
**COMMISSION D'ENQUÊTE SUR LES RELATIONS ENTRE LES
AUTOCHTONES ET CERTAINS SERVICES PUBLICS AU QUÉBEC :
ÉCOUTE, RÉCONCILIATION ET PROGRÈS**

Date : Le 29 juin 2018

L'Honorable Jacques Viens, Président

Femmes autochtones du Québec

et

Procureure générale du Québec

et

Grand Conseil des Cris (Eeyou Istchee) et
Gouvernement de la Nation Crie

et

Innu TakuaiKAN Uashat mak Mani-Utenam

et

Regroupement Mamit Innuat Inc.

et

Association des policières et policiers
provinciaux du Québec

et

The Naskapi Nation of Kawawachikamach

et

Assemblée des Premières Nations Québec-
Labrador

et

Conseil de la Nation Atikamekw

et

Regroupement des centres d'amitié
autochtones du Québec

et

Makivik Corporation

et

Service de police de la Ville de Montréal

et

Directeur des poursuites criminelles et pénales

et

Conseil Cri de la santé et des services sociaux de
la Baie James

PARTICIPANTS

**ORDONNANCE DE LEVÉE PARTIELLE DE L'ORDONNANCE DE
HUIS CLOS DES TRANSCRIPTIONS PAR STÉNOGRAPHIE DU
DOSSIER HC-20 ENTENDU LE 5 AVRIL 2018**

I. LE CONTEXTE

[1] Le 5 avril 2018, la Procureure de la *Commission d'enquête sur les relations entre les Autochtones et certains services publics au Québec: écoute, réconciliation et progrès* (la « Commission ») M^e Suzanne Arpin a présenté devant le Commissaire Jacques Viens une demande verbale de huis clos dans le dossier HC-20, entendu le jour même.

[2] M^e Arpin a allégué que ce dossier relevant de l'application de la *Loi sur la protection de la jeunesse* (c. P-34.1) (la « LPJ ») soit tenu à huis clos afin de protéger l'identité du ou des témoins entendus, incluant les enfants et les parents visés par le témoignage, ainsi que la confidentialité des renseignements personnels.

[3] Le Commissaire a accueilli la demande de huis clos et a rendu les ordonnances verbales suivantes, le 5 avril 2018 :

ORDONNE la tenue à huis clos de l'audience du ou des témoins dans le dossier HC-20 prévue ce jour devant la Commission concernant un cas d'espèce relevant de l'application de la *Loi sur la protection de la jeunesse*;

INTERDIT à quiconque de divulguer, de publier, de communiquer ou de diffuser l'ensemble du témoignage dans le dossier HC-20;

ORDONNE que les médias prennent les mesures pour que les appareils d'enregistrement visuel ou sonore soient inopérants, afin de respecter la présente ordonnance;

ORDONNE l'exclusion des personnes qui ne sont pas autorisées selon l'article 44 des *Règles de procédure et de fonctionnement* de la Commission à assister aux audiences à huis clos;

ORDONNE aux procureurs de la Commission d'examiner les transcriptions par sténographie du témoignage dans le dossier HC-20 pour effectuer le caviardage nécessaire de façon à soustraire tous éléments identificatoires des personnes concernées par le présent dossier.

[4] Un projet des transcriptions par sténographie du témoignage dans le dossier HC-20 a été transmis aux participants et à l'intervenant à la Commission le 14 juin 2018, leur laissant quinze (15) jours pour émettre tous commentaires, correctifs ou contestations.

II. LA DÉCISION

[5] **CONSIDÉRANT** que le Décret 1095-2016 adopté par le gouvernement du Québec le 21 décembre 2016, constituant la présente Commission d'enquête selon l'article 1 de la *Loi sur les commissions d'enquête* (c. C-37), mentionne :

« QUE les audiences de la Commission soient publiques et que celle-ci puisse, lorsqu'elle l'estime approprié, mener ses travaux à huis clos ou prendre toute autre mesure afin de protéger l'identité de témoins et

les renseignements personnels, tant à l'audience que lors de la communication de son rapport; »

[6] **CONSIDÉRANT** le mandat de la présente Commission tel qu'énoncé dans le Décret 1095-2016 :

« QUE la Commission ait pour mandat, en tenant compte des enjeux mentionnés dans le préambule, d'enquêter, de constater les faits, de procéder à des analyses afin de faire des recommandations quant aux actions correctives concrètes, efficaces et durables à mettre en place par le gouvernement du Québec et par les autorités autochtones en vue de prévenir ou d'éliminer, quelles qu'en soient l'origine et la cause, toute forme de violence et de pratiques discriminatoires, de traitements différents dans la prestation des services publics suivants aux Autochtones du Québec : les services policiers, les services correctionnels, les services de justice, les services de santé et les services sociaux ainsi que les services de protection de la jeunesse; »

[7] **CONSIDÉRANT** les *Règles de procédure et de fonctionnement* de la Commission aux articles 43, 44, 45, 46, 47 sur le huis clos et les ordonnances d'interdiction de divulgation, de publication ou de communication, ainsi que l'article 88 sur la couverture médiatique;

