:11 dollar 425:18 dollars 374:10 427:8 452:8	done 359:19 376:17 376:22 384:5 388:12 431:4,16 434:9 441:4 449:23 453:25 458:6 459:21 door 358:14 435:20 dot 375:13 dotted 442:19 doubt 364:6 382:3 386:18 Doug 350:8 Douglas 459:8 down 358:24 370:17 373:9 381:14 405:12,14 414:22 423:7 426:14 440:1 452:25 dozen 357:5 Dr 449:6 451:24 drag 421:15 drainage 442:22 445:17 drained 442:22 drains 445:4,6,19 draw 446:24 dream 373:6 drink 357:8 358:12 358:25 359:5 412:18 423:20 424:11 451:3 drinking 357:21 419:15,19,19 drops 443:4 dry 412:16 434:16 due 391:7 438:2 dug 460:8 duly 462:6 dumped 360:12 426:20 dumping 426:22 during 354:21 377:15,20 dwelling's 423:8
<hr/> D <hr/> dad 373:7 dad's 382:23 daily 365:4 damage 382:12 419:17 damaged 381:16 damages 449:23 dangerous 443:7,9 455:8 Darcy 350:13 372:16,18,19 dare 359:5 405:9 409:18 Darius 406:5,7 darker 375:25 data 370:25 392:21 398:25 401:1 433:1 dated 359:25 450:2 daughter 375:7 Dauphin 444:23 454:24 456:10 David 442:13 day 356:3 360:13 361:19 362:10 375:19 382:13 388:10 389:1 391:8 395:2 397:10 410:9 421:24 432:23	<hr/> D <hr/> dad 373:7 dad's 382:23 daily 365:4 damage 382:12 419:17 damaged 381:16 damages 449:23 dangerous 443:7,9 455:8 Darcy 350:13 372:16,18,19 dare 359:5 405:9 409:18 Darius 406:5,7 darker 375:25 data 370:25 392:21 398:25 401:1 433:1 dated 359:25 450:2 daughter 375:7 Dauphin 444:23 454:24 456:10 David 442:13 day 356:3 360:13 361:19 362:10 375:19 382:13 388:10 389:1 391:8 395:2 397:10 410:9 421:24 432:23	<hr/> D <hr/> dad 373:7 dad's 382:23 daily 365:4 damage 382:12 419:17 damaged 381:16 damages 449:23 dangerous 443:7,9 455:8 Darcy 350:13 372:16,18,19 dare 359:5 405:9 409:18 Darius 406:5,7 darker 375:25 data 370:25 392:21 398:25 401:1 433:1 dated 359:25 450:2 daughter 375:7 Dauphin 444:23 454:24 456:10 David 442:13 day 356:3 360:13 361:19 362:10 375:19 382:13 388:10 389:1 391:8 395:2 397:10 410:9 421:24 432:23	<hr/> D <hr/> dad 373:7 dad's 382:23 daily 365:4 damage 382:12 419:17 damaged 381:16 damages 449:23 dangerous 443:7,9 455:8 Darcy 350:13 372:16,18,19 dare 359:5 405:9 409:18 Darius 406:5,7 darker 375:25 data 370:25 392:21 398:25 401:1 433:1 dated 359:25 450:2 daughter 375:7 Dauphin 444:23 454:24 456:10 David 442:13 day 356:3 360:13 361:19 362:10 375:19 382:13 388:10 389:1 391:8 395:2 397:10 410:9 421:24 432:23	<hr/> D <hr/> dad 373:7 dad's 382:23 daily 365:4 damage 382:12 419:17 damaged 381:16 damages 449:23 dangerous 443:7,9 455:8 Darcy 350:13 372:16,18,19 dare 359:5 405:9 409:18 Darius 406:5,7 darker 375:25 data 370:25 392:21 398:25 401:1 433:1 dated 359:25 450:2 daughter 375:7 Dauphin 444:23 454:24 456:10 David 442:13 day 356:3 360:13 361:19 362:10 375:19 382:13 388:10 389:1 391:8 395:2 397:10 410:9 421:24 432:23
				<hr/> E <hr/> E 443:24 each 361:23 362:10 362:11,24 363:7 365:9,17 366:12 366:17 376:9 384:6 426:24 431:6,14 454:10 454:13 earlier 358:9 375:15 383:16

<p>early 381:3 390:25 391:9 earn 374:11 382:25 earned 373:5 earth 404:4 426:12 easier 403:19 434:18 east 388:7 445:22 447:18,19 east/west 447:23 easy 357:12 echo 434:4 ecological 417:19 417:22 419:4 economic 437:11 economical 430:4 432:19 economically 421:8 economy 368:14 educate 386:9,15,16 educated 455:23 educates 386:7 Edwin 350:5 352:13 effect 438:19 454:19 455:9 effective 438:5 effectively 407:22 effectiveness 352:23 effects 398:17 431:19 432:4 451:23 455:20 efficient 430:7 effluent 360:12 418:9,10 effluents 419:9 efforts 353:8 407:13 eight 405:10 either 358:15 412:5 422:8 423:3 435:7 441:1 elected 440:11,12 election 437:8 elections 387:19 element 459:10 elements 405:20 elevator 425:8 elevators 362:3 elsewhere 411:10 emanated 390:10 emissions 390:17 employ 389:22 employee 383:11,12 employees 377:7 employment 389:25 390:25 employs 361:20 392:24</p>	<p>empty 397:8 enables 402:20 end 353:14 357:4 378:12 380:9 386:4 387:22 389:2 412:17 414:18,23 458:8 endeavors 355:2 ended 373:14 448:8 ending 460:9 endorse 437:24 endorsed 439:5 energy 382:2 engage 356:11 engaged 355:16 engaging 354:25 engineer 450:2,23 engineered 367:20 engineers 365:7 enhance 392:22 396:19 enhanced 403:22 enjoy 375:7 Enns 439:5,11,16 enormous 436:17 enough 374:12 378:18 379:19 404:17 412:4 418:20 421:22 427:8 443:5,19 448:22 449:12 ensure 353:5,20 360:3 365:20 396:24 ensures 430:24 enter 444:5 entered 396:4 entering 408:14 431:21 445:4,6 enters 397:3 entire 362:2 374:20 393:10 423:7 entitled 353:11 enunciated 440:2 Enviro 378:5 385:14 386:23 387:1 environment 349:1 350:3 352:8,15 354:25 359:20 360:1 365:8 379:14 388:11 391:21 392:1 397:21 402:8,13 403:9,11 405:18 410:19 411:15 414:8 431:19</p>	<p>434:6,7 436:19 445:11 447:4 450:20,25 451:24 452:13 454:19,22 455:9,21 456:8 environmental 352:18,21 353:12 353:18 359:10 367:23 376:18,20 376:25 377:3,6 381:21 382:5 397:25 419:4 434:20 442:9 456:23 environmentally 352:25 368:6 381:20 403:24 407:8 421:8 430:5 envy 365:14 enzyme 392:16 394:8,12 398:23 400:12,15 enzymes 377:25 385:14 394:20 395:14,16,21 398:12,15,20 429:3,8 equally 366:12 equipment 366:2 373:14 429:24 equity 374:8 equivalent 370:21 422:17 era 420:25 errors 430:24 especially 392:4 essence 437:9 essential 430:21 essentially 385:15 established 364:12 estimate 394:7 estimated 444:23 et 452:9 Eva 451:24 evaporation 449:20 458:1 even 378:4 381:16 382:7 400:6,7 403:21 419:9 433:16 437:15 438:17 443:2 444:19 447:9 449:14 evening 415:18 435:15,18,22 436:8 460:13,16 460:19</p>	<p>event 365:11 events 363:9 eventually 442:23 ever 373:5 457:22 every 382:13 389:1 408:17 423:2 430:19 433:2 452:8 453:14 454:13 457:21 everybody 364:4 377:18 381:24 406:25 everyday 409:6 everyone 395:2 410:6 431:25 everything 413:18 423:9 evidence 440:4 evolved 410:20 exact 454:16 exactly 401:10 447:12 Examination 353:12 Examiner 462:6 example 378:1 409:2 454:23 460:7 excellent 434:21 460:20 exception 438:10 Exceptions 354:7 excess 403:22 exclusively 394:4 excretion 378:3,7 Exempt 410:16 exhaust 364:22 exhausting 364:20 364:22 exhibit 444:17 447:24 449:6 450:1,9 451:22 453:9,19 exhibits 351:1,3 442:4 444:7 445:2 449:22 460:5 existence 407:16 expand 378:21 expansion 361:23 361:24 362:21 expect 394:19 448:3 experience 357:15 expert 399:12 expertise 400:11 explain 442:5 exposure 443:18 extent 456:11</p>	<p>externally 376:22 extra 365:11 403:21 411:21 extremely 403:2 eye 451:16 eyes 364:7 419:23</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">F</p> <hr/> <p>face 420:21 faced 362:11 420:20 424:14 425:17 facilities 367:6,12 378:20 390:8 394:2 406:18 454:17 457:25 facility 362:25 369:22 374:11 382:24 390:9 fact 380:5 401:4 409:19 416:19 419:9 440:14 457:9 factor 445:3,5 factories 358:15 431:11 factors 395:8 factory 437:13 455:13 facts 436:25 455:6 fails 456:23 fair 379:24 381:17 384:16 441:2 fairly 368:24 400:25 442:24 fall 424:2 families 374:13 407:21 445:10 family 361:21 383:2 390:3,4,13,21,22 391:4 402:22 411:3 415:25 431:25 434:5 437:16 family's 374:21 far 359:8 380:18 390:15 441:24 449:20 farce 438:13 farm 357:4 359:12 364:25 367:23 372:25 373:12,17 375:15 377:18 382:23 383:6,8,12 394:23 397:1 402:23 410:5,7 411:5 415:25 416:1 418:12</p>
--	---	---	--	--

