

Statutory Declaration

I, Shecapio, Isaac, [REDACTED] Mistissini, [REDACTED] 1977, [REDACTED]
(Name, first name, address, birth date)

Recorded on 2018.06.12. About his mom and health services, in cree language with english translator (T) named Stella.

I do solemnly declar that,

Services de santé

Chibougamau and Montreal General Hospital in 2013.

A1: He is saying that even though the incident happened 5 years ago, and it was concerning his mother, he still feels strong that if he tells his story it might prevent it from happening to another elder again. That's what happened with his mother. It still hard for him and it still emotional for him to express what happened.

A1: He saying the incident started April 5th 2013, that was the grand opening of the new clinic here. His mother was in a wheelchair but she really wanted to see the opening. His mother lived alone and sometimes she went to sleep with her grand kids like come over and sleep but two days later she found her mother felt in the house. When the incident happened, he went on the ambulance with his mother to Chibougamau and he said that he noticed on the Red Lake, she was fallen and it was starting like really bruise. And when they got to Chibougamau, they were asked to sign like a weaver, or an authorization but it was a form from the hospital telling them that they gonna cut off the muscles from his mother's leg.

Q2: Which department asked for the form?

A3: Emergencies. [REDACTED]. The bone was still there so the infection went higher up the leg and they had to cut. That was in Montreal. When he was told to sign the form, he doesn't know if it's an authorization or a weaver, he was told that once you would sign the form they would have kept his mother for 72 hours and the doctor told him «You can go home ».

Q4: In Mistissini?

Declarer signature _____

Declared before me, _____

at _____ on _____

A4 : In Chibougamau. He told him : « You can go home ». He went back again to Chibougamau. At 9h30 in the morning he was in Chibougamau only to realize that his mother was already gone but the doctor told him « You can go home on the medivac with your mom. Don't worry about it ».

Q5: The next day ?

A5 : Yes, the next day.

Q6: But she was already gone with medivac?

A6: Yes, without anybody to translate for her or...i guess he was supposed to be there with her.

Q7: Do you know the name of the doctor?

A7: I don't really...Even if i see him, he won't see me i think. He doesn't want to see me. I was looking for him the next day, no one was...even the nurses who were working, they didn't want to see me.

Q8: That's how you felt?

A8: Yes, that's how I felt. Because he was saying, as soon as he signed the form it's like they were ignored, they didn't communicate with them and they put the mother in the corner. They haven't told their mother after. She was put on the corner, they drew the curtains and they didn't want to see them to explain them process, what's going to happen next. It was not a priority for the doctor.

Q9: So, the medical staff didn't take the time to explain to you what was going on and the process ?

Q10: He said that, even, he couldn't find the doctor when he went back.

A10: You were asking questions?

Q11: I was asking questions and i remember i was mad at that time.

A11: The first he did when he knew his mother was gone, he called the patient services to find out where his mother was sent but even the patient services didn't know where she was sent. When he knew that even the patient services didn't know where she was, he contact his cousin who lives in Montreal through Facebook. He asked him to go check for his mother at the Montreal General Hospital because that's where the cree patients get sent. He said his cousin found his mother almost like i guess hysterical, very not pleased, she was screaming and crying in the hallway in the bed.

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Enquêteur

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Déclarant

Because she was for i don't know how long. She was in a lot of pain. Chibougamau had already cut off the muscle, the bone was still there. Apparently, there was a bigger infection that just climbed up the leg. He said that she was lucky, she just kept her health card with her when all her stuff was stolen. Like all her clothes, her cane that was put under the bed was stolen and nobody cared to find out what's going on with his mother. It was until his cousin got to the hallway. That's when they started to give her treatment because she was obviously in a lot of pain by then because it was really a bad infection.

Q12: You cousin reacted i guess?

A12: I guess because he named after him and my cousin... she wasn't very happy. Because he told me the story about my mom that happened.

(T): His mother doesn't speak a word of English at all. She didn't communicate at all with anybody. She speaks only Cree.

Q13: Is there a Cree patient there at this hospital?

A14: Yes, i used to see 2 or 3 translators.

Q15: Do you know if they were aware of?

A15: There was nobody, she was all alone in the hallway but there were few people lying down in the hallway.

Q15: Probably the Cree patient didn't know that she was there?