[8] **CONSIDÉRANT** les articles 11.2, 11.2.1, 82 et 96 de la LPJ concernant la confidentialité des renseignements recueillis dans le cadre de cette loi;

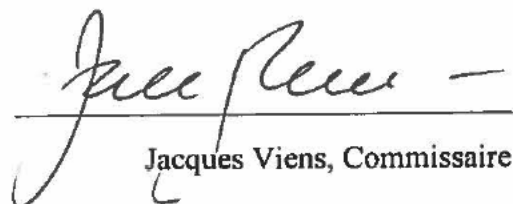
[9] **CONSIDÉRANT** que la Commission s'inspire des lignes directrices de la Politique sur le caviardage de la *Société québécoise d'information juridique (SOQUIJ)*¹ ayant pour but de protéger l'identité de personnes ou de cacher des informations sensibles relatives à une personne à l'intérieur de décisions portant sur des matières jugées délicates;

[10] **CONSIDÉRANT** l'expiration du délai de quinze (15) jours suite à la transmission du projet des transcriptions par sténographie du témoignage dans le dossier HC-20 ainsi que les commentaires transmis par les représentants des participants et de l'intervenant à la Commission, le cas échéant;

[11] **CONSIDÉRANT** que le caviardage des transcriptions par sténographie du témoignage dans le dossier HC-20 protège l'identité du ou des témoins entendus le 5 avril 2018, incluant les enfants et les parents visés par le témoignage, ainsi que la confidentialité des renseignements personnels;

POUR CES MOTIFS, LE COMMISSAIRE :

[12] **ORDONNE** la levée partielle de l'ordonnance de huis clos rendue le 5 avril 2018 permettant la publication des transcriptions par sténographie caviardées du ou des témoins entendus le 5 avril 2018 dans le dossier HC-20, tel qu'annexées à la présente ordonnance.


Jacques Viens, Commissaire

¹ *Société québécoise d'information juridique (SOQUIJ)*, Politique N° DIJ-01 – Politique sur le caviardage, Date d'entrée en vigueur 2011-10-16, Date de mise à jour 2017-03-14, en ligne : https://soquij.qc.ca/documents/file/corpo_politiques/politique-sur-le-caviardage.pdf

ANNEXE 1

DEMANDE VERBALE DE HUIS CLOS

1 qu'on ajourne cinq (5) minutes?

2 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

3 Oui.

4 **M^e PAUL CRÉPEAU :**

5 Oui?

6 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

7 Le temps de libérer madame Penosway. Je pense
8 qu'elle n'a pas besoin de ça.

9 SUSPENSION

10 -----

11 REPRISE

12 **LA GREFFIÈRE :**

13 La Commission reprend.

14 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

15 Oui alors, rebonjour. Alors, je comprends, Maître
16 Arpin, qu'en ce qui concerne les prochains
17 dossiers, vous avez des demandes à formuler?

18 **M^e SUZANNE ARPIN :**

19 Oui, Monsieur le Commissaire. Alors, je prends la
20 relève dans des dossiers à huis clos. Alors, je
21 vais vous faire des demandes de huis clos dans les
22 dossiers portant les numéros :

23 - à treize heures (13h) : le huis clos 20 (HC-20);

24 et

25 - à quatorze heures (14h) : huis clos 21 (HC-21).

1 Et ce sont des demandes qui sont faites dans des
2 dossiers actifs, impliquant le Directeur de la
3 Protection de la Jeunesse. Donc, en vertu du
4 décret créant la Commission, de nos règles de
5 procédures et de la *Loi sur la protection de la*
6 *jeunesse*, et afin de protéger l'identité et la
7 confidentialité des informations concernant les
8 enfants, les parents et les témoins, je vais vous
9 demander d'ordonner un huis clos, le tout
10 accompagné d'une ordonnance de non-publication,
11 non-diffusion, non-divulgation, et non-
12 communication. Ainsi qu'une ordonnance de levée
13 partielle de l'ordonnance de non-divulgation afin
14 de déposer les notes sténographiques caviardées,
15 ultérieurement.

16 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

17 Est-ce que vous avez des commentaires? Maître
18 Boucher? Maître Robillard? Maître Laganière?
19 Maître Coderre?

20 **M^e MARIE-PAULE BOUCHER :**

21 Pas d'objection.

22 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

23 Ça va? Bon, alors, comme dans plusieurs autres cas
24 jusqu'à maintenant, alors :

25 CONSIDÉRANT que la Commission entend faire la

1 preuve dans les dossiers HC-20 et HC-21, de cas
2 d'espèce relevant de l'application de la *Loi sur la*
3 *protection de la jeunesse*;

4 CONSIDÉRANT les pouvoirs qui me sont conférés selon
5 le décret 1095-2016 adopté par le Gouvernement du
6 Québec, le vingt et un (21) décembre deux mille
7 seize (2016), constituant la présente Commission;

8 CONSIDÉRANT les articles 43 et 47, et 88 des règles
9 de procédure et de fonctionnement de la Commission;

10 CONSIDÉRANT plus spécialement les articles 11.2 et
11 11.2.1, 82, et 96 de la *Loi sur la protection de la*
12 *jeunesse*;