421:6,7,22 424:6 431:11,25 434:5 434:11,20,22 farmed 437:16 farmer 374:4 403:4 403:6 406:19 425:5 430:1 441:25 449:2 458:22 459:1 farmers 367:11 372:4 403:8 407:6 407:20 430:10 431:10,23 432:7 farming 373:11 374:2 411:11 432:20 459:17,19 farmland 365:13 430:3 farms 363:14,18 365:25 366:11 367:18,22 369:7 371:6 373:15 376:1,2 391:1 394:3 408:15 412:6 453:24 farrow 363:15 378:16 383:22 384:10 393:24 413:25 421:23 428:14 farrowing 383:21 Fast 357:17 faster 408:7 father 373:2,12 faulty 455:18 feared 380:17 fears 364:6 feasible 367:9,13 410:1 427:16 features 397:7 fed 394:8 399:7 451:4 feed 361:15,22 362:1,4,5,6,8,9,12 362:14,15,16,17 373:4 377:19 383:2 393:13,24 394:1 395:7,7,11 395:17,19,24 396:2,8,9,11,19 396:20,23,25 397:2,3,6,9 405:21 408:23 423:10 429:11 feedback 353:2 feeder 397:5,8 428:23	feeders 397:10 feeding 377:24 feeds 361:14,14,18 395:15 423:7 feel 356:10 368:10 380:1 385:25 405:4 427:2,3 432:9,13 feeling 384:20 feels 360:8 380:25 381:11 fees 425:11 feet 426:12,13 428:23 fellow 407:19 felt 364:19 457:13 fertilized 450:11 fertilizer 366:17,19 373:20 374:6 375:18 391:11,24 392:9 394:9 395:10,21 397:19 397:20 408:21,21 414:13 423:2 434:12 443:15 446:2 448:17 458:21 fertilizers 409:5,20 430:9 few 352:14 367:3 375:1 387:18 392:3 434:9 440:23 446:9 460:22 fide 440:5 field 366:24 404:7 404:13,14 413:12 422:9 423:25 427:14,21,21 431:6 446:24 447:1 457:22 458:24 fields 358:5,17 366:4 399:24 422:1,6 423:4 431:16 433:7 449:20 458:1,2 fifteen 435:8,12 fighting 366:9 figure 360:13 405:1 406:6 figured 406:10 filed 367:22 431:13 Filmon 444:12 filters 423:17,20 filthy 438:15 final 354:1 356:5	financially 420:20 find 356:3 370:23 399:1 411:10 424:21 443:20 445:12 447:12 459:4 finding 382:10 397:17 findings 399:3 447:8 455:22 fine 419:21 fined 451:20 finger 436:14 fingers 424:20 finish 363:15 378:16,18 384:10 393:24 412:5 413:25 421:23 428:14 finished 358:13 373:3 finisher 369:11,13 369:15 406:17 412:4 finishing 378:21 383:25 fire 388:23 419:24 first 356:15 361:13 372:22 373:1,5 374:24 387:12 392:11 393:8,18 395:11 396:10 416:11 417:8 420:24 424:15 428:16 435:21 437:2 448:7,7 fish 357:10 388:13 451:10 Fisher 425:24 454:15 fisheries 387:7 417:25 451:12 fisherman 388:25 fishers 445:8 fishing 357:3 358:17 fit 391:4 423:13 five 361:19 369:19 369:19 453:3 458:25 five-year 378:25 flew 448:9 flooded 447:2 floor 370:4 413:9 flourish 392:15 flow 397:6 430:17 flows 415:14 418:14	418:15 450:21 flush 429:8 flyer 426:17 focus 382:20 391:15 395:6 442:5 focused 379:16 397:2 focusing 380:10 folks 437:21 follow 456:25 following 366:15 430:23 444:9 follows 356:22 361:5 372:20 387:10 389:12 402:6 415:9 417:6 420:9 429:18 433:25 436:4 441:21 food 443:21 444:3,6 460:22 forage 430:1 force 412:23 forced 367:10 406:15 414:7,18 foregoing 462:8 foremost 424:15 foresee 402:23 forest 359:23 forgotten 437:8 form 399:21 401:17 401:18 408:22 formed 363:16 formulas 377:14,24 formulate 393:10 394:4 395:12 formulation 392:13 393:16 394:12 399:3 fortunate 365:1 Fortunately 443:1 forward 357:17 363:23 382:4 394:16 415:4 found 440:4,16 459:7,9 four 411:2 424:1 458:25 free 409:8 411:25 freedom 407:23 Freedoms 438:25 439:22 freight 425:3,10 frequent 443:3 451:11 fresh 357:14 364:19 365:3	friend 397:12 friendly 368:6 381:20 403:24 fringe 396:5 front 357:24 358:4 358:14 368:16 428:23 442:15 frozen 423:25 424:3 frustration 363:22 fudge 438:14 fudged 436:21 fueled 457:2 fully 368:6 full-time 361:20 function 375:7 395:24 functions 396:10 399:13 fund 378:11 fundraising 363:8 further 353:10 439:8,15 455:24 future 359:21 389:2 402:25 407:4,14 411:13,15 414:9 419:5 424:11 432:2,19,21,24 futures 432:7
G				
gain 353:2 gallons 404:7,9,21 422:13,16 427:9 454:11 game 441:4 Garson/Tyndall 390:6 Gary 450:2 460:11 gas 446:8 455:5 gave 373:2 388:20 414:7 459:23 gem 357:8 gene 378:6 general 353:6 374:15 386:16 389:18 456:17 generally 384:16 419:24 generations 410:21 432:2,21 gentleman 402:9 420:5 452:5 gentlemen 360:16 436:8 441:23 448:11 449:8 456:12 gently 442:18				

genuine 442:2	368:9 371:25	396:13	half 357:5 358:18	456:3,7
George 439:24	389:14 397:12	greatly 403:22	374:10 390:7	healthier 405:18
440:1	402:7 407:18	434:5,16	405:10 412:3	444:2
gets 398:6 416:24	409:15 410:9	green 359:1 375:14	415:12 425:14	healthy 365:6
getting 386:14	411:22 413:13,21	381:25 442:13	445:21 447:18	377:11 391:21
411:1 422:16	430:13 431:7	grew 379:22	hall 349:17 363:5	424:9 431:9 432:2
430:11 444:1	435:15 436:8	grind 396:24	halt 380:4	432:18
GI 396:13	448:13 457:11	grossly 388:10	Hammock 360:12	hear 381:24 391:12
giardia 444:20,22	461:2	ground 404:17	360:13	399:8,11 400:10
giardias 444:25	Goods 443:9	418:12 424:2	hand 417:7 460:8	406:12 448:24
Gimli 445:20	goodwill 436:13	groundwater 360:6	handful 437:1	heard 392:15
450:12	Gore 381:25	365:21 403:14	handle 364:3	398:10 406:7
give 372:24 387:3	government 360:15	407:14 430:16	handling 403:24	414:14 415:11
389:16 402:24	380:4,9,12,25	452:24 453:5	443:10 453:19	441:4 448:19
421:10 430:19	381:13 382:9,10	454:25	hands 405:13	hearing 364:1,4
432:14 438:20	384:21 385:4,23	group 377:20	hand-dug 442:25	414:11,14 429:22
456:13 457:20	386:6,15 388:10	groups 354:3	happen 379:14	460:24
459:15 460:21	404:10 406:13	grow 383:23,25	386:6 388:19	hearings 353:22
given 354:14 365:12	410:14 422:2	392:14 407:23	440:24	437:2 438:23
391:12 404:5	424:17 425:3,7	408:6 434:14	happened 416:6	440:23 441:4
423:24 437:23	432:22 438:12	435:2 449:3	426:1 446:11	heart 420:1
460:5	444:12 445:1	grower 434:3	454:2	heated 371:23
gives 364:23 430:21	449:15 453:9	growing 377:12,13	happening 362:21	heavy 365:11
431:5 447:22	456:6,18	377:15,20,23	365:20 426:4	Hedges 350:17
glad 419:6	governments	379:3 380:24	happens 376:4	415:6,6,8,10
global 449:21	386:17 419:7	387:25 425:2	378:23 392:12	417:2 421:1
glucanase 395:23	442:8 457:7	grown 363:11	hard 392:17 399:2	held 349:17 354:2
go 357:6 360:13	government's	368:20 379:20,21	399:20 407:6	432:7 457:15
371:21 372:21	359:18 407:12	growth 359:2 362:1	437:17	help 380:20
386:3 403:15	452:21	363:10 368:22,23	harder 411:2	helped 362:1
405:14 406:2	GPS 430:18 431:5	379:16 380:2,6	hardships 420:19	helpful 391:17
408:19 410:8	453:24 454:16	384:15 391:19	harm 388:12	405:6
411:21 412:10	457:21	394:15 402:23	Harry 439:5,11	helping 408:6,6
420:10 425:24	grabbing 426:24	Grunthal 390:19	harvest 422:1	434:21
428:2 429:19	graduate 355:16	guarantee 402:25	hasty 455:16	helps 405:4
433:13 447:10	graduated 373:23	guarantees 432:19	haul 373:18	hemisphere 388:23
450:25 451:9	graduating 373:24	Guelph 386:24	hauling 452:7	Henry 350:14 387:6
goal 391:22 392:5	grain 362:2,4,6	guess 360:15 387:16	having 356:21	387:9,11
goals 377:7	425:2,4 430:1	387:20 412:14	361:4 372:19	her 355:20 390:20
goes 360:11 378:12	grains 362:5,9	414:4 420:11	387:9 389:11	437:24 438:1,8
439:11	425:7,19	445:11 449:17	402:5 415:8	446:16,18,21
going 358:17	grand 382:25	460:12	429:17 436:3	herd 405:2
363:25 367:7	grandchildren	guessed 384:3	441:20	hereinbefore
377:12 388:18	434:8 456:4	Guide 354:15	hayfields 366:13	462:10
397:4 399:11	grandchildren's	guidelines 360:5	hazard 426:19	hide 359:10 438:21
400:15,16,17,21	389:2	418:8 419:8	hazardous 446:10	high 367:19 404:15
411:5 415:22	grandfather 388:25	guilty 380:22	453:11	407:17 422:10
417:23 425:4	grandfathered	guise 440:12	head 357:13 369:11	443:3
426:6 427:15	433:12	gut 399:18	369:11,12 370:8	higher 379:5 415:13
429:8 432:23	grandpa 411:20	guts 418:21	374:3	highway 358:4
435:7 447:13	granted 363:20	guy 406:23,24	headings 443:23	445:22 447:19
448:4,15 449:3	grass 449:3	414:7	headwaters 445:19	Highways 357:24
458:8 459:11	grave 406:15	guys 400:3 406:6	health 397:21,25	him 373:4 406:5
460:13	grazing 450:11	429:6	419:13 426:19	411:23,25 419:7
gone 366:8 410:11	great 388:12 398:22	_____	442:9 445:10	457:19
good 352:4 358:10	448:16	H	451:24 452:13	hind 438:20
360:21 365:2	greater 390:1 396:8	HACCP 362:18	454:1 455:3,21	hired 372:11

