

Statutory Declaration

I, Napash, Willard, Cluster F1-17, Chisasibi, 1964-10-12

(Name, first name, adress, birth date)

I do solemnly declare that,

I solemnly declare, meeting with Marie-Hélène Francoeur-Malouin, investigation agent from the Viens Commission, at the CERP office, on April 27· 2018.

I've lived in another situation regarding the Cree Health Board. I had an appointment scheduled on March 22 2018, for my foot, in Amos.

On Friday, March 16, 2018, I called CPS (Cree Patient Services) in Val-d'Or, to let them know that I needed an escort for my appointment. I was told by a lady that seems to be the receptionist that there was no supervisor until Monday. So I called back on Monday, thinking sooner the better. I guess I spoke with one of the supervisors or the nurse about my escort. They were having a hard times answering my request. Last time, for my follow-up, it was okay, I didn't need an escort but this time, I needed one because I was supposed to have a cast. They never wanted for me to have my escort coming with me. They told me that I was calling at the wrong place, that since I'm from Chisasibi, I needed to call CPS of Chisasibi. But normally, it's the CPS from Val-d'Or who's managing our transportation and everything for our appointments.

So I was transferred to CPS in Chisasibi, who transferred me back to Val-d'Or. Nobody wanted to take their responsibility. Nobody wanted to give me an answer. It's a big problem here, having appointments down south. I know that's because of the money, but we are talking about human beings that needs services, health services. There is always money involves. We shouldn't be comparing health and money. And when I spoke about that in Chisasibi, the nurse pointed out the doctor, for not writing down that an escort was needed.

Declarer signature _____

Declared before me, _____

at _____ on _____

Q1: What did you do, after being transferred to Chisasibi, then Val-d'Or?

A1: I knew I wasn't going to get an escort. They were pointing at each other. Finally, CPS from Val-d'Or told me that I was going to have my escort, but later. I told them that it was going to be too late.

So I decided to come with my truck instead of by plane, to have my escort with me, which was my wife. And when I was at my appointment in Amos, the staff asked me for my escort to come. So they were expecting for me to have an escort.

What's funny is when I called CPS here, about my escort, they told me that they have escorts in Val-d'Or. It's not an escort, it's a chauffeur I said. It's not the same thing, because I needed help when I get up with my cast, things that this chauffeur wouldn't do, because she's working business hours.

Q 2: Did they give you a reason for refusing to allow your escort to come with you?

A 2: No.

Q 3: What are their reasons for refusing you to have an escort?

A 3: It's about the money. In a way, they are really cheap. I had an appointment in Amos and I took the bus to go there. When I arrived at the bus terminal, I took a taxi to go to CPS. I know that they reimburse people. When I arrived, I was told that they wouldn't reimburse me, because I was supposed to take a shuttle. But they never told me that I had to wait for someone to pick me up. It was my first time taking the bus for an appointment like this. It was 6-7 years ago.

I'm not the only one living situations with the Cree Health Board. I know that my brother-in-law has a hard time in Waskaganish. They only have nurses there, not a hospital like here. They have lost lives there. Also, one of my cousins, she live in Whapmagoostui. Her mom is in Chisasibi and she needs an escort. And my mother-in-law, she's in Waskaganish, she sometimes needs an escort. It's not a problem, going to see her and escort her. But for my cousin, it's difficult, because it's the other way around. So they don't want to pay, they pay for it after.

La présente déclaration statutaire a été présentée par : téléphone , courriel , courrier , en personne à monsieur/madame Willard Napash qui nous confirme que son contenu correspond bel et bien à ce qu'il/qu'elle nous a rapporté(e) en date du 30 avril 2018.

Signature du déclarant : 

Date : 30 avril 2018

X

Enquêteur

X

Déclarant

Statutory Declaration

I, Napash, Willard, Cluster F1-17, Chisasibi, 1964-10-12

(Name, first name, adress, birth date)

I do solemnly declare that,

I solemnly declare, meeting with Marie-Hélène Francoeur-Malouin, from the Provincial Public Inquiry, on February 7th in the Mitchuap building, in Chisasibi.

This story is about a health situation. The way I was treated while I needed a prescription. After my operation, the doctor was suggesting that I was going to be addicted to painkillers because I needed them again. So I didn't have a choice, I went out of the hospital. But the next day, I had a lot of pain. I had to go in urgency at the pharmacy. I told him what the doctor said, and I added that I knew that I needed that medication and that I won't get addicted. Finally, I received my painkillers for another month. That situation is not easy because it's not everybody that can talk or negotiate like I do. I know a lot of people that had hard times because they can speak the language well.

I feel like we always have to negotiate. The doctors must know that we need painkillers for our pain. I don't know why they want to stop it. Is it because of the money? I notice that here, in Chisasibi, they always talk about money. They don't pay for what we ask, they are just giving us services. But it looks like they are always looking for the money, the cost. They acted like they were paying out of their pockets, which is not.

Q 1: Do you think they act like this because of a stereotype that the native persons might get addicted to painkillers?

A 1: In here, my hometown, I've never heard of this kind of story. It's only the opposite. The doctors always talk about the money in a way. It's like sometimes people don't get treated, when they were supposed to get treated. They don't want to send them down south because of the money. People at work talk about that too.

Declarer signature _____

Declared before me, _____

at _____ on _____

Q 2: So you are feeling that they are not sending people that are needed to go down south to be treated that they keep those people here because it will be expensive?