13 POUR CES MOTIFS :

14 J'ORDONNE la tenue à huis clos de l'audience des
15 témoins dans les dossiers HC-20 et HC-21, prévus ce
16 jour devant la Commission, concernant des cas
17 d'espèce relevant de l'application de la *Loi sur la*
18 *protection de la jeunesse*;

19 INTERDIT à quiconque de divulguer, de publier, de
20 communiquer ou de diffuser l'ensemble du témoignage
21 ou des témoignages dans les dossiers HC-20 et
22 HC-21;

23 ORDONNE que les médias prennent les mesures pour
24 que les appareils d'enregistrements visuels ou
25 sonores soient inopérants, afin de respecter la

1 présente ordonnance; et ultérieurement,
2 J'ORDONNE la levée partielle des transcriptions par
3 sténographie des témoignages dans les dossiers
4 HC-20 et HC-21 qui seront entendus aujourd'hui,
5 relevant de l'application de la *Loi sur la*
6 *protection de la jeunesse*, de façon à permettre de
7 protéger l'identité des témoins, incluant les
8 enfants et les parents visés par les témoignages,
9 ainsi que la confidentialité des renseignements
10 personnels.

11 Alors sera sur le site internet de la
12 Commission, éventuellement, la transcription
13 caviardée de façon à respecter les dispositions de
14 la Loi.

15 Alors, sur ce, nous allons suspendre et
16 reprendre à treize heures (13 h), à huis clos.

17 **M^e SUZANNE ARPIN :**

18 Exact.

19 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

20 Et, en ce qui concerne les audiences publiques,
21 elles reprendront à neuf heures (9 h) demain matin.

22 **M^e SUZANNE ARPIN :**

23 Parfait. Merci.

24 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

25 Bonne fin d'avant-midi. À cet après-midi.

ANNEXE 2

NOTES STÉNOGRAPHIQUES CAVIARDÉES

1 [REDACTED]
2 témoin citoyen
3 Assermentée

4 -----

5 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

6 Welcome to you.

7 **MME** [REDACTED] :

8 Thank you.

9 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

10 We'll listen to you.

11 **M^e SUZANNE ARPIN :**

12 So, [REDACTED], I would like to introduce who you
13 are. So, you are from what nation, your community?

14 **MME** [REDACTED] :

15 I'm from [REDACTED] I also sit on
16 [REDACTED]; I've been there for five
17 (5) years. [REDACTED].
18 I also work at the [REDACTED]. I've been at the
19 [REDACTED] for eighteen (18) years. I work at the
20 [REDACTED] as a community help representative. I
21 do prevention work.

22 **M^e SUZANNE ARPIN :**

23 And you were related with... your nephews are the
24 sons of your niece, I think.

25

1 **MME** [REDACTED] :

2 My nephews, the ones that I'm going to speak about,
3 is my sister's grandkids. I don't... And she had
4 a daughter, [REDACTED] - [REDACTED] is the name of the
5 mother - and that's how I'm related to them.

6 **M^e SUZANNE ARPIN** :

7 And how old are your nephews now?

8 **MME** [REDACTED] :

9 They're older now. This happened when they were
10 six (6) and seven (7) years old, when they first
11 when into foster care.

12 **M^e SUZANNE ARPIN** :

13 When your... When have your nephews have been
14 placed in the foster care for the first time?

15 **MME** [REDACTED] :

16 It was many years ago. Well, I find it's a long
17 time now, but they were six (6) and seven (7) years
18 old at the time, and they were placed into... They
19 lost their father, and about a year later they were
20 placed into foster care, and the mother couldn't
21 take care of the boys, so they were placed and...
22 they were placed with their aunt in another
23 community, they were taken out of the community and
24 taken to another community, but they were placed
25 with their aunt on the father's side. And then,

1 they stayed there for a few years, and then they
2 were removed from there, and they were removed from
3 there when they were thirteen (13), fourteen (14),
4 they were removed from Mrs. [REDACTED] house, and then
5 they were placed into... back into our community,
6 [REDACTED] and they were placed
7 there into another home. But it was like... and
8 they were separated. But they were never
9 separated. They got separated when they were
10 twelve (12) and thirteen (13), they got separated.

11 **M^e SUZANNE ARPIN :**

12 That was the first time they were separated.

13 **MME [REDACTED] :**

14 It was the first time they were getting separated.

15 **M^e SUZANNE ARPIN :**

16 Okay.

17 **MME [REDACTED] :**

18 And then... And then, they were placed in foster
19 homes in [REDACTED] but they weren't... in
20 [REDACTED] I mean, but they weren't
21 placed in any family, they were just placed in
22 foster care homes that were available.

23 **M^e SUZANNE ARPIN :**

24 And they were supposed to be placed until the age
25 of eighteen (18)?

1 **MME** [REDACTED] :

2 Well, we didn't really know at the time if they
3 were going to be placed until they're eighteen
4 (18), but it almost looks like it because their
5 mother was struggling. Their mother was in a very
6 bad accident and she was dragged under a car for,
7 oh, I would say it was... like one whole street.
8 It was like a long way where she was dragged under
9 the car. And all her... the back of her body
10 was... She lost a lot. She never healed from it.