<p>historic 459:8 historically 388:6,8 hit 358:14 400:1 hockey 363:8 Hodgson 415:7,16 Hofer 350:16 402:2 402:3,5,7,10 409:15 410:13 412:1,3,10,13,21 412:25 413:8,17 413:21,24 414:3,6 414:16,22 429:3 448:20 hogs 359:13 364:15 364:23 365:6 367:5,10,16 394:5 399:6 413:19 421:5 427:16 hold 353:22 417:7 418:5 440:7 holding 365:10 holds 417:8 hole 448:8 holes 443:4 holy 388:24 home 390:4,8 391:1 411:3,4 413:9 427:8 428:7 437:21 homeland 388:12 homestead 446:3 460:8 homesteads 442:25 443:1 hone 395:15 honest 436:10 hoop 370:1 428:20 hop 451:6 hope 381:2 384:25 397:15 400:3 402:24 411:15 432:22 hopefully 391:16 399:24 hopes 381:15 hoping 385:5 hormones 443:13 443:19 458:20 horse 423:6 hose 405:15 421:15 427:10 hour 358:18 hours 361:19 house 382:1 406:3 407:5 459:7 households 409:7 huge 367:7</p>	<p>human 409:3 418:7 423:13 451:24 humans 408:4 hundreds 427:7 442:25 Hutterian 402:21 Hutterite 393:25 402:10 407:4 411:9 416:3 Hutterites 416:9 Hytec 367:15</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">I</p> <hr/> <p>Icelandic 357:3 358:20 360:14 442:13 454:4 idea 372:24 identified 453:21,24 455:11 identify 434:21 435:19 ignoring 437:17 III 439:24 440:1 ill 444:23 illness 444:21 illustrated 399:6 illustrating 393:21 immediate 390:3 immediately 455:25 immune 405:22 impact 381:1 impacts 444:13 implement 382:7 406:14 430:5 import 366:17 importance 353:21 431:18 important 361:11 364:16 365:3,6 394:24 403:2 405:4 407:19 408:5 431:8 438:22 460:23 importation 446:14 450:14 imposes 446:13 impossible 407:3 impressed 415:10 impressive 405:25 406:12 413:3 improper 396:14 430:15 improve 378:1,2 382:19 391:9 395:25 396:22 397:18,24 414:12 improved 371:16</p>	<p>378:3 395:17 improvement 377:1 improvements 353:17 378:14,17 inability 417:19 Inc 444:11 incentives 456:20 inch 405:16 429:10 inches 424:2 428:9 incident 454:5 incidents 444:24 include 353:1 395:22 included 456:15 includes 353:20 including 363:4 433:2 447:6 454:17 455:24 income 374:12,21 391:5 incoming 362:9 incorporate 395:3 395:22 incorporated 395:13 449:5 incorporates 393:22 incorporating 448:19 increase 395:16 408:25 increased 362:4 394:13 increases 379:4 396:11 408:9 increasing 362:7 430:6 increasingly 411:2 independence 402:21 independent 385:5 INDEX 351:1 Indian 388:14 418:4 440:14 Indians 439:25 440:9 indicate 435:17 indicated 356:14 414:25 445:15 individual 371:13 individuals 354:4 355:5 435:17 industrial 390:16 417:1 432:3 industries 381:19 381:22 391:20 information 355:10</p>	<p>355:20 370:19 384:24 385:4 451:25 454:8,18 456:15 460:3 informed 382:9 387:18 ingredient 392:19 396:12 initially 420:11 428:16 initiative 397:24 inject 404:17 424:1 injected 408:22 injecting 366:5 injection 421:18,19 421:25 427:10 457:11 458:4 injectors 423:17 inlet 364:21 innocent 380:22 innuendos 380:11 input 392:17 inputs 423:1,4 inquiry 455:20 inside 400:23 450:15 inspection 425:11 inspections 453:25 install 364:18 instead 364:6 379:2 386:2,8 456:18 instilling 364:6 instructions 440:16 intake 444:3 integral 402:17 intensive 364:10,12 431:10,22 432:7 intent 360:3 436:22 interest 439:15 442:2 interesting 446:22 interests 434:13 Interlake 359:15 361:18,25 363:17 363:18 365:1 420:15 442:15,18 442:18 444:10 445:8 447:5,7,17 453:7,10 455:15 Interlakers 439:7 internalize 381:11 internet 387:2 intestinal 444:21 introduce 415:5 420:6,13 introduction 392:12 invented 368:2</p>	<p>395:1 397:11 invested 366:1 investigate 449:23 investigated 453:20 investigation 352:10,17 353:1 353:14 451:19 investing 456:19 investors 372:4 452:11 invite 410:5 invited 355:5 involve 375:8 involved 381:10 406:25 444:24 Inwood 439:10 irrelevant 439:4 irrigated 359:3 ISO1401 376:19,23 Israel 426:17,23 issue 370:8 380:16 422:8 460:21,23 issues 353:21 354:5 354:15 376:18 378:13 380:10 381:4 385:18,20 442:3 i.e 390:16</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">J</p> <hr/> <p>Jackhead 387:7 James 440:3 jar 357:8 Jason 350:15 389:8 389:10,11 jeopardize 397:20 Jesus 426:10,18 job 373:25 379:4,6 379:12 405:12 409:18 459:3 jobs 373:16 379:5 402:25 Joe 350:19,22 420:7 420:9,13 435:22 435:23 436:3 449:6 Johnson 350:7 401:23 Johnstone 350:12 361:1,3,3,4,7,8 368:18,24 369:5,9 369:15,21,25 370:3,6,14,25 371:4,9,14,17 372:5,7,10,13,15 383:16 425:12 joined 372:3</p>
---	---	--	--	---

joke 415:19	371:13	402:5,9	439:4	live 375:17 376:2,20
Jordan 426:10,19	knowledgeable	last 368:21 375:9	letter 379:18 437:6	387:22 388:22
426:20,23	364:3 371:21	405:25 424:6	444:10 446:16	399:19 407:2,20
Joyce 435:10,20	known 443:6,11,12	427:4 435:6	450:2	411:18 415:12
judicial 455:20	458:18	436:14,24 454:20	letters 451:14	416:5,23 418:15
jump 451:6	knows 453:4	460:14	Let's 404:19	435:24 436:19
June 355:4		late 355:4 361:21	level 366:21 370:9	441:24
jurisdiction 417:8	L	363:17	404:18,18,22	livelihood 402:18
418:3,4,18 438:23	Labs 413:2	424:23	424:23	403:8 405:5
439:19	laded 359:3	levels 366:25	levels 366:25	410:25 411:1
jurisdictions 353:8	ladies 360:16 402:8	394:23 403:13	394:23 403:13	426:5
441:12	436:8 441:23	404:16 405:3,9	404:16 405:3,9	lives 388:16 402:15
	lagoon 359:22	408:25 409:1	452:3	402:17 436:19
	360:1,11 365:9,15	453:14	levy 425:11	livestock 364:10,12
K	365:17,20 376:4	lawn 409:4,20	liberally 399:25	374:9 376:6
Kay 446:15,19	404:4 406:2,6,8	laws 406:20 418:2	liberally 399:25	389:19 390:3,20
455:2	406:11 448:2	418:18 438:18,20	lie 418:22,23 420:2	390:24 407:18,20
keep 402:25 405:6	455:18	451:17 453:17	life 375:21,22,22,22	407:22 423:8,14
424:8 425:18,19	lagoons 365:7,16	layers 435:1	388:20,21 402:20	423:21 451:23
434:7 450:4	367:21 369:18,19	leaching 430:16	402:22 403:3	453:19
451:15,16	369:22 375:25	lead 411:12 430:15	409:6 410:5,7,23	living 363:6 382:25
keeping 362:13	432:4 447:6	Leaf 367:15	411:10,11,14	390:13 397:12
427:1 431:7,8	laid 440:1	learned 373:10	421:5	407:4,24 409:17
keeps 430:24	lake 358:18 388:8	422:11	lifestyle 410:7	416:9 444:2
Kelowna 444:22	397:25 408:12,14	least 356:7 364:13	lifestyles 444:2	loads 377:19,22
454:24 456:10	409:1 415:15	440:25	likely 378:12 391:8	local 363:16 366:16
kept 355:19 384:10	417:24 418:4,5,6	leave 356:8,12	likes 439:16	367:10 370:15
keys 398:24	424:23 432:11	392:20 397:22	limestone 357:25	372:2 374:3 446:9
Keystone 425:11	442:23 445:3,5,9	411:9 437:15	limited 354:6	454:25
kibosh 457:1	445:20 452:20	leaves 399:19	363:14 371:6	locally 434:3
kiboshed 457:16	lakes 406:22 408:11	leaving 390:16	line 356:3 376:12	located 361:16
kids 375:8,10	418:16	425:22 426:5	liner 365:19 404:4	404:2 447:7
382:24,25 411:4	Lakeshore 423:9	Ledwyn 363:20	link 356:4	location 453:24
424:10 427:3	land 368:8,10	369:12	linked 408:15	454:16
kilograms 383:24	371:12 373:19	left 357:9 368:15	liquid 398:18	locations 443:3
383:24 384:1	374:4 375:18	370:11 390:4,15	399:21 401:5,11	457:21
kind 375:24 379:6	388:17 390:6	395:9 405:16	401:15,17 403:20	Loewen 361:21
379:18 428:9	403:4,7 408:18	411:3 413:4	408:22 412:20	logical 455:12
433:8	415:14 416:4	429:10 436:11	429:25 430:3,4,12	logs 357:11
kinds 409:15	417:9,11,16 430:1	437:4	434:16 443:8,11	long 396:18 416:7
Kinonjeoshtegon	432:21 436:7	leg 438:20	444:3 446:8 455:5	416:24 424:5
387:12	440:8 442:19,20	legal 451:7	455:8,13 458:15	longer 358:20,22
kitchen 423:8	442:21,24 448:18	legislated 381:9,17	458:17	367:9 405:23
knees 405:14	449:5,15 450:5	legislates 379:15	liquids 414:17	411:12 445:7
knew 416:16	455:7 458:3,25	legislation 376:25	428:9	long-term 367:14
knocked 415:22	459:13	legislatures 440:13	list 356:16 414:23	look 357:10 359:21
know 370:13	Landmark 390:21	leads 396:7	420:12 435:5,6	370:9 371:25
371:24 373:18	lands 408:1 439:23	length 384:20	457:21	426:14 445:16,25
387:1,2 397:23	439:24 448:16	lengthy 363:21	listed 398:12	451:2
398:6,19 399:10	449:17,24 450:7,8	Leschyshyn 350:22	listening 460:1	looked 454:6
400:2,23 414:7	large 368:24 396:16	435:22,23,24	literally 385:10	looking 364:17
416:9 417:13,20	416:20 417:1	436:2,3,6 439:3	literature 441:10	376:11 378:25
430:4,11 435:10	431:24 432:3	441:8,9,14	little 367:17 369:7	379:1 382:4
437:5 439:1 442:8	454:13	less 380:2,6 395:19	371:21 380:12	417:24 456:18
448:4,15 449:11	larger 367:11	416:6,24 434:17	382:15 386:23	looks 382:23 450:22
451:2 453:2	largest 362:21	lessons 373:11	404:20 412:9,12	looming 432:24
459:15,22 460:8	Larry 350:16 402:2	let 425:20 435:10	425:13 437:1	loop 369:16 374:16
knowledge 364:5				

