
**COMMISSION D'ENQUÊTE SUR LES RELATIONS ENTRE LES
AUTOCHTONES ET CERTAINS SERVICES PUBLICS AU QUÉBEC :
ÉCOUTE, RÉCONCILIATION ET PROGRÈS**

Date : Le 21 janvier 2019

L'Honorable Jacques Viens, Président

Femmes autochtones du Québec
et
Procureure générale du Québec
et
Grand Conseil des Cris (Eeyou Istchee) et
Gouvernement de la Nation Crie
et
Innu Takuaikan Uashat mak Mani-Utenam
et
Regroupement Mamit Innuat Inc.
et
Association des policières et policiers
provinciaux du Québec
et
The Naskapi Nation of Kawawachikamach
et
Assemblée des Premières Nations Québec-
Labrador
et
Conseil de la Nation Atikamekw
et
Regroupement des centres d'amitié
autochtones du Québec
et
Makivik Corporation
et
Service de police de la Ville de Montréal
et
Directeur des poursuites criminelles et pénales
et
Conseil Cri de la santé et des services sociaux de
la Baie James
et
Association professionnelle des officiers de la
Sûreté du Québec

PARTICIPANTS

Régie Régionale de la Santé et des Services Sociaux du Nunavik

INTERVENANT

**ORDONNANCE DE NON-PUBLICATION ET DE NON-DIFFUSION DU
NOM, DE L'IMAGE, DE LA VOIX ET DE TOUTE INFORMATION
PERMETTANT D'IDENTIFIER LE TÉMOIN DANS LE DOSSIER PI-63
ENTENDU LE 14 NOVEMBRE 2018**

I. LE CONTEXTE

[1] Le 14 novembre 2018, le témoin 796 a témoigné devant la *Commission d'enquête sur les relations entre les Autochtones et certains services publics au Québec: écoute, réconciliation et progrès* (la « Commission ») relativement à des services sociaux reçus.

[2] Au terme de son témoignage, le témoin a manifesté le souhait de bénéficier de mesures de protection de son identité (nom, image, voix et toute autre information permettant de l'identifier).

[3] Le 14 novembre 2018, M^e Arianne Martel a présenté devant le Commissaire Jacques Viens une demande verbale de mesures de protection de l'identité pour le témoin 796, entendu le 14 novembre 2018.

[4] Le Commissaire a accueilli la demande de mesures de protection de l'identité et a rendu les ordonnances verbales suivantes, le 14 novembre 2018 :

ORDONNE la protection de l'identité PI-63 dans le dossier du témoin 796;

INTERDIT à quiconque de divulguer, de publier, de communiquer ou de diffuser son nom, son image, sa communauté d'origine ou toute autre information qui pourrait permettre d'identifier le témoin;

ORDONNE aux procureurs de la Commission d'examiner les transcriptions par sténographie du témoignage dans le dossier du témoin 796 afin d'effectuer le caviardage nécessaire de façon à respecter le souhait formulé par le témoin.

II. LA DÉCISION

[5] **CONSIDÉRANT** que le Décret 1095-2016 adopté par le gouvernement du Québec le 21 décembre 2016, constituant la présente Commission d'enquête selon l'article 1 de la *Loi sur les commissions d'enquête* (c. C-37), mentionne :

« QUE les audiences de la Commission soient publiques et que celle-ci puisse, lorsqu'elle l'estime approprié, mener ses travaux à huis clos ou prendre toute autre mesure afin de protéger l'identité de témoins et les renseignements personnels, tant à l'audience que lors de la communication de son rapport; »

[6] **CONSIDÉRANT** le mandat de la présente Commission tel qu'énoncé dans le Décret 1095-2016 :