11 So that's why she was struggling to raise the
12 two (2) boys on her own after. And then I was
13 there to help and give a hand and what naught. But
14 I didn't like it when they were placed into back
15 into [REDACTED] when they were twelve
16 (12) and thirteen (13), placed into a home that...
17 they should have been placed with family, like,
18 family, not... but they didn't consider that I
19 found. Social Services didn't... You have to go
20 through these thick, thick forms to be a foster
21 parent and all that, and... I think family should
22 be taking care of their own children.

23 And then after that, they started getting into
24 trouble. They were thirteen (13) and fourteen
25 (14). And then they were placed into the home in

1 Rouyn-Noranda. It was a... a home, I guess, I
2 don't know what they call it.

3 **M^e SUZANNE ARPIN :**

4 Is it like a reception center or...?

5 **MME** [REDACTED] :

6 Uh, it was a home for...

7 **M^e SUZANNE ARPIN :**

8 Teenagers (inaudible).

9 **MME** [REDACTED] :

10 Yeah, teenagers, where they were said that they
11 couldn't. And when they did arrive in Rouyn-
12 Noranda, they weren't put in any school, they
13 didn't go to school and it was just... they
14 struggled and it was like, hard for them, and it
15 was like, always in French. Everything was French
16 and... But just... They just kept them there
17 until they were eighteen (18).

18 And the older boy - his name is [REDACTED] the
19 oldest boy, and - at the time he was fourteen (14),
20 fifteen (15), and he was placed in the Rouyn-
21 Noranda home, and that's where he got sick and
22 then... He got sick and they were... They said
23 that he was diagnosed with schizophrenic and, that
24 part, they didn't inform the family, they didn't
25 call any of us, they didn't call the mother. And

1 then they would say "well, why didn't you call us?"
2 And then he... they'd say "well, we couldn't find
3 the mother." Yeah, but, the mother lives in the
4 community, I'm sure she could be found no matter
5 what, you know. There's always a way to find...
6 - No, she's never home, no. They would always say
7 something like that.

8 And then, they would just go ahead, then
9 they'd go to court and then they'd leave them there
10 for another year. Then, when the year came up, we
11 were trying to get them to come back home, and
12 they'd... then the mother wouldn't show up for
13 court or something, then they would put them back
14 in again for another year. It was just like...
15 they couldn't get out of the system. It was not
16 right.

17 And now they're eighteen (18), the oldest boy
18 is placed here, in Rouyn-Noranda. He was
19 schizophrenic and the doctors, the doctors
20 diagnosed him, right there in the home, in the home
21 in Rouyn-Noranda, and they didn't contact us to say
22 that he... even the social services that's in our
23 community didn't inform us that this was happening
24 to this boy. And then we weren't allowed to visit.
25 "No, you can't disturb him, get him off schedule"

1 and, "no, that's not good. No." So, we didn't get
2 to see him much.

3 And then coming on the end, they were letting
4 [REDACTED] the oldest boy, come and see me. I would
5 come to Rouyn, pick him up, go home, and I would do
6 that for a long time. And then just... it stopped,
7 and then... then was placed. He was eighteen (18),
8 they just threw him out the door. It was like,
9 "you're eighteen (18), that's it."

10 **Me SUZANNE ARPIN :**

11 You were talking about language.

12 **MME [REDACTED] :**

13 Yes.

14 **Me SUZANNE ARPIN :**

15 According to you, was that possible for your
16 nephews to speak Algonquin in their foster home?

17 **MME [REDACTED] :**

18 They were... They're English speaking, so am I. I
19 don't speak French myself, and neither did the boys
20 or my niece, the mother, she... we're an English
21 speaking community, but we have to... when we went
22 to the Maison in Rouyn, it was all French. It was
23 like... it was hard to communicate.

24 But they would get translators sometimes, but
25 it was just like, the boys weren't allowed to watch

1 English movies and, if everybody was gone home for
2 the weekend and I'd go up and... I would go to the
3 home and visit on the weekend something, just for a
4 couple of hours, where I'd go out and have lunch,
5 take them back to the... the Maison, and then he
6 wanted to watch an English film, he said "no, you
7 got to watch French." It's like... "no".

8 **Me SUZANNE ARPIN :**

9 And do you know if they received some services from
10 social services, or psychologic services in English
11 or in Algonquin or it was...

12 **MME** [REDACTED] :

13 No.

14 **Me SUZANNE ARPIN :**

15 ... just in French all the time?

16 **MME** [REDACTED] :

17 All this in French.

18 **Me SUZANNE ARPIN :**

19 And they were not speaking French.

20 **MME** [REDACTED] :

21 No. But the social services were involved, right,
22 from [REDACTED] I mean, I keep saying [REDACTED]
23 but, [REDACTED] they were the ones
24 that wouldn't allow us to see them.

25 **Me SUZANNE ARPIN :**

1 And did she explained why?

2 **MME** [REDACTED] :

3 She just said "no, we don't want to interrupt them,
4 and, they're on a schedule and... no." It was no.
5 But that worker... their worker, she left, and then
6 I... and then we could get to visit again.