A 2: Yes and sometimes, finally, they sent them down and sometimes, it was too late. And since the doctors seems to get more aware over there, they say many times: how come they haven't sent you before? And over there it is not a problem to get pills and painkillers. They are giving good pills down south.

Q 3: Is it the Cree health board that give the final ok for people to go down south?

A 3: Yes and it is not easy down there. With the patient's services, people have a hard time. And I've seen it with my own eyes. Because once, I had a hard time to walk and I wanted to stay in an easy place for me, no steps and no stairs, something like that. So I asked to stay in a hotel where you just open the door and everything's there. They told me that they were doing this only with people that have a hard time to walk. So they sent me to a foster home, where I witnessed elders using walkers in there. I was questioning myself: my god, how come they treat those people like this? And I'm sure that the elders couldn't talk, negotiate so they could stay in good places, with no stairs, or places with ramps. It's a lot of issues like that with the Cree Health Board.

Q 4: So you are saying that you always have to fight to have services?

A 4: Yes. They call it Cree Health Board, but what the Cree means? It is services for the Crees but how come we always have to fight like that. I don't know is the Minister is aware of the situations that are going on here. That is not normal to have to fight, to negotiate to have treatments. Sometimes I wonder if I go call the Minister directly for Health if things could change. I feel bad for the people that cannot speak for themselves too. Sometimes, people are going to the hospital here and they are sent back home. These people are told to come back when they will be sicker. My aunt lived the same thing, she was sent back home. She told me, joking, that she will come back to the hospital with four legs, crawling. After that, she didn't stay long that lady. I cannot forget about that. It is not a way to treat people, they are human beings. I lived in the same situation with my gallbladder. I don't know how many times I was sent back home. Even if I had a hard time. Once, I had a lot of pain, I could barely move. I was sweating. I told the nurse to do something or to kill me because I couldn't stand the pain. They gave me strong painkillers. It was kind of okay but it wasn't really helping me. I told the doctor that it wasn't treating my pain, those pills are working in my head. I had to negotiate, but I got finally medevac that day. It is not the first time that I lived in that situation. Many times when I went to the hospital they gave me pills and told me to go home. It is the way they work, to have lower expenses.

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Enquêteur

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Déclarant

It sometimes seems that the Cree Health Board don't want to send patients down south, that they want to keep them here and sometimes it is too late. I heard a story about a lady that passed away not too long. She had injured herself and the nurse wanted to send her home. It was a good thing that the responder fight back, because they knew in a way she needed help. But they lost her. They could have sent her down south, with the specialist, all that. It is not the nurse that is in charge, it is not to her to make choice for patients. She needs to treat them well. Not telling people to come back when they are sicker. It is like a machine, when you know that something is wrong, you are fixing it right away because if you wait, it will get worse.

Even me, I saw a lot of doctors because of my foot. At the beginning, I told them that I needed to get treated and your pills won't help. I was straight with them. I think I saw close to ten doctors and they kept changing my painkillers. I said that it was not going to work. And after that I got sick in my stomach and finally, they decided to listen to me. So after that, I made a complaint. Now there is a Medical Examiner, Dr. François Charette. He forces doctors to treat people. We spoke on the phone. He got the archives of my medical file.

I also experienced a situation with some white SQ officers. I was close to the city of La Motte. My pickup was fully loaded. I crossed a pedestrian walk and there was a hill after, so I pressed gas, because I had a heavy load. I had passed the danger zone, the pedestrian zone so I started to go faster to go up the hill. I saw a police car on the top of the hill, not far from a 90 km sign. When I got closer to him, he didn't start his lights, nothing. But when he saw my face and recognize me as a Cree, he decided to put his lights on and stop me. I asked my wife: Why suddenly he decided to turn his lights on. He told me that he saw me coming really fast. I asked to see his radar. I heard that they are supposed to take your speed twice. He didn't want to show it to me. He never told me how fast I was going. He just told me that I was going fast. I could have contested my tickets but I decided not to, because it would cost me more to go to Amos for a day than to pay it.

Q 1: You believe that he started his lights only when he saw that you are native?

A 1: Yes. Because with the distance it was okay, but when I was close, that's when he started it.

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Enquêteur

X

Déclarant

I tried to talk to the officer to get out of it, but he didn't give me any chances. Talking about chances given by police officers, my boss had told me that normally, police officers can give you chances when they are stopping you. My boss is a white person. I told him that as a native, I never got any chances. It is not the first time that I heard stories like this. A guy from Radisson told me that he was never bothered by police officers when he was drinking that they let him go. Once, he got stopped on the highway and there was a new officer with an old one. The old officer pretended to write down a ticket, but what he gave to him wasn't a ticket.

A white person can say anything to the cops and they will let him go. When you are telling lies, it is a criminal accusation. When I told my colleague that you should never lie to a cop, he laughed at me and told me stories. So from what I understand, white persons get chances but when it concern a native person, it should be in the book.

A guy, not too long ago, told me a story. He got stop for a speeding ticket. The cop came with his flashlight and was looking very carefully in the back of the car to charge him with other things, which he did, he said. He was targeting him.

Things changed since there are new police officers in town. I heard a story about a young Cree that got beat up by a police officer. His arm got broken. Since there is out of town police officers in the EEPF, things are rougher.

La présente déclaration statutaire a été présentée par : téléphone
 courriel , courrier , en personne à monsieur/madame
Willard Napash qui nous confirme
que son contenu correspond bel et bien à ce qu'il/qu'elle nous a
rapporté(e) en date du 27 avril 2018.

Signature du déclarant : ~~Willard Napash~~

Date : Avril 30 2018

X

Enquêteur

X

Déclarant