« QUE la Commission ait pour mandat, en tenant compte des enjeux mentionnés dans le préambule, d'enquêter, de constater les faits, de procéder à des analyses afin de faire des recommandations quant aux actions correctives concrètes, efficaces et durables à mettre en place

par le gouvernement du Québec et par les autorités autochtones en vue de prévenir ou d'éliminer, quelles qu'en soient l'origine et la cause, toute forme de violence et de pratiques discriminatoires, de traitements différents dans la prestation des services publics suivants aux Autochtones du Québec : les services policiers, les services correctionnels, les services de justice, les services de santé et les services sociaux ainsi que les services de protection de la jeunesse; »

[7] **CONSIDÉRANT** les *Règles de procédure et de fonctionnement* de la Commission aux articles 45, 47 et 48 sur les ordonnances d'interdiction de divulgation, de publication ou de communication, ainsi que l'article 88 sur la couverture médiatique;

[8] **CONSIDÉRANT** le souhait exprimé par le témoin 796 à M^e Martel au terme de son témoignage le 14 novembre 2018 de bénéficier de mesures de protection de l'identité;

POUR CES MOTIFS, LE COMMISSAIRE :

[9] **ORDONNE** la non-publication de la bande vidéo du témoin 796 entendu le 14 novembre 2018 dans le dossier PI-63;

[10] **ORDONNE** la levée partielle des transcriptions par sténographie caviardées du témoin 796 entendu le 14 novembre 2018 dans le dossier PI-63, tel qu'annexées à la présente ordonnance.



Jacques Viens, Commissaire

ANNEXE 1

DEMANDE VERBALE DE HUIS CLOS

1 testimony of the day to be made behind closed doors,
2 because the witness will talk about youth protection
3 matters.

4 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

5 Okay. For people familiar with the Inquiry
6 Commission or hearings, when people are speaking
7 matters concerning youth protection, it has,
8 according to the Law, to be behind closed doors. I
9 have to order no publication, no reporting, and that
10 people allowed in the room not allowed to speak of
11 this outside the room. So I will order the last
12 witness to be heard behind closed door. And it will
13 be witness number...?

14 **LA GREFFIÈRE :**

15 78.

16 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

17 Seven... 78? Okay. So now...

18 **M^e ARIANNE MARTEL :**

19 I have another request, also.

20 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

21 Another one?

22 **M^e ARIANNE MARTEL :**

23 Yeah. So upon the request of the witness heard this
24 morning at nine (9:00), I would like to ask for
25 protective measures. The witness would like her

1 story to be made public, but not her name, voice,
2 image and her community. Briefly, any information
3 that would identify the witness. I would ask that
4 we don't release both video and audio footage of the
5 hearing on our website too.

6 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

7 Okay. Also, in cases where witnesses ask that their
8 identity be protected, I always grant this motion.

9 What's important for the Inquiry Commission is
10 to hear what's happening, what's happening, what
11 happened. And I prefer to have a story, with
12 protection of the witness, than have no story at
13 all, because I have... what's needed for me is to
14 know what happened.

15 So I will grant this motion and I will order
16 that the witness heard this morning at nine (9:00),
17 that her story be made public, but not her name,
18 voice, image and the name of her community or
19 village, or any other information that could
20 identify this person.

21 So, at the end, in a few weeks, we will receive
22 the transcript. The transcript will be put on our
23 website, it will be possible for people to read this
24 transcript, but everything related to the identity
25 of the witness will be withdrawn.

1 I will also have... I order that this testimony
2 should not be broadcast or put on the website.

3 This do not apply to my comments at the end.
4 Media and people may refer to my comments, taking
5 care that, if I mention something that may identify
6 the witness, this should be withdrawn. Okay? Thank
7 you.

8 **M^e ARIANNE MARTEL :**

9 Thank you. So we will continue with our first
10 witness, Miss Leah Unaluk. She's from Puvirnituq
11 and she'll tell us about the lack of resources for
12 mental health issues and the lack of psychologist
13 and the need for suicide prevention in her
14 community.

