

LA COMMISSION D'ENQUÊTE
SUR LES RELATIONS
ENTRE LES AUTOCHTONES
ET CERTAINS SERVICES PUBLICS

SOUS LA PRÉSIDENCE DE
L'HONORABLE JACQUES VIENS, COMMISSAIRE

AUDIENCE TENUE AU
Katittavik Cultural Center
515, rue St-Edmunds
Kuujuarapik (Québec) J0M 1G0

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Procureur général du Québec

Me DENISE ROBILLARD, pour le
Procureur général du Québec

Me MAXIME LAGANIÈRE, pour le
Directeur des poursuites criminelles
et pénales

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OUVERTURE DE SÉANCE

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2 **LA GREFFIÈRE :**

3

The Public Inquiry Commission on relations between

4

Indigenous Peoples and certain public services in

5

Québec, presided by the Honorable Jacques Viens, is

6

now in session.

7

LE COMMISSAIRE :

8

Good morning everybody. Welcome. Ilaali. I will

9

first ask counsels to introduce themselves for the

10

record.

11

M^e ARIANNE MARTEL :

12

Good morning. Arianne Martel for the Commission.

13

LE COMMISSAIRE :

14

Good morning.

15

M^e MAXIME LAGANIÈRE :

16

Good morning everyone. Maxime Laganière pour le

17

Directeur des poursuites criminelles et pénales.

18

LE COMMISSAIRE :

19

Good morning.

20

M^e MARIE-PAULE BOUCHER :

21

Good morning. Marie-Paule Boucher pour la

22

Procureure générale du Québec.

23

LE COMMISSAIRE :

24

Good morning Me Boucher.

25

M^e DENISE ROBILLARD :

1 Bonjour. Denise Robillard pour la Procureure
2 générale du Québec.

3 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

4 Good morning Me Robillard. Me Martel, will you
5 explain the program of this morning?

6 **M^e ARIANNE MARTEL :**

7 Yes.

8 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

9 Please.

10 **M^e ARIANNE MARTEL :**

11 So to start the day, we will be hearing [REDACTED]
12 [REDACTED] who's from Inukjuak. She's here to talk
13 about the story that she lived. It's linked to
14 police services and social services. She will also
15 be giving her recommendations to improve
16 intervention with suicidal people.

17 At ten o'clock (10:00) we'll be hearing Anthony
18 Ittoshat, the mayor of Kuujjuarapik, and at eleven
19 (11:00), we'll be hearing Johnny Anautak, who's a
20 citizen. So, before we begin, I suggest that we
21 swear Mrs. [REDACTED] in, please.

22 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

23 And I understand the program of the afternoon will
24 be explained during...

25 **M^e ARIANNE MARTEL :**

1 Later on. Yes.

2 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

3 ... the morning, later. Okay. So, welcome

4

[REDACTED]

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

6 Thank you.

7 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

8 It's a pleasure to receive you at the hearing

9 Commission.

10 -----

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1 Mme [REDACTED]
2 Témoin Citoyen (PI-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] [REDACTED] :**

14 Now?

15 **M^e ARIANNE MARTEL :**

16 Yeah. When you're ready.

17 **Mme [REDACTED] [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] [REDACTED] :**

1 Can I... Can I...

2 **M^e ARIANNE MARTEL :**

3 Um-hum.

4 **Mme** [REDACTED] [REDACTED] :

5 ... go ahead? Well, there was an incident, back in
6 [REDACTED] two thousand fifteen
7 (2015). That's the reason I am here, and I've never
8 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.

13 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 [REDACTED] 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],
21 [REDACTED] ... - I can tell the names?

22 **VOIX MASCULINE NON IDENTIFIÉE :**

23 Hm.

24 **VOIX FÉMININE NON IDENTIFIÉE :**

25 Hm.

1

2

Mme [REDACTED] [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 **Mme** ██████████ ██████████ :

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 **Mme** ██████████ ██████████ :

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

4 The policemen?

5 **M^e ARIANNE MARTEL** :

6 Yeah. Should they receive a training for that?

7 **Mme** [REDACTED] [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 **M^e 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] [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] [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 **Mme** [REDACTED] [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 **Mme [REDACTED] [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 Northern, 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] [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 Nakurmiik 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 GREFFIÈRE :**

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

1 a little bit first.

2 **M. JOHNNY ANAUTAK :**

3 Okay. My name is Johnny Anautak and I'm from
4 Akulivik. I'm thirty-six (36) years old.

5 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

6 Oh, Johnny, I think the clerk has something to do
7 before we continue the testimony.

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1 M. Johnny Anautak
2 Témoin citoyen
3 Affirmation solennelle

4 -----

5 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

6 So welcome Johnny. (Inaudible).

7 **M. JOHNNY ANAUTAK :**

8 (Inaudible - overlapping).

9 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

10 We'll listen to carefully.

11 **M. JOHNNY ANAUTAK :**

12 Okay.

13 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

14 Me Renaud?

15 **Me CHRISTINE RENAUD :**

16 Yes. So, as I said, Johnny, I think you have many
17 stories you want to share, but maybe you'd like to
18 start with your experience in prison in Saint-Jérôme
19 and Amos?

20 **M. JOHNNY ANAUTAK :**

21 Yes. I have been sent down South a couple of times.
22 Aside being in two different sectors: French
23 sectors, Inuit sectors, mixed sectors and, always
24 the French sectors are always treated well and they
25 have... they have the most softest and the most

1 (inaudible) bed. Mixed sectors, they're like
2 treated even, but, not... not as much as French
3 sectors. But in Inuit sector, they're always
4 mistreated. They call us dogs, they only have one
5 layer bed, along with the dishwashers, I mean, like
6 washers and dryers, they always have the worst ones
7 and, in the French sectors, they always have the
8 best stuff. And treated nice by the guards; they
9 could even ask the guards if... if they can do
10 something about it and, right away they get
11 accepted. But when we ask... when we ask, it's
12 always, like, very late, like, a couple of weeks
13 later or so. And...

14 **Me CHRISTINE RENAUD :**

15 Was it... was it difficult to be an Inuit in jail,
16 like, do you miss the traditional food and about the
17 weather?

18 **M. JOHNNY ANAUTAK :**

19 Yes. Most of the times, I have missed my meals
20 'cause there's some bigger men that are always
21 wanting to have what they want, and they always get
22 it right away. And I wish we were treated as the
23 French people are treated.

24 **Me CHRISTINE RENAUD :**

25 Could your family go visit you in the jail when

1 you were there?

2 **M. JOHNNY ANAUTAK :**

3 No. It's very long distance, plus, we always have
4 to buy a calling card, and, every... it's like two
5 dollars and fifty cents (\$ 2.50) a minute. But, for
6 the people that are from the same area, they only
7 use five cents (\$.05) for as long as they can. I
8 wish we were treated the same way.

9 **Me CHRISTINE RENAUD :**

10 Is there something else you want to say about your
11 experience in prison?

12 **M. JOHNNY ANAUTAK :**

13 Uh, I have been bullied. I was almost hanged, just
14 'cause they thought I was telling lies and they
15 thought I was a rat. But I was able to face up to
16 them, so, I was... I was not hanged, like, I would
17 have been, like, they were... they wanted to make me
18 seem like I committed suicide, but I'm... I never...
19 my grandparents taught me to never commit suicide,
20 so, I've... even though I'm always going through
21 hard times, (crying) I can't...

22 **Me CHRISTINE RENAUD :**

23 Johnny, I think...

24 **M. JOHNNY ANAUTAK :**

25 Like,...

1 **Me CHRISTINE RENAUD :**

2 Sorry.

3 **M. JOHNNY ANAUTAK :**

4 ... like when I lost my father, it was hard times

5 for me. I wanted to follow him, but, I listened...

6 I memorized my grandparents' voice, what they always

7 taught me, so, I can say I'm strong enough.

8 (shivering voice)

9 **Me CHRISTINE RENAUD :**

10 Is there something else you want to say about that

11 experience in prison?

12 **M. JOHNNY ANAUTAK :**

13 What? Excuse me?

14 **Me CHRISTINE RENAUD :**

15 Is there something else you wanted to add about how

16 difficult it was when you went to prison?

17 **M. JOHNNY ANAUTAK :**

18 Uh, sorry, my mind is not...

19 **Me CHRISTINE RENAUD :**

20 No, it's okay.

21 **M. JOHNNY ANAUTAK :**

22 ... thinking well.

23 **Me CHRISTINE RENAUD :**

24 I... think you may be... you had something you

25 wanted to share with us about your experience with

1 itinerant court. I think they don't visit your
2 village of Akulivik?

3 **M. JOHNNY ANAUTAK :**

4 Yes. I wish we had some... some court in our own
5 home area, 'cause it's hard... it's hard to... like,
6 when we know that we're not gonna see our family, we
7 cannot go... our family cannot go come and see us,
8 and even though when we're gonna have a long time,
9 it's hard to... I wish we had our own court...
10 courtroom in our home. 'Cause we have families
11 also.

12 **Me CHRISTINE RENAUD :**

13 What was your relationship with the lawyers that you
14 had to hire?

15 **M. JOHNNY ANAUTAK :**

16 Uh... I have a lawyer and I wish I could change him,
17 but, I know I can't. But, all that he *do* is just
18 try to get... try to make me plead guilty, even
19 though I always tried to say "no, you know what, I
20 did not do", and he said "well, the files says this
21 is that", but, he's supposed to support me. But
22 he's always... - how would I say... They make a
23 deal with Crown prosecutor and judge, just 'cause he
24 has a business. He only try to get me plead guilty,
25 even though he has to support me, but, he never

1 supports me in any way.

2 **Me CHRISTINE RENAUD :**

3 And I think yesterday, you explained to me that, you
4 wish that the people in the court, the judge, they
5 would take more time to try and understand the
6 person you are.

7 **M. JOHNNY ANAUTAK :**

8 Yes. Uh, before they sentence us, I wish the Court
9 would try to see how that kind of person is, like,
10 if it's really that kind of a person or... even
11 though my lawyer knows me that I'm a very nice guy,
12 but all that he *do* is just try to get me plead
13 guilty and try to get me arrested.

14 **Me CHRISTINE RENAUD :**

15 You also mentioned to me that, in your village
16 - which is a small community - the police, they know
17 who has conditions and they go after people who
18 break their conditions.

19 **M. JOHNNY ANAUTAK :**

20 Yes. Like, for example, I... there's always some
21 drunk people walking around and they... and the
22 police, they know that, there's no one supposed to
23 drink outside in the... where there's a *populate* and
24 they just drive by, pass by or just get them home.

25 But when they have conditions, they...

1 right away they arrest them, 'cause they want to
2 send them down South and so they could have a
3 flight, free flight, and get more money.

4 Like, for example, there's some... I have some
5 cousins that usually go back and forth, back and
6 forth down South, 'cause the police are just
7 watching over the people that has conditions and
8 they don't try to look at other people that are
9 doing what they're not supposed to do.