7 **Me SUZANNE ARPIN** :

8 Okay.

9 **MME** [REDACTED] :

10 It was like...

11 **Me SUZANNE ARPIN** :

12 It was just...

13 **MME** [REDACTED] :

14 ... just the one worker and she just constantly
15 wouldn't... "No." "No." -Have he seen a doctor?
16 -No. No. We can't see him right now.

17 So it took months to see him.

18 **Me SUZANNE ARPIN** :

19 To see him. Okay.

20 **MME** [REDACTED] :

21 Yeah. And now, today, he's in a home in Rouyn, a
22 family, today. And he's twenty... I don't know,
23 twenty-five (25), today. So he's... he was placed
24 in a... - I don't know how what you want to call it
25 - a hospital for the Elder. So he was there too.

1 There's no place for people like with
2 schizophrenics other than... in Malartic maybe?
3 This way.

4 **Me SUZANNE ARPIN :**

5 Yeah, this way. (rires) Right this way.

6 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

7 It's not too far away. Near Val-d'Or.

8 **MME** [REDACTED] :

9 Yeah.

10 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

11 About fifteen (15) miles.

12 **Me SUZANNE ARPIN :**

13 It's like a residence for Elder and...

14 **MME** [REDACTED] :

15 It's for people that have mental issues.

16 **Me SUZANNE ARPIN :**

17 Okay.

18 **MME** [REDACTED] :

19 Yeah. That's the only place I know of, is in
20 Malartic, and then the other one would be North
21 Bay, that would have a ward like that, for people
22 that have mental issues.

23 And the... his social worker at the time, when
24 he was being diagnosed with schizophrenic, she kept
25 saying "oh, he smokes marijuana, and that's why

1 he's like that. That caused it." And I'm thinking
2 "how do you know that, you don't know that, why he
3 became schizophrenic". He was hearing voices.

4 Today, he still hears voices. He just, like
5 from night to day, he didn't... he was... we
6 couldn't... he was not right.

7 And that's when they should have let us be a
8 part of it. But they diagnosed him and, to put
9 pills in him - there were so many different; they
10 would try this kind of pill, they would try another
11 kind of prescription, then they would try another
12 one, and "oh, this one works, this one don't." It
13 was just like they were trying to adjust, or find a
14 medication that was right for him. But, it didn't
15 change anything. He's still... Today, he's still
16 not the same.

17 And his younger brother now, he didn't get
18 back in school after he turned eighteen... and...
19 sixteen (16), he didn't go back to school. He
20 tried and... Now he doesn't do nothing. He must
21 be twenty-one (21), twenty (20). Now.

22 **Me SUZANNE ARPIN :**

23 And when they were in the Rouyn-Noranda House, you
24 said that it was not possible for them to have
25 education in English because it was all in French,

1 so they were not...

2 **MME** [REDACTED] :

3 No. They didn't go to school there.

4 **Me SUZANNE ARPIN** :

5 They didn't go to school.

6 **MME** [REDACTED] :

7 No. It was a French school, and I know, [REDACTED]
8 (inaudible) one, try to go to school, "oh, he's
9 going to school." But really, he said he didn't go
10 to school. But I don't know. It's just that they
11 weren't put in a school. They should have been
12 kept going to school. And they should have been in
13 English. They did not know French. It was not
14 good.

15 **Me SUZANNE ARPIN** :

16 Is... Has anyone or someone explained to you why
17 they were placed in the house Maison de Rouyn-
18 Noranda instead of being in foster home?

19 **MME** [REDACTED] :

20 It's because the boys were, like, going out and
21 they weren't coming home when they were supposed
22 to, and... they were just getting into trouble like
23 teenagers getting into trouble. That's the way
24 they were. And that's why they were placed in
25 Rouyn-Noranda Maison. It's because the foster

1 parents couldn't handle them or couldn't keep up
2 with them, I don't know which way to say it, but,
3 no, they couldn't, and then they were placed into
4 the Maison. They should have been kept in the
5 community I think, not in Maison. Even if it was
6 in another foster home or whatever, but...

7 **Me SUZANNE ARPIN :**

8 And during they were in the Maison de Rouyn-
9 Noranda, was that possible for the family, extended
10 family, to have them for celebration or during
11 vacation, during summer or special event,
12 something?

13 **MME** [REDACTED] :

14 Uh, yeah. But they would only come to my place.
15 They wouldn't go to anyone else. It was me that
16 would take them and bring them home for Christmas
17 or bring them home for Easter, things like that, I
18 would get to pick them up.

19 **Me SUZANNE ARPIN :**

20 And did you ask to be foster home for them?

21 **MME** [REDACTED] :

22 I did, but... I don't know. I just... I asked to
23 be the foster parents, I asked them if I can have
24 them, and they said "no, they would be better off
25 if they weren't with... They didn't...

1 **Me SUZANNE ARPIN :**

2 The community.

3 **MME [REDACTED] :**

4 Yeah. And I find... I did foster care kids
5 before, and it takes a lot... it takes a lot, you
6 need to fill out a lot of forms and stuff like
7 that. And today, now, it's even different today.
8 It's more... the forms are like, that take you to
9 be a foster parent.