15 So, before we begin, I suggest that we swear
16 Mrs. Unaluk in.

17 -----

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

*Commission d'enquête
sur les relations
entre les Autochtones
et certains
services publics*

Québec 

ANNEXE 2
NOTES STÉNOGRAPHIQUES CAVIARDÉES

1 Mme [REDACTED]
2 Témoin citoyen (Pr-63)
3 Assermentation sur la Bible

4 -----

5 **LA GREFFIÈRE :**

6 Thank you. Your witness.

7 **M^e ARIANNE MARTEL :**

8 Thank you. So, first of all, thank you very much
9 for being here with us. To begin, I would invite
10 you to present yourself, to tell us where you're
11 from and to maybe talk to us about your time as a

12 [REDACTED].

13 **Mme [REDACTED] :**

14 Now?

15 **M^e ARIANNE MARTEL :**

16 Yeah. When you're ready.

17 **Mme [REDACTED] :**

18 Well, thank you very much for inviting me here. I'm
19 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I'm from [REDACTED] I'm a
20 retired [REDACTED] I love my retirement life. And
21 what I'd like to... - I'll talk about what I'm
22 taught... I'd like to talk about now?

23 **M^e ARIANNE MARTEL :**

24 Yes. You can go on.

25 **Mme [REDACTED] :**

1 Can I... Can I...

2 M^e ARIANNE MARTEL :

3 Um-hum.

4 Mme :

5 ... go ahead? Well, there was an incident, back in

6 two thousand fifteen

(2015). That's the reason I am here, and I've never talked about it to anybody, because it's too

9 personal for me, and I'm not too comfortable talking
10 about it now, but I... I very much appreciate the
11 fact that... that I was taken seriously by this
12 young lady. Thank you so much.

I was [REDACTED] in

14 [REDACTED] for about ten (10) years. And then I was

15 [REDACTED] for the next ten (10) years.

16 And it was on two

17 thousand fifteen (2015) in the morning, after...

18 after the break. I was told to come to the office

19 by a secretary. So I went to her office. But on my
20 way to her office, a young lady [REDACTED],

... - I can tell the names?

22 VOIX MASCULINE NON IDENTIFIÉE :

23 Hm.

24 VOIX FÉMININE NON IDENTIFIÉE :

25 Hm.

1

2 **Mme** [REDACTED] :

3 One of the... one of the students came and
4 interrupted me, to tell me that, she had gotten her
5 ex-boyfriend mad during the coffee break in the
6 morning, and that he had walked out really mad,
7 telling me that, he was going to go commit suicide;
8 who happened to be my nephew. And I... I had been
9 counseling suicidal people for a long period of
10 time, for maybe thirty (30) years, but I've never
11 had to deal with my own blood relative.

12 So I felt really shaky already and... I went to
13 the classroom where he was studying, to tell the
14 teacher that his student went out and was... and was
15 telling his ex-girlfriend that he was going to go
16 commit suicide.

17 So, the teacher told me that he would be
18 accompanying me with his best friend; he was a
19 student in heavy equipment mechanic. And so we...
20 we started walking towards his... towards the
21 suicidal person's house. And on our way... Oh.
22 Excuse me.

23 The girl who had told me about her ex-boyfriend
24 said [REDACTED] what am I going to do? What do I
25 do?" I said "call the social worker", because

1 that's what we do. We... whenever there's somebody
2 suicidal, it's the social worker to whom we go to.

3 So she called the social worker and we happened
4 to see him on his way from... the suicidal person's
5 place, and I said "have you spoken to him?" He said
6 "yes, I did see him, but he refuses to speak to me."
7 And then he told me that he had called the
8 policeman. And I said, "why do you call the
9 policeman?" He said "that's what they do, it's
10 their protocol. When they refuse to speak to the
11 social worker, they call the policeman."