10 **Me CHRISTINE RENAUD :**

11 And when the police arrest you, you need to go to
12 the police station, how is it there?

13 **M. JOHNNY ANAUTAK :**

14 They mistreat us and, there... I... there were some
15 few cops they... one day arrest (a) woman, they say
16 "if you want to be released, we could do this, or we
17 could have sex, and I could just release you, even
18 though you have conditions, so I'm not gonna write
19 it down." That's what I heard. Not just one time.
20 Not just that year.

21 **Me CHRISTINE RENAUD :**

22 And is it very... How is it the cells there, that
23 you have to stay in?

24 **M. JOHNNY ANAUTAK :**

25 Uh, it's... from where I live, our police

1 Station, it's very disgusting, even the... are
2 trying to breathe... "polutionated". It has a
3 strong smell, even the social services, when they go
4 there, they don't like the smell. They always say
5 "it could be cleaned", but it's never been... it's
6 more than two years that it has never been cleaned.

7 And concerning our health, I wish they... I
8 wish if... I wish the police could just help us
9 clean the area, just to help the people... for their
10 health... concerning their health.

11 I know they make money, a lot of money. Plus,
12 they just... to computer and to their iPod, iPhone.
13 They don't really do much and... nothing else. They
14 only... when they recognized the... when there's a
15 caller, and they always try to ask the name, 'cause
16 if they have conditions, they wanted to go there
17 right away. But when they don't have conditions,
18 they just don't bother. Like, my aunt told me that,
19 when she tried to call the police and they... she
20 was saying "aren't you many people?" And, she
21 said... "she's carrying a weapon", even though he...
22 She was saying that, the cop would say "all right,
23 I'm coming." He was sounding lazy and didn't really
24 wanted to go there.

25 **Me CHRISTINE RENAUD :**

1 Do you feel like you can trust the police?

2 **M. JOHNNY ANAUTAK :**

3 Uh?

4 **Me CHRISTINE RENAUD :**

5 Do you... do you feel like you can trust the police?

6 **M. JOHNNY ANAUTAK :**

7 No.

8 **Me CHRISTINE RENAUD :**

9 I know there was a particular situation, that you
10 had been arrested and waiting for your trial, and
11 you had the condition not to stay in Akulivik, but
12 you had to live in Salluit.

13 **M. JOHNNY ANAUTAK :**

14 Yes.

15 **Me CHRISTINE RENAUD :**

16 And during that period, there was a tragic event and
17 four (4) of your cousins died, and you wanted to go
18 to the funeral. Do you want to speak a little bit
19 about that?

20 **M. JOHNNY ANAUTAK :**

21 Yes. When the tragic happened, one of my cousins
22 was stabbing, murdering, uh, my aunt tried to call
23 the police and say "there's... one of my nephew is
24 carrying a knife and he's very aggravated." He was
25 very angry.

1 He looked for a shack to look for some rifle,
2 and, while he was doing that, she was trying to ask
3 the police "help, we need help." And the police
4 just said "aren't you many?" Even though,... as I
5 can see, even though, when the police... when the
6 policeman heard that he was carrying a knife, he was
7 lazy and was... didn't want to help my aunt.

8 And, at that time, he was lazy and, if he did
9 his job well, I wouldn't... I wouldn't have three...
10 I wouldn't have lost three (3) more of my family.

11 (Crying)

12 'Cause she already tried to ask for help.

13 As you can see it, (shivering voice) if they
14 did their job, he wouldn't move from house to
15 houses. He wouldn't have killed more people.

16 And when I lost four (4) of my family, (crying)
17 I tried to ask to go to see my funeral... I mean, to
18 go to the funeral, and I was refused. I wasn't even
19 in jail. And the people who are in jail, they go to
20 see their... they go to the funeral to see their
21 family. (Crying)

22 I have been scattered very much through heart.
23 And after, a month later, I was... I was losing my
24 mom and I was following my mom; the hospital sent me
25 down South to go see my mom, and, in... the

1 nurse say "you're going back home to Akulivik."

2 And I say "why, I'm worried, I have... I have
3 some things, like, I'm not... I should not be
4 there." But the nurse said, "don't worry, we'll
5 take care of it."

6 And when we got there, I still had the feeling
7 that there was something wrong, and I said to the
8 nurse "I should not be here 'cause I have
9 conditions." And she said "no, don't worry."

10 So I went... we went to my grandmother's, and I
11 realized that I had some laundry to do. So I went
12 to get my laundry at my place and, when I was about
13 to go to my... go back to my grandmother's place,
14 the police... the policeman saw me, just 'cause I
15 had conditions and he... right away, he... he got up
16 to me and started to fight me, for almost an hour,
17 and saying that I should not be there. And I told
18 him "well, the hospital they sent me here, even
19 though I have conditions." I tried to tell them,
20 and they say "don't worry", and the policeman kept
21 denying me. "No, you should not be here." So he
22 kept saying that and he fought me. I did not fight
23 him. He was fighting me, and he charged... he
24 wanted to charge me 'cause he said I was fighting
25 him. I did not fight him.

1 And while he was fighting me, well he had
2 another partner when he reached, they put... dragged
3 me down... set my face down to the ground, to the
4 sand, and I was breathing sand through my nostrils.
5 There was sand through my nostrils, through my
6 mouth. I had almost a mouthful of sand, because
7 they were forcing me too much.

8 And then I tried to... I called my mom, I told
9 her "sorry Mom, I got arrested", and then she... in
10 a snap, she was losing her life more, and I realized
11 that I was not gonna see my mom (crying).

12 And I tried to ask my lawyer "could I just go
13 follow my mom to (inaudible), I know she's going
14 to... she's gonna pass away." (Crying) But I was
15 refused.

16 They sent me to Salluit instead. And then
17 when... when I was about to reach Salluit, she
18 passed away, and I went into my aunt's house. I had
19 some bad news that my mom passed away and I tried to
20 ask the Crown, the judge, my lawyer, to go... to go
21 see my mother's funeral. I was refused. (Crying)
22 Come on, my own mom. (Inaudible) but still, even
23 though I lost my own mom, I got refused. Sorry.

24 **Me CHRISTINE RENAUD :**

25 It's okay.

1 **M. JOHNNY ANAUTAK :**

2 Even though I'm... I'm always going through a hard
3 life, even though I went through that, and I still
4 got a fake charge. But I'm not gonna talk about
5 that. People want me to suffer. What more do they
6 want? How much more suffering do they want? Losing
7 four (4) of my families, plus my mom, isn't that
8 enough? (Crying)

9 **Me CHRISTINE RENAUD :**

10 Do you prefer to stop here Johnny?

11 **M. JOHNNY ANAUTAK :**

12 (Crying) Thank you.

13 **Me CHRISTINE RENAUD :**

14 When you're back in Akulivik, is there someone that
15 you can go to talk to, to help you feel better?

16 **M. JOHNNY ANAUTAK :**

17 I have no one. I have no one to help me. Even
18 though I have families, they don't want to help me.

19 **Me CHRISTINE RENAUD :**

20 Is there someone at the social services that you can
21 talk to?

22 **M. JOHNNY ANAUTAK :**

23 There is someone at the social services, but they're
24 always changing too much. And for that reason, I
25 don't like to re-talk and re-talk, but, when... when

1 the time... when I had a hard time, I usually like
2 to talk about it because I don't like to pile up, I
3 don't want to lose my mind. I know how people go
4 through. I know how people change, for what reason,
5 and this is the most reason that people... it
6 affects people, how they... can react.

7 I have a brother, I have a sister, but, they...
8 they just live their own life. They don't give a
9 damn about me. I tried to ask for their help, but,
10 no. And I don't mind, 'cause, I have been living a
11 hard life already, so, I can manage it. But
12 sometimes, I can't bear it.

13 **Me CHRISTINE RENAUD :**

14 If there was someone at social services that it
15 would always be the same person, it would be helpful
16 for you 'cause you could just go and see the same
17 person again.

18 **M. JOHNNY ANAUTAK :**

19 Yes. Plus, I don't like to talk to social services
20 who are Inuit, 'cause even though they have sworn to
21 never talk, but, there are rumors. Like, I used to
22 go see Youth Protection before I was eighteen (18).
23 When I used to talk about my life, they... they
24 talked to other people of how I feel. I mean,
25 how... what kind of a person I am. Plus, when I was

1 older, social services, they're the same. I thought
2 they were more mature, but, they're the same. For
3 that reason, I only like to speak to a white person
4 instead, 'cause they don't rumor to other Inuit.

5 **Me CHRISTINE RENAUD :**

6 After your family losses Johnny, you got your
7 sentence and it allowed you to go back to Akulivik
8 when you got your sentence.

9 **M. JOHNNY ANAUTAK :**

10 Yes. I have been thinking, why they couldn't let me
11 go see my family for the funeral, even before I got
12 sentenced. Right after the sentence, how come I was
13 able to go home even though they refused me?
14 (Crying) Is that understandable? I don't
15 understand that.

16 **Me CHRISTINE RENAUD :**

17 I think you told me yesterday that, although...
18 although you had so many difficulties now, for some
19 years, you feel better. You feel that you were able
20 to change and find strength to change?

21 **M. JOHNNY ANAUTAK :**

22 Yes.

23 **Me CHRISTINE RENAUD :**

24 Is there something else you think you want to talk
25 about, today?

1 **M. JOHNNY ANAUTAK:**

2 (Long pause)... I wish I could turn back time to go
3 see my mom. (Crying - long pause)... I never had
4 the chance to say goodbye to my mom, so I wish I
5 could turn back time to say goodbye to my mom.

6 (Long pause, crying)

7 **Me CHRISTINE RENAUD :**

8 Do we stop here?

9 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

10 You don't have any more questions? No? I will... I
11 will ask other counsels if they have questions.

12 **M^e MAXIME LAGANIÈRE :**

13 I have no questions. Thank you, Sir, for this
14 testimony.

15 **M^e MARIE-PAULE BOUCHER :**

16 I won't have any question. Thank you.

17 **M^e DENISE ROBILLARD :**

18 No questions.

19 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

20 I listened to the story you related to us today. I
21 understand that you started by the treatment of
22 Inuit in jail. I understand you were mistreated.
23 That you realized that the French sector was being
24 well treated, mixed sector a little less, and Inuit
25 sector very badly treated.

1 **M. JOHNNY ANAUTAK :**

2 They even called us names.

3 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

4 Yeah. You... I won't repeat the names they said,
5 but I heard. I heard what you said. I won't repeat
6 it. I feel very sorry about that. Sad. Very sad.
7 Nobody should be treated like that. And I... I
8 thank you for the courage you had, to come here and
9 share with us what happened. It won't change...
10 - I'm sorry - it won't change what happened to you.
11 I hope it may help others not to have the same
12 treatment. And this is the target, the aim of the
13 Inquiry Commission, to hear what happened. What
14 happened that was good... Yes, we hear, we are
15 hearing some good stories. But we hear also what is
16 sad. So it's not be repeated again. You spoke
17 about mistreatment, you spoke about the food.
18 Sometimes you couldn't have your own meal. No
19 visits from your family 'cause the distance is too
20 long and it's too expensive also. There's no road.
21 Going by plane, very expensive.