383:19 384:2 loser 418:24 loses 411:11 losing 360:17 417:24 loss 358:1 lot 369:1 372:8 374:18 385:7 387:1 403:19 406:24 434:17 458:5 460:21 lots 387:24 414:11 love 419:12 low 366:14 443:4 lower 396:21 lucky 456:10 lunch 410:12 lush 359:1 lying 357:10 lysase 395:23	432:1 440:20 443:5 446:2 Malontin 445:22 man 411:23,24,25 426:12 449:12 manage 353:9 383:9,12 managed 374:15 375:4 management 362:16 365:24,25 376:20 392:2,10 397:20 403:11 408:1 410:4 421:20 422:3 430:7,20 431:12 457:12 manager 361:14 374:16 389:19 425:13 456:17 managing 352:24 421:7 mandate 354:14 mandatory 364:7 Manitoba 349:1,18 352:8,19 353:5,11 353:13,23 354:5 355:17 356:20 357:23 365:8 368:14 375:11,17 389:23 390:1,3,7 390:19,20,22 391:6 393:5 394:2 394:6 397:13 398:1 402:14 407:12,15 408:17 425:1,19 431:12 431:13 442:9 444:24 445:1 447:22 454:25 456:2,16 457:22 461:1 462:7 Manitobans 353:3 353:21 368:13 379:4 440:22,22 Manitoba's 406:13 407:15 manner 352:25 353:9 379:24 384:25 385:3 407:8,24 manufacturing 363:10 368:22,23 369:1 397:13 410:18 many 355:13 359:14,18 361:11	363:3 365:14,18 367:4,10 369:7 375:20 377:16,22 381:22 391:12 404:15 410:21 413:19 417:21 430:8 431:11 437:24 442:11 443:6,19 451:4 454:21 457:24,24 457:25 458:1 Maple 367:15 Marble 402:10,15 403:13 406:15 411:9 415:11,19 415:25 416:14 421:1 429:3 March 349:19 352:1 353:25,25 456:21 marginal 442:20 448:15,18 449:5 449:15 marked 351:3 364:9 market 374:17 377:16 383:25 393:25 395:20 marketed 373:1 394:5 marketing 373:3 397:13 Markus 453:17 marsh 359:23 360:13,13 Marykuca 350:23 441:17,18,19,20 441:22,23 447:15 447:16 450:24 458:12,14,17 459:19,25 460:1,6 massive 455:14 Masters 392:25 matching 406:17 431:3 material 455:8 math 404:16,20 422:20 matter 384:19 386:19 397:3 412:17 419:9 matters 355:23 maximal 419:17 maximum 430:11 Maxizyme 393:20 394:14 398:23 399:5 404:25 may 353:17 354:7	354:17,19,20 355:12 356:23 361:6 368:12,12 387:15 389:13 393:12 400:1 436:5,8 maybe 370:23 384:19 388:19 394:18 400:6,7 418:16,20 451:15 456:11 458:9 McLean 460:11,12 McNaughton 350:15 389:8,8,10 389:10,11,14 398:3,21 400:7,14 400:20 401:8,21 401:23 402:1 mean 382:2 385:19 387:1 395:1 400:12 meaning 374:23 means 353:3 375:17 376:14 378:15 379:12 383:19 445:4,6 447:11 459:17 meant 450:3 measures 352:21 391:9 meat 433:4 mechanically 410:2 medical 445:14 446:18 medicines 388:24 meet 355:17 371:19 392:5,13 meeting 354:1 363:5 371:20,22 439:9 meetings 353:4,24 354:24 355:19,19 457:13 461:1 meets 364:11 member 350:5,6 389:25 402:10 406:4 members 354:20 361:9 389:15 393:12 402:7 406:4 429:20 440:13 memory 448:14 men 448:22 Mennonite 368:25 mental 419:16 mention 416:18	mentioned 372:2 374:7 384:9 395:14 398:12,17 423:23 424:22 mentions 444:13 meridian 447:19,23 met 406:3 metals 399:2 metering 421:17 427:13 methods 430:14 midst 387:19 might 380:12 406:1 409:17 436:10 441:11 448:13 453:3 mile 406:3 411:21 445:21,21 447:18 447:19 miles 390:7 415:12 420:16 421:16 447:21 military 438:7 mill 361:19,20,25 362:8,20,23 million 362:22 366:22 370:10,17 370:21 374:10,17 427:9 440:22 451:21 million-bushels 362:5 mills 361:15 363:1 396:9,23 Milwaukee 454:23 456:9 mind 378:6 397:22 415:24 419:18 422:7 432:6 minds 438:14 mine 397:12 402:1 mineral 408:3,4 minerals 417:12 minimal 419:17 minimum 430:25 Minister 352:16,20 353:16 354:14 minor 454:5 minutes 354:7 400:2 405:13 435:8,12 436:9 missed 380:18 missing 380:1 mistake 370:24 448:24 449:13 mistaken 419:14 mistakes 448:23
M				
made 354:7 358:6 386:9 392:25 420:2 426:3 432:25 442:15 448:23,24 449:13 450:7 452:4,7 455:23 mainly 374:22 442:18 maintain 376:22 402:20 407:13 maintaining 366:14 major 402:18 455:2 majority 441:3 make 353:15 354:4 355:14,24 356:15 357:1 362:25 367:9 381:13 382:20 386:7 391:16,20 395:6 407:4,24 409:8,13 409:25 415:2 428:7 429:13 433:20 435:9,18 440:19,21 447:7 453:15,20 457:3 458:7 460:7,13,16 makes 397:12 398:19 401:15 403:19 406:18 407:3 makeup 391:25 397:19 making 354:10 406:20 409:17				

<p>mitigate 366:10 mixed 373:15 modern 397:10 moisture 403:19 413:2 molecule 400:16,22 400:23 momentum 394:21 Monday 353:24,24 460:15,25 money 373:5,7 374:12 385:15,16 386:3 419:12,12 426:3 monitor 365:4,19 431:16 432:3 monitored 404:12 404:15 monitoring 365:17 431:7 monthly 377:5 454:9 months 460:23 moratorium 368:10 424:14 436:25 Morden 352:13 460:15,25 mortalities 367:24 368:1,4 377:8 453:22 most 354:6 355:3 357:15 362:25 365:20 366:2 367:20 376:4 390:19 397:10 403:16 408:4,8 421:13 446:3 mostly 393:24 401:15 Motheral 350:6 352:13 370:6,18 371:2 384:18,23 385:7,10 398:4 401:3 412:9,19,22 413:6 414:1,4,10 414:20 427:20,23 motivated 378:10 motorcycle 373:7,8 move 396:14 437:19 moved 377:14 390:5 415:16 moving 394:15 much 353:25 368:17 372:15 374:6 377:23 382:2 383:3 386:3 386:20 387:5</p>	<p>389:5 393:12 397:5 398:2 401:2 404:13 408:8 414:21 420:4 426:24 427:18 429:12 433:19 435:5,25 441:8 442:19 455:7 458:11 459:24 460:18 461:2 mulch 368:8 municipal 364:2 432:4 municipalities 364:8 365:14 371:8,13,18 376:15 409:3 449:10 457:1 municipality 363:23 390:23 444:9 446:13 450:12 murky 358:6 Murray 350:17 415:6,8 must 354:9 356:8 356:11 391:22 392:10,13 393:16 407:21,22 410:22 415:20 431:4,13 431:22,23 432:2 442:8 444:4 445:9 453:23 455:11 myself 370:7 372:25 392:20 420:13</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">N</p> <hr/> <p>name 352:7 356:17 356:19 361:2 372:16 387:8,13 389:9,15 401:20 401:21 402:3,9 420:7 429:15,21 433:22,23 435:23 437:22 441:3,18 441:23 Narcisse 363:19 369:11 Nation 387:12 Nations 437:3 native 388:17 418:15 419:3 438:12 445:8 Natuphos 401:19 natural 388:15 407:10 408:3 409:3 425:1 428:8</p>	<p>428:10 443:2 Naturally 402:17 nature 388:21 near 390:21 432:24 445:18 446:4 449:17 nearby 358:17 nearly 407:3 necessary 353:17 374:12 379:23 need 360:9 380:23 382:17,19 384:24 391:12 392:17 393:1,2 395:3,19 399:2 402:23 427:23 436:1 440:24 445:12 451:17 455:19,20 457:4 needs 354:8 365:17 380:17 382:20 400:1 418:7 453:20 negative 380:11 386:1 444:13 455:20 neighborhood 405:23 neighbors 364:16 366:9,11 377:4 403:25 405:5 406:1 411:1,3 424:10 428:1 neighbour 406:9 neither 438:7 never 375:21,22 414:14 417:14,14 417:15,16 nevertheless 387:20 new 357:24 358:1 359:13,19 362:22 367:6 381:6 382:6 390:7,9,10,11 394:23,25 397:5 399:3 414:11 416:16,17 420:25 450:17 456:19,25 457:15,17 news 442:15 next 360:14 387:6 389:7 394:21 395:2,5 397:2 402:2 417:5 421:21 456:11 460:11,22,25 nice 427:13 night 398:11 461:2</p>	<p>nil 430:25 nitrate 452:3 nitrates 419:15,18 nitrogen 366:14 404:11,13 422:10 422:14,18 423:3 431:20 452:24 Niverville 376:5 noise 390:17 none 360:24 408:20 non-arable 442:20 458:3 normal 356:1 359:6 359:7,7,8,9,11,12 359:14,23 360:17 normally 360:16 north 358:18 368:25 390:19 415:12,15 420:17 428:1 434:3 447:20,21,24 Northwest 413:1 note 394:14 446:20 noted 385:16 458:14 notes 462:9 nothing 359:18 427:11 429:9 437:6,18,19 447:10 449:19 notice 375:24 376:12 noticed 371:11,17 398:18 notices 442:11 November 381:6 404:10 406:8 436:24 444:10 nowadays 384:13 nucleus 369:10 number 356:14 388:6 401:22 442:16 444:7,14 444:18 445:22,23 446:22 447:18,24 449:6,22 450:1,12 450:13,18 451:22 452:11 453:13 454:11 numbing 438:19 numerous 438:20 nursery 383:23 nutrient 359:3 365:13,24 366:8 378:1 392:2 395:6 395:19 408:1 430:25 431:4,4</p>	<p>nutrients 396:13,16 408:2 422:12 430:8,15 431:3,20 434:14 nutrition 367:16 389:19,22 393:23 408:5 nutritional 405:20 nutritionist 392:20 423:11 nutritionists 392:25</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">O</p> <hr/> <p>Oak 360:12,13 oath 354:11 436:2 objective 379:24 observations 438:8 obvious 446:23 Obviously 439:13 occasionally 443:16 occur 443:3 occurring 408:3 Oceans 451:12 October 359:25 odour 358:14 377:9 399:13 403:13,19 405:4 424:4 434:18 odours 390:10,10 390:12 off 356:7,8 382:25 412:5 414:6 428:9 443:14 445:21 458:21 offence 417:18 offer 363:6 411:15 offered 366:12 offering 456:20 Official 462:6 officials 440:11 444:12 449:16 often 453:22 457:16 oh 415:20 oil 411:6 426:2 okay 357:22 369:24 370:5,18 383:9,15 384:17 399:22 412:8 427:24 439:3 446:25 447:2,2,22 448:2 451:5 460:17 old 373:2,13 390:5 413:8 425:25 426:14 437:21 446:3 448:13 oldest 388:22 Olson 370:12</p>
---	--	---	---	---