12 And when we got to his place, the door was
13 opened and the policeman was in there with a gun,
14 and we weren't allowed in. So I had a non-Inuk
15 teacher, his best friend, and myself, we wanted to
16 go and see how he was, but we weren't allowed in,
17 but the door was open.

18 And I had never seen policemen dealing with
19 suicidal person. I don't think it's their job. I
20 think it's social workers' job to deal with suicidal
21 people.

22 And we stayed outside his house with the door
23 opened, for a couple of hours, and quite a few
24 people would see us and stopped by and spoke to us
25 and asked us what we were doing. And then, at one

1 point, there was another policeman who came in to
2 the house as well. And a lady policeman came in as
3 well. And we were getting really nervous, because
4 there's this suicidal person and there were three
5 (3) policemen dealing with him.

6 And I asked once why we wouldn't go see him and
7 why they had guns. He told me that, he might have a
8 knife in his pocket. I said "no way, he's a
9 student, [REDACTED], students don't carry
10 guns... uh, knives in their pocket."

11 But, as an Inuk, men carry penknives in their
12 pocket for whatever happens, you know, if they need
13 it to cut a... or open packages or cut food, you
14 know. That's what they do. But the students don't
15 do that. And, I mean, I've never had a... I've been
16 [REDACTED] and I
17 never once saw a man, young men, with knives in
18 their pocket. And if I did see them, I wouldn't be
19 surprised, because that's how Inuit men are.

20 And to me, it was not... when I see a penknife,
21 it's not a weapon to... to scare people. But, I
22 reacted with "no way, no student would have a knife
23 in their pocket in school during their classes."

24 And he... - can I say (inaudible)?

25 The suicidal person is a smoker, so he

1 decided to go for a cigarette outside, and three...
2 three (3) policemen (crying)... had their gun
3 pointing at him. And he was crouching on the ground
4 with his hands behind him. And... because I had
5 never [REDACTED] my immediate family and because
6 there were a lot of people coming by, asking us
7 what's going on, my nephew and her boyfriend, my
8 niece and her boyfriend came by and I said "can you
9 go and tell my sister, she's at [REDACTED], and
10 tell her what's going on, that's he's suicidal and
11 then, there are three policemen pointing guns at
12 him."

13 So they did go to school. And they came back
14 and they said... because my sister is a [REDACTED] for
15 a [REDACTED] girl, he had... she had to take her back
16 home first. And then she came and she asked...
17 (crying) she asked me what's going on, and she had
18 already lost her child to suicide. So, I felt
19 really, really uncomfortable being in this
20 situation.

21 I went... before my sister came, I had gone to
22 next door neighbour, because I was just so dry. I
23 went for water, next door, behind the suicidal
24 person's house, and they were out looking, looking
25 at what was going on, and they were all yelling

1 "whatever you do, don't shoot him, whatever you do,
2 don't shoot him." There were three (3) of them
3 outside saying that. And I'm doing the same thing,
4 I'm saying "whatever you do, don't shoot him.
5 Whatever he says, whatever will happen, don't shoot
6 him."

7 But he was answering with "shoot me, shoot me,
8 what's the point? What's the point of living?"

9 But the three (3) policemen pointing guns at
10 him, thank goodness, never... never shot him.

11 And uh,... I'm not sure where I am right now.

12 And one of the passer-by happened to be non-
13 Inuk as well, who happened to be my sister's
14 boyfriend. So I was so pleased to have these people
15 behind me, two (2) non-Inuits who would witness
16 three (3) policemen pointing a gun at my nephew.

17 And... because that's what happens a lot. We find
18 quite a few policemen shooting the people who have
19 asked for help or... or whoever is a victim... - no,
20 not a victim... - whoever is in trouble, would be
21 shot too often, even in [REDACTED]

22 So, it was... it was really, really hard. When
23 you love a person, you... you watched him growing
24 up, just for this? To me, that's not the way living
25 is.