22 **M. JOHNNY ANAUTAK :**

23 Plus, the calling cards.

24 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

25 Calling cards was next, yeah. Expensive also.

1 So, no visit, and difficult to phone to your own
2 family and to speak with them to keep in touch. You
3 had also a hard time. And so your presence in jail
4 in the South was always a hard time. Difficult.
5 Even in Akulivik, no itinerant court is going there,
6 so I understand the court was held maybe in
7 Kuujuarapik? Or Puvirnitug? It was not asked but,
8 it was elsewhere. So, if you're going to go to
9 jail, there is no possibility to say goodbye to your
10 family.

11 **M. JOHNNY ANAUTAK :**

12 But me, I wasn't even in jail when I lost my mom.

13 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

14 Yeah. And when your... your mom... you would have
15 liked to say goodbye to your own mom, you were not
16 allowed to do it. And I understand it's a very sad,
17 very very sad part of your life and you still feel
18 it - I can see, listening to you today. This is a
19 part of your life missing, and it's not possible to
20 go back and correct this situation.

21 **M. JOHNNY ANAUTAK :**

22 Even though us, Inuit, are mistreated, I can say I'm
23 the most mistreated.

24 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

25 You are most mistreated than others?

1 **M. JOHNNY ANAUTAK :**

2 People who are in jail are able to see their own
3 families to go see their funerals sometimes. But
4 me, I wasn't even in jail. I lost four (4) of my
5 families, I tried to ask to go see my family for the
6 funeral, I got refused. Less than two (2) months
7 later, I lost my own mom, and I got refused still,
8 and I wasn't even in jail. And then a month later,
9 after my court, I was able to go home.

10 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

11 It's very very sad. You also told us you had
12 difficulties with lawyers, telling you to plead
13 guilty. I understand you did not have the
14 opportunity to explain your case. Also in Akulivik,
15 cell - and I will use your word - was disgusting.
16 Strong smell, not even cleaned for two years.

17 **M. JOHNNY ANAUTAK :**

18 Yes. Like, the social services, sometimes they have
19 to go there and when they go there, they even cough,
20 'cause the smell is so strong, it makes you cough.

21 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

22 And if you have to live in there for a while...

23 **M. JOHNNY ANAUTAK:**

24 I was there for a week. Can you imagine there?

25 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

1 Sad again. And what social services?

2 **M. JOHNNY ANAUTAK :**

3 And they were there only less than an hour or so.

4 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

5 Um-hum. And people used to be replaced often, so
6 when you need to speak to social services worker,
7 you have to repeat again and again with a new person
8 coming in. So it's difficult to start all over
9 again. I understand you're telling "I suffered all
10 this, but I'm strong." Yeah, and I understand
11 you're surely strong, to live, to go through all
12 this suffering.

13 **M. JOHNNY ANAUTAK :**

14 I can say I'm strong.

15 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

16 I hope you'll stay strong. You have the right to
17 be... to have a good life. You have the right to be
18 happy in life, to be well treated. I wish... wish
19 you to be well treated. I wish it could be possible
20 to have contact with your brother and sister. I
21 hope it may happen.

22 **M. JOHNNY ANAUTAK :**

23 And I would like to add, what I can say like, just
24 'cause I have no one else to help me out, I'm always
25 miss... like, falsely charged, 'cause I have no

1 witness. And when I have a witness, one of my
2 witness don't want to help me.

3 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

4 So, I will thank you very much. Nakurmiik to have
5 shared with us. We, as I told you, we can't change
6 the past, but we can hear what happened in the past,
7 so it does not happen again.

8 And we can say people who are working in
9 correctional services, social services, the police,
10 to think to that, and to behave correctly with
11 everybody. I think Inuit people are entitled to
12 have the same rights and to be well treated.
13 Mistreatment should stop. So, Johnny, I will wish
14 you the best, and thank you again for sharing with
15 us.

16 **M. JOHNNY ANAUTAK :**

17 Thank you too.

18 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

19 Feel at ease, your testimony will surely help
20 somebody else not to suffer what you had to suffer.
21 Thank you.

22 **M. JOHNNY ANAUTAK :**

23 Thank you.

24 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

25 We'll suspend now. Till...?

1 **Me CHRISTINE RENAUD :**

2 Until one, one thirty (1:00-1:30)? Ms. Clerk?

3 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

4 One thirty (1:30)? Okay. I'll say one thirty
5 (1:30) and we'll see at the time.

6 **Me CHRISTINE RENAUD :**

7 Yeah, we'll see at the time. I'm not sure.

8 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

9 Okay. We'll see at one thirty (1:30). So, thank
10 you again. You're all invited for lunch at the
11 Coop.

12 SUSPENSION

13 -----

14 REPRISE

15 **LA GREFFIÈRE :**

16 The Commission is back in session.

17 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

18 So welcome back. Welcome this afternoon.

19 Me Martel, I would like you to present the program
20 of the afternoon.

21 **M^e ARIANNE MARTEL :**

22 Yes. So, this afternoon we'll hear three (3)
23 witnesses. The two (2) first ones will be heard
24 publicly, but I would like to make a request for the
25 last one, at four thirty (4:30). I ask the last

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 Puvirnitug
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.

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1 Mme Leah Unaluk
2 Témoin citoyen
3 Assermentation sur la Bible

4 -----

5 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

6 Welcome. Ilaali.

7 **Mme LEAH UNALUK :**

8 Thank you!

9 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

10 I will listen carefully to what you have to tell us.

11 **Mme LEAH UNALUK :**

12 Okay.

13 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

14 Thank you for accepting to share with us.

15 **Mme LEAH UNALUK :**

16 You're welcome and thank you.

17 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

18 Me Martel?

19 **M^e ARIANNE MARTEL :**

20 Thank you for being with us today. So, first, can
21 you talk to us about you a little bit more? You
22 work as a first respondent and as an interpreter?

23 **Mme LEAH UNALUK :**

24 I'm first responder and also a court clerk and also
25 a court interpreter.

1 **M^e ARIANNE MARTEL :**

2 And you are here today to talk to us about the lack
3 of resources for mental health issues on the Hudson
4 coast.

5 **Mme LEAH UNALUK :**

6 Yes. There is a psychologist... psychologist who
7 comes up North three (3) times a year, but it's only
8 mostly for... for mental illness. I would... I
9 would want to see a psychologist who comes up North
10 to meet people who go to jail repeatedly. They go
11 to jail repeatedly because they need help. And
12 there's no psychologist for people who go to jail.

13 **M^e ARIANNE MARTEL :**

14 So you identified a need especially for people
15 who... who go to jail repeatedly and who appear in
16 court repeatedly?

17 **Mme LEAH UNALUK :**

18 Yes.

19 **M^e ARIANNE MARTEL :**

20 And can you explain a little bit more why?

21 **Mme LEAH UNALUK :**

22 I think they go back to jail all the time it's
23 because their... we're lack of resources. And we're
24 lack of services; like anger management, psychology,
25 um...

1 **M^e ARIANNE MARTEL :**

2 Is there anything available right now in your
3 community, for people who would like, for example,
4 to see a psychologist for anger management, for
5 example?

6 **Mme LEAH UNALUK :**

7 No, there is nothing up North.

8 **M^e ARIANNE MARTEL :**

9 Even the place... well, the CLSC for example?

10 **Mme LEAH UNALUK :**

11 There is for... from CLSC, but it's only mostly for
12 the mental illness.

13 **M^e ARIANNE MARTEL :**

14 You also talked to me about the fact that, it would
15 be needed to have a place to go, to treat alcohol
16 issues.

17 **Mme LEAH UNALUK :**

18 Yes. There is no treatment center in Hudson Coast.
19 I think it'll be helpful to have a treatment center
20 in Hudson Coast. There is one in Ungava and,
21 there... people go to Oka too, outside of Montreal,
22 and Portage - that is available also. But in Hudson
23 Coast, there is nothing.

24 **M^e ARIANNE MARTEL :**

25 As an interpreter, for you, you understand the

1 need of, you know, having services in your own
2 language. Do you think that those... well, first of
3 all, these centers, do they have interpreters?

4 **Mme LEAH UNALUK :**

5 In Oka treatment center, there is no interpreter.
6 And I don't know if Portage has one. But I think
7 it'll be much easier for them to have a translator
8 and an interpreter, because some people *doesn't*
9 speak in English. And even if they need to go to
10 treatment, it's hard for them not to be able to
11 speak in English and there is no interpreter
12 available.

13 **M^e ARIANNE MARTEL :**

14 And you also told me that, there was no counselor
15 for couples in your community. Why would that be
16 important?

17 **Mme LEAH UNALUK :**

18 It would be very helpful if there was... if there is
19 a counselor for couples, or a therapist available
20 here, up North. I think it would be very helpful.
21 It's because we need some help too, The couples that
22 need a counselor or a therapist. And there's
23 nothing.

24 **M^e ARIANNE MARTEL :**

25 Why do you think that the alcohol issues are

1 urgent matters to take care of and that treatment
2 centers should be, you know, installed in an urgent
3 way in your community and on the Hudson Coast?

4 **Mme LEAH UNALUK :**

5 If there is a treatment center in Hudson Coast, I
6 think there will... there would be more people who
7 go to the treatment. I'm saying this, it's because
8 I know some people they want to go to a treatment
9 center, but, it'll be too far from the family and
10 it'll be too much cost to go visit the one who went
11 to the treatment center. It would be easier for
12 them... I think people would go more if there is
13 one in Hudson Coast.

14 **M^e ARIANNE MARTEL :**

15 Do you think alcohol is mostly related to crimes and
16 to bad things when... you were saying that you see
17 many people in court, so you think that putting some
18 more prevention - of alcohol issues, alcohol
19 problems - would help that way?

20 **Mme LEAH UNALUK :**

21 Yes, it would be very helpful.

22 **M^e ARIANNE MARTEL :**

23 You also told me that suicide prevention is urgent.

24 Can you elaborate a little bit more about that?

25 **Mme LEAH UNALUK :**

1 (Crying) I'm sorry. I just lost my nephew recently
2 who committed suicide last month. (Silence) We
3 lost too many now. One is already too much.

4 This year, since January, we've been lost
5 eleven (11) in my community. Something should be
6 done urgently. I mean urgent. We need organization
7 or a group who will work on only (with) suicide
8 prevention.

9 I think it would start at school, if there is
10 organizers about this, like, going to school, meet
11 the students, talk about suicide prevention, through
12 the radio or meetings.