<p>once 373:3 393:12 412:15 442:24 455:22 460:14 ones 390:15 428:22 only 364:23 375:1 380:25 381:8 386:3,15 391:5 406:18 408:11,24 411:23 424:9 425:14,15,24 428:5,11,16 431:22 432:16,22 436:11 438:20 440:22 Ontario 454:23 on-farm 396:9,23 open 354:3 359:15 400:17,22 419:23 opening 352:15 356:13 operate 367:13 372:9 392:5 421:4 429:23 operates 361:19 operation 363:15 365:22 367:9 369:4 378:16 383:6,10,21 412:2 413:22 418:9 421:24 428:12,16 434:25 447:5 448:7 operational 360:4 operations 371:7 376:6 384:6,13 393:24 419:11 434:15 435:3 445:7 opinion 373:10 386:5 452:14 opinions 442:5 opportunities 379:2 379:4,7 391:1 opportunity 354:22 357:1 361:9 372:23 374:7 391:2 402:12 429:22 434:2,19 460:14 opposition 364:14 371:22 optimal 396:24 optimum 431:5 options 353:15 order 352:23 354:18,19 392:5 392:14 436:15,21</p>	<p>436:23 437:15 439:12,14 440:18 organic 408:21 444:4 458:15,22 458:23 459:1,2,5 459:16,17,18,19 459:20,20 organisms 408:11 organization 391:15 originated 357:4 other 353:8 354:22 364:2 367:13,14 367:25 380:14 381:19,22 393:12 396:18 398:11,17 398:20 399:12 408:10 412:6 421:22 422:21 424:24 432:13 436:16 441:11 443:12 446:5 447:6 448:10 450:8 458:19 459:6 others 361:12 415:1 435:19 439:16 444:13 456:22 Ottawa's 440:10 ourselves 368:9 407:25 outbreak 443:24 444:20 outcome 377:5 outcomes 377:7 outputs 393:18 outside 359:21 379:1 446:15 450:15 over 357:18 362:5 362:19 363:11,16 364:18 366:7,10 366:18 367:3 368:20 374:19 388:16 398:14 410:20,21 415:21 417:8 425:14 439:13 444:25 448:9 460:22 overapplication 430:14 446:23 overcome 446:8 overgrazing 459:13 overland 430:17 overload 365:15 442:14 overspreading</p>	<p>455:19 over-apply 434:13 over-applying 427:14 own 381:18 383:5,6 409:9 414:1 416:4 416:4 428:7 429:24 437:19 owned 394:2 owns 361:15 383:7 o'clock 415:17,17</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">P</p> <hr/> <p>package 392:21 399:1 401:1 446:19 page 350:10 442:15 pages 462:8 paid 373:4 painted 432:9 Palace 440:3 panel 352:9,12 353:21 354:4,20 429:21 436:7 442:1 panelists 441:22 paper 383:17 452:3 452:10 454:4 457:23 459:6 Paradigm 363:14 367:22 369:7 371:6 372:3 paragraph 439:21 439:25 parallel 447:20 parasites 443:12 458:19 pardon 441:9 457:18 parents 390:12,18 parliament 440:13 part 354:6 355:3 359:9 363:2 400:17 402:17 431:25 participants 441:3 participate 364:5 457:8 participation 353:5 354:16 particle 396:9,14,17 396:19,25 400:21 particular 413:14 422:6,9 452:10 particularly 446:4 Parties 355:4 partook 375:3</p>	<p>parts 366:21 370:10 370:16,21 pass 458:24 passed 362:14 382:6 443:14 458:21 passion 390:24 391:7 past 353:24 359:2 362:15,19 363:11 364:11 366:5 367:3,19 382:5 390:1 396:22 448:21 450:21 pasture 446:3 448:18 449:3 pastures 449:24 450:9,11 patch 426:3 pathogens 443:11 443:19 458:18 Pauls 350:13 372:16,16,18,18 372:19,22 376:10 383:4,7,11,20 384:8,15,22 385:2 385:9,12,21 386:18,25 pause 378:22,24 379:17,20,22 380:5,23,25 381:9 381:17 382:13 384:21 385:23 406:14 407:3 pay 373:9 425:3,5 paying 379:5 452:8 Peguis 452:2 pelleting 362:23 people 355:18 356:14 368:25 375:18 379:9 382:12 387:17 389:22 403:3 407:5 414:12,24 414:25 416:3,23 417:9,20 418:15 425:16,22 426:1,1 426:4,6 427:3 433:3,6 439:14,15 440:20 444:16,16 444:23 445:8 446:7 448:20 451:20 452:2 456:5 460:2 people's 417:18 per 362:1 366:21,22 366:24,25 367:17</p>	<p>370:10,17,21,22 378:4,8,15 379:21 379:22 380:6,24 381:1 394:7,13,14 394:19 403:18 404:6,8,19,22 408:12,13 409:10 409:11 410:16 413:2,3 416:10 424:22,25 440:25 percent 380:2 425:15 percentage 393:4 393:21 440:20 perception 385:18 385:19,25 432:8 percolated 452:25 perfect 391:4 perhaps 400:9 456:20 period 355:7 permanent 389:23 391:2 permit 422:9 person 355:16 356:16 399:9 416:5 435:21 437:22 personally 370:7 417:18 persons 355:13 perspective 392:3 393:2 pertaining 453:14 pertains 395:7 pertinent 441:11 Peter 350:23 441:16 441:18,20,23 450:24 Petersfield 363:19 369:10 phase 377:16,20,23 PhD 392:24 phone 355:18 phones 356:6 395:1 phos 422:19 phosphate 366:19 398:15 410:16 423:3 phosphates 405:19 406:23 phosphorous 366:15,21 370:8 378:2,3,7 381:6 392:8,10,17 393:18 394:9,16 394:20 395:9</p>
---	---	---	--	--

<p>398:24 399:17,21 399:23 401:10,11 401:13,14 403:13 403:17 404:6,11 404:15,18,21 405:3,9 408:3,9 408:12,14,25 409:1,7,8,25 413:11 422:10 424:23 431:21 442:14</p> <p>photographs 442:4 physical 419:16 442:17</p> <p>physically 420:20 phytase 378:1,6 392:16,23 393:5 393:16,18 394:13 398:23 401:20,22</p> <p>picture 374:25 375:6,10 382:22 432:9 438:11 445:17 446:1 448:12 454:2</p> <p>pictures 373:17 374:22</p> <p>pig 373:1 378:5 385:14 386:23 387:1 408:17 418:6,10 449:18 453:23</p> <p>piglets 383:22 428:17</p> <p>pigs 373:3 374:17 377:18,21,21 378:15,19 379:13 397:9 428:14 448:6</p> <p>pike 357:5 358:21 piled 454:3 Pip 451:25 piss 418:6,7,10 419:2</p> <p>piston 412:14,16 pit 397:4 pits 405:12 place 352:21 358:1 367:1 375:8,14 378:22,24 381:7 385:24,25 396:6 407:2 424:17 447:11 451:18 455:15 462:10</p> <p>placed 459:13 places 443:6 446:5 plague 359:14 plan 367:23 421:20</p>	<p>422:3 431:13 434:20</p> <p>planned 378:21 planning 364:8 456:24</p> <p>plans 379:1 plant 361:14 399:22 399:23 400:1 401:13,18</p> <p>plants 401:6 405:21 407:10 408:10 443:20</p> <p>play 431:25 451:8 playing 432:6 please 355:24 356:8 356:17 361:1 368:13 372:17 387:8 389:9 394:14 402:3 415:3,5 420:6 424:12 429:16 435:9,19 441:13 454:7</p> <p>pledges 440:1,16 plentiful 365:2 plenty 449:16 Plett 350:21 433:23 433:23,24 434:1 434:24 435:1</p> <p>Plohman 450:2 plug 429:10 plunger 414:16 plunges 412:15 plus 393:20 394:14 398:23 399:5 404:25 409:18 417:21 422:22 451:21</p> <p>point 370:24 376:3 378:9 379:8 380:1 380:15 390:18 392:11 395:5 396:5 440:14 442:23 458:10 459:8 460:6,10</p> <p>pointing 376:1 424:20</p> <p>points 391:14,16 436:14</p> <p>poisoning 450:10 poisonous 446:8 455:5</p> <p>policy 377:6 political 381:2,4 437:14 politically 378:10 politicians 436:15</p>	<p>pollutant 443:7 pollutants 390:14 pollute 427:4 437:9 polluted 358:11 359:16 418:6 455:1</p> <p>polluters 424:21 433:2</p> <p>polluting 437:14 451:21</p> <p>pollution 377:2 390:17 418:1 432:10 445:5 453:8 456:3</p> <p>ponding 446:24 pool 367:11 438:15 438:16</p> <p>poor 382:11 442:21 Poplarfield 435:24 popular 368:12 populated 442:24 population 433:3 454:19,22 455:9</p> <p>pork 379:9 407:7 456:16,22</p> <p>porosity 453:6 porous 455:7 portraying 438:12 ports 425:4 poses 391:25 posing 456:3 position 380:3 389:17</p> <p>possibility 443:18 possible 366:6 377:17 391:19 444:15 445:24</p> <p>possibly 392:22 posted 355:2 377:10 442:11</p> <p>potentially 396:18 potholes 442:19 poultry 361:18,24 434:2</p> <p>pounds 366:22,23 366:25 370:11,17 370:22 404:6,8,22 422:14,16</p> <p>pour 437:11 poured 437:12 power 437:15 practical 440:19 practically 408:19 practice 356:1 practices 359:12 377:1 430:20</p> <p>Prairie 389:21</p>	<p>preach 426:9 precious 365:21 410:23</p> <p>prefer 408:20 preferable 385:16 pregnant 419:20 preliminary 381:3 prepare 437:20 prepared 353:11 363:24 364:2</p> <p>presence 408:9 present 363:13 392:2 402:12</p> <p>presentation 354:4 354:10,11,16,18 354:21 355:24 357:1 360:20 368:16,19 370:20 373:16 383:18 387:5,13,16 388:1 398:13 401:24 415:3 428:15 429:13 433:21 435:9 442:3 456:13 458:14 460:13,16</p> <p>presentations 350:10 354:6,13 355:14 356:15 435:18 437:5 460:20</p> <p>presented 356:21 361:4 372:19 387:9 389:11 393:13 402:5 415:8 417:6 420:9 429:17 433:24 436:3 441:20 446:16 460:21</p> <p>presenter 354:8,21 374:7</p> <p>presenters 354:22 354:23 398:11</p> <p>president 363:14 pressure 427:15 432:23 457:2</p> <p>pretend 398:5 pretty 413:3 prevention 377:2 previous 374:6 previously 370:19 395:14</p> <p>price 367:17 374:5 prices 362:7 422:18 principal 447:19,23 principles 376:19 376:21</p>	<p>printed 452:2,4 prior 354:10 365:8 371:20 380:5 431:1,14,15</p> <p>private 440:3 privately 394:2 Pro 389:21 393:23 probably 374:9 381:25 399:6,9 412:18 413:24 446:3</p> <p>problem 424:1 problems 359:14 406:22,24 416:13 419:16,17 442:9</p> <p>procedure 404:1 proceed 356:23 361:6 387:15 389:13 436:5</p> <p>proceedings 349:9 352:5 435:13,16</p> <p>process 363:25 388:18 394:18 403:16 404:23 412:12 431:15</p> <p>processing 361:17 proclamation 388:14 440:2,6,17</p> <p>produce 367:9 368:6 391:12,24 397:19 407:6</p> <p>produced 383:22 398:16</p> <p>producer 397:11 402:11 434:2</p> <p>producers 362:6 367:4,13,15 390:4 392:4 394:21 407:6,15 408:24 420:17 422:4 424:5,18,19,21,24 448:17 456:19 457:23,24,25</p> <p>produces 361:25 418:9</p> <p>producing 361:22 367:5 433:3</p> <p>product 366:8 392:22 393:19 394:8 399:4,5,7,8 399:10,12,15,15 401:16 404:24 405:3,6,17</p> <p>production 349:3 352:22 353:9 354:5 359:13 374:1,16 383:19</p>
--	--	---	---	---