1 So I was really, really brokenhearted (crying),
2 and the only (inaudible) who was... who was my
3 partner, who is my partner, was in [REDACTED] getting
4 [REDACTED]. So, I couldn't tell anybody
5 what's going on. I never told anybody what has
6 happened and I couldn't see these policemen as human
7 beings. I had never worked (inaudible). I don't
8 care who's names they are. I never looked at their
9 faces, because I would be terrified to see them.

10 And once... once my nephew was kneeling on the
11 ground, my sister came and I had told her what's
12 going on. She didn't become hysterical. I was
13 afraid she would. But she didn't. She took it
14 really really well. I don't know how she did it.
15 And I've never... we've never spoken about the
16 incident.

17 It's not... it's... To me, it's unreal. It's
18 not... It's not reality. It's not. I've never...
19 You just watch that sort of things in movies, and to
20 be among it, I don't know how (crying)... we
21 survived. I don't understand how we survived that.
22 I'm just so grateful that... he's still alive. But
23 we've never ever spoken about it to anybody.

24 I knew we need to do some healing, but, to me,
25 it's so unreal that... that I don't want to think

1 about it. I don't want to think of the details, of
2 how I felt. I've never really told my husband how
3 difficult it was, because he's still struggling with
4 ████████ and I prefer to forget about it and never
5 think about it again. As long as he's alive, then
6 I'm grateful. As long as we don't talk about it,
7 I'm grateful. I think that's it.

8 **M^e ARIANNE MARTEL :**

9 I might have a few questions for you if that's okay.

10 **M^{me} ██████████ :**

11 I need my glasses.

12 **M^e ARIANNE MARTEL :**

13 Yeah. Thank you for sharing that with us. One
14 question I wanted to ask you was: when you came...
15 when you went to the house of your nephew and you
16 saw the social worker walking back from the house
17 and telling you "I called the police 'cause he
18 wouldn't speak to me", did... uh, why did that
19 social worker did not call any other social worker
20 for help? Do you know if there is other social
21 worker available in your community?

22 **M^{me} ██████████ :**

23 I have no idea. I never even thought about it. I
24 just forgot about it. As far as I know, he kept it
25 to himself. Which reminds me... I'm sorry to be

1 going... I'm not really answering your question,...

2 **M^e ARIANNE MARTEL :**

3 Yeah, you are.

4 **M^e [REDACTED] :**

5 ... but it reminds me of the time when... because as
6 the [REDACTED] at the [REDACTED] there
7 used to be some trainings, and the social workers
8 happened to be training in our center and they
9 invited me. And I was so grateful, and I told them
10 the reason why I was grateful, because of what had
11 happened to my niece and what... why... my question
12 was, why did the social worker not deal with it.

13 Why did he have the policemen dealing with it
14 instead.

15 And I was sure that they were going to tell me
16 how they work. But they never ever addressed it.
17 Which was okay with me because, I'd rather forget
18 about it, than... than going through the feelings
19 that I went through. (crying)

20 **M^e ARIANNE MARTEL :**

21 Do you think the police officers should be trained?

22 **M^e [REDACTED] :**

23 Pardon?

24 **M^e ARIANNE MARTEL :**

1 Do you think the police officers should be trained
2 to work with suicidal people?

3 **Mme** [REDACTED] :

4 The policemen?

5 **M^e ARIANNE MARTEL** :

6 Yeah. Should they receive a training for that?

7 **Mme** [REDACTED] :

8 Yes. To me, the policemen who was pointing gun,
9 their three (3) guns at my nephew, to me... I mean,
10 he's not a dog. He's not a rabid dog, he's not a
11 rabid animal. As an Inuk, when we see a gun, not a
12 handgun, to us it means food. We're going to be
13 provided with food. But, three (3) revolvers
14 pointing at my nephew? No human being ought to do
15 that to me.