A15: He left Mistissini April 9th to be with his mother and stayed there with his mother from April 9th to 20th. His mother was diabetic, had a pacemaker and they amputated her leg because when they cut off the member, the infection was too bad so they had to amputate the leg. He doesn't understand how the Montreal's hospital didn't reach her file because on her file it said when she had a pacemaker installed that she was not supposed have any surgeries and he says « I don't know what happened ? Why she kept having surgeries? They took off the muscle then they amputated the leg so when he had to come back because he didn't have any money, her mother told him you should go home be with your family because he had a wife and kids here and it was almost goose break here.

So, one of his step sisters, a sister that they adopted in the family, went to go stay with the mother but she was trying to tell people that the mother wasn't doing well, that she was on life support but nobody believed her. It was only on April 30th they finally decided to call him and ask him to go to be

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Enquêteur

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Déclarant

with his mother because she was on ilife support and not doing well at all. They finally told him on April 30th around 4 o'clock, he was gonna be leaving, but his mother had already passed away.

Q16: Around 11h30, that day on the 30th.

A16: And he couldn't go back because he didn't have money, he didn't work for a long period, and his family was already out in the bush. He didn't have a permanent driver's licence, he only had a learner's. He didn't have enough money for gas to go traveling to Montreal from Mistissini but i guess someone came to see him and told him «Your mother passed away ». That was the day he was supposed to go, April 30th, to go back to Montreal.

Q17: Do you know the person who told you that your mom had passed away?

A17: Yes, I know that guy. He always stays with me during the goose break. I like that guy because i was alone

(T): He doesn't have any siblings, that's his adopted sister. But he had a sister, she lived in Waskaganish and she didn't know what was going on.

Q18: So nobody from the hospital informed you about your mother's health? They didn't question you, ask you about the pace-maker? Do they have the report?

A18: For sure they had the report.

Q19: They didn't read it? So they made surgery even if it was not indicated to do surgery in her case?

(T): Yes and she was diabetic. She was supposed to receive dialysis, they were getting her ready but she passed away before she could get the dialysis while she was in Montreal.

Q20: Sorry for your lost. Sorry about what happened too. How did you feel when that happened?

A20: I felt like i am nothing for them.

(T): His sister that was trying to tell the patient services how his mother's health was declining, they didn't believe her, and they didn't listen to her. He had a cousin [REDACTED] [REDACTED], she was in Montreal and she was the one who kept pushing patient services to bring him up because he saw how bad shape his mother was and the health was declining. I guess she kept pushing patient services and that's the only reason why, on April 30th, they decided to bring him up. He says he felt

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Enquêteur

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like he was nobody, like nobody important like nobody acknowledged to what he was going through. He knows his mother was 74 years old and before the incident she was healthy like okay and he felt like because of all this that happened he lost his mother, he feels like his mother was taken from him too soon. Then, she shouldn't have be gone because of what happened.

Q21: Did you feel like they neglected your mom? The services?

A21: Yes. Yes.

Q22: About the Cree patient services in Montreal, i guess that your cousin went to see them to explain the situation sot hey knew already?

A22: Yes. She didn't even see her brothers, sisters. Only my stepsister was there. No one was there because usually, they invite the family. Patient services call and invite the family. That's what i'm noticing, i always escorted my mom to Montreal. When that happened...

(T): He says because the limited communication he had with his sister, he doesn't know when her mother was on life support. The life support didn't start on April 30th, she was on life support before that. His sister took a picture because he didn't believe his sister but nobody believed his sister not even patient services because usually when a person is on life support they call all the family to come and be with the family but nobody believed them and i guess her sister took a picture and sent it to him and then, that's when he got worried.

Q23: The patient services didn't believe the sister but they were at the hospital they could see her?

A23: I don't know, that's why I have questions.

(T): When his cousin, [REDACTED], went to see [REDACTED], she was crying in the room and she couldn't really talk. She couldn't even express to say i need my family here because she was very emotional.

Q24: The cousin?

(T): No the sister. The sister was the escort. She was in a bad shape and there was only [REDACTED] only [REDACTED] went to see how emotionaly distress his sister was.

Q25: What was the name of your mother?

A25: En français c'est Laura. Laura Coon-Come but she married to a Shecapio.

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Enquêteur

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Déclarant

(T): Usually, when you go for medical files, they go for the maiden name. So she is under Laura Coon-Come but she married a Shecapio.