10 **Me SUZANNE ARPIN :**

11 Uh-hum.

12 **MME [REDACTED] :**

13 Those boys just felt through the cracks of the
14 system. That's what happened to them.

15 **Me SUZANNE ARPIN :**

16 Have you complained about that matter, about the
17 language to anyone?

18 **MME [REDACTED] :**

19 I complained to the social workers.

20 **Me SUZANNE ARPIN :**

21 Uh-hum.

22 **MME [REDACTED] :**

23 But nothing was done.

24 **Me SUZANNE ARPIN :**

25 Did she come back to you with explanation or saying

1 "no, that's not possible, there's no school" or
2 "there's no structure for that"?

3 **MME** [REDACTED] :

4 Yeah. They... The most excuses were they didn't
5 want to disrupt off of their schedule or whatever.
6 Especially [REDACTED] the oldest one, that has
7 schizophrenic. It's too bad. Today he's still not
8 with family. He'll never be with family. It's...
9 He's too... He's diagnosed and he hears voices, he
10 gets excited, and then when he comes to visit, then
11 when he goes back to the Home, then he's off track,
12 they said that he is too excited and... Yeah.

13 But... and not to have call any of the family
14 or the mom, to let them know that their boy was
15 sick and to let them know that he was being
16 diagnosed, for months they never called us. We
17 tried to call them and, no, they wouldn't give
18 us... "Can't talk about it?" -No.

19 **Me SUZANNE ARPIN** :

20 Did they explain why? Just no?

21 **MME** [REDACTED] :

22 They said they... No. They just wouldn't. "Can't
23 reach the mother, can't reach the mother." And I
24 said, "well, the mother is... the mother was... it
25 was very hard life", she was abused when she was a

1 Today you want me to...?

2 **Me SUZANNE ARPIN :**

3 When they were... when they were placed in a foster
4 home or in the Maison de Rouyn-Noranda.

5 **MME [REDACTED] :**

6 Could you ask me that question again?

7 **Me SUZANNE ARPIN :**

8 Do you think it could be... it was a good idea, it
9 could be a good idea... it was a good idea if the
10 social worker, at that time, asked you if...

11 **MME [REDACTED] :**

12 Yeah. She should have.

13 **Me SUZANNE ARPIN :**

14 ... if you had... maybe you will have some plan for
15 them? Maybe you...

16 **MME [REDACTED] :**

17 Yes.

18 **Me SUZANNE ARPIN :**

19 ... will have some solutions?

20 **MME [REDACTED] :**

21 No. They just... They just wouldn't. And they
22 were placed... but they were placed from their
23 aunt. Their aunt... They stayed there for many
24 years with their aunt. Right, till they were like,
25 twelve (12) to thirteen (13) years old. From seven

1 (7), eight (8) years old until they were thirteen
2 (13). Many years they stayed there with the aunt.
3 But then there were complaints about the aunt, and
4 then that's when they took the boys and separated
5 them.

6 **Me SUZANNE ARPIN :**

7 In what kind...?

8 **MME** [REDACTED] :

9 And put them in different homes.

10 **Me SUZANNE ARPIN :**

11 Okay. Do you know what kind of complaints there
12 were, against the aunt?

13 **MME** [REDACTED] :

14 Pardon me?

15 **Me SUZANNE ARPIN :**

16 What were the complaints against the aunt?

17 **MME** [REDACTED] :

18 Oh. That she was... Against their aunt it was
19 because she wasn't giving them, uh... proper
20 clothing or whatever, and she used to get paid to
21 keep them in and... they would have the same shoes
22 when they come to visit and we would notice.
23 "Okay, well, the kids need some shoes, you need to
24 get them some new shoes." And "yeah, yeah." And
25 then there was a complaint put in, and then she

1 lost them.

2 **Me SUZANNE ARPIN :**

3 Okay.

4 **MME [REDACTED] :**

5 And then that's when they took them out, out of her
6 home, and then they placed them separately. And
7 these boys are... - I don't know the name - [REDACTED]

8 [REDACTED]

9 [REDACTED]

10 [REDACTED]

11 **Me SUZANNE ARPIN :**

12 Okay.

13 **MME [REDACTED] :**

14 [REDACTED].

15 **Me SUZANNE ARPIN :**

16 You said, when we prepared that file this morning,
17 that the Maison Rouyn-Noranda was like... for you,
18 it was like a prison. Would you explain?

19 **MME [REDACTED] :**

20 Yeah. It was like... Well, everything's locked
21 down. It was locked down all the time and stuff
22 like that. And it was like, they're only in this
23 one section and the doors are locked there and...
24 It was like, I don't know if they got... they did
25 go out once in a while, I guess with their

1 counselor - they have a counselor or whatever - and
2 they did go out into the city, I mean in town I
3 guess there, once in a while. But other than that,
4 they were always locked down. But those places are
5 always locked down anyways. But there was one
6 place in Val-d'Or, they used to call it... uh, what
7 was it called in Val-d'Or... Uh, it was another
8 Maison house, and it was...