393:22 402:14 406:17 410:15 430:6 452:13 453:15 productivity 366:13 378:14,17 products 393:17 394:10,12,22 433:4 professional 365:7 450:23 program 362:17 376:24 441:15 progress 382:5 progressive 397:17 prohibiting 450:13 prohibitive 438:5 project 364:11 439:11 projected 394:11 projects 363:4 proliferation 455:16 promising 354:12 prompt 360:10 proof 440:8 proper 396:19 418:7 430:13 properly 370:9 396:16 properties 399:14 442:17 property 357:25 358:4 prosecution 437:13 prosper 362:2 protect 360:5 407:13 424:15 protected 453:23 protection 352:21 403:7 410:19 proud 362:13 363:2 prove 418:25 proven 380:22 394:23 398:25 399:14 provide 353:17 355:5 374:8 396:10 454:8 provided 437:25 provides 389:20 403:8 422:2 430:6 430:10 438:3 providing 418:19 province 352:22 353:19 360:7 361:12,16 363:1	367:2 379:1,15 380:20 383:2 389:24 391:18 399:7 425:22 431:12,13 432:13 442:12 454:13 462:7 Provinces 389:21 provincial 380:12 432:24 451:13 provisions 437:13 Pryzner 437:22 public 353:2,3,6 354:1,15,24 355:14 371:22 380:10 381:1 382:9 386:16,17 429:22 432:8,23 443:17,17 444:1 447:8 455:24 456:1,7,22 457:2 publicized 454:20 publicly 449:16 public's 364:7 386:5 published 445:1 455:22 pull 429:9 pullets 435:2 pump 423:6 pumped 404:4 406:11 pumphouse 423:15 Puratone 361:15 363:2 367:15 368:2 374:1,8,14 375:4 376:17 378:19 383:10,12 425:13 purchase 358:9 purchased 361:21 367:23 purchasing 362:5 purify 423:18 purpose 352:24 357:9 411:11 pushes 412:16 put 372:24 378:11 378:22,24 380:8 381:7 385:23,24 399:24 404:13,20 405:10 407:2 413:9 441:1 451:8 451:18 puts 380:3 450:12 putting 386:4 422:15,21	puzzles 457:3 p.m 352:2 435:13 435:14 461:3 <hr/> Q <hr/> qualify 441:1 quality 358:2 360:6 364:15 365:2,5 407:7,17 419:10 423:22 424:8,8,16 431:9 quarter 376:11 quarters 406:3 Quebec 404:24 Queen 440:9 question 354:23 371:5 385:21 393:3,7,11,15,21 397:22 398:10,22 400:9 408:20 410:22 424:25 427:20,25 428:11 438:23 450:19 452:6 457:19 458:13 459:4 questions 354:20 360:23 368:18 371:20 372:15 380:19 383:5 389:4,6 393:2 417:3 437:24 438:2,7 441:6 452:19 458:6 quick 371:5 384:25 384:25 385:3 quickly 395:4 396:15 quit 367:4 424:20 quite 371:23 383:18 387:18 399:25 404:1 405:25 406:2,7,10,11 409:12 410:1 quorum 440:18,25 quote 360:2 <hr/> R <hr/> rain 357:14 rainfall 365:12 raise 391:10 407:20 407:22 412:6 427:16 raised 389:24 390:2 393:3 raising 365:6 407:18 421:5 ran 428:18	random 431:16 453:25 range 378:15 ransom 432:8 rate 425:6 rates 396:21 430:13 rather 355:18 371:22 385:17 432:25 rations 396:6 rats 436:16 raw 397:3 450:4 reach 395:19 458:9 react 386:17 read 386:23 387:20 387:25 388:3 398:4,5 454:4 457:23 459:6 real 408:15 424:21 436:22 437:7 448:13 realistic 438:17 reality 367:10 438:14 realize 355:13 371:6 382:17 395:3 434:11 really 380:23 386:13 398:24 416:22 429:8,9 reap 432:17 reason 379:19 414:10 reasonable 355:7 374:5 reasons 355:15 363:10 377:17 385:24 receipt 355:3 receive 360:10 450:8 receives 366:10 receiving 375:3 recent 442:12 443:22 recently 358:24 375:3 376:4 450:18 recessed 435:13 recipe 409:16 reckless 455:17 recognized 379:10 recommendations 353:16 371:16 recommended 357:21 reconvene 435:11	460:25 reconvened 435:14 record 356:18 361:2 362:12,13 372:17 387:8 389:9 401:25 402:4 429:16 recording 356:2 records 359:25 431:7,7 Recovery 388:18 rectifying 437:18 red 375:12,13 376:13 reduce 378:2,7 393:17 394:16,20 396:1 399:1 403:19 405:4 reduces 392:16 394:9 405:3 434:17 reducing 392:8 395:20 398:16 409:21 reduction 399:14 refer 390:14 431:11 reference 352:19 374:24 438:8 439:20 450:7 459:16 referenced 375:15 referencing 380:15 referendum 456:1 referred 369:18 referring 369:3,4 398:22 refers 450:1 refreshing 357:15 358:22 regarding 393:15 402:13 403:11 452:19 regardless 439:3,7 regards 375:11 382:18 region 361:18 362:2 366:16 391:20 445:8 453:7 regional 362:3 439:8 449:9 regions 353:5 register 355:24 registered 414:24 regulated 431:11 432:12,17 443:9 446:10 regulations 362:12
---	--	---	--	---

365:23 366:1 376:25 381:7 382:6,19 424:17 432:14,16 438:18 456:24 Reid 462:6,15 reinforced 405:22 reinvest 362:24 reinvested 362:20 rejection 456:2 relate 445:13 related 354:5 377:2 381:6 382:14 429:24 460:3 relating 352:22 relationships 377:3 release 381:3 relevant 354:13,17 439:2 reliable 407:16 relies 430:18 religion 402:21 religions 388:22 relinquished 417:15 reluctant 355:14 remain 359:16 396:17 411:17 remains 432:1 remind 444:3 removal 398:14 425:11 remove 409:7 459:11 repercussions 386:2 repetitive 354:19 replaces 430:9 replenish 426:21 report 350:8 353:10 353:16 381:3 reported 442:13 444:22 453:22 reports 355:6 409:10 represent 394:5 representation 381:17 request 454:7,8 457:20 requested 352:16 447:3 requests 437:18 require 440:18 required 396:2 411:23,24 431:1,2 457:11 requirement 457:12 requirements 360:4	392:14 requires 430:12 431:3 research 355:2 378:6,11 385:15 385:17 394:22 440:10 456:20 457:5 resembles 359:22 reservation 387:14 reserve 366:14 418:14 reserved 439:24 reside 390:18,21,22 residence 375:14 resident 389:23 residents 363:16 372:3 residual 366:21 370:11 residue 443:13 458:20 resistant 444:19 resolved 381:5 resource 410:24 resources 360:7 367:11 388:15 391:23 407:10 425:1 454:9 respect 356:6 436:17,23 respond 395:25 responding 440:23 451:20 response 379:19 responsibility 407:9 responsible 407:24 410:4 responsibly 391:23 rest 410:5 440:21 restriction 446:14 454:1 restrictions 378:10 result 455:4 results 355:2 422:8 424:3 431:5 retainment 398:14 returns 391:21 reused 368:7 revenue 402:18 review 349:3 352:20 353:10,20 354:16 355:1 363:21,25 371:19 379:24 380:23 381:9,16 382:4,8 392:21 451:23	reviewed 394:10 reviews 377:5 reward 375:3 rhetorical 380:19 rid 421:12 ridge 402:10,15 403:13 406:15 411:9 415:11,13 415:19,25 416:14 421:1 429:4 right 360:24 372:13 384:3 387:19,24 401:4 406:24 408:2 411:3 415:2 418:22 419:2,2 437:8 446:25 449:17 rights 436:23 438:24 439:22 rigorous 456:23 rigs 411:6 ring 356:7 rising 409:1 risk 367:17 443:18 Ritchot 390:23 river 357:3,7 358:20,22,25 360:14 376:14 426:11,18,19,20 427:1 442:14 451:21 454:4 rivers 408:11 418:16 442:22 Riverton 363:7 RM 439:10 RMs 454:14 road 357:24 358:1 387:22 445:25 447:17 roads 427:12 443:17 447:23 452:9 rock 392:17 rod 357:3 rolling 442:18 Ron 350:12,21 361:1,3,4 433:23 433:24 roof 364:20 448:5 room 355:22,25 356:9,12 root 408:6 roots 397:9 round 358:21 row 420:5 royal 388:14 440:1 440:6,16,17	rudely 439:10 ruining 416:4 ruled 354:17,19 rules 407:2 441:3 456:25 457:16,18 run 357:18 362:7 378:19 405:2 running 369:22 447:24 runs 376:12,13 run-off 358:3,3,4 376:15 423:25 424:3 451:9 rural 365:14 368:15 375:11,17,21,22 376:14 390:2 Ruth 437:22 <hr/> S <hr/> sacred 388:23,24 437:9 sad 411:7,13 sadly 419:14 426:25 safe 407:7 433:4 safety 362:16 sail 441:1 Salinas 443:22,25 454:24 456:10 same 415:21 418:10 422:20 423:20 424:16 426:18 436:21 448:10 sample 396:25 423:11 sampling 451:1 sandals 426:16 Sargeant 350:4 352:7 sat 448:12 satisfied 393:7 saturation 458:9 saving 422:18,24 savings 422:24 saw 383:17 saying 371:24 401:9 448:24 449:1 457:15 says 422:25 426:19 426:23 scary 425:21 scattered 363:18 scheduled 354:2 scholarships 363:7 school 423:8,9 science 457:2,10 scientific 433:1 447:11	scientist 400:15,25 scrap 451:17 screen 445:16,16 scrutiny 440:8 seals 428:9 second 375:6 393:19 408:4 420:5 448:7 Secondly 363:13 457:7 secret 409:16 secretary 350:7 354:9 406:5 secrets 438:7 section 376:10,11 390:6 438:3 439:20,20,25 sections 376:8 sector 394:1 433:2 sectors 421:9 secure 438:6 secured 455:11 see 357:12 373:16 373:18 397:16 403:1 406:2 410:6 411:8 419:7 426:16 428:7 432:20 445:18 447:1 448:2 seeing 375:20 seemed 391:3 seems 364:24 404:1 seen 366:13 380:13 419:22 seepage 447:5 sees 431:16 segment 368:11 select 375:1 selected 374:23 437:2 446:24 449:8 sell 373:14 374:4 406:16 412:5 417:10,11,12,12 425:16 sells 383:22 semi-annually 423:10 semi-trailer 362:8 send 379:19 422:5,8 sense 393:12 416:2 senses 420:1 sensitive 450:22 sent 439:8 451:15 separate 384:14 390:8 435:2 separation 404:3,5
--	--	--	---	---

<p>404:8 separator 403:16 404:2 412:11,14 413:5,15 septic 427:21 series 461:1 serious 424:14 442:3 seriously 365:25 407:11 serve 381:2 395:24 serves 396:10 service 374:1 serviced 366:16 services 389:20 serving 397:15 439:18 session 393:4 sessions 356:2 391:13 393:14 399:10 set 367:25 421:18 432:14 settled 391:13 settlers 442:25 seven 366:5 373:1 390:5 448:6 several 371:6 severely 454:21 sewage 360:1,11 426:20,25 445:4,6 448:16 449:25,25 450:4,4,6,9 454:12 457:25 shaded 376:3 shaker 396:25 share 393:25 417:9 417:14 455:17 shareholders 416:22 shareholder's 416:23 shares 416:1,5,8 sheep 450:10 459:12 shifts 415:20 shipping 425:4 shit 418:6,7,10 419:3 shocked 406:7 shores 388:8 show 366:20 375:13 382:22 showed 405:8 showing 454:15 shown 454:20,21 shows 446:1,23</p>	<p>shrink 379:15 shrinkage 425:15 shut 381:14 side 356:9 364:19 447:17 454:3 sides 460:20 signators 388:5 signed 367:14 388:7 significant 377:8 significantly 392:16 396:20,21 silly 375:23 Silver 441:24 446:4 449:17 450:18 similar 390:23 444:21 simply 367:16 368:4 370:16 437:17 since 365:22 374:18 420:15 439:13 440:7 sincerely 402:11 singling 368:11 sink 443:4 sir 415:5 417:3,5 420:6 433:22 458:2 sister 390:20 site 377:21 384:11 448:9 sites 363:19,20 367:25 368:1 388:24 432:5 449:8 sitting 425:12 situation 378:4,20 411:7 416:8 six 369:19,19 sizable 394:1 size 374:11 375:25 376:5 396:9,14,17 396:19 397:1 418:11 428:12 skilled 379:5,13 skip 451:6 Skylake 363:19 369:12,22 slave 411:24 sleep 428:25 slides 385:13 sloughs 442:19 slowly 437:1 slurry 358:17 405:11,19 413:8 421:16,17 422:15 423:23 424:1,11 443:9 444:4</p>	<p>453:11 454:14 457:11 458:15 small 368:11 387:23 396:17 406:23 425:23,25 431:24 431:25 434:5 440:20 441:2,24 454:14 smaller 367:4 smarter 427:5 smell 364:24 375:19 415:18,21 416:12 428:1,4 smells 358:23 405:24 Smith 350:8 smoke 419:24 sneak 438:21 soap 409:8,20,21,23 410:2 society 373:10 soffits 364:20 soil 366:3,6,19 405:20 407:9 413:11 422:6 431:1,3,8 432:1 432:18 447:13 448:19 453:6 soils 408:23 442:21 444:15 445:24 453:1 455:7 sold 373:12 416:1 417:15 425:7,9 solid 455:15 solids 401:15 403:15 412:10 413:7 soluble 399:22 405:19 some 354:7 355:23 360:8 367:13 373:3,10,17 374:23 376:1,2 378:16 380:7 386:14 387:17 390:14 392:15 394:6 396:3 403:12 409:9,16 414:12 415:23 421:10 425:9 428:3 433:8 434:10 441:10 442:2 443:1 447:11 448:17 450:17 451:7,17 452:23 456:11,15 457:17,18 460:3</p>	<p>460:20 somebody 399:11 400:1,10 424:22 451:15 459:5 someone 386:8 436:13 someplace 452:25 something 386:24 412:23 451:9 454:2 sometimes 428:5 452:15 somewhat 391:14 396:5 399:21 Somewhere 452:24 sooner 456:8 sordid 436:20 sorry 381:14 400:20 439:21 sort 384:4 sought 366:9 source 368:5 402:18 407:17 sources 409:2 south 361:16 373:15 415:14 423:16 445:20 447:24 southern 461:1 sow 363:15 369:9 373:25 374:3 378:15 406:17 413:25 421:23 428:13,17 sows 374:16 412:3 space 378:18 412:4 428:18 spawned 390:25 speak 355:18 361:13 391:8 394:24 395:11 399:9 401:10 415:1 418:21 420:12,19 435:9 speaking 385:11 special 397:7 410:9 specialist 450:24 459:2 specific 377:14,23 specifically 392:6 395:15 418:3 431:20 Spectator 442:15 speed 368:7 spend 378:13 385:16 386:20 400:1</p>	<p>spending 385:15,17 spent 362:22 spillage 427:11 445:25 452:22 spilled 443:16 spinach 443:22 spirit 420:2 spoken 420:3 spokespeople 419:6 spots 375:25 spread 358:5 366:4 368:8 373:19 399:25 404:7,14 413:12 421:12 423:23,24 446:24 447:1 449:14 453:10 457:22 458:2,24 spreading 358:16 431:15 448:17 450:14 spring 358:24 359:4 422:25 423:3 springs 357:6 426:21 443:2 451:5 squeeze 412:19,21 414:15 squeezing 414:17 squeezing 412:24 St 440:3 stabbed 381:12 staff 361:20 372:12 stage 378:6 383:22 383:23,25 stages 384:4 stakeholders 353:6 stale 364:20,22 stamp 381:25 stamps 367:20 stand 357:10 415:3 418:21,24 448:23 449:12 standard 359:19 standards 362:18 364:11 367:6,19 Standard-Max 389:21 393:23 standing 371:23 438:15 stars 375:21 start 379:1 391:2 406:6,23 409:17 started 353:24 363:16 365:23 397:24 400:8 406:8 420:24</p>
--	--	---	---	---

