

Statutory Declaration

I, Sheshamush, Phillip, [REDACTED], [REDACTED]
(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 April 10 2018, at the band office building.

I want to share stories I lived or that my family lived regarding police services in Gatineau and Whapmagoostui.

Gatineau

The first story, it happened in [REDACTED] 2007, around eleven o'clock in the morning. It was in Gatineau. The street we lived on was [REDACTED] I think. My wife and I were trying to catch the bus. So we went across the road from my apartment and we were kind of running, trying to catch the bus on time. I noticed that a police vehicle was passing by and I continued running. Next thing I know the bus was coming, and my wife was still not coming. I got worried so I went back to the corner and when I approached, I noticed that she was stopped by the police vehicle. I decided to approach the vehicle as she was talking to the police. Right away I decided to ask why she was stopped. The police, a lady, said it was because we were jaywalking.

When she was telling me that, I saw a lady with a dog crossing the road the way we proceeded. I told the policewoman to take a look at that lady and asked if she would do something. A few seconds later there was a few people going across, maybe two, so I said again that there were people going across. The policewoman reacted, saying that I was his problem, pointing at me. I asked if they were doing that because we are Natives, and she reacted, very mad when I said that.

Q1: Those two police officers were white?

A1: Yes, they were French.

Declarer signature _____

Declared before me, _____

at _____ on _____

Q2: They were speaking to you in English?

A2: Yes.

Q3: The other persons that you pointed out, they were also white people?

A3: Yes, they were white people like them. The police asked us our names, date of birth, and we gave it to them, we cooperated. They asked where we lived, the address, and they asked again why we were running. I told them that we were trying to catch the bus. The lady, I could feel that she was very mad. I said I needed their names, badge numbers, and their sergeant's name and where I can contact him. She got madder.

Q4: You could see by how she was writing?

A4: Yes, aggressively, she was writing and she started tearing the paper. The guy was sitting on the passenger's side, and the lady was driving. The guy passed me the note, and I told him I would call his sergeant. She said they could put us in jail, and I asked for what? For jaywalking? I said I was willing to go to court and that I had rights.

Q5: Did they give you a ticket?

A5: No, nothing.

Q6: Just the paper with her name, badge number and the sergeant's phone?

A6: Yes. That same day I called the number they had given me, it was a police station I think, and I asked for that sergeant. He wasn't there. Two days after I received a call from the sergeant, and he said he had heard I had problems with his officers. I said that I would like to know why we were stopped trying to catch the bus, was it because of our race, because we are Natives, and he asked me why we were running. I said we were trying to catch the bus like I'd said from the beginning. I said it was racism, being targeted because of our race. I told him I could put this in the news and when I said that the sergeant said he was very sorry about what happened and that he would fix this. I told him he should talk to all officers, not just them, not to target Natives that we were trying to live like humans and not be discriminated or targeted by the police officers. That's what happened.

X

Enquêteur

X

Déclarant

Q7: Did he say he would do anything?

A7: Yes he said he would get back to me, he would talk to those officers, but he never got back to me. He took my phone number but never called me back.

Q8: And you don't recall the name of the lady or the sergeant?

A8: They said that they opened a file for me jaywalking, and I asked for a file number but that lady didn't want to give it to me.

Q9: Why do you think that this lady police got mad when you were telling her she was racist or targeting you because of your race?

A9: She got mad because she knew, I think she knew, because I told them there were other people crossing the light, white people, I even said white people, and the guy said: "You are my problem."

Q10: So both of them were targeting you?

A10: Yes. I see a lot of police officers in Gatineau, they wave at me, they wave at us, but those two I had problems with, I'm sure other Natives had problems too.

Q11: So it's not something that is general, just those two you had problems with?

A11: Yes. Oh and that lady was using profane language twice, the f-word, when she was talking to me. I knew she was mad when she spoke those f-words.

Q12: And was the discussion heated?

A12: No, I knew to control my temper, but her she was out of control. She was tearing up the paper and she was shaking.

X

Enquêteur

X

Déclarant

Whapmagoostui

This happened [REDACTED] 2017, at around 9:40 in the evening. A resident named [REDACTED] and his friend came knocking at my place. I opened the door and they had tried to force themselves into my house by pushing the door. I decided to force them out by pushing the door; they held the doorknob so I couldn't lock it. At 9:50, the police arrived because I had called them. It was the EEPF and the police officers were [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. One officer approached them and I tried to inform the officer [REDACTED], that when they tried to push the door, I could smell alcohol on those people.

Q1: So that those people were drunk, and trying to force into your place?

A1: Yes. When they talked, I could smell the breath. But when the police came, those two were on the ATV and trying to go. I told the police officer when he approached my wife and me, I asked him: "are you going to do something? They are drunk". He said they were not drunk, they were not staggering. When [REDACTED], approached my wife and me, he said that my daughter [REDACTED] was a very good liar and I said: "What?" He said she had stolen a Ski-doo. I didn't call him for my daughter, I called him for those two people and he just ignored the situation. Instead of trying to intervene, he talked to me about a case that I had no knowledge. So I told the police officer that he was not in a position to discuss anything about a case with me.

Q2: Is your daughter a minor?

A2: She is twenty-two.

Q3: So he didn't have to talk about a case of another person?