13 **M^e ARIANNE MARTEL :**

14 Do you think the presence of more psychologists or
15 help in psychology could help too?

16 **Mme LEAH UNALUK :**

17 Yeah. That would be very helpful.

18 **M^e ARIANNE MARTEL :**

19 You also told me that, when people go to jail, the
20 program they have is not necessarily what they need
21 - the program to help, for example alcohol issue -
22 that you had a recommendation on how they could...
23 make a proper way to help people in jail, but also
24 when they come back in their community.

25 **Mme LEAH UNALUK :**

1 If they come back home, I would want a budget
2 for them to go out in the land. It's because it's
3 very peaceful and... out in the land, and they would
4 adapt more to our culture, if they could provide a
5 budget, mainly for people who just came back from
6 jail and I would... I think it would be very helpful
7 if they have someone who has the job to take care of
8 people who go to jail and go out in the land,
9 hunting with them. That was my thought.

10 **M^e ARIANNE MARTEL :**

11 You talked about programs and places that were
12 available for people with dependence, for example to
13 alcohol. Is there a place, on the Hudson Bay, you
14 named it a little bit before, but, is there a place
15 to go when you have... for people who have suicidal
16 issues, on the Hudson Coast?

17 **Mme LEAH UNALUK :**

18 I know there is social services. I think we need
19 more services for that.

20 **M^e ARIANNE MARTEL :**

21 Should it be... like you said, it should be said on
22 the radio who to call, for example, their phone
23 numbers.

24 **Mme LEAH UNALUK :**

25 Oh yeah. If there's a group who are working

1 on the suicide prevention, I'm sure they would go
2 through the radio, going to school. I... we have to
3 break the silence now.

4 **M^e ARIANNE MARTEL :**

5 Thank you for breaking the silence. This is very
6 helpful. Do you think you would have anything else
7 to add?

8 **Mme LEAH UNALUK :**

9 Uh, no. I just want to thank you all for the
10 hearing. It's finally here. Thank you.

11 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

12 I will see if other counsels have questions.
13 Me Laganière?

14 **M^e MAXIME LAGANIÈRE :**

15 I don't have any questions. Thank you very much.

16 **M^e MARIE-PAULE BOUCHER :**

17 I don't have any questions neither. Thank you.

18 **M^e DENISE ROBILLARD**

19 I have no questions. Thank you.

20 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

21 So, I will thank you. Like Me Martel told just a
22 few minutes, you, you're breaking the silence. It's
23 necessary. I want to thank you very much for
24 sharing with us what you think about what's going
25 on, what you realize and what you feel could be

1 improved. You started with... concerning people
2 getting out of jail, having no support.

3 The idea to have people helping them to go back
4 to communities but, before, to go on the land
5 hunting with them, and giving them the opportunity
6 to get in touch with you culture, your traditions.
7 It may help.

8 You mentioned the difficulties for people going
9 South, to Oka or Portage for treatments, to
10 communicate, because no interpreters are there. It
11 could be a good idea to help communication.

12 You spoke about support for couples. Sometimes
13 they may have difficulties with the education of
14 children, difficulties to have the children listen
15 to them, when they try to explain to them how to
16 behave, and maybe, sometimes, they may need help of
17 counsellors to help them. Not to take their
18 children out of the home but to help them going
19 along with the children.

20 And that young couples having difficulty to
21 build a confidence for them towards those person,
22 maybe from social services, psychologist,
23 counsellor, to get in touch and to help.

24 You... you're speaking about treatment, alcohol
25 treatment. It may be helpful to have treatment

1 center on Hudson Bay. You have the feeling that
2 more person will go there. It will be easier for
3 them to be there, instead of having to go South or
4 on Ungava Bay on the other side.

5 Having groups or organizations for prevention
6 of suicide going to the radio, going to the school,
7 to... be known, to make their presence known by
8 people in difficulty. So it will be possible to get
9 help.

10 You tell it's urgent that such organizations be
11 in communities, all around, to help, because too
12 many... already much much, too many suicided
13 occurred.

14 Last week in Kuujjuaq, there was a meeting
15 concerning this. I don't know the results, but I
16 understand that, your feeling is that, groups,
17 organizations be existing to prevent it.

18 So I feel sorry about what happened to your
19 nephew, somebody of your family. I have the feeling
20 it happened to too many families in the North, in
21 Nunavik. It should stop. But to stop these events,
22 something has to be done. It will not stop like,
23 without doing something to help it stops.

24 **Mme LEAH UNALUK :**

25 Yes.

1 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

2 And the communities have to work together to find
3 ways to do it, and as you said, through groups,
4 organizations trained. It's important also to get
5 training, to get appropriate training, and having
6 the persons ready to help. I wish this could be
7 done. Not in ten years but now. So that, next
8 year, it will be possible to say "oh, no suicide
9 anymore." Maybe I'm dreaming. As you told, "one is
10 already too much, it has to stop."

11 I hope people are listening to you and I want
12 to thank you very much for sharing your thoughts
13 about this.

14 **Mme LEAH UNALUK :**

15 You're welcome.

16 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

17 It takes courage,...

18 **Mme LEAH UNALUK :**

19 Yes.

20 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

21 ... it's not easy, but you did it. And I'm sure it
22 may help. If it can save one case, it will be... it
23 will be something great. So thank you again. I
24 wish you the best. And maybe if there are groups, I
25 guess you will join these groups to help?

1 **Mme LEAH UNALUK :**

2 I would want to, thank you.

3 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

4 So thank you very much. I wish you the best. Now,
5 we'll suspend a few minutes before going to the next
6 witness?

7 **M^e ARIANNE MARTEL :**

8 Yes.

9 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

10 Okay. Thanks again.

11 **Mme LEAH UNALUK :**

12 Thank you.

13 SUSPENSION

14 -----

15 REPRISE

16 **LA GREFFIÈRE :**

17 The Commission is back in session.

18 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

19 So welcome back. Me Elassal, you will present the
20 next witnesses?

21 **Me EDITH-FARAH ELASSAL :**

22 Yes, Mr. the Commissioner. Maybe, before starting,
23 I could follow up on the preventive measures that
24 was ordered - it's under PI-63, just for the
25 records.

1 We're very grateful to have two people with us
2 this afternoon, who wish to share a story. We have
3 in the middle Elisapie Angiyou, from Ivujivik, along
4 with her friend [REDACTED], who is also gonna
5 testify. She wishes to share a story regarding
6 health services.

7 Mrs. Elisapie wishes to share a story regarding
8 health services and social services.

9 == So before we listen to you, I would ask the
10 clerk to swear you in, and then we will start.

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1 Mme Elisapie Angiyou,
2 Témoin citoyen
3 Assermentation sur la Bible

4 -----
5 Mme [REDACTED]
6 Témoin citoyen
7 Assermentation sur la Bible

8 -----

9 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

10 Also [tujur nina(ph)], feel welcome, very welcome.
11 We are honored to have you coming here to share with
12 stories that may help other people of Nunavik to
13 have a better life. I will let Me Ellassal continue.

14 **Me EDITH-FARAH ELASSAL :**

15 Yes.

16 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

17 And I will listen very carefully to what you have to
18 say.

19 **Me EDITH-FARAH ELASSAL :**

20 And the... the sharing is going to be in Inuktitut,
21 I understand. So, maybe, Elisapie, if you could
22 start with saying a few words regarding yourself, to
23 present yourself.

24 It's number 3, for Inuktitut. (Silence) That's
25 good.

26

1

2 **Mme ELISAPIE ANGIYOU :** (inuktitut au français)

3 De quoi est-ce que vous voulez que je parle
4 exactement. (Inaudible)

5 **Me EDITH-FARAH ELASSAL :**

6 If you could say a few words, if you wish so, to
7 present yourself, it could be a good start?

8 **Mme ELISAPIE ANGIYOU :**

9 Mon nom c'est Elisapie, je viens de Ivujivik. J'ai
10 quatre (4) enfants. Je suis ici pour me plaindre.
11 Je m'excuse. Est-ce que je peux commencer à parler
12 maintenant?

13 **Me EDITH-FARAH ELASSAL :**

14 Yes, yes.

15 **Mme ELISAPIE ANGIYOU :**

16 Premièrement, j'aimerais parler du moment quand
17 j'avais quinze (15) ans. J'avais une appendicite.
18 J'ai été envoyée à l'hôpital d'enfants à Montréal.
19 Je me suis fait opérer là-bas, à Montréal, pour
20 l'Hôpital général des enfants.

21 Ils ont pris des échantillons de sang, et ils
22 ont découvert que j'avais une maladie dans mon
23 estomac. Et, plus tard, j'ai été hospitalisée, puis
24 on faisait des examens sur moi, pour comprendre
25 c'est quoi exactement qui causait ma douleur et

1 comment on pouvait peut-être la guérir. Parce que
2 ils... ils faisaient beaucoup d'examens sur moi et
3 j'ai été hospitalisé pendant très longtemps.

4 Ils m'ont donné des médicaments, et ça, ça
5 m'aiderait à guérir les douleurs dans mon estomac.

6 Et ils ont dit que c'était contagieux, et
7 que... alors toute ma famille ont été testés aussi,
8 à Ivujivik, et je me suis aussi fait dire après... à
9 chaque année maintenant, je devais me faire tester.

10 Alors je suis retournée dans ma communauté à la
11 suite. Mais j'ai jamais été re-testée depuis, pour
12 voir si j'étais bien soignée ou guérie. J'ai jamais
13 été re-testée ou ils ont jamais refait d'examen sur
14 moi.

15 Quand ils ont dit que j'étais censée avoir un
16 suivi médical à toutes les années, la fois où que je
17 suis allée à Montréal, je me suis fait dire que, ma
18 famille aussi devrait se faire tester. Ils n'ont
19 pas été... on n'a pas fait d'examination sur eux,
20 ou, j'ai pas été réexaminée non plus.

21 J'ai des grands-parents qui ont eux aussi des
22 maladies dans leur ventre. Ils avaient la même
23 maladie que moi. Ma... mon grand-père était... mon
24 grand-père était le premier à décéder lorsqu'il
25 avait cette maladie dans son ventre.

1 Après neuf (9) mois, ma grand-mère est décédée
2 aussi. Ils avaient la même maladie. Les deux
3 avaient la même maladie dans leur ventre, mon grand-
4 père et ma grand-mère.

5 Alors... alors je pensais que c'était moi en
6 fait, qui leur avais donné cette maladie, parce que
7 je me suis... je m'étais fait dire que j'étais
8 contagieuse.

9 Après deux ans, leur famille et leur petit-
10 fils... petits-enfants étaient aussi testés et ils
11 ont trouvé des bactéries qui vivent dans le ventre.
12 Alors... dans l'estomac en fait, et ils se sont fait
13 traiter avec un médicament. Et la maladie que mes
14 grands-parents avaient, il me semble que c'était la
15 même que j'avais, alors je me blâmais, je me sentais
16 coupable pour leur mort, parce que je croyais que
17 c'était moi qui leur avais donné.

