

Statutory Declaration

I, Sirqualuk Iligituk, [REDACTED] 1961, Salluit, Nunavik

(Name, first name, address, birth date)

I do solemnly declare that

I recently experienced, last year, say, July, end of July, in the beginning of August, I recently experienced. A mild acute heart attack which wasn't verified by the nurse that walked me out the door stating the fact that they were short of staff so therefore he had to let me go in the morning and I was already going through chest pains which I didn't know was a heart attack at the time. And roughly two weeks later I went back with the same chest pain, very hard chest pain, and I was diagnosed by a doctor, Sophie, she almost immediately verified that I was going through a heart attack and therefore shipped me down to Montreal for treatment. The same day that I got to Montreal, the same morning, I was treated, and it was a problem that I was going through an acute mild heart attack. That's what they called it. So, therefore, the person that first took care of me here in Salluit was André-Luc a physician, I'm not sure what capacity but he showed me out the door while I was going through my first chest pains. And I had to wait two weeks to see another person in order to get my chest taken care of. At the time I believed, I do smoke pot, you know. At the time I believed it was just from hashish 'cause we were smoking a lot of hashish at the time, but when I got treated down in Montreal, the doctor who removed the clots from my arteries in my heart stated the fact that it was from alcohol and also tobacco. Alcohol I don't use. Not anymore. I haven't been drinking for ages now therefore I was somewhat baffled 'cause, I don't know, it's something that I didn't expect from a heart attack.

Q1. Did you feel any discrimination about the doctor that said that it's because of alcohol and tobacco?

A1. The only discrimination I believe I received from that physician was the fact that I wasn't the only patient that was pushed out the door. There were a little child and a mother that were there also in the morning and they were also shown the door to make wait for the afternoon and that was long before 11h in the morning. So, that's the type of feeling I felt when that person, the physician, André-Luc showed me out the door made me believe that these people don't care other than their own pocket book. That's what it made me feel like. And I reported this to his...

Declarer signature _____

Declared before me, _____

at _____ on _____

Q2. Supervisor?

A2. Supervisor. So, therefore he immediately got taken care of by his supervisors. I don't know what they did with him but I thought for a while that I would be given monetary excuse for how they treated me but that didn't come about. So, I'm self-employed. I do small motor repairs. I have competition from the government, from our local government, our local coop, so therefore I can't compete with all these companies with my profession and at the time I wasn't able to work for at least a month.

Q3. After you had your heart attack?

A3. After I had my heart attack. Yeah. So, therefore I was believing when the supervisors of André-Luc, when they approached me I thought for a while that they would give me monetary settlement but that never came about and I haven't heard word from them since.

Q4. Did you do any writing complaints, so, a letter?

A4. Yes. I put out a letter to his immediate supervisor and his immediate supervisor came into Salluit to assess the problem that I was facing. And since then, never been back since. I haven't heard from them since.

Q5. Since what happened?

A5. Yes. I believe it would have been, say, January, February, that I put out the letter, 'cause I couldn't find the right person to write me the letter that would...

Q6. Explain?

A6. Make it look more official from what I would write myself cause I would only write: "Fuck you!" all that, you know, that wouldn't be nice my letter. It would be sort of letter, but this person whom I had approached is a teacher and she was able to get me guidance on how to...

Q7. How to write?

A7. Legal letter to doctors. So, therefore, since then I've just been waiting, you know, for a new word of what is happening to my situation.

Q8. OK. How did you feel after you learned that you did have a heart attack?

X

Enquêteur

X

Déclarant

A8. I sort of felt misplaced by society only because I am self-employed, and I can't find employment from the local community itself. It was hard 'cause with no money I can't heal, you know, with no food. I was just saying that to my mother the other day. She receives caretakers, she's an elderly person, she received caretakers at her home and the caretakers are always asking: "How come you're like this? How come you're spitting blood?", you know. They ask her things like that when they know full well, in the house, no income, we have no employed person in the house.

We have no income. The only income we have would be from my mother elders' checks and my brother's welfare check and that would be the only income that we see in the house. Cause I have to compete with the government as well as the coop in order to be able to provide my own income, you know. Right now it's...

Q9. Where do you staying right now?

A9. At my mother's.

Q10. At your mother's. OK. You don't have an apartment?

A10. No. I don't...

Q11. You're unemployed since you had a heart attack?