428:16 starting 392:11 state 356:17 360:11 361:1 366:2 367:12 372:16 387:7 389:8 391:21 401:11 402:3 418:2 429:15 433:22 438:8 457:5 stated 389:16 439:6 439:10 442:13 449:16 456:17 462:10 statement 364:8,10 458:16 states 439:23 stating 446:17 stats 370:14 stay 426:6 stayed 374:20 staying 444:18 448:1 steel 369:1 stemming 442:10 stench 446:17 Stenotype 462:9 step 359:20 403:21 steps 430:23 steward 403:4 417:16 stewards 368:10 421:7 424:7 436:6 stewardship 407:9 410:23 stick 364:10 still 358:19 366:14 367:12 372:25 374:15 378:6 383:6,7 390:13 391:19 436:9 stir 405:15 stock 368:5 stockholders 416:1 stop 382:21 455:25 storage 358:16 421:17,22,24 427:8 454:17 store 409:11 stories 381:24 story 379:6 381:21 426:9 straightened 424:19 427:6 strain 436:18 strategies 392:6 straw 368:5 369:23	428:14,24 stream 357:11 stressful 420:22 strict 419:8 424:17 strictest 440:7 strictly 416:21 stride 420:23 strong 393:25 stronger 403:4 structure 370:2 structures 428:21 struggle 406:2 struggling 370:7 Struthers 379:18 student 355:16 study 431:19 432:4 447:4 stuff 385:7 409:15 409:18 447:10 449:4 459:21,22 460:9 stuffs 395:15,17,25 396:11 style 455:13 subject 417:21 subjected 417:22 submersible 423:6 submissions 355:9 355:12 submit 355:10 subsequent 358:3 subsidized 425:5 substantial 411:12 substrates 442:21 453:6 successful 363:12 succumb 432:23 suck 357:13 suffer 437:3 sufficiently 407:16 suggest 449:11 suggesting 457:4 suggestions 355:11 summer 373:16 413:10 421:13 supper 357:5 415:1 supplies 397:6 supply 365:2 407:14 support 358:21 363:8 374:12 407:12 sure 381:23 383:18 391:20 392:18 398:9,25 432:1,15 437:23 442:7 453:15,20	surface 360:6 396:12 403:14 407:13 423:22 surge 365:11 surrendered 439:24 440:9 surrounded 357:16 surrounding 376:1 376:2,6 survival 437:10 susceptible 453:7 suspension 455:24 sustain 402:21 411:2 sustainability 352:18 353:12,18 377:11 388:11 402:13 403:2 432:20 sustainable 352:25 353:9 381:21 391:18 403:5 407:8 411:14 430:5 457:9,14 sustaining 410:23 swimming 442:11 swine 389:18 392:13 395:12 450:11 453:10 sworn 356:21 361:4 372:19 387:9 389:11 402:5 415:8 420:9 429:17 433:24 436:3 441:20 synthetic 365:18 syphons 403:16 Syria 426:24 system 365:18 369:16 376:20 405:22 421:15,17 421:18 427:10,13 430:7 446:9 systemic 443:20 systems 410:8 430:18	417:18 425:13 426:5 429:21 435:7 436:8 438:10 453:13 taken 358:1 405:8 406:9 436:13 445:17 462:9 takes 413:5 430:24 443:24 taking 379:13 434:19 442:2 talk 355:17 368:19 372:23 392:15 talked 429:4 tall 426:13 tank 405:11 tanker 446:1,2 tankers 452:7 tanks 358:16 tap 357:19 358:7 taught 390:11 tax 452:8 456:20 team 393:17 technical 363:21,25 371:19 392:18,21 398:6 technician 379:9 technique 396:7 techniques 373:21 397:18 technologies 393:23 394:25 395:4 396:2 397:18 414:11,14 429:3 technology 393:6 414:2 416:16,17 television 438:11,17 tell 354:12 369:6 381:22 386:22 393:16 400:24 426:8 436:12 448:4 459:11 telling 419:1 ten 363:11 368:21 424:6 435:8,12 tends 423:25 428:2 428:7 term 383:17 terms 352:19 371:12 388:9,11 territory 440:15 terrorism 417:19,20 417:22 419:4 451:20 Terry 350:4 352:7 test 370:12 404:6,8 409:10 423:10,13	tested 357:20 422:13 testing 366:4 408:1 409:9 431:2 tests 366:19 403:17 405:8 413:11 422:6 423:12,13 thanks 372:22 391:5 405:18 411:19 their 352:23 362:7 364:10 365:16 366:13 367:6,9,11 367:16 371:20 376:15,16 377:18 382:8 386:9 396:24 405:21 416:3,4 419:21 423:18 432:7,18 437:9,10,12,14 443:20 444:3 445:10,10 446:8 447:6,7 448:2 449:3 450:15,15 451:16 452:12 454:17 455:13 themselves 363:24 367:18 386:7 thick 428:9 thing 374:20 393:8 414:19 416:22 420:2 421:21 425:21 437:7 448:10 things 370:9 372:24 374:18 381:13 382:17,19 383:1 385:17 386:6 403:12 415:22,23 415:24 416:10 434:9 444:9 448:21 454:6 think 352:4 364:7 375:23 381:23 386:12,14 398:22 406:19,21 408:18 409:24 411:22 413:15 419:1 424:20 425:23 427:6 432:11 434:10 439:7 440:24 443:23 448:6 452:16,17 457:7 458:5 460:19 thinking 419:5 thinks 419:14
T				
		table 355:22,25 435:10,20 443:4 tables 443:4 take 353:7 354:11 356:8 357:2 365:24 367:8 371:18 394:3,25 403:21 405:13 407:8 413:10,24		

thirsty 357:6	times 359:18 371:24 436:10	transcripts 356:2,4	unannounced 453:25	366:23 368:5
thorough 379:25 380:23	title 383:13	Transfer 388:15	unbelievable 357:15	371:12 373:20
though 389:16 403:21 433:16 447:9	today 353:4 355:24 356:15 359:5,9 363:5,12,14 372:23 387:3,5,17 389:6 391:4,16 410:13 414:22 421:3,14,21 422:2 422:11,19,25 426:17,17 427:1 428:3 429:22 434:4 460:21	transmission 444:14 445:23	uncharted 439:18	374:5,25 375:1,2 377:25 385:13 391:23 393:22 395:13 407:14 408:20 409:21 418:20 429:2,5,11 434:14 451:25 459:17
thought 370:23 420:12 457:5 458:22,23 460:22	today's 422:17	transport 403:20	unclear 380:13	411:21 421:11,12 423:23 425:3 428:6 449:24 450:8 457:22
thousand 404:7,9 421:23 428:13	toes 426:16	Transportation 443:10	under 357:10 361:25 364:20 365:16,20 376:19 376:23 440:8,12 443:9 451:11,19	used 358:25 383:16 405:12 410:17 411:21 421:11,12 423:23 425:3 428:6 449:24 450:8 457:22
thousands 427:7	together 372:3	travel 443:17	underneath 447:13	uses 382:1 393:17 399:15
threat 391:25 456:4	told 370:15 379:6 416:2	travelling 396:24	understand 384:22 385:2,9 386:18 401:9 441:10	using 386:8 391:11 398:15 409:8,23 430:13 431:5 449:4
threaten 408:10	tolerate 405:23	Traverse 350:14 387:6,7,9,11,11 387:16 389:4,6	underway 352:5 353:8	utilization 395:6,17 396:8,19
three 361:15 362:8 362:15 369:21 377:15,19 384:1,4 384:7,14 392:24 406:2 409:24 414:25 420:16 421:16 435:6,17 446:7 452:7 455:3 458:25	Toll 443:24	treat 434:12 450:3	unfairly 368:11	utilize 394:22 399:23
through 353:25 373:2,11,15 376:12 389:20,25 392:12 394:6,12 396:15 397:4 399:10 405:2 412:11,15,16 414:17 418:14 439:12 444:6 452:25	tomorrow 360:14 408:18	treated 446:10	undertaken 353:22	utilizes 395:18
throughout 353:23 363:17,18 391:13 430:16 442:12	ton 422:19,19	treaties 440:5	undertaking 352:10	utilizing 366:24 393:5 397:17 454:14
throw 418:12,13 450:5	tone 356:7	treaty 388:6 418:3	underway 352:5 353:8	utmost 431:18
thrown 380:11	tongue 382:15	trespass 448:8	unfairly 368:11	U.S.A 451:18
thrust 451:7	tonnes 361:22 362:1 366:18 425:9	trespassing 440:14	unfertilized 408:19	
Thunder 425:5	tool 421:18,19	tricked 357:7	unforcible 453:16	V
Thursday 349:19 352:1 410:8,13	top 428:8	tries 418:23	unfortunate 359:9	validate 380:20
tied 407:16	topic 361:11	trimmed 437:1	unfortunately 393:9 426:22 446:7 448:5 455:4	Valley 420:8,14,14 420:23 423:5 424:7 425:25 443:23,25
tilt 357:13	topics 380:13	triple 366:13	uniform 427:14	valuable 373:10 422:12 434:12
time 354:8 355:7 371:18 378:13,17 383:14 384:24 386:21 390:10,10 394:25 410:21 411:19 412:15 413:10 415:21 419:3,23 423:24 424:2,16,20 438:2 448:13 456:11 458:25 462:9	total 393:22 438:13 454:11	trucks 362:8 446:2 452:9	uniformly 442:24	value 368:13 430:10 430:11 434:11
timely 381:15	totaly 416:8 420:25	true 371:14 374:20 375:23 462:8	unique 391:14	Vancouver 425:4
	touch 444:8	truly 402:22	university 355:17 373:23	variety 355:15 409:2
	touched 400:12	trumpets 436:24	unknowingly 437:3	various 353:4,15 434:22 442:22
	tougher 406:18	truth 354:12 418:21 418:22 436:12 438:6	unknown 443:6	vast 438:18
	tower 362:23	try 372:24	unless 460:14	vectors 455:10
	town 361:17 370:15 376:5 406:4 425:25 434:3	trying 460:7	unpleasant 405:24	vegetation 359:4
	towns 425:23,24	tub 357:18	until 357:23 380:22 383:17 400:10 404:12 448:12	vehicle 390:16 410:2 436:11
	toxic 442:14	turn 451:12 459:12 404:12	untreated 448:16 449:24,25 450:5,9	ventilation 364:17 364:18
	trace 459:10	turned 356:7,8 404:12	unused 397:3	vents 364:19
	traceability 362:12	turns 399:20	upbringing 391:4	versus 420:25
	traces 453:1 459:9	twice 409:18	update 367:6	
	track 362:13	two 367:25 369:11 370:16 380:24 381:1,8 390:8 392:24 393:17 394:21 396:10 421:9 422:7 425:8 428:8 435:2,6 446:1 448:19	upgraded 362:20	
	tract 396:13	type 387:1 399:16 414:19	uptake 378:1	
	trade 379:10 401:20 401:21	typically 386:16	up-to-date 363:24 457:21	
	traditional 364:18		urban 368:15 375:21,22	
	traditions 411:10	U	urgency 360:8	
	traffic 375:21	unaddressed 359:17	usage 365:4 394:10 394:11	
	trained 379:11		use 358:8 364:1,3	
	transcript 349:9 462:8			