18 Et je crois qu'on est... on a tous été... on a
19 aussi... admettons on a refait tester tout le monde,
20 on a fait vérifier tout le monde, je crois que mes
21 grands-parents, on aurait pu les sauver, mais, je me
22 blâme depuis parce que... depuis tout ce temps,
23 parce que j'étais seulement une enfant de quinze
24 (15) ans et je croyais que c'était de ma faute parce
25 que, on n'a jamais fait tester mes grands-parents et

1 les gens qui... les gens dans ma famille. Alors un
2 an plus tard, j'étais toujours sans idée de quoi
3 faire, comment me sentir, et l'hôpital avait promis
4 de faire des suivis à chaque année, et je me suis
5 toujours posé la question pourquoi est-ce qu'ils
6 m'ont pas réexaminée.

7 Quand je suis allée à la clinique à Ivujivik,
8 j'ai posé la question "pourquoi vous m'avez pas
9 encore testée ou réexaminée, depuis que vous avez
10 trouvé cette bactérie dans mon ventre?"

11 Et ils m'ont... j'étais... je faisais pas
12 partie de leur charte. Et, en gros, la seule chose
13 qui a été écrit dans mon dossier médical, c'était
14 que je devais faire enlever mon *appendix*. Ils ont
15 même pas reçu des documents ou un dossier de
16 l'endroit où que je me suis fait tester, c'était pas
17 écrit dans mon dossier médical, en fait.

18 C'était... la seule chose qui était écrite dans
19 mon dossier c'était que j'ai dû faire enlever mon
20 appendice. Alors j'étais très confuse par tout
21 ceci. Alors, en gros, j'étais confuse et je sais
22 même pas, encore à ce jour, si je vais avoir des
23 suivis médicaux.

24 Alors je sais pas si je vais avoir la chance ou
25 qu'ils vont faire un suivi médical avec moi.

1 Alors en gros, j'ai été traitée avec un
2 médicament pour éliminer la bactérie dans mon
3 ventre, et la maladie que j'avais dans mon ventre.
4 Je me suis fait dire que mon estomac était rouge
5 quand il est... malgré le fait qu'il est censé être
6 rose.

7 Mais je me blâme encore pour la mort de mes
8 grands-parents, et alors j'ai beaucoup... beaucoup
9 de misère avec ceci, ça fait partie de mon fardeau,
10 le fait que je me sens coupable. (Witness cries)
11 Parce que je pensais que... j'ai toujours pensé que
12 s'ils auraient été testés, mes grands-parents, ils
13 seraient toujours en vie aujourd'hui.

14 **TRADUCTEUR :**

15 J'ai pas de signal. J'ai aucun signal...

16 **Mme ELISAPIE ANGIYOU :**

17 En fait, je dis... Aujourd'hui, je dis que je suis
18 très désolée, surtout à ma grand-mère. (Witness
19 cries). Des fois, même, je me choque après moi-
20 même, pour le fait que j'étais très immature dans ce
21 temps-là.

22 Je veux que cette histoire soit connue - ou
23 écoutée ou entendue. C'est tout. Je me sens comme
24 si j'ai terminé maintenant avec le sujet venant de
25 la santé, ou par rapport aux docteurs, dans le

1 fond, les services de santé.

2 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

3 Do you have questions Me Ellassal?

4 **Me EDITH-FARAH ELASSAL :**

5 Nakurmiik Elisapie. I would only have one or two
6 questions regarding that story. Where were you
7 staying, in two thousand two (2002), in Montreal,
8 when you visited the children?

9 **Mme ELISAPIE ANGIYOU :**

10 Children. Children Hospital. Je vivais dans
11 l'hôpital pour les enfants, the Children's Hospital.
12 J'étais chez Micheline et Gigi... chez Michelle et
13 Gigi, dans le fond, c'était une famille d'accueil,
14 je crois. C'était mon escorte. J'avais une
15 escorte, Michelin ou Michelle ou Gigi.

16 **Me EDITH-FARAH ELASSAL :**

17 Nakurmiik. And the people at the hospital, were
18 they aware of the fact that you were in transit in
19 Montreal and that you were coming from Ivujivik, so
20 living in Ivujivik? I'm asking you the question to
21 understand the fact that you didn't get any follow-
22 up after your medical visit.

23 **Mme ELISAPIE ANGIYOU :**

24 J'étais tellement jeune que, j'avais pas encore
25 beaucoup de compréhension en anglais et en français,

1 et mon escorte était pas nécessairement très bien
2 éduquée. On m'a demandé où est-ce que je demeurais
3 et parce que... parce que je ne comprenais pas.
4 J'ai simplement dit que je demeurais chez
5 [Ghyslaine] et Gigi. Parce que la question c'était,
6 aujourd'hui... la question qu'on me posait "Où as-tu
7 dormi aujourd'hui?" Alors j'ai dit ce que... où je
8 dormais. Je croyais que je comprenais. Alors je
9 leur ai donné l'adresse de cet endroit.

10 **Me EDITH-FARAH ELASSAL :**

11 Were you offered the possibility to have someone, an
12 interpreter in Inuktitut, so you could understand
13 and they could understand what, you know, your...
14 what your medical situation was, where you were
15 staying in Montreal, so you could better understand
16 each other when you receive health services?

17 **Mme ELISAPIE ANGIYOU :**

18 Je n'avais pas de traducteur. Peut-être que mon
19 escorte, elle était ma traductrice.

20 **Me EDITH-FARAH ELASSAL :**

21 Okay. Would you have wished to have someone speak
22 in Inuktitut with you when you were there, at
23 fifteen (15) years old?

24 **Mme ELISAPIE ANGIYOU :**

25 Oui. Parce que je ne parle pas bien et mon

1 escorte (en) connaissait encore moins. Je voulais
2 donc avoir un interprète qui comprenait bien mon
3 état médical, ma condition médicale.

4 L'interprète, à ce moment-là, disait simplement
5 qu'elle devait aller voir un autre patient, même si
6 elle m'avait apportée à la bonne salle pour être
7 examinée, mais n'a pas interprété pour moi. Elle a
8 dit qu'elle avait d'autres patients pour lesquels
9 elle devait interpréter, et c'est pour ça que moi je
10 n'avais pas d'interprète.

11 **Me EDITH-FARAH ELASSAL :**

12 I understand, at the local clinic, they didn't do a
13 follow-up with the Children regarding your visit
14 there, so you were having difficulties, you did not
15 receive a follow-up, also, locally, within your
16 community?

17 **Mme ELISAPIE ANGIYOU :**

18 Ils ne connaissaient rien de ma maladie, parce que
19 ça ne faisait pas partie de mon dossier médical.
20 Alors j'étais confuse et je ne savais pas pourquoi
21 cela ne faisait pas partie de mon dossier médical.
22 C'était comme... c'était comme un rêve à ce moment-
23 là, lorsque j'étais hospitalisée, ayant... sachant
24 que j'avais une maladie dans mon estomac.

1 Et lorsque je suis retournée à Ivujivik,
2 c'était comme un rêve lorsqu'ils m'ont dit que...
3 que cette... ce tableau particulier n'existait pas.

4 **Me EDITH-FARAH ELASSAL :**

5 And my last question regarding the situation with
6 the health services will be to ask you: how would
7 you have liked to be treated? What kind of services
8 would you like to receive, both in Montreal when you
9 go there and also within your local health center?

10 **Mme ELISAPIE ANGIYOU :**

11 Lorsque le médecin a dit que je devais avoir des
12 suivis médicaux chaque année et que ma famille
13 devait être examinée, et je voulais qu'on agisse là-
14 dessus et qu'ils n'avaient jamais été examinés, donc
15 j'ai des regrets là-dessus, et j'étais inquiète
16 jusqu'à maintenant, que je peux encore avoir tout le
17 cancer, même si... que je prenais bien ce
18 médicament; je n'ai pas pris d'autres médicaments
19 par après. Et ils ne m'ont jamais examinée après,
20 pour voir si mon estomac a encore le cancer, et
21 parfois j'ai des regrets là-dessus.

22 **Me EDITH-FARAH ELASSAL :**

23 Nakurmiik Elisapie. I know that you wanted to talk
24 a little regarding social services. If you wish to
25 do so, I invite you to share your thoughts.

1 **Mme ELISAPIE ANGIYOU :**

2 D'accord. J'ai un ami - ou une amie - parfois nous
3 avons des problèmes dans notre relation, mon ami de
4 gars, celui avec qui j'ai... mon chum, mon copain,
5 celui avec qui j'ai un enfant. Et on a... et j'ai
6 eu des problèmes à un moment donné, on m'a demandé
7 d'aller à un refuge pour femmes et j'ai dit oui,
8 parce que je trouvais que c'était difficile d'être
9 avec mon chum à ce moment-là, sachant que... comment
10 il me traitait et d'une manière agressive.

11 Alors j'étais d'accord avec le travailleur,
12 travailleuse sociale, d'aller à un refuge pour
13 femmes. Parce que je sais que... je sais ce dont je
14 parle, c'est une question de confidentialité, c'est
15 confidentiel, alors je n'ai pas parlé à personne que
16 j'allais aller à un refuge pour femmes, parce que je
17 sais que mon chum allait virer fou s'il savait que
18 j'allais aller là. Et donc je préparais mes choses
19 pendant qu'il travaillait à l'extérieur et quand...
20 lorsqu'il travaillait, et à un moment donné il est
21 arrivé à la maison et il m'a dit, "j'ai découvert
22 que tu t'en vas au refuge pour femmes", mon chum m'a
23 dit ça. -"Et comment tu as su ça?" -"Quelqu'un
24 m'en a parlé." -"Et comment est-ce qu'elle a su
25 cette information le travailleur social avec qui

1 j'ai parlé, avec cette personne? Si tu me laisses
2 pour aller là-bas... (je vais me tuer... Si tu vas
3 là-bas, tu vas me tuer.)

4 "Si tu me laisses pour aller là-bas, je vais me
5 tuer."

6 Alors, j'ai changé, donc, d'idée, d'aller au
7 refuge pour femmes, parce que je voulais pas qu'il
8 se suicide, qu'il s'enlève la vie.

9 Alors je suis retournée aux services sociaux et
10 je suis venue ici, je suis venue pour avoir de
11 l'aide. "Pourquoi est-ce que t'as parlé de moi?"
12 Et elle a commencé à rire et elle a dit, "j'en ai
13 pas parlé, elle a dit. -"Mais alors, comment est-ce
14 que mon chum savait que je voulais aller au refuge
15 pour femmes? Tu es la seule personne... tu es la
16 seule personne avec qui j'ai parlé de cela. Alors
17 tu es la seule personne qui aurait pu raconter
18 cette... donner cette nouvelle, ce renseignement.