Q26: What is her birthdate?

A26: 1938 January 20. She was my mother and my father. She was my teacher. I lost my dad since i was 14. Diabetes and cancer. He died same room as my mother.

Q27: In the hospital?

A27: In the General Hospital, 9th floor, room 9. I still remember that. The same as my mom that's where he passed away, same room.

Q28: If i asked you if you have any recommendation, for the hospital for exemple, or on how you would like to be treated as the family, or on how your mother should have been treated, what kind of recommendation you would give?

A28: (IS's wife or member of the family is talking): My mother passed away a month before his mom. The Cree patient services they allow one escort but to be a care giver it's very tiring so my mom had two escorts. So espacially when it is elderly, they should have two escorts. And before they sign anything, they should make sure that the person understands what they are signing.

Q29: Do you agree with that?

A29: Yes.

(T): What he is saying is, the reason why he was telling this story is because he doesn't want this to happen to another elder. He didn't know about the Commission until today. He didn't know what it was or what we do and he said it would have made it easier for him to accept his mother was sent out if she knew she was okay with a nurse taking care of her. But for him, he feels like she just got dumped off at the hospital. If she was in intensive care in Chibougamau, why did they just dump her in the hallway in Montreal, in pain, after having surgery, with no translators? There was not even a translator in Chibougamau for her mother and he doesn't like that to happen again. He wants more translators.

Q30: The closest hospital from the community is in Chibougamau. There are a lot of native patients who go to Chibougamau but there is no translator?

A30: That time, i didn't see because probably they work only 9 to 5. After 9 to 5 there is no translator.

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Enquêteur

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Déclarant

(T) : He says he finds peace while he's telling us the story because he was never allowed to express what happened and nobody ever listened to his story and i guess he's happy he's able to tell us his story.

Q31: Thank you for your sharing, i know your mother is very important for you. Like you said she was your dad.

A31: Yes and she was my teacher cause i was 14 when my dad passed away and after that she was my...Couple of years, she had stroke but she was back on her feet again.

Q32: I'm glad that you feel better, i won't arrange all that though, but just the fact that you ventilate about what happened it's a good thing. I understand that you don't want the elders, in the future...

A32: I'm gonna be an elder too.

Q33: Yes, we all.

A33: I don't want to lie in a hallway (laughters)

Q34: I understand. You said that they asked you to fill a form for an authorization to cut her muscle, they never explained to you what was on the form. Did they check if you understood English well? They never explained it to you?

A34: I think i was alone.

(T): The only thing he remembers is: 72 hours.

A34: 72 hours. You can go home. Tomorrow we'll figure it out what we are gonna do.

Q35: So that's the only information that they gave you?

A35: Yes.

Q36: And in the form, there was a lot of writing?

A36: Of course. There was like a file.

Q37: They didn't ask you if you understood English?

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Enquêteur

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Déclarant

A37: No. They didn't even...I don't remember. I don't remember they tell my anything.


Q38: The Cree patient services over the hospital in Montreal, is it native people who work there?

A38: Yes, some of them.

Q39: They speak Cree?

A39: Some of them.

Q40: You are not satisfied with these services there, too?



A40: After my mom passed away, I have met the boss ladies, from Chisasibi and from Mistissini,  I met them at the restaurant, I already had my food, then I saw them, they were sitting down, they were laughing, I wasn't very happy, I saw them. I had to go get them, talk to them and tell them my story. Both of them they were crying. I told them « Don't do that again. You shouldn't send anyone to Montreal by himself, especially an elder. » After that, I felt they helped me because my daughter was sick when she was born. She was a baby but her heart was old. I noticed that time, they really helped me. I went to visit at the hospital, they provided my ride.

Q41: Okay. When she was in Chibougamau, the doctor sent her to General Hospital in Montreal. The Cree patient services didn't know that she was there?

A41: I don't think so.

Q42: It's probably a lack of communication from the hospital in Chibougamau that didn't tell the Cree patient services that she was in Montreal but they knew it because when your cousin went there, they probably went to the Cree patient services, am I right ?

A42: Yes.