9 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

10 Maybe l'Étape?

11 **MME** [REDACTED] :

12 There you go. L'Étape. And that was an awesome
13 place. There it was all Native counselors, all
14 Native children, and they got to do culture, they'd
15 got to go out and set snowshoe, they were going...
16 It was awesome. And that's the kind of place we
17 need for our children, our youth, that are placed
18 in these foster places. Our kids need to be... to
19 go back to their... to their people, their own
20 people, and be counseled by their people and... My
21 dream is to have a place like that for our youth
22 that are troubled youth or whatever, it's to have a
23 home for them. But in our language and our
24 culture. Not French. It's not good. Especially
25 for people that only speak English.

1 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

2 Hm. And I understand.

3 **MME [REDACTED] :**

4 And the Maison in Val-d'Or you're talk... it's
5 gone. It's not there no more.

6 **Me SUZANNE ARPIN :**

7 You don't talk about the group home in Louvicourt?
8 You're really talking about l'Étape in Val-d'Or.

9 **MME [REDACTED] :**

10 Yeah.

11 **Me SUZANNE ARPIN :**

12 Okay.

13 **MME [REDACTED] :**

14 Uh-hum. L'Étape, yeah.

15 **Me SUZANNE ARPIN :**

16 What could... According to you, why could the DYP
17 could have done differently for your nephew? For
18 the placement, for the Rouyn-Noranda home.

19 **MME [REDACTED] :**

20 What could've been done differently?

21 **Me SUZANNE ARPIN :**

22 Yeah.

23 **MME [REDACTED] :**

24 I think they should have been, with immediate
25 family, first. And if the immediate family can't

1 take care of them, then, put them in other
2 families.

3 **Me SUZANNE ARPIN :**

4 In the community.

5 **MME [REDACTED] :**

6 In the community. But like I said, they took them
7 out of the community, first.

8 **Me SUZANNE ARPIN :**

9 And there were people able to take care of them at
10 that time.

11 **MME [REDACTED] :**

12 Well, there's only so many people like, in the
13 community, that's on our list, that are foster care
14 home people, and I'm... I was... I never got on
15 that... I did foster care before, and I did when I
16 was younger and, I had my kids and, I fostered a
17 few kids from the community, but it was in the... I
18 didn't stay on. I started to work, and my husband
19 was working and we just couldn't do it anymore, and
20 so I didn't take any more kids.

21 But after that, when my nephews got sick, I
22 wanted to take them back and take them with me
23 and... It just didn't happen. And to go through
24 all the system to become a foster parent, is hard.
25 There's so many regulations, rules, that's in

1 there; background checks, everything. It's... I'm
2 not saying it's not important but, what's important
3 is family. Family should have first; whether it's
4 an aunt, whether it's an uncle, whether it's a
5 grandparent. Today I'm raising my grandchildren.
6 I raise two (2) grandchildren. I lost my daughter
7 four years ago... - five (5) years ago - and she
8 left us kids, so... I'm a grandma and I raise my
9 two (2) kids. She had four (4) kids. She had a
10 five (5) and... when she left, five (5), six (6)
11 year old... a five (5) and a six (6), four (4)
12 month old baby, and a sixteen (16) year old boy.
13 She died, and... so I care for them. And my
14 youngest daughter couldn't have children, so I gave
15 her the baby. The baby was four (4) months old.
16 Yeah. But that's our tradition if I...
17 Grandparents take care of the grandkids and, it's a
18 part of my tradition.

19 **Me SUZANNE ARPIN :**

20 Generally speaking, would you have any
21 recommendation to address to the Youth Protection
22 Services? Concerning the services, the
23 placement...

24 **MME** [REDACTED] :

25 Uh, I just wanted to say that, I think they should

1 be... the most important is the kids to be placed
2 with their family first. They should consider the
3 family and they shouldn't... they shouldn't have to
4 drill the parents or whatever to pass these tests
5 or all these forms that you have to fill out.
6 Family is family and I think kids should stay with
7 their family, and if they want to be put in a
8 foster home, well then that's what they should be
9 doing with the foster home: "okay, you fill out
10 these forms, you do it, see if you can... you'll
11 pass to be a foster parent."

12 But something closed like this, closed
13 relations, they should always ask the aunt, the
14 uncle or the grandparents. That's what I think
15 anyways.

16 **Me SUZANNE ARPIN :**

17 Do you have any further recommendation to improve
18 the relation between Indigenous people and the
19 public services?

20 **MME** [REDACTED] :

21 No. I'm okay. I just wanted to share that because
22 I thought... I still think a lot at the boys today,
23 and when I see them, I see him... I don't see the
24 older boy anymore, I think I see him at Christmas
25 that was it. The oldest... he's placed in Rouyn.

1 He's in a home. I never even seen his home yet.
2 He left the nursing home in [REDACTED] in
3 [REDACTED] he was placed there in a home,
4 nursing home, and now he's in Rouyn.

5 **Me SUZANNE ARPIN :**

6 Thank you for your sharing Mrs. [REDACTED].

7 **MME [REDACTED] :**

8 Thank you.

9 **Me SUZANNE ARPIN :**

10 I have no further questions.

11 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

12 Now, maybe Me Boucher, you have questions?

13 **M^e MARIE-PAULE BOUCHER :**

14 Aucune question Monsieur le Commissaire.

15 **Me DENISE ROBILLARD :**

16 Aucune question Monsieur le Commissaire.

17 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

18 Me Robillard, no questions? So I will thank you
19 very much for sharing with us...

20 **MME [REDACTED] :**

21 Uh-hum.

22 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

23 ... what you realised what happened with your
24 nephews [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

25 **MME [REDACTED] :**

1 Uh-hum.

2 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

3 I understand that you wish that more support be
4 given to families...

5 **MME** [REDACTED] :

6 Yeah.

7 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

8 ... having some difficulties. It happens that
9 family may have difficulties, but you wish that
10 they get before...