19 Alors elle a commencé à dire que "j'ai parlé
20 avec telle personne"... "Parce que je sais que vous
21 êtes pas supposée de parler de ce dont je vous ai
22 parlé. Votre travail est confidentiel. Savez-vous
23 que, vous êtes en danger maintenant, parce que vous
24 avez... je veux pas... je ne veux plus vous parler,
25 parce que je ne crois pas que vous m'appuyez et je

1 ne veux plus... je ne veux plus que vous me voyiez."

2 Alors depuis ce temps-là, je ne suis plus
3 jamais retournée.

4 Parce que si cette personne n'aurait pas donné
5 ce renseignement, j'aurais été à la maison pour
6 femmes, mais parce qu'elle a... elle a pas gardé
7 son... sa confidentialité, la confidentialité, je ne
8 suis pas allée. (Silence)

9 Aussi, mon chum, ou la mère de mon chum, est
10 une aide sociale ou travailleur social - ou la
11 travailleuse sociale.

12 Lorsque les services sociaux doivent me
13 rencontrer, cette personne quitte tout le temps.
14 J'ai aussi des... du ressentiment contre elle, parce
15 que, je me demande pourquoi elle fait un salaire,
16 parce qu'elle ne veut rien savoir de notre relation.
17 Je mentionne cela simplement parce que j'ai pensé à
18 cela. La mère de mon chum est une aide sociale. Je
19 pense que c'est tout concernant les travailleurs
20 sociaux.

21 **Me EDITH-FARAH ELASSAL :**

22 Nakurmiik. I won't have any questions. I thank you
23 very much. Maybe we could hear [REDACTED] who wanted
24 also to share her story regarding health services.
25 So if you wish so, we'll listen to you.

1 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

2 I'm listening to you [REDACTED].

3 **Mme** [REDACTED] : (Inuktitut au français)

4 Mon cœur bat fort, rapidement. J'ai une pression
5 sanguine élevée, alors je... j'ai pris... j'ai été
6 sortie par Medevac et j'ai été hospitalisée pendant
7 quatre (4) jours.

8 Et on lui a dit qu'après six (6) mois, elle
9 devait recevoir des suivis pour la condition de son
10 cœur.

11 Après un mois, qu'elle est revenue chez elle,
12 elle a été examinée, ou réexaminée, et lorsqu'ils
13 m'ont examinée, je suis retournée chez moi.

14 La deuxième partie, lorsque j'ai été examinée,
15 ils m'ont dit que j'étais correcte, et même, avant
16 six jours, avant que les six (6) jours se terminent,
17 j'étais inquiète que si j'avais de la haute
18 pression, est-ce que c'est possible que je vais
19 mourir ou non. Alors j'avais ces pensées.

20 Parce que, je devais avoir des suivis
21 réguliers, étant donné la condition de mon cœur. Et
22 on m'a dit, à [REDACTED], que... on m'a dit "si tu
23 penses que t'as de la haute pression, viens
24 immédiatement, parce que tu pourrais tomber morte."
25 Et je ne comprends pas pourquoi ils m'ont pas amenée

1 à Montréal pour avoir un suivi pour la condition de
2 mon cœur. That's a short story.

3 **Me EDITH-FARAH ELASSAL :**

4 When did that happened, the event?

5 **Mme [REDACTED] :**

6 Four (4) years ago.

7 **Me EDITH-FARAH ELASSAL :**

8 Four (4) years ago. So I understand, as your
9 friend, you have issue with follow-up with the
10 clinic center locally this time. If I ask you the
11 same question, what are your expectations, what do
12 you wish to receive, as services, when you go, you
13 know, for health issue?

14 **Mme [REDACTED] :**

15 In Inuktitut please? (Silence) Il devrait y avoir
16 un examen, suivi complet. De suivi et des examens.
17 Je devais retourner à Montréal pour voir un
18 spécialiste et on ne m'a jamais renvoyée là-bas. Et
19 que les gens, le personnel médical, lorsqu'ils
20 disent qu'il doit y avoir des suivis, ils devraient
21 garder leur parole.

22 **Me EDITH-FARAH ELASSAL :**

23 [REDACTED], did you say you were medevac earlier? And if
24 so, I understand it was to Puvirnitug?

25 **Mme [REDACTED] :**

1 Ils m'envoyaient premièrement à Puvirnitug, parce
2 que je ne comprenais pas qu'est-ce que j'avais,
3 alors ils m'ont amenée à Montréal par après.

4 **Me EDITH-FARAH ELASSAL :**

5 Okay. And were you able to have someone by your
6 side when you were medevac in the plane.

7 **TRADUCTEUR :**

8 Désolé, c'était inaudible pour l'interprète.

9 **Me EDITH-FARAH ELASSAL :**

10 Okay. How was it for you to be medevac to Montreal
11 by yourself?

12 **Mme [REDACTED] :**

13 J'étais inquiète que je n'allais pas avoir quelqu'un
14 pour m'escorter pour m'aider.

15 **Me EDITH-FARAH ELASSAL :**

16 Would you have liked to be escorted by someone on
17 the plane, to make the trip to Montreal?

18 **Mme [REDACTED] :**

19 Oui. Lorsque les gens... ils se sentent tellement
20 seuls lorsqu'ils vont à l'hôpital. Souvent, ils se
21 sentent très seuls, et je souhaiterais qu'ils ne
22 soient pas seuls lorsqu'ils voyagent.

23 **Me EDITH-FARAH ELASSAL :**

24 Do you remember at which hospital you were in
25 Montreal?

1 **Mme** [REDACTED] :

2 I was at the General Hospital.

3 **Me EDITH-FARAH ELASSAL** :

4 General Hospital. And I asked the same question to
5 your friend, did you get a chance to... were you
6 offered services of an interpreter when you were
7 there?

8 **Mme** [REDACTED] :

9 Non. Ils m'ont jamais dit que... ils m'ont jamais
10 dit, en fait, que j'étais censée avoir un
11 interprète.

12 **Me EDITH-FARAH ELASSAL** :

13 So how was the communication with you to receive
14 medical information... in English I understand? How
15 is it for you and what do you wish, you know, to
16 have... How do you wish to receive the services in
17 Inuktitut, if you wish so?

18 **Mme** [REDACTED] :

19 Can you repeat?

20 **Me EDITH-FARAH ELASSAL** :

21 Yes. Were you able to understand the information,
22 medical information, that was given to you in
23 Montreal, without an interpreter?

24 **Mme** [REDACTED] :

1 Je me suis fait dire que j'avais la même... que
2 j'avais la même maladie que mon père. Je me suis
3 fait dire que j'avais la même maladie que mon père.

4 **Me EDITH-FARAH ELASSAL :**

5 Okay. Would you have liked to receive the service
6 with an interpreter in your native language?

7 **Mme [REDACTED] :**

8 Oui. J'ai de la misère à comprendre l'anglais ou le
9 français. J'aurais beaucoup aimé avoir un
10 interprète.

11 **Me EDITH-FARAH ELASSAL :**

12 Okay. I won't have any other questions and I thank
13 you both. Nakurmiik.

14 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

15 So, nakurmiik. I will ask, now, other counsels if
16 they have questions to Elisapie or [REDACTED]

17 **M^e MAXIME LAGANIÈRE :**

18 I don't have no questions, thank you.

19 **M^e MARIE-PAULE BOUCHER :**

20 No questions neither, thank you.

21 **M^e DENISE ROBILLARD**

22 No questions, thank you.

23 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

24 Would you like to add something else? Elisapie?

25 [REDACTED]? I'm here to listen.

1 **Mme ELISAPIE ANGIYOU ou Mme [REDACTED] :**

2 J'ai beaucoup de choses à dire par rapport à la
3 Protection de la jeunesse.

4 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

5 Maybe for another day. And concerning the...
6 stomach illness... is there something else?

7 **Mme ELISAPIE ANGIYOU ou Mme [REDACTED] :**

8 (Inaudible pour l'interprète)

9 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

10 And concerning confidentiality at the shelter?

11 **Mme ELISAPIE ANGIYOU :**

12 Je crois sincèrement que... que les travailleurs
13 sociaux, les intervenants, ne doivent absolument pas
14 partager l'information personnelle de leurs clients.
15 Ils doivent garder ça confidentiel, parce qu'ils
16 comprennent pas la sévérité de la situation quand
17 ils parlent à d'autres gens. Et j'aimerais aussi
18 que, ils aideraient plus les Inuits et leurs
19 besoins.

20 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

21 Is there something else, Elisapie, concerning your
22 stomach or shelter?

23 **Mme ELISAPIE ANGIYOU :**

24 Non, c'est tout ce que j'ai à dire.

25 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

1 And [REDACTED] would you have something else to add?

2 **Mme** [REDACTED] :

3 (Inaudible.)

4 **LE COMMISSAIRE** :

5 So now, I will thank you very much, both of you.

6 Nakurmiik to share with us what happened to you.

7 Elisapie, I feel you're not responsible for
8 what happened. You were a child. Fifteen (15)
9 years old is young, still young. And I hope you
10 will have... I hope you'll have the follow-up you
11 would like to have. (Witness is crying)

12 You have the right to be happy, to have a good
13 life. You have your children and I wish you the
14 best.

15 [REDACTED], I wish you also to have follow-up. You
16 were telling that you were told it's the same
17 illness than your father had. I wish you to feel
18 good, to have necessary care and to have the follow-
19 up that allows to seek [care if] necessary.

20 For both of you, I wish you the best and
21 nakurmiik. Thank you very much for sharing with us.
22 It may help others to have better care, to make sure
23 that the follow-ups are done and I hope somebody is
24 listening. And we will let people know that, you
25 [shall] have the follow-ups. And I hope it will

1 be done rapidly, so you feel more secure.

2 People in Nunavik, in the North, are entitled
3 to have appropriate care and I hope it will be done,
4 and soon. Thank you again and I wish you the best.
5 Nakurmiik.

6 We will now suspend fifteen (15) minutes and go
7 with the next witness.

8 **Me EDITH-FARAH ELASSAL**

9 Perfect.

10 SUSPENSION

11 -----

12 REPRISE

13 **LA GREFFIÈRE :**

14 The Commission is back in session.

15 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

16 So, welcome back. Now we are behind closed door.
17 The testimony will be rendered with number, closed
18 door, 78, okay? I will ask you, Me Elassal, to
19 present the witness.

20 And just before, I will say that,... and I will
21 order this tomorrow when we'll be public, I will
22 order that, the testimony of [REDACTED] this afternoon,
23 be... will not be made public broadcast. We'll have
24 protection of her identity, her name, her voice,



1 image and community, and any information that could
2 identify her.

3 In a few weeks, we'll have the transcript. The
4 transcript will be on our website, but, we will have
5 blanked her name, community and everything that
6 could identify her. So the story will be written
7 but, nobody will be able to identify her. It's okay
8 with this [REDACTED]?

9 So I will order this tomorrow when we'll be on
10 air, public. But without the link that it is your
11 story. Understand? I have to render this, but I
12 have tell... I told the media, or APTN and CBC news,
13 to not report your testimony. They already know
14 about it. Okay?