vessel 368:2,4 Victoria 440:10 view 455:6 views 442:5 violated 388:10 violation 440:15 virtually 424:3 427:11 viruses 443:12 458:18 visit 410:6 voice 385:5 volume 362:4 434:17 voluntarily 394:16 voluntary 367:22 vote 432:24 votes 386:2 voting 381:1 VP 383:13	409:3 414:12 430:4,7 432:5 443:8 446:17 455:1,15 457:12 wasting 422:23 watch 409:22 410:1 watched 366:7 367:3 waters 419:3 way 352:14 385:22 391:25 392:4 395:25 402:20,22 403:3,24 404:17 411:9,11,13 413:13 415:14,22 421:2,2,4,5,14 422:4 424:6 426:21 432:9,12 438:16 443:21 Wayne 350:6 352:12 370:5 398:3 412:8 ways 373:21 384:8 392:3 weaning 447:5 weanling 373:4 447:17 weanlings 406:16 412:6 444:11 Weasel 449:19 web 377:10 website 355:3,11,21 356:4 week 357:20 361:19 405:25 426:18 460:25 weeks 358:9 381:8 405:10 425:8 460:22 weight 395:20 425:11 welcome 366:1 435:15 442:1 well 352:9 355:21 356:12 358:10 365:18,19 371:24 375:13,20 379:8 388:13 398:15 399:2 400:14,25 403:21 404:2 405:7 412:13 419:14 423:6,6 426:2 430:14 431:24 432:3,15 437:23 438:2 442:12 447:6 453:2 454:13,20	455:14 wells 443:1,2 451:4 460:8 well-being 391:10 436:18 well-designed 397:10 went 358:24 373:13 373:24 405:9 416:11 426:2,2 were 357:12 363:20 364:16 365:7,18 369:3,4 381:7 390:3,8,11,12 393:6 395:1 396:3 396:4 397:11 405:9,12 410:17 415:22 416:11,18 421:2 432:14 436:25 437:2,4 443:23 446:8 448:11,22 449:17 449:22 452:4,4 453:15 454:3 456:10 457:5 weren't 414:7 435:6 west 388:7 420:16 426:2 445:21 447:16,18 450:18 western 388:23 389:20 wheat 362:7 366:23 425:14,17 whiff 428:6 while 362:4 364:20 366:13 375:19 377:13 409:11 whole 400:2 420:25 wider 377:4 wife 374:25 Wift 350:19 420:7,7 420:9,10,11,13 427:19,22,25 428:13,22 429:5 448:20 wildlife 407:10 453:23 willing 374:4 Willow 445:19 wind 358:23 winds 428:5 Winnipeg 352:13 354:2 373:15 388:8 393:4 397:25 408:13,14 409:1 417:24 424:23 432:11	442:23 445:3,5,9 445:20 452:20 459:7 winter 413:10 421:13 wintering 427:21 Wisconsin 454:23 wise 407:9 wiser 421:7 wish 355:6,24 356:15 414:3,25 429:13 433:20 435:8 460:12,16 wishes 439:17 witnessed 363:22 364:1 365:22 wives 411:4 woman 419:19 wonder 452:15 wondering 359:19 398:13 400:11 words 421:23 422:21 449:19 work 372:9 373:13 373:24 374:1,8,14 375:7,9 382:12 399:20 400:12 404:1 407:6,20 411:10,17 413:13 452:18 458:6 worked 437:16 workers 377:4 379:5,13 455:4 working 373:15 379:9 381:12 404:23 439:14 445:11 works 396:23 workshop 434:21 world 360:15 worth 374:9 wouldn't 359:5 451:3 write 387:12 Writer 350:8 writes 444:10 written 355:9,10,12 453:16 wrong 418:25 448:21 451:9 wrote 379:18	yeah 429:5 447:11 448:21 452:6 year 358:21 361:23 362:1,11,24 363:7 365:12 366:15,17 374:17 378:15,22 380:3 388:19 405:1 423:2,24 434:20 448:7,7 450:5 yearly 454:10 years 358:10 362:15 362:19 363:11 366:5,7 367:4,19 368:21 373:1,13 374:19 388:19 390:2,5,25 394:21 396:3 415:21 417:21,25 420:18 421:10,11 422:13 424:6 425:2 426:11,13 427:4 436:14 442:12,16 446:9 452:5 453:3 453:4 454:2,21 458:25 Yee 350:5 352:13 371:5,10,15 372:1 385:12 386:11 398:9 400:4 428:11,20 429:1 458:13 459:16 yielded 440:10 young 373:6 407:5 425:22 426:1,4 youngster 357:2 374:19 youth 389:24
<hr/> W <hr/>				<hr/> Z <hr/>
waist 426:15,15 wait 400:9 wake 357:17 419:25 420:1,1 walk 357:3,18 walked 358:13 426:11 Walkerton 454:23 456:9 wall 358:14 364:19 want 375:12 378:9 386:13 387:25 388:3 411:8 418:19 419:2 424:11 425:16 426:8,9 427:2,4 434:3 438:10 446:24 448:14,14 460:2,15 wanted 374:5 379:8 387:17,20 war 360:17 warming 449:21 wary 452:3 wash 409:21,23 410:2 429:7,7,7 washes 409:25 410:18 washing 357:22 405:12,14 wasn't 359:2 383:17 393:6 416:15,17 wastage 395:7 397:2 waste 366:8 403:24				zinc 459:9 zone 453:11
				<hr/> \$ <hr/>
				\$1 451:21 \$100,000 459:11 \$140,000 403:22 413:16,18 \$18.36 422:20,22 \$250,000 362:24 \$3,986.40 425:10 \$40 422:17,22 \$550 422:19 \$58 422:22,23 \$60,000 405:1
				<hr/> 0 <hr/>
				<hr/> X <hr/>
				xylanase 395:22
				<hr/> Y <hr/>
				yard 358:20 426:23

<p>0.0227 404:8 06 406:9</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">1</p> <p>1 362:5 374:17 444:7 1,000 422:13 453:4 1,400 457:23 1,700 457:23 1.8 362:22 1:02 352:2 10 366:21 367:19 370:10,20 427:9 449:22 450:1 10-96 450:13 100 377:18 388:19 416:10 11 420:16 1100 412:3 413:23 423:1 12 373:12 377:16 390:2 396:3 444:10 450:9,12 120 384:1 124 379:21 447:18 447:20,20 13 408:12 14 353:22 450:18 149 447:21 15 354:7 366:21 370:10,20 378:15 400:2 423:6 427:4 436:9,14 447:18 447:19 15,000 444:23 452:7 1500 413:25 16 361:20 389:22 17 353:22 451:22 452:11 1763 388:14 440:2,6 440:7,17 18 409:11 428:17 18.2 404:6 1871 388:15 1875 388:7 1930 388:16 1970 357:16 410:14 1970s 373:17 1974 420:15 1976 420:24 1982 438:25 439:22 1985 439:5 1990 415:16 1990's 363:17 1992 359:25 1993 444:10 1994 374:2 450:3</p>	<p>1995 446:23 447:9 1996 444:20,24 1997 445:1</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">2</p> <p>2 380:6 409:10 444:14,18 445:2 449:6 2,000 426:11 428:14 20 362:19 378:4 405:13 410:16 427:4 428:23 20th 406:8 2000 362:21 379:22 2005 357:17 2006 394:11 404:10 2007 349:19 352:1 359:7 379:22 394:11 420:25 21 453:9 22 422:14 453:13 23 453:19 238 438:3 24 361:19 2400 369:11 25 358:10 378:15 383:24,25 428:17 439:20,25 26,000 435:2 2600 366:18 27th 354:2 2800 363:15</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">3</p> <p>3 445:2 3,000 377:21 422:7 3:01 435:13 30 426:13 444:25 33 420:18 35 366:23 377:22 404:22 35-pound 404:18 356 350:11 361 350:12 372 350:13 387 350:14 389 350:15</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">4</p> <p>4 445:2 4,000 422:15,16 40 374:19 378:4 428:23 40,000 374:16 400 421:22,24 427:9 400,000 404:21 402 350:16</p>	<p>415 350:17 417 350:18 420 350:19 429 350:20 433 350:21 436 350:22 441 350:23 460,000 394:5,8 49th 447:20</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">5</p> <p>5 388:6 5th 353:25 5'6 426:12 5:00 415:17 50 363:16 366:25 372:2,8 375:4 417:25 440:25 452:5 500 365:10 417:21 5000 359:13 55 379:22 56 378:8</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">6</p> <p>6 383:24 413:3 426:13 445:23 6th 456:21 6,000 369:12 418:9 6.25 366:22 370:11 6:00 415:17 600 370:22 67 378:8</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">7</p> <p>7 445:22 446:22 7th 355:12 7,000 361:22 7:00 435:14 7:40 461:3 70 394:7 70s 359:7,8 70,000 361:25 700 374:3 7200 369:10</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">8</p> <p>8 349:19 352:1 380:2 8th 381:6 8,000 435:1 80 422:16 80s 361:22 84 394:13 85 394:13 425:9</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">9</p>	<p>9 447:25 449:22 94 379:21 95 394:19 96 403:18,18 96.4 403:18 99 379:21 424:24 99.4 413:2</p>
--	---	---	--