11 **MME** [REDACTED] :

12 Uh-hum.

13 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

14 ... taking the children...

15 **MME** [REDACTED] :

16 Yeah.

17 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

18 ... elsewhere that...

19 **MME** [REDACTED] :

20 The family should come together, like...

21 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

22 ... more support be given to them...

23 **MME** [REDACTED] :

24 Yeah. Uh-hum.

25 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

1 And I understand also that you find quite difficult
2 to become a foster family?

3 **MME** [REDACTED] :

4 Yeah. Uh-hum.

5 **LE COMMISSAIRE** :

6 To be selected as a foster family. Many, many
7 forms. And also, if some placement should have to
8 be done, you wish that more involvement of
9 immediate family and enlarged family and
10 communities be gathered to find a solution, a
11 consensus to help children. And also, I realised
12 that... I understand that they didn't have the
13 possibility to go to school in Rouyn-Noranda?

14 **MME** [REDACTED] :

15 Uh-hum.

16 **LE COMMISSAIRE** :

17 They were, like, locked in the Maison Rouyn-
18 Noranda?

19 **MME** [REDACTED] :

20 Uh-hum.

21 **LE COMMISSAIRE** :

22 No English school available for them. And I
23 understand that most communities in [REDACTED] are
24 English speaking communities.

25 **MME** [REDACTED] :

1 Uh-hum.

2 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

3 So I hope, I wish that something may be done. We
4 know that there are some possibilities to involve
5 families, to involve much more...

6 **MME** [REDACTED] :

7 Yeah.

8 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

9 ... families...

10 **MME** [REDACTED] :

11 Uh-hum.

12 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

13 ... and communities taking care of kids...

14 **MME** [REDACTED] :

15 Yeah. Uh-hum.

16 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

17 ... when there are difficulties in the families,
18 and I understand that you wish that something more
19 can be done about that.

20 **MME** [REDACTED] :

21 Uh-hum.

22 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

23 We are listening to that.

24 **MME** [REDACTED] :

25 They...

1 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

2 And I hope others are listening also.

3 **MME** [REDACTED] :

4 Yeah.

5 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

6 Would you like to add something?

7 **MME** [REDACTED] :

8 No. It's just that... No. I'm good. It's just
9 that they should involve the families. The close
10 families: aunts, uncles.

11 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

12 To make sure that kids in communities don't lose
13 their culture...

14 **MME** [REDACTED] :

15 Yeah.

16 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

17 ... their language, and so, the communities may
18 still be growing and... to keep all together, to
19 keep culture, language, realities...

20 **MME** [REDACTED] :

21 Uh-hum.

22 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

23 ... and maybe you will like to say that you will
24 wish that other people know more about what's going
25 on in the communities.

1 **MME** [REDACTED] :

2 It's... I just want to add, like, you know, in the
3 Abitibi area here, in this region, there's no place
4 like that for our children, that... where we can go
5 like I mentioned in l'Étape. My dream, as I said
6 on Council, my dream is to have an
7 Algonquin - we're all Algonquin here - to have an
8 Algonquin place like that where they can go to,
9 like l'Étape. But, I don't know, any... where...
10 goes in the bush, I don't know if we can have a
11 place, that's my dream, [REDACTED]
12 [REDACTED], that I want this to our youth. And I'm
13 speaking with the Grand Chief from the Algonquins
14 and it's her dream too, to have a place for our
15 youth to go to.

16 **LE COMMISSAIRE** :

17 Grand Chief Verna Polson?

18 **MME** [REDACTED] :

19 Like a treatment or... Yes. That's my dream and
20 her dream, and, that's what we're going to work on
21 in the next couple of years, if we can find a place
22 for all our youth that are... have troubles. Um-
23 hum.

24 **LE COMMISSAIRE** :

25 Thank you very much.

1 **MME** [REDACTED] :

2 Yeah. Thank you.

3 **LE COMMISSAIRE** :

4 And I wish that somebody is listening...

5 **MME** [REDACTED] :

6 Yes.

7 **LE COMMISSAIRE** :

8 ... somewhere, and good luck.

9 **MME** [REDACTED] :

10 Okay.

11 **LE COMMISSAIRE** :

12 So we'll suspend, maybe ten (10), fifteen (15)

13 minutes...

14 **Me SUZANNE ARPIN** :

15 Ten (10), fifteen (15) minutes.

16 **LE COMMISSAIRE** :

17 ... before going on with next witness?

18 **Me SUZANNE ARPIN** :

19 Yeah, thank you.

20 **LE COMMISSAIRE** :

21 Okay.

22 **LA GREFFIÈRE-AUDIENCIÈRE** :

23 La Commission est suspendue.

24 **LE COMMISSAIRE** :

25 Quinze (15) minutes.