(T): He said after his mother passed away, he was in a restaurant here, he saw the chairman of the Cree health board and the executive director  and  were the executive director at that time. I guess they went to sit down and he saw them they were laughing, having their meals. He said he didn't feel good so he went over and told them his story of what happened and they were in tears and he told them that he didn't that to happen to anybody again. He daughter, at that time, had a hole in her heart, and that year they gave him everything he wanted, bus ticket, room, anything. He feels that the same things happened to him when his father passed away. He wasn't getting the services so he couldn't go see his dad. His dad died stomach cancer in

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Enquêteur

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Déclarant

1992. He said it was too much to lose his father and couldn't say goodbye and then, to lose his mother and he couldn't say goodbye. It was hard for him to accept the treatment he was getting.

Q43: Yes, twice.

A43: Twice, yes.

(T): I guess the same thing happened to her, she couldn't see her mom. Their mothers died one month apart. His mother passed away one month after her mother. It was the same thing with to her, she couldn't see her mother because she already had two escorts.

(Wife): My mother had two escorts. His mother had one escort.

Q44: Escort is a professional, a staff?

A44: It's a family member.

(T): He says that he was always the escort for his mother because he was her only child here. When he escorted his mother it was a special for them to be together and he doesn't want that to happen to any elder again.

Q45: Regarding the escort, is it during?

(T): Escort is a translator.

A45: I had to translate for my mother.

Q46: So, you assisted her from the beginning.

A46: Or she used to walk by a cane, me, i used to grab everything.

Q47: You said that they should have two escorts, more than one.

A47: For an elder.

(T): Because for an elder, it's a lot more work involved because you have to care for the elder. It becomes very tiresome because you have to translate, you have to basically do everything for them

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Enquêteur

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Déclarant

especially when they are in a foreign place because going to Montreal, Val D'or, all those places are very intimidating for an elder.

Q48: Absolutly and stressful. And the escort has the patient services paid like the food, the room ?

(T): Yes.

Q49: Well, thank you Mr. Shecapio and your name is?

(Wife): [REDACTED]

Second track (The discussion is already engaged) IS is for Isaac Shacapio, [REDACTED] is for his wife [REDACTED] D for daughter and M for [REDACTED]

E: He was full with a lot of anger, he was very upset, and he went to the Cree justice and one of his cousin works there, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] He wanted to take this to Court but his advice to him was « You should wait, something is gonna happen ». Because all these things that were happening within the five years he went to drugs, he went to alcohol because he was so angry. So i think, that's maybe another thing that has to be considered it's how things like this happened and how it affects the family, how it affects the personally, in his personal life too especially if you want to go to justice and they tell « Oh, you shouldn't go to court that way, you should wait for this ».

Q50: You don't know what is gonna happen, they don't give you any information?

A50: Yeah.

Q51: I understand. The consequence of those kind of situation has a big impact on the family. You've been on drugs and alcohol for 5 years during that situation?

A51: Always doing before but after that i think I got worst.

Q52: So, it had an impact.

E : When the justice that affected the family, cause the children, not being able to express what had happened or to find some kind of solution, even counselling.

Social services:

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Enquêteur

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Déclarant

A52: I tried to go treatment but they get me on my Oka, you know Oka, they are afraid to throw me out because I speak English you know.

Q53: Did you get some help here?

A53: I went to treatment back in 2011. I was in a treatment in Waskaganish. They do in Cree, that's why I went over there.

Q54: Did you share your feelings, how you felt, about the situation of your mom here? Did you have any support?

A54: No.

E: Before that happened, I was able to work and he was always in the bush hunting, doing well. After that, his mom passed away then he got worst so i was not able to work too. That affected the family and everything.

D: He saying that one of the recommendations he would want to put forward was to have a treatment program that was fitted more to cree because in Oka it's a different native settings, they didn't speak Cree and when he went to Waskaganish, they spoke Cree but it was more like coastal so he said maybe it would have helped him to deal with all of the grief i guess, with eveything that happened, if there was a treatment program just for the cree. One for coastal, one for inland. The languages are very different.

Q54: Yes, the dialects.

(T): He says that all the anger mangement, grief counselling, all those things are all done in English and he's not good in English. So, he was not able to access any of those services.

Q55: And you were ready to go but you don't have any support?

A55: Yes.

(T) : He mentioned that he is to meet up but the worker that does the intakes and he says that he wasn't getting the support from the meet up worker. He cried out for help but.

Q56: Here?