16 I'm not sure how you would train the policemen,
17 because, [REDACTED], we have to be in the
18 same level as a person who is suicidal, and beyond
19 that. We have to treat the person respectfully,
20 regardless what his thoughts are, and we have to be
21 in the same level, not above. Below even, because
22 that's how low they are. They have to... we have to
23 get us to their level, in order for them to trust
24 us, because they'd rather die than live, and we have
25 to understand and help to get them out of where they

1 are. I have never dealt with policemen before,
2 never. So, I don't know how you would train them,
3 because it's social workers who ought to be doing
4 that job. I don't have an answer for that.

5 **Mme ARIANNE MARTEL :**

6 And do you think... did the police officers explain
7 to you why they didn't want you to go and talk to
8 your nephew?

9 **Mme [REDACTED] :**

10 No. We... they were like robots. I mean that's how
11 I felt. They were not, like, a human being.

12 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

13 I understand the police officers were not Inuit?

14 **Mme [REDACTED] :**

15 No, not... not in [REDACTED] There used to be some
16 Innu policemen and... they used to be very, very
17 helpful, and they're related to you somehow anyway.
18 So, I felt they... they... regardless what they...
19 it's their job, to do what they have to do, and we
20 understand that, and we... we depend on them to...
21 to make sure that we're okay and that we're safe.

22 But not the three (3) policemen who was pointing gun
23 at my nephew.

24 There has been... there was one policeman, and
25 he was, the last time... I don't know why they

1 keep quitting being policemen.

2 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

3 Do you have other questions?

4 **M^e ARIANNE MARTEL :**

5 I have just a few questions left, yes. How do you
6 think suicide should be prevented in your community?
7 What measures could be put into place to... so that
8 people know about what to do when they feel bad, and
9 who to see when they feel bad?

10 **M^{me} [REDACTED] :**

11 There are so many suicides. There are so many
12 suicides in Nunavik. In fact, about three (3) weeks
13 ago, I lost my other niece... nephew to suicide.

14 (Crying) Our lives have changed. Our leaders,
15 Elders, we are in their shoes now. I guess it's
16 because of colonization and how we live like non-
17 Inuit, that... we have this problem. Our Elders who
18 were our leaders have passed away and I would say
19 they never thought us how to be an Inuk leader, with
20 all our beliefs, using all our means of living.

21 We... live like non-Inuit now, and... and we
22 just feel as lost as they are. But we survive. We
23 survive. We're survivors. With no weapon to deal
24 with such things as suicide. But their deal...
25 we're... they're in the process of dealing with it.

1 There was a big big meeting across Nunavik. The
2 first one ever. So, we're starting to deal with it,
3 as... as a Nation. There's hope.

4 And once I find those of a true... who have
5 been in leadership in a non-Inuit world - like, I
6 was [REDACTED] looking after everything
7 everything: individuals, humans. And once you
8 retire, you don't have that power anymore and you
9 don't know how to enforce it, as a leader in our
10 communities. So, we're in a... in a lost world, I
11 feel.

12 **M^e ARIANNE MARTEL :**

13 Do you have any other recommendations for the
14 Commission?

15 **M^{me} [REDACTED] :**

16 I never thought about that. I don't even know what
17 Public Inquiry was and I felt really "where am I,
18 what am I doing here..."... And I was really really
19 lost. And... because we're used to people in
20 authority using their... their authority in a
21 different way.

22 We used to be made small, we don't count,
23 whatever happens to us doesn't count, and... we
24 just... we live. And it's... I feel really really
25 bad because I used to have high hopes, high dreams,

1 but today's reality was... is not the way I dreamt
2 it. I fell really grateful to be able to speak to
3 you. Very grateful today. I didn't want to touch
4 your hand. I didn't want to touch your hand.
5 (Crying) 'cause I was... I was scared. I was scared
6 of you. (Crying) And I'm so proud of you. I'm so
7 proud of you.