15 So now, we'll proceed with [REDACTED]

16 [REDACTED]

17 **Me EDITH-FARAH ELASSAL :**

18 Yes. So we continue with [REDACTED], who
19 wishes to share her story... her story regarding
20 Youth Protection regarding one of her children. So
21 before we start, I will ask the clerk to swear you
22 in.

23 -----

24

25

1 Mme [REDACTED] (HC-78),
2 Témoin citoyen
3 Assermentation sur la Bible

4 -----

5 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

6 So, [tujurminak] (inaudible) [REDACTED] Welcome. As I
7 told [REDACTED], I [REDACTED] ordered that your
8 testimony, concerning Youth Protection, be rendered
9 behind closed door.

10 And you see, [REDACTED]
11 [REDACTED] except people you wanted to have with you.
12 Okay? So, Me Ellassal?

13 **Me EDITH-FARAH ELASSAL :**

14 So, [REDACTED], if that's okay with you, I would just
15 like, you know, you, to share the story regarding
16 your son and, we'll listen to you.

17 **Mme [REDACTED] :** (inuktitut au français)

18 J'avais ma deuxième fille et ma deuxième fille était
19 née en deux mille dix (2010). Quand elle était
20 encore enfant, je l'ai amenée à la clinique, vu que
21 je me suis fait dire de l'amener là, avant qu'elle
22 ait une sorte de crise de santé, et son linge avait
23 été enlevé parce que, ils ont dû faire une prise de
24 pression, et la DPJ est arrivée ou l'intervenante
25 pour la DPJ est arrivée pendant que le linge du bébé

1 a été enlevé ou s'est fait enlever, et quand elle a
2 vu, elle pensait qu'elle avait une prune ou un bleu,
3 et elle a dit "est-ce que tu frappais ton enfant?"

4 Mais, elle avait en fait un... une tache de
5 naissance qui ressemblait à une... à un bleu. Elle
6 en avait aussi un qui... elle avait aussi une tache
7 derrière son épaule et elle m'accusait déjà de
8 l'avoir... de lui avoir fait mal, ou de l'avoir
9 abusée.

10 Et ses fesses et son bras avaient... elle
11 avait, en fait, une tache de naissance qui était
12 bleue. Elle avait une petite bosse, en fait. Tous
13 mes enfants ont ça. Ils sont comme des... -
14 mongoliens?

15 Elle a même été aussi loin de dire qu'elle
16 avait un os brisé. J'étais très choquée de m'avoir
17 fait dire ceci. Et en fait, j'ai jamais fait une
18 chose de la sorte. Je lui ai dit que tous mes
19 enfants ont des taches de naissance telles que
20 celles-ci. Et elle me croyait pas. Elle m'a
21 traitée de... d'abuseur, que... Et elle a dit que
22 "non, tu les as frappés tous de la même manière", et
23 c'est ça qu'elle m'a dit. Et elle a menacé
24 d'enlever tous mes enfants. Et elle voulait que
25 l'infirmière passe l'enfant aux rayons X, pour

1 savoir si les enfants avaient des os cassés. Et
2 elle a menacé immédiatement de m'enlever tous mes
3 enfants.

4 Et le bébé a été apporté à POV pour se faire...
5 pour faire faire des rayons X, et il y avait une
6 sorte de parents ou de... la grand-mère paternelle
7 était en fait l'escorte pour le bébé, pour l'amener
8 à POV, et je lui ai dit "tu dis des choses qui sont
9 fausses. Vous dites des faussetés sur moi, je ne
10 suis pas une abuseur." Et le bébé que j'allaitais
11 m'a été enlevé.

12 Et j'ai essayé de lui expliquer "c'est des
13 taches de naissance", mais elle me traitait
14 d'agresseur.

15 Et elle dit "normalement, quand ils sont nés,
16 ils ont plus des taches rouges", mais, moi j'ai dit
17 "tous mes bébés ont été nés avec des marques bleues,
18 qui ressemblent à des bleus." Et tous mes enfants
19 m'ont été enlevés immédiatement.

20 Et après les rayons X, le bébé m'a été ramené,
21 parce qu'elle avait pas d'os cassé, après trois (3)
22 jours. Et les docteurs et les infirmières ont dit
23 "non, il n'a pas d'os cassé." J'ai dit "c'est la
24 vérité, c'est des taches de naissance et qui
25 ressemblent à des ecchymoses." Et ils m'ont dit que

1 j'avais... et là ils m'ont dit "ah, tu disais la
2 vérité." J'ai dit "maintenant, quoi?" Alors je me
3 suis fait dire que je pouvais faire... déposer une
4 plainte contre la... l'intervenante, avec... que, en
5 fait, elle m'accusait faussement. Elle m'accusait
6 sans preuve. Alors c'est exactement ça que j'ai
7 fait. J'ai écrit une plainte et je l'ai déposée
8 avec la superviseure. J'ai écrit une plainte contre
9 la DPJ parce que, eux ils m'accusaient d'être une
10 agresseur, et je lui ai dit ça me tentait plus de
11 travailler à [REDACTED], parce que... parce que,
12 apparemment, c'était trop dangereux pour
13 l'intervenante d'accuser un parent de la... façon
14 qu'elle l'a fait, et quand ils ont enlevé mes
15 enfants, je me suis vraiment choquée, alors j'ai
16 commencé à boire, parce que je voulais pas ressentir
17 ce que je sentais. Je ne savais pas comment réagir,
18 parce que mon cœur a été attaqué ou... et je me
19 saoulais.

20 Et à partir de ce jour, je suis devenue une
21 alcoolique, je consommais régulièrement.

22 L'intervenante de la Protection de la
23 jeunesse... j'aime pas le fait que les intervenantes
24 de la Protection de la jeunesse enlèvent les enfants
25 des parents. Puis en plus, ils ont même pas... ils

1 font même pas des enquêtes... des enquêtes adéquates
2 avant, de prendre la décision d'enlever les enfants
3 des parents, parce que mon bébé, que j'allaitais,
4 m'a été enlevé.

5 Parce que, après qu'ils l'ont amené à POV,
6 cette fois-là, j'ai arrêté de l'allaiter. Et
7 jusqu'à ce jour, je suis encore en colère à propos
8 de ceci. Le fait que la DPJ prenne les enfants des
9 parents, j'aime pas ça.

10 Et il y avait une autre fois... j'aime pas le
11 fait qu'ils prennent les enfants et ils les
12 apportent parce que les gens, même les gens qui
13 hébergent les enfants ont leurs propres problèmes.
14 Et même, ils apportent les enfants dans des familles
15 d'accueil qui eux ont des problèmes de consommation,
16 c'est même pas des bons parents d'accueil.

17 Parce que j'ai vu, avec mes propres yeux, des
18 familles d'accueil qui ne prenaient pas soin
19 adéquatement des enfants en tant que parents
20 d'accueil. Et j'aimerais voir les parents de la
21 famille d'accueil qui ne soient pas des buveurs, et
22 que les travailleurs *socials* lorsque... lorsque les
23 parents boivent de l'alcool, sans jamais... sans
24 aider les parents avec leur problème d'alcool. Et
25 je sais que les gens qui... les parents qui

1 commencent à boire après qu'on leur ait enlevé les
2 enfants, ils commencent à boire plus lorsqu'on leur
3 enlève les enfants. Les travailleurs sociaux de la
4 DPJ... plutôt les parents, les nouveaux parents, de
5 la famille d'accueil, ont aussi leurs problèmes.

6 À [REDACTED], nous avons un enfant de POV qui vit
7 à [REDACTED], et il a été... ou ils pensaient que cet
8 enfant... il a été donné à la famille d'accueil, qui
9 avait des problèmes, et je vois que cet enfant... je
10 n'aime pas voir de tels incidents, parce que cet
11 enfant est souvent un ami de mes enfants et je peux
12 voir lorsque... cet enfant, lorsqu'il visitait,
13 qu'il nous visitait... on mangeait avec cet enfant.
14 Parce que, étant donné que je fais partie du [REDACTED]
15 [REDACTED] et je dois partir... à
16 un moment donné je suis allée à une réunion et j'ai
17 dit à mon amie, après que cet enfant... que cet
18 enfant a été envoyé, elle a mangé, parce que je
19 pensais que le parent de la famille d'accueil allait
20 être inquiet que l'enfant n'allait pas être à la
21 maison. Et durant cette réunion, quand j'étais à la
22 réunion, à cette réunion, après que mon amie a donné
23 la nourriture à cette enfant et à mes enfants, alors
24 elle a dit à cette enfant d'aller chez elle, dans
25 son foyer, à sa maison. Mais cette enfant... et je

1 sais que, lorsque je vais aller à ma famille
2 d'accueil, ils vont être fâchés envers moi, ils
3 seront pas gentils avec moi. Alors pour moi, je
4 réalise que, cette enfant était en danger, sachant
5 qu'elle aurait... que l'enfant a verbalisé que la
6 famille d'accueil allait être fâchée avec eux.

7 Alors le travailleur social, normalement, ne
8 s'assure pas que les parents de la famille d'accueil
9 ne prennent pas soin ou prennent soin de l'enfant.

10 Et quelques jours plus tard, cette enfant nous
11 visitait, encore une fois, et nous avons commencé à
12 nourrir cette enfant encore une fois. Et je lui ai
13 dit, à l'enfant, "il faut que tu retournes chez vous
14 parce que, il est tard, maintenant." Et elle m'a
15 dit, l'enfant a dit "mon père de la famille
16 d'accueil chasse, est à la chasse."

17 Alors j'ai dit "qui prend soin de toi alors?"
18 Elle a dit "je sais pas." Et l'enfant a dit que, il
19 ne savait pas qui prenait soin de lui.

20 Alors j'ai dit à l'enfant d'aller chez lui, à
21 la maison, parce que, je savais que le fils du père
22 d'accueil est à la maison. Alors j'ai dit à
23 l'enfant "retourne à ton foyer d'accueil."

24 Et après que je lui ai dit d'aller, il est
25 simplement revenu. Cet enfant est revenu, et j'ai

1 demandé à cet enfant pourquoi l'enfant était revenu.
2 Mais, l'enfant elle a été traitée différemment, ou
3 plutôt la maison était barrée, et j'ai demandé
4 "pourquoi est-ce que la maison était barrée", et
5 l'enfant a dit "je sais pas."

