

La présente déclaration statutaire a été présentée par : téléphone , courriel , courrier , en personne à monsieur/madame Mathew Lafortune qui nous confirme que son contenu correspond bel et bien à ce qu'il/qu'elle nous a rapporté(e) en date du 14-06-2018 2018.

Signature du déclarant : 

Date : 20 août 2018

P-846

Statutory Declaration

I, Lafortune, Mathew,

(Name, first name, address, birth date)

I do solemnly declare that,

A 1: When they send me to the Gatineau detention centre, when I was there and during my intake a female guard was asking me information and she asked me if I identified as an aboriginal and I said yes. Immediately, she asked me 'Do you need protection?' I replied, why would I need protection, I am in prison, it is my first time in? They said do you have any enemies? I specified, No I do not have enemies, I am not a criminal, this is my first offense. The guard asked do you need to be in a protective custody, do you fear for your life? I am terrified, I don't know what to expect. I said I don't know and she said make you decision or we will make it for you.

I said, you guys are the experts. The guard look at me straight in the face and said, well that is for murderers, rapists, drunks, women beaters and psychopaths just like you. I replied why does it have to do with me being Native? She gave me this condescending looks and she asked me are you catholics, do you smokes? They refused to speak to me in English and when I tried to speak in English, but they kept speaking to me in French. They throw my clothes on the floor and when I asked what they trying to say to me, they specified: learn French or go home you dog. From that moment, the guard was addressing me in French, refusing to speak in English to me.

I am Christian and when I asked for spirituality bible, they denied me that saying you are Autochtone, why would you need bible for? I may be Native but I am still Christian. May I have a bible to at least read, I am sitting here in a cell, locked-up 12 hours a day, staring at a wall. Everyone around me speak French all the time I am alone. They denied me calls from my lawyers, my families. I told them again I have any finances then I have no ways to pay for anything.

When I wrote a request for a medical attention because I suffered from Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), I have Attention deficit Disorder with hyper activity (ADD-HD), Compulsive deficit disorder, Tourette syndrome, hypoglycemia, and this is just few. I asked specifically asking help me sleeps because I have any slept for several days and they denied me that. I asked for Tylenol for a headache and they told me you have in the canteen, pay for it. I need an operation because my foot was infected

Declarer signature _____

Declared before me, _____

at _____ on _____

and they told me if you don't have a doctor's note, you are not getting anything. So when I was released on bail I presented the documentation. My doctor is [REDACTED] and he is from Queensway medical centre from Ottawa and he is prepared to testify because when I went back after I plaid guilty, I presented the documentation that I suffered from Chronic claustrum migraine, which I was hospitalized in the past.

When I mentioned to them that I need to eat Iron~Fer regularly, even if it was a small amounts, they refused to make adjustment to the diet.

When other inmates, larger then myself, would come to me, they would slapped me up against the wall and they threatened to stab me with a pencil or anything they had. The guard would not intervene, despite the fact that they put me on that range, they made the decision that did not felt i need to be in protective custody, they watch several others inmates get plunged, I was double bounced on the floor. They would yell at me still in French, over and over, expecting me to understand. The only thing I managed to retain from that entire experience was how they apologize. Like by example, they would say excuse my language pathetic fucking dog.

I did not know that it meant first but several inmates said do you even know what that means? They are calling you a dog in your face, are you going to take that. I said, what do you want me to do; get physical? I am not doing more time. It was just constant, every day.

Someday, I even did not get my medication. I had blood pressure and I take pills for that and I have to take it every days. If I don't, I get very exhausted, blood pressure is a very serious thing.

75 % of the requests, if it is not more never happened. I spoke with the guard on my situation explaining that I am on really bad shape and he said that he never received these requests and he said that he will do some checking but nothing else never came out from this.

Q 2 : When it happened

A 2 : This was in October 29th 2016.

Q 3 : Did you tried to contact your lawyer?

A 3 : I tried several time to reach my lawyers [REDACTED]. I t was very difficult to reach her because I was unable to leave her a message because I was collect calling and if you wanted to catch her you have a window from 8h30 to 9h00, the rest of the times she is in Court unless she will be physically in the detention centre.

Q4 : When you finally seen her, was she able to help you in any way?

X

Enquêteur

X

Déclarant

A3 : No, she was not able to do anything.

The guard were laughing at me also because of my last name, Lafortune. You are supposed to know French, why are you even here. Where are you from? I said from Ottawa. They replied; why don't you go back to Ottawa? I said that I moved here because I wanted to be with my fiancé and my family. The living expenses were less expensive and the money was a little bit better in Ottawa. They said you are in Québec now and should learn French now.

The AA meeting, they refused to give me one in English. I told my lawyer what you could do about it, they aren't supposed to provide programs for inmates? According to my lawyer, there is nothing that she could do. Even if she tried, she called and she wrote a letter letting the staff knows that i needs to calls her but at the end it never happened. Fromm y perspective, all this started when I answered that I was Indigenous.

Q 5: How did you felt with all these discriminations?

A 5: I was terrified. I thought my life was over and that I am going to die. These inmates are going to kill me and these guards are not going to do anything about it. I can barely talk to my lawyer about what is happening here. I am not properly fed according to my diet. I am getting weak, day after day because I don't receive all my medication and I am in constant pain. My headache are getting so bad and, you know, you do not cry in jail. I felt like I am a dead man and the only thing I could do i spray.

Q 6 : It was not possible to see a doctor or any nurses?

A 6: No, I never saw a nurse not once. There was a young Mohawk at my range. He gave me Tylenol because he seen I was absolutely desperate, he told me that I was a good kid and that I didn't deserve to be there. He didn't believe I was so violent but I did and i need to face my responsibility. One of the guard saw him giving me Tylenol, he got a report and he received 5 days deadlock. That make search our cells. They told us unless you have a prescription from a doctor you are not getting anything.

The window is broken on my cell and they refuse to fix the window on my cell. They said deal with it, in the middle of winter. Even the one guard that was treating me with respect and decency was receiving treats from other guards and even him stopped treated me like he did. Despite he was not able to speak with me in English, he tried to communicate with me. But it was just one guard.

Q7: Have you seen other indigenous inmates there?

A7: Yes I have seen 3 or 4 persons and they all felt the same.

X

Enquêteur

X

Déclarant

X

Enquêteur

X

Déclarant