8 **M^e ARIANNE MARTEL :**

9 Thank you for sharing with us.

10 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

11 Thank you [REDACTED] I will ask other counsels if
12 they have questions.

13 **M^e MAXIME LAGANIÈRE :**

14 I don't have any questions.

15 **M^e DENISE ROBILLARD**

16 I don't have any questions either. Thank you for
17 your testimony.

18 **Mme [REDACTED] [REDACTED] :**

19 Thank you.

20 **[M^e ARIANNE MARTEL :]**

21 Thank you.

22 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

23 So [REDACTED] I will thank you also. Nakurmiik to
24 have share something you didn't share with anybody
25 yet. You told us "I never shared this before." I

1 think it's important you did it today to help
2 others. It's not possible to change what happened
3 before. It happened. But for the future, for other
4 people, it's important that they know this happened.
5 So it could be avoided.

6 You're telling us, "we survived". I hope you
7 can live, not to survive. Survival is okay, but,
8 it's better to be able to live, not just survive.

9 I think your people have a right to be happy,
10 to have everything needed, to live, to live as Inuk,
11 as human being. You're entitled to that.

12 You're telling us what happened with your
13 nephew. Three (3) police officers pointing gun
14 towards him. As I understand, he was not dangerous
15 at all for anybody. Maybe he was suicidal in his
16 mind, but needing help. He was not a danger for
17 anybody. You were not allowed to speak to him to
18 try to help him. I understand police officers were
19 not Inuk. Maybe the possibility to get in contact
20 with your nephew was difficult for them, difficult
21 for him also. Were those persons trained to face
22 such a situation? Not sure at all, and I guess
23 not... I understand they were probably not trained.
24 You were telling it could be the job of social
25 workers, not police officers, to get in contact with

1 persons having suicidal ideas. It's obvious to me
2 that, when a person is not dangerous for anybody,
3 dangerous for herself, it maybe the job of the
4 social workers if they are there.

5 I don't know why the social worker who was
6 there asked police to intervene. Maybe this person
7 felt not able to get in touch with your nephew. I
8 don't know. We don't know. But it's obvious to me
9 that social workers should be well trained to face
10 those situations. And police officers too.

11 Sometimes, people having suicidal ideas may be
12 dangerous for other persons also. Not always, but,
13 it may happen. So they should be trained.
14 Especially in Nunavik. We know there are many
15 suicides. We know that.

16 Last week there was a meeting in Kuujjuaq,
17 dealing with this matter, because it happens to
18 often. Why it's happening in Nunavik.

19 Maybe it's because people, especially
20 youngsters, usually it happens with young persons,
21 maybe it's because they feel they survive, they are
22 not living they are surviving. Conditions should be
23 improved, I guess. People having to deal with these
24 situations should be well trained. It's obvious to

1 me. And to you, you are telling us they need to be
2 trained.

3 **Mme** [REDACTED] : [REDACTED]

4 You want to know what I see with social work? What
5 I see in social work is that, they hire the person
6 who is having great problems, to be a social worker.
7 I don't know where... whether they are being
8 trained. And I also find that, the people whose
9 children are fosterised, they're put into foster
10 homes,....

11 **LE COMMISSAIRE** :

12 Um-hum.

13 **Mme** [REDACTED] : [REDACTED]

14 ... they get the same couple to look after foster
15 children. I don't know why they're doing it. But
16 that's what I see, and I would say, when you're
17 gonna be a social worker, you have to be trained, to
18 deal with anything and everything in a positive way.
19 Good path. Yet, the person who was having the
20 problem, and everybody sees it in the community,
21 next day you'll know he has been hired to be a
22 social worker. You understand what I'm...

23 **LE COMMISSAIRE** :

24 Yeah.

25 **Mme** [REDACTED] : [REDACTED]

1 ... talking about? And I find that really
2 disturbing. When we're gonna... as a [REDACTED] we
3 have been trained to do social work for our students
4 who are having problems. And you have to deal with
5 it every day, every day, learn more. Yet, I don't
6 see social workers being trained... being away from
7 home being trained. And they have... they drive
8 cars, and, no wonder, even when they're really
9 young, they are being used to be social workers.
10 Next thing you know, they're working at Northernn, as
11 cashiers. It's really not the way I'd like to see
12 up North.