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Enquêteur

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Déclarant

(T): He didn't get the referrals and then, one session came around it would be goose break or moose break or fall break.

E: The session was same time than goose break or moose break. The session would fall under our goose break or moose break so he wouldn't be able to go.

(T): Because for Cree, the goose break, the moose break, it's family time to be together. That's the time for the families.

Q57: It's precious.

A57: Yes.

Q58: I can't promise that you will come in front of the Commissioner but there are different options, tell me what you prefer. First, i will do your resume and it's gonna be approved by you, then, I may read your resume for you in front of the Commissioner or i can deposit your resume and your story will be heard anyway. What do you prefer?

(T): Whatever way that works out. He didn't get that far because he didn't realize he was going to be here telling his story so if it's a deposit or he tells the story or you tell the story, what ever works.

Q59: The most important is that your story is gonna be heard.

A59: Yes.

Q60: Do you want to be identified?

A60: It doesn't matter.

Q61: This consent form that I will make you sign if you accept, it's only if i'm not able to reach you, you authorize us to deposit you resume. If i can not reach you by phone or by e-mail...

A61: You can always reach me by facebook.

Q62: I have a facebook but it's a personal facebook. (laughters)

Lenght : 10 minutes

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Enquêteur

X _____

Déclarant

Q63: You told me yesterday that when you discovered your mom, at her house, she was lay down, what did you do?

A63: First of all, I was in my place and I tried to call my mom that morning. I used to call at 7 o'clock in the morning and I tried once, I thought she was very tired that night so I let her rest, I thought she was rest (resting) then, I called another time around 9h15- 9h30 so i knew ther was something wrong cause she didn't answer her phone so i went to her place. I had to kick her door, to break her door because i went on her window and i saw her lying down in the washroom with her little dog on top of her. So, i had to break the door and went in. Once i got in the room, i had to help her because i used to be a home care worker for elders. I used to work there. So i know how to support my mom. So, i gave her a pillow, and she was wet all over the floor, i had to fix the floor. I gave her a blanket, she was shaking, cold, so i called the ambulance in Mistissini, between 9h30 and 9h40. Right after i saw my mom. I was waiting for like 2 hours. Ambulance didn't show up. The ambulance's driver was in Oujé-Bougoumou for hockey, minor tournament i think and they lost the keys of the ambulance. They didn't know where it is.

Q64: Who?

A63: Health board

Q64: When you say there is an ambulance, it's only one...

A64: It's only one ambulance but sometimes it came from Chibougamau, another ambulance. But they said, in Chibougamau, we are busy with...they didn't have time to come.

Q65: But you have an amulance here in Mistissini?

A65: Yes, we have an ambulance.

Q66: There are how many ambulance men or ambulance drivers?

A66: I don't know, couple of...maybe 4 or 5.

Q67: The in Ouje-Bougoumou...

A67: I think the guy in Ouje-Bougoumou had the keys with him.

Q70: So, you had the services of other officers here?

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Enquêteur

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Déclarant

A70: The fire fighters came over to my place after 2 hours. Because my mom was lying down, shaking, cold...

Q71: And they brought her...?

A71: ...to the clinic here.

Q72: What happened after, at the clinic?

A72: I think they called the ambulance from town because i remember to go with the ambulance.

Q73: The ambulance of Chibougamau?

A73: Yes.

Q74: The guy who works for the ambulance is not the only one? What about the other ones?

A74: I don't know what happened.

Q75: They never came? They never called?

A75: No. They never told me anything.

Q76: So, you waited two hours and no staff of the clinic went to your place?

A76: There was a nurse, after i fixed my mom, who came by with her big bag.

Q77: What was the delay?

A77: The nurse told me « We couldn't find the keys for the ambulance and we couldn't do anything. » She showed 20 minutes after, the nurse, because i called the ambulance, the emergency worker was there, the nurse... And, also, there is only one nurse sometimes in the clinic, emergency worker. That's how i noticed.

Q78: Okay, so this part is very important like we talked yesterday. Thank you. How did you feel when the ambulance didn't show up?

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Enquêteur

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Déclarant

A78: I was very angry. They didn't even want to talk to me, even the police didn't event want to talk to me. Because i remember i said « What's wrong? Where is the ambulance?

Q79: You were angry?

A79: Yes.

Q80: Okay, thank you.

End

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Enquêteur

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Déclarant