6 Alors, puisqu'il était tard, j'ai commencé à
7 amener cet enfant... je voulais l'amener, donc, à
8 son foyer. Et le parent... la fille de la famille
9 d'accueil, je savais qu'elle était à la maison,
10 alors je suis allée et j'ai accompagné l'enfant,
11 sachant que... à son foyer d'accueil... et c'est
12 seulement lorsque j'accompagnais cet enfant qu'elle
13 a ouvert la porte. Et c'est seulement lorsque je
14 suivais ou, donc, que j'accompagnais l'enfant, que
15 la porte a été ouverte. Et j'ai réalisé que, le
16 parent de la famille d'accueil qui était parti à la
17 chasse ne cherchait même pas à avoir une gardienne,
18 et sachant que l'enfant ne pouvait pas se nourrir
19 lui-même. Et, je sais pas pourquoi que ce parent de
20 la famille d'accueil se donne... ne pouvait pas
21 chercher une gardienne pour l'enfant, mais alors ça
22 me met en colère parce que, les travailleurs *socials*
23 et la DPJ font juste *dumper* l'enfant, pour ainsi
24 dire, avec une famille d'accueil qui n'a pas subi
25 aucune enquête, examen.

1 Parce que, les gens qui deviennent une famille
2 d'accueil ont leurs propres problèmes aussi. C'est
3 comme, ils... ils laissent une famille à problèmes,
4 mais on les dépose dans une autre famille qui a des
5 problèmes. Parce que les travailleurs sociaux ne
6 font pas une investigation, une enquête adéquate de
7 la famille d'accueil.

8 Et au moins, j'aimerais que, si les enfants
9 pouvaient être amenés à une famille ou à des
10 parents, à des membres de la famille avec lesquels
11 l'enfant est habitué de voir... alors ça serait bon
12 que, la Direction de la jeunesse... Parce que j'ai
13 vu... j'ai vu, donc, des familles d'accueil qui ont
14 leurs propres problèmes. Pas juste une famille.
15 Parce que, on donne, donc, des enfants, à des gens
16 qui ont leurs propres problèmes personnels.

17 Je pense que cela pourrait... ce faisant, ça
18 pourrait être... alléger la situation.

19 Et on ne donne même pas d'aide aux parents.
20 Les parents qui se voient... qui se font enlever
21 leurs enfants par les travailleurs sociaux, on leur
22 donne pas de l'aide à ces parents. Aucune aide.

23 Et jusqu'à maintenant, jusqu'à aujourd'hui, je
24 suis toujours en colère que mon enfant que
25 j'allaitais a été enlevé de mon sein, et... parce

1 que la Direction de la jeunesse n'a pas fait... la
2 DPJ n'a pas fait aucune investigation, enquête, et
3 ils n'ont aucune évidence que... si l'enfant est
4 vraiment abusé ou pas. Aucune preuve. Alors je
5 n'aime pas le fait que mes enfants m'ont été
6 enlevés, d'une manière... d'une mauvaise manière.
7 Je suis encore fâchée à cause de ça. Et je peux
8 voir que le fait que j'ai arrêté d'allaiter mon
9 enfant, ça démontre que je... je peux voir que mon
10 enfant est... serait sujet à avoir plus... à être
11 exposé à plus de maladies parce que, elle n'a pas
12 été allaitée le temps nécessaire, parce qu'on me l'a
13 enlevé de mon sein.

14 J'aimerais beaucoup, un jour, de pouvoir
15 pardonner qu'est-ce qui a été fait, que je puisse
16 pardonner ce travailleur ou cette travailleuse
17 sociale qui m'a enlevé mon enfant. Surtout...
18 surtout lorsque je sais que mon enfant peut être
19 plus malade facilement, parce que ça faisait
20 seulement deux semaines que je l'allaitais, et on
21 m'a enlevé mon enfant. Alors j'ai arrêté de
22 l'allaiter. Et... l'enfant donc, a dû prendre des
23 formules, du lait en poudre. Du lait maternisé.

24 Au début, lorsqu'ils ont enlevé mes enfants,
25 j'aurais aimé savoir... cela a affecté beaucoup la

1 façon dont j'élève les enfants. Je suis devenue
2 plus paresseuse et je suis... j'ai pris des
3 distances envers mes enfants, je suis devenue... et
4 quand mes enfants étaient plus petits, je ne buvais
5 pas, mais après j'ai commencé à boire, et je n'étais
6 jamais heureuse lorsque je suis... j'ai commencé à
7 boire. Et je pense que cela n'aurait pas eu lieu si
8 mes enfants ne m'auraient pas été enlevés. Mon
9 bébé.

10 Les gens viennent de l'extérieur, et je sais
11 qu'ils sont ici pour nous aider. Mais ça serait bon
12 s'ils faisaient une enquête appropriée, si les
13 accusations sont vraies ou non, sans même avoir des
14 preuves adéquates, parce que, quand mon enfant m'a
15 été enlevé, ça m'a affectée, je ne voulais plus
16 penser de ce moment lorsque mes enfants m'ont été
17 enlevés. Je ne voulais plus penser. Je suis
18 devenue... je voulais simplement boire pour ne plus
19 y penser. Alors, je me suis saoulée et je suis
20 devenue dépendante.

21 Même moi-même, même lorsque je sais que je vais
22 boire, je vais avoir une... je prends une gardienne,
23 parce que je veux pas que mes enfants me voient en
24 train de boire.

25 Le fait qu'ils ne cherchent pas de gardienne,

1 les parents [desquels] on enlève les enfants et
2 ou... et même, parfois, ils donnent les enfants...
3 ils enlèvent les enfants des parents jusqu'à leur
4 âge adulte. Je crois que l'enfant devrait recevoir
5 de l'amour de sa mère. Pourquoi est-ce qu'ils ne
6 peuvent pas chercher une gardienne, premièrement,
7 avant d'enlever leurs enfants, les enfants des
8 parents. Alors, je sens que ça n'a pas de sens
9 parce que, littéralement, ils enlèvent les enfants
10 des parents.

11 Je pense que j'ai fini. J'ai terminé ce que je
12 voulais dire. J'allais te dire, mais je n'ai
13 rien... je n'ai plus rien à dire maintenant.

14 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

15 Nakurmiik [REDACTED] Do you have questions?

16 **Me EDITH-FARAH ELASSAL :**

17 Maybe just one or two. Nakurmiik. You said you
18 made a complaint to the DYP regarding the situation
19 of your daughter. Did you get any follow-up?

20 **Mme [REDACTED] :**

21 La raison pour laquelle ils ont commencé à me croire
22 depuis ce moment, je suis... je crois plus, parce
23 que mes enfants m'ont été enlevés, pas seulement un
24 enfant, et j'ai même une évaluation... et j'ai eu
25 une évaluation de la DPJ, et j'ai pas aimé le fait

1 que je devais être évaluée, parce que je sentais
2 qu'on m'avait pas crue, qu'on ne me croyait pas, et
3 comme s'ils voulaient pas vraiment traiter avec moi
4 d'une manière adéquate. Alors, c'est comme si,
5 vraiment, on voulait pas travailler avec moi d'une
6 manière adéquate.

7 **Me EDITH-FARAH ELASSAL :**

8 You gave us an example of a foster family who was
9 not taking care of their child who was going to your
10 place. Do you know where the family parent was
11 working?

12 **Mme** [REDACTED] :

13 Jusqu'à aujourd'hui, ce père de famille d'accueil
14 prend soin des enfants parce que cette personne
15 aussi travaille... travaille aussi à la DPJ.

16 **Me EDITH-FARAH ELASSAL :**

17 Nakurmiik. I won't have any more questions.

18 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

19 I will ask other counsels if they have questions?

20 **M^e MAXIME LAGANIÈRE :**

21 I don't have no question. Thank you very much.

22 **M^e MARIE-PAULE BOUCHER :**

23 I won't have any questions. Thank you very much.

24 **M^e DENISE ROBILLARD**

25 Thank you. No questions.

1 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

2 So, [REDACTED] Nakurmiik. Thanks again.

3 **Mme** [REDACTED] :

4 Merci.

5 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

6 Thanks for sharing with us. Yeah. Thank you for
7 sharing this story, which happened a few years ago
8 with your daughter.

9 I have the feeling you were mistreated. They
10 thought you were hurting your daughter and,
11 obviously, after the X-rays, it was not the case.

12 They should have believed you first, I think.
13 And it caused you serious problems. You were
14 breastfeeding your daughter and it ceased at that
15 time and you have the feeling that, it may have
16 consequences on her health later, because you have
17 stopped breastfeeding her.

18 Also, kids were taken away from you. You were
19 evaluated by DYP, and I understand you didn't like
20 it at all.

21 Also, this caused that you started drinking,
22 causing to you other problems. Were you able to
23 stop drinking later?

24 **TRADUCTEUR :**

25 J'ai pas l'interprétation.

1 **Mme** [REDACTED] :

2 Quand j'ai la... le... quand j'ai ce sentiment que
3 je veux boire, bien je dois boire. Mais je veux que
4 vous *comprenez* que, je ne bois absolument pas quand
5 je suis enceinte parce que ça cause le syndrome des
6 décès... des enfants... alcool... le syndrome
7 d'alcool prénatal.

8 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

9 So, it's obvious that this situation 'caused various
10 problems to you, and you noticed some other
11 consequences like a kid being placed at a foster
12 parent's place, a kid, a friend of your own
13 children, and you had the feeling that, even if he
14 was taken away from his family, he was not taken
15 care... taken with care with the foster family.

16 So you have the feeling that Youth Protection
17 do not do a job with sufficient investigation before
18 taking children away from their own family. And no
19 sufficient investigation also with the foster family
20 where these kids are placed later.

21 So thank you very much for sharing these
22 stories with us. I wish you the best. You have
23 your children now, with you. I understand you're
24 taking care of them. I wish you that everything you
25 need to help taking care of your children be granted

1 to you. I wish you the best and thank you again for
2 sharing. It may help other parents.

3 And I hope it may prevent Youth Protection to
4 take away children without careful investigation.
5 It hurts, it's a judgement on parents, unjustified.
6 It's what happened to you, with great consequences.
7 I think they should think before doing this.

8 But you're still young, your children are young
9 and you have all the life in front of you. I wish
10 you the best and thank you for sharing with us.
11 Nakurmiik.

12 **Mme** [REDACTED] :

13 Je suis heureuse... je suis heureuse de... je suis
14 heureuse d'avoir eu la chance de conter cette grande
15 histoire qui m'appartient. C'est pas une bonne
16 histoire, mais je suis très heureuse du fait que je
17 puisse me plaindre ici. Et je suis certaine que ça
18 va m'aider moi aussi et mes enfants, et d'autres
19 gens aussi. Des gens qui ont besoin de la même
20 sorte d'aide que moi. Je le sais qu'aujourd'hui, je
21 ressens beaucoup de reconnaissance du fait que je me
22 suis fait donner une chance. Nakurmiik.

23 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

24 Thank you again. Nakurmiik. And the best. We'll
25 now suspend until tomorrow morning at nine (9:00).

1 SUSPENSION

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Je soussignée, **Ann Montpetit**, sténographe officielle
bilingue, certifie que les pages qui précèdent sont
et contiennent la transcription exacte et fidèle des
notes recueillies au moyen de l'enregistrement
mécanique, le tout hors de mