

Statutory Declaration

I, Amarualik, Jusipi, Puvirnitug, 1979-

(Name, first name, address, birth date)

I do solemnly declare that,

I solemnly declare, meeting with Marie-Hélène Francoeur-Malouin, investigation agent from the Viens Commission, on August 14, 2018, in Kangirsuk.

(Inuktitut)

First I want to talk about my stay here in Makitautik, I feel that I was neglected by my probation officer when I was supposed to leave the program. Last July, she was supposed to notify me. She is supposed to return from her holidays today to release me from the centre. Without saying anything, she went to holidays, so I'm feeling neglected by my probation officer. So, I was told that I will be in Makitautik centre for 6 months maximum and today, it will be exactly 6 months today, since February. That is all for this issue.

As I am being going back and forth to jails, Saint Jerome, Amos, RDP, Hull, I felt that has been a lot of discrimination towards the Inuit who are incarcerated because they are native, they don't speak French, or they are handicapped, they are being made fun of. Especially when they do not speak English, they kept talking to them in English, even though the person didn't understand. Which is why there was one guy who got mad and sometimes they put them in the hole, just for not understanding, because of the language barrier, they are neglected for that.

(French)

Quand je comprends les gardiens, ils pensent que je ne comprends rien. Mais quand je parle en français, ils tournent rouges. Ils ne disent plus rien.

Declarer signature _____

Declared before me, _____

at _____ on _____

(Inuktitut and English)

They don't want to look at me anymore and after I did that, they respected me more. Some of the guards know me well, down south, especially in St-Jerome. I have a spirit of wanting to help the Inuit, seeing them being abused, neglected or differentiated just because they are Inuit. I don't like to see them being mistreated in a different way. Once before lunch hour, I was in the Inuit sector and there are about 48 of us. We just started to eat and just before we ate, the guard came and told us that there will be an exterminator so that we are going to have to eat fast. 5 minutes later while still eating, the exterminator guys, about 10 of them, came right away, I got so angry and I kept eating and kept swearing in French: "Criss de caliss de tabarnack". I was the last person to eat at the table. The French guys who were always screaming and yelling, they didn't do anything to me, so I kept it easy. So, I took my time to eat my meal when all the other Inuit left the place. That's why the guards were respecting me more, because they know who I am. I don't stand there and watch my fellow Inuit being mistreated. Sometimes I help them out. Also during the summer, and there are no air conditioners and because we are not used to the heat, we suffered from that condition. Sometimes because they are overheated during the summer, they stopped eating and lost their appetite and they lose weight and get sick easily.

Q1: Are there any fans in the sector?

A1: Yes, there is a big fan, but it makes it worse because it makes more heat because there is no air conditioner there. Sometimes, some people almost died, once, I was very sick during that middle of the summer, I didn't eat for 3-4 days. Somehow, I recovered from being sick and I didn't even go to a clinic.

Q2: Do you know if it's cooler in the other sectors?

A2: I don't know. St Jerome has AC. Only the maximum security part has a cooling system. There has been a lot going on. I have been in and out for 8 years. Too many things I don't remember anymore. The court, the lawyers, the crown. Regarding the court system, they postponed this for too long, I don't know how you say that the "prevenu" (remand prisoners). We are mixed up as French and Inuit. The French from down south, they got arrested one night and the next day, they got sentences right away and us we are still waiting 3-5 months. Last time, I waited 8 months or 12 months, I don't remember, I got my sentence after 8 months, I don't know why it's like that.

Q3: Do you know why they are postponing most of the cases for the Inuit?

A3: They do that mostly to the Inuit.

X

Enquêteur

X

Déclarant

Q4: Do you have any idea as to why.

A4: That's what I want to know. I have a lot of stuff in my mind. They are just gone. The food is bullshit. Oh sorry.

Q5: What about jail visits?

A5: No, never any visits to Inuits, because it costs too much money to go down south, you have to go to taxi and you have to write a lot of things, date of birth of visitors, very complicated to get a visit from your family. When the Inuit get incarcerated, they go through their incarceration without receiving any visits from families.

Q6: Do you have any recommendations for this to change or make this work?

A6: I want all Inuit to get out of jail, all of them. When we got arrested, there's no more cigarettes. We asked for the patch and we have to write, speedy memo, and we have to wait 2–3 weeks, and they forgot about us. When we were in "prevenu", the French people, they got answers the very next day, they get their patch. All Inuits are treated like that.

Q7: In every jail?

A7: Yes, everywhere.

Q8: How is it working for you in jail about the clothing, do people send you any clothing?

A8: Some people, they don't have families to help them out and sometimes, they have to wear clothing that is theirs, sometimes they are dirty because they have bed bugs. Sometimes I have to help them out and give them some of my clothes. Those who don't have family to help them out, because they have no way to interact, so I ended up giving away my clothes.

Q9: Is that your family that is giving you clothes?

A9: Yes, but I have to use my own clothes for a very long time, I think it was 18 months. I had to wear my own clothes. I had to wear them for a very long time. They also give small number of t-shirts, socks and sometimes, they refuse to give money that was sent to the person from the family. RDP system is even worse in mistreating the Inuit and giving them a bad name, especially to those who are mentally ill.

X

Enquêteur

X

Déclarant

Q10: Do you have examples of the names used?

A10: The word Tooktoo. They always give the work "Tooktoo". When I understand that, I give them the finger or swear at them. French guards mostly. I say that to them: "what if I call you a Nigger, what would you say?" When I'm very angry, I don't just stand there. I don't keep things.

Q11: I can understand that you want to speak up when they are disrespectful.

A11: Yes, that's why some of the guards know me very well. I call them screws.

Q12: Is the RDP the worst jail?

A12: I think the worst jail is RDP for Inuit including disabled Inuit. I don't know why they put them there, the disabled Inuit. They are not supposed to be there. Last year, there was this young guy, he was my cousin's son, he was disabled. I was in the waiting room and he was passed by a lady. That lady was making fun of him, kept calling him "tookoo" and he kept on smiling, not understanding. I think that's it for me, I'm just getting...

Q13: What is the name of your probation officer?

A13: Camille. They have her name here.

Q14: Do you feel better that it's better in St Jerome because there is an Inuit sector than other jails when you are left alone or dispatched in almost every sector?

A14: Almost every sector has an Inuit. There are too many Inuit in St Jerome. Sometimes the unilingual Inuit are brought to the French sector and they miss talking in their own language. They don't know how to make collect calls or receive them. The calling card, I ordered a \$10 calling card. I called, and they removed \$3 and I talked for about 5 minutes and it's almost done.

Q15: Is it possible to make a call, to the guards?

A15: Yes, we have to make a memo and some guards don't care about this, but some guards, when they are kind, I go for that person and they let you call for 10 minutes. Anyone else would send you back.

X

Enquêteur

X

Déclarant

Q16: Do have a guard that is responsible for the demands, like an "elu"?

A16: Yes. I forgot what you call it. I can't remember

Q17: I was just wondering if you have a guard like this when you are in St Jerome?

A17: Yes. Each one of us has. One guard, maybe 10 clients or more. Some are nice, and some don't care about you.

Q18: some are not making effort, any other recommendations?

A18: I wish we had Inuit guards but that will never happen. Never happen. I think that's it for me.

X

Enquêteur

X

Déclarant