

To: [Committee, JSCNA \(REPS\)](#)

Submission

An inquiry into the destruction of 46,000 year old caves at the Juukan Gorge in the Pilbara region of Western Australia

Addressing terms of references g) and h)

I understand there exists legal protections for Aboriginal heritage.

It appears these protections are not respected.

I submit there is a requirement for extremely severe penalties for destruction or damaging of any Aboriginal or ancient sites.

Using recent Rio Tinto abomination as an example: “Any company unknowingly or intentionally, damaging, destroying or making sites inaccessible or unprotected; would be required to cease ALL activities in the region, until repatriation or reimbursement to descendants of cultural owners is settled. An amount of \$1,000,000 per century of site to be set as a minimum. Any delay of settlement longer than twelve months from incident results in company having to cease trading.”

Thank you
Wendy Kurka