13 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

14 Is there something else you would like to say?

15 **Mme [REDACTED] :**

16 I'm not sure. I... because my mind has been so
17 closed, you know. It's hard to... to dream for a
18 better future. (Crying) And I'm an Elder now. I
19 should be making the dreams come true, I feel. And
20 I'm not doing it. We're not doing our share. And
21 it's all our fault. And I would say it's because
22 I'm dealing with my husband, I have to be there to
23 support him. In fact, when... when one of my nieces
24 committed suicide in reality, I told my husband "I'm
25 cancelling all the Halloweens for a couple of years.

1 No more Halloweens for me. I'm not gonna be
2 preparing for any Halloween. Just burned these
3 candies and cookies and whatever I had.
4 What does he do? He started pampering me.
5 (Crying) My husband who is dealing with cancer,
6 started pampering me, telling me that, I have so
7 many grandchildren whom I love so much, who look
8 forward for all my goodies. (Crying) So I had to...
9 I had to stop, you know. I was telling him "I'm
10 gonna be mourning for a couple of weeks, okay?" He
11 said "okay". But then when he started pampering me,
12 I had... I said "okay, my Halloween treats are going
13 to be late but I'll do it." So I went around to my
14 loved ones and then, to family house and food...
15 food banks, street kitchen, and I decided, okay, I'm
16 not cancelling Halloween and I'm going to live
17 through it. That's how it is up here now. I feel
18 so honored to have you by my side. What a change.
19 I'm no longer like that with the policemen.
20 (Inaudible).

21 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

22 She is a good policewoman uh? I told her once.
23 You're maybe a policewoman but you have a great
24 heart. So, [REDACTED] I will thank you very much.
25 Nakurmik for sharing with us what you didn't share

1 before. I think your husband and your family are
2 lucky to have a good person like you to support
3 them. I wish you can continue to do this for a long
4 time.

5 **Mme** [REDACTED] : [REDACTED]

6 I feel... And I feel I have not done anything...

7 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

8 And as an Elder, what you did today is great,
9 because you shared something that's important. The
10 result of what you said is the need for social
11 workers and police officers to be trained correctly,
12 especially in Nunavik, concerning the number of
13 suicides occurring here. They have to be ready to
14 face such situations in a good way, and it's by
15 training that they can get that. So, I guess the
16 message is there and we will render it. Thank you
17 very much for sharing with us. I wish you the best
18 to you and your family.

19 **Mme** [REDACTED] : [REDACTED]

20 Thank you. Thank you very much.

21 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

22 I understand you have a new good friend with Annick.
23 So thank you very much. Nakurmiik.

24 **Mme** [REDACTED] : [REDACTED]

25 Nakurmiik.

1 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

2 Yeah. If there's nothing else, we'll suspend now
3 for a few minutes before going with next witness.

4 It's okay with you [REDACTED] Thank you.

5 **Mme [REDACTED] [REDACTED] :**

6 Thank you.

7 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

8 Nakurmiik.

9 SUSPENSION

10 -----

11 REPRISE

12 **LA GREFFIERE :**

13 The Commission is back in session.

14 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

15 So, welcome back. Me Renaud, you will...

16 **M^e CHRISTINE RENAUD :**

17 Yes.

18 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

19 ... present the next witness?

20 **M^e CHRISTINE RENAUD :**

21 Yes, Mr. Commissioner. We have Mr. Johnny Anautak
22 with us today. Johnny is from Akulivik. So he
23 traveled to share his stories with us. Johnny, I
24 think you have many stories you want to share with
25 us today, but, maybe you want to present yourself