

## Statutory Declaration

I, Sallualuk, Elijassie (1943-03-03) Puvirnituk.

(Name, first name, address, birth date)

I do solemnly declare that,

I do solemnly declare, meeting with Annick Wylde, investigation agent from the Viens Inquiry, and 25th of July 2018, Puvirnituk

Q1. Which service you want to speak about?

A1. D.Y.P.

Q2. You want to speak about the D.Y.P

A2. I'm astonished. I'm still astonished when the D.Y.P. takes away the kids from their children, and it's like never to see them again 'cause when they make a decision for that child to be taken until the age of majority, 'til 18, to be that's very painful 'cause kids are kids. They still will love their parents no matter, we'll still love our kids, and the kids will still love their parents no matter what they do. No matter the situation that they're in. Those are the most important people that they need in life as kids. But when they're separated it's seems like they're separated for life, from their very early age. I don't know if it's the government or the white people who come up with that rule, making the law. Maybe Inuit people, I don't even think they were ever been consulted about this law. Because every child make a mistake. Every person make a mistake. For those families that are separated, the paretns are hurt for sure, but that pain is nothing compared to what the children are feeling, 'cause they're feeling it everyday wanting to be with their parents, because they are kept away from their parents or to see them for a very long time. And if they haven't been with their parents, they wouldn't even bother to see them anymore 'cause they don't no longer see them 'cause they've been away for so many years. This new way of dealing with the kids that we are put in a situation where it's brand new. It was never like that before. Even the parents, when the kids are taken away from them, it seems like they don't care anymore, so they don't bother to try to get any better from being hopelessness. So, they just kind of give up and just do whatever to keep the pain away from, not to feel the pain 'cause...this is how I understand it now because I would like this to be further investigated to see if it can be changed. The kids in these situations, we fill the kids with full compassion but at the same time helpless 'cause they are to be loved. And I don't understand how

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this system, nobody knows if it's useful. Nobody ever told if it's working, if it's helpful or not. We've never seen the results of this kids they've been taken away, how well it is doing 'cause nobody ever get back to us if his is actually working or not. So, his recommendation is instead of just taking the kids away from their parents automatically, if they really...but for those neglecting their children or alleged to have neglected children, should first be told that if they don't make some better changes about themselves, that they should first be verbally warned: "Your kid's going to be taken away from you if you don't take some steps to make some changes.", and then have a second warning. But on the third, if they don't change, then it would make more sense if the kids are taken away from them. But right now, the way that they are, the way it works, is the D.Y.P. just take the kids without a proper explanation. Without a proper planning. And the kids are caught in the middle of the systematic setup. Right now, when the kids are taken outside of their own hometown 'cause it seems like, to them, it's the only way to take them away from their own hometown, to a different communities. This is really bad. Extremely bad for Inuit. Because the white people are the ones who make all the rules and laws and they don't even know if the laws that they're making are actually working or not. Because we know ourselves we have our own culture, way of taking care of our problems. But no matter what race you are, there's no other race or nation that can try to fix other nation's lifestyle. It's because nobody...the white people is the people who make their law, and they're the ones that control everything. Nobody can seems to say: "Hey, this is not right." 'cause they're the ones who are in control. Like he said, even if some other nationality is trying to take care of us, they will never be able to fix or have any solution for us. Because those people that have their kids taken away from them, they're adults. They have a heart too. And when they have it in their heart to make some changes then they can turn around and make better changes for the betterment for their kids. But as long as you don't give them time to take a look at themselves or counsel them instead of just taking them away from them, you're actually maximizing further dysfunctionality between the families. Because the kids see their parents as the most precious thing in life. It's the best and the foundation of their...it's their foundation their parents. Because as long as you don't give the time for the parents to come to the point where they're going to have to evaluate themselves, they won't be able to want to make any step 'cause you're actually just ripping them first, ripping their kids away from them. It's not fixing them. It's further damaging them. So, we have to try to look for solutions both sides as Inuit and white people, like together. For those who make the law they have to work with us to make things better, look for a better solution. But not in the way that they're doing it right now 'cause it's just damaging the families and the kids are taken away from their parents. For them to have a better future for their children instead of separating them. Because it's the white people who make the legislation for everybody should follow. Because those parents are adults that are losing their children and the way that they are being treated by the white people, they think that Inuit people cannot take care of their own children. They think that we're that stupid enough not to be able to take care of our own children. They're the ones who come up with the legislations. They make the laws. It's like the way that they see us and the way that they treat us it's like: "These Inuit people are just like babies. They don't even know how to follow the law which is a law that they make themselves. And that is totally unacceptable. For an example, the way that they see Inuit it's like as if they're immature. As if they're babies. So, the way I want to see is let's work together to see how we can come up with a better solution that is not one-sided. We're both sides. We're both together to try to come up with solutions. For thousands of years Inuit have been able to take care of their own lives

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as families, and just because of their strong ability to survive together we're able to come to this day. But this brand-new rule is destructing our society as Inuit because Qallunaat the white people they don't see us as being able to do this. These new rules are actually trying to extinguish our true values of being able to have one another as a family, in love through...like, we are able to work but each other for another. It's just a fact that this new rule is just trying to separate our culture which is the most fundamental foundation in our own identity. Our culture is oneness, unity. As a family is trying to be...actually being destructed by these new rules that come from the outside. And the way that I see the children, when they grow up, that have been taken away from their parents, they're going to end up hating their parents because they say: "You didn't take care of me and that's why I was fostered.". The way he sees the future, that the kids are turning against their own parents. And they have no recommendations whatsoever whether if their law or rules, or legislations are actually working or not.

Q3. They've never been asked to participate to change the law.

A3. Yeah, exactly. That's the exact situation that we're in. We hear, I know that all the communities, in Inuit communities, we hear talking on the radio, news, 'cause all the Inuit communities have reporters that are elders. They go on the radio all over the region, all over Canada as well. We can hear that we're all in the same situation. We feel like, the way that we hear it and see it it's like we're just trying to be extinguished. Because family unity is actually being...We already have enough problems as it is. But to the parents, the families, and the children, the parents are actually further being distanced, separated further. Because when a person only wants to make them changes, he or she is the only one who can make that change. Not by force. We have to really...Because the parents they are not stupid either when they apologize, when they reconcile with their children, the family unity gets back together again 'cause that's what it takes, reconciliation, through forgiveness, through counselling. The most painful thing is, right now, the children are the ones that are suffering the most because of the adults' confliction in political arena. Does that make sense? So, that really kills a child when they are taken away from their parents.

Q4. Do you know the percentage of the children sent away in the community?

A4. No

Q5. How many kids?

A5. They are a lot. Many. I haven't done any, trying to figure out percentage or figures.

A6. Those are the service that I wanted to say.

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