A11. No. Before then. And I believed this heart attack came about when I was going through my most stressful time which would have been around spring and summer. That's my most stressful time for finding work cause people are going out hunting, they don't have money to repair things that I might have to repair.

Q12. You're the one that repairs things.

A12. Yes. Ski-doo and Hondas. That's what I repair. I tried starting this up in 1981 and was given to a loan in 1985. And I was able to start 1987. But since then I have had to compete with either the local government or the coop which wouldn't provide me any work. So, the only people that would actually pay me would be the locals who are looking for fast repairs on their machines. At that time last year I was going through a bit of stress and I did realize I was putting stress into my heart and this when my heart attack occurred, you know, so...

Q13. So you were medevac to Montreal.

X

Enquêteur

X

Déclarant

A13. Yes. I was medevac to Montreal the two weeks after that I have seen André-Luc, the doctor Sophie with her nurses, with her help that nursing station assessed me and found that I was going through a heart attack and immediately asked for medevac and got me down to Montreal the same day that she assessed me, pretty much the same day.

Q14. So how do you feel today?

A14. Right now I feel great. I have three stents in my heart, so, like, catheters, three catheters in my heart and right now I feel fine. The thing is I'm still unemployed.

Q15. So you didn't have any response to the complaint that you made to the supervisor?

A15. Yes. I haven't received any reply from them since I put up my letter to the supervisors of André-Luc.

Q16. Do you know his last name, André-Luc?

A16. I'm not really sure.

Q17. You don't remember?

A18. No. The thing is we don't ask for things like that. It's somewhat privacy...

Q19. No, it's OK. I was asking if you could know the person or...OK.

A19. I'm not sure what we can do with this but the thing is I saw a woman with her baby at that same time also being shown the door cause the two male nurses that were taking care of the nursing station at that time in the morning claimed that they were going through...

Q20. Short of staff?

A21. Yeah. An upheaval of too much work and low staff. So, therefore they did let us go then but about two weeks later I had to go see those same people and that's when I saw doctor Sophie and she almost immediately said I was going through a mild heart attack.

Q22. Did you know that lady with her baby that...did you know that...?

A22. Yes.

X

Enquêteur

X

Déclarant

Q23. What's her name?

A23. I would believe it was Sarah. And she would be taking care of her daughter's children. And her daughter would be in Montreal for hospital as well at the time.

Q24. She was shown the door her too?

A24. Yes.

Q25. OK. Both of you?

A25. Yes.

Q26. Do you wish to testify in front of the commissioner? I think you already did say that you wanted to...a witness teller to share your story.

A26. Yes.

Q27. With identifiable, with your name on it and everything.

A27. Yes. I want this to be real. This is real for me, you know. I've never felt this before. I haven't had to go through any doctoring for a long while so, therefore having experienced this and having seen it to another person guess me to say that we should want to have Inuk physician in Salluit. You know, Inuk physician with...we take care of this problem.

Q28. The person was Inuk professional.

A28. Most of the time, you see, I'm speaking to you in my second language, OK. I'm an Inuk person, I'm speaking to you in English and I would see a physician I would speak to him in English but he turn around and look at his compatriot, say, his colleague, and starts conversing in French.

Q29. They don't understand?

A29. Yes, something that I believe is somewhat towards the patients, you know, cause your patient is the person that you want to communicate with. Not physician to physician by excluding the patient, you know. I was excluded like that so, therefore it's somewhat...

Q30. When you expect to be treated the right way...

X

Enquêteur

X

Déclarant

A31. Yes.

Q32. You expect to be respectful and respected.

A32. Yes. Get the same courtesy, you know, and I believe I should receive the same courtesy.

Q33. I understand.

A33. If I'm not here taking your head off I don't want you to take my head off 'cause I'm here. Look. That's how I feel, you know. And that's how I felt when that guy showed me out the door. He doesn't need me to be sick, you know. That's what it felt like.

Q34 Well, you could be...the thing that, to show respect, the first thing, it's the first thing that you have to do with someone.

A34. Yes. I believe so. So, I'm not a very professional person but I do see...

Q35. It was unprofessional what they did.

A45. Yes. I see that most of the time in Salluit and when it got to be my turn it didn't feel good, no. No cause I was sick at the time and I was wanting.

Q47. I understand. OK. OK?

A47. Yeah, that's it...

X

Enquêteur

X

Déclarant