A3: Yes. I could understand if she was a minor. So I questioned him, and he got more aggressive, he got more upset. I told him to do his job; these people came to my place, invaded my privacy by knocking and they were drunk, they were causing disturbance, they were on the Honda drinking and driving, I asked if he was going to intervene and he said they weren't drunk. I told him he was arguing with me, while he was supposed to argue with them. I was the one who called them, I was the victim. Anyways, he let them go but he stated to me that I was trying to question his work. I told him those people were intoxicated and that he had to perform a breathalyser, but he let them go. He argued with me instead of asking questions like why they were forcing the door.

X

Enquêteur

X

Déclarant

Q4: He wasn't investigating the situation?

A4: Yes, he was more upset with me than trying to do his job. It was unethical and unprofessional. When I informed [REDACTED], that I had smelled alcohol on the driver's breath, he responded that the driver was not intoxicated because he wasn't staggering. But the officer didn't investigate further, and failed to do a breathalyser or what is required.

Q5: Or at least try to ask them why they were trying to break into your house.

A5: Yes, why they came in the first place. I told him to ask them why they came here, and why they tried to force the door, and why they were drinking and driving.

Q6: Do you know these people, are they friends of yours?

A6: We know everybody in the community, but those people never came around to my place. They are not close to me.

After that those two people left with the Honda, and the police officer didn't ask questions, didn't take my statement, didn't do anything, they just left and I told him he didn't do his job appropriately. He just ignored me, he left. That's unprofessional I would say. [REDACTED] didn't even get out of his vehicle. I don't know if they get adequate training.

Q7: Do you think they didn't care? Why were they acting like that?

A7: I learned after that that they were related to those people. Close relations. It was my impression that they didn't want to do anything. That officer, [REDACTED], I've heard stories that he stopped someone's daughter drinking and driving, he made no report, he just took the alcohol and the ATV. There were certain incidents with the daughter.

Q8: So when it's family relationships, he's not going to intervene or press charges?

A8: Yes, no report. And to this day, I can assure you that there was no report from the incident of [REDACTED] of 2017. I live at the house on [REDACTED] in Whapmagoostui.

Later, I called the Chisasibi police and I questioned the actions of the police officer [REDACTED]. The police officer I spoke to in Chisasibi said this officer had broken all the rules of ethics.

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Enquêteur

X

Déclarant

Q9: By the breach of confidentiality?

A9: Yes, he talked about that case to me, it's a discretion breach. The officer in Chisasibi said to me that these officers were sworn not to expose any confidentiality in any cases. He asked me to make a complaint. He gave me a phone number but I haven't made a complaint so far.

Q10: Do you think that sometimes it isn't well when there are too many police officers from the community, like they are not respecting their ethical duty, or deciding who they are going to charge?

A11: Based on observation that's what I know. Some officers are not impartial. They think they are above the law. They think that because of the uniform they can do what they want. And this same officer, I argued with him before because there was an incident that took place at the arena, where my son was handcuffed.

It happened two years ago, my son, [REDACTED] was 19 at that time [REDACTED]. He's been working as a security at the arena. His job was to tell kids not to run around. My son told those kids to go out, so kids wouldn't injure themselves. [REDACTED] son was one of them. So that kid told his father, [REDACTED] the officer, that my son yelled at them. There were cameras and a witness there, and that same evening [REDACTED] went there and asked questions to my son on why he was yelling at his son. My son said he wasn't yelling at them. My son got handcuffed and had his iPod taken because he was trying to videotape. He took the iPod from my son very hard, and he handcuffed him.

Q13: Was he in uniform?

A13: Yes, uniform. There were cameras there. Another officer at that time came, [REDACTED] and he told [REDACTED] what he did was wrong, so he removed the handcuff from my son and released him. And he told my son that he was breaking the law, causing disturbance. I don't know, this officer, you're going to hear stories about him.

Q14: So if it wasn't for [REDACTED] your son would have been at the police station?

A14: Yes, and falsely charged or confined.

Q15: Without a warrant?

A15: Yes, without a warrant. The police officer in Chisasibi said that this officer should not be on the job. He said that if somebody made a complaint, this officer needs to get therapy.

X

Enquêteur

X

Déclarant

Q16: And what would be your recommendation for the police corpse here to work better?

A16: My recommendation is that there should be a mediator. An outsider who doesn't know people who can come in and investigate any complaints against the police officers. Like you guys. That happened, my son made a complaint at the *KRPF*, there is a file opened.

Q17: Do you think it could be a good idea, for example that there would be one EEPF police officer from here in the community mixed with an outsider? Do you think it could help, or it could be just an outsider to investigate all the police work?

A17: You know, when you investigate the police, it shouldn't be the same police force. It should be another, I don't want local, *KRPF* they are well affiliated, it should be *SQ*. I know they are honest, I know they do things contrary to...

Q18: So that would be your recommendation, to have outsiders studying what's going on, studying the complaints?

A18: Yes, and there should be a hotline, where people can call in and this officer can come and interact with those people.

Q19: Is there anything that you want to add?

A19: No that's it. But I would like to say that I'm thankful that you guys came because there needs to be some changes in the police. Those officers who don't want to do their jobs they shouldn't be there. There are new officers that are professional, one just came in, and I noticed he's doing his job by the book. White officers are more professional, but I don't know if they are racists.

Q20: But from what you saw, there is a white officer that's more by the book and stricter than the Crees?

A20: Yes.

X

Enquêteur

X

Déclarant

X

Enquêteur

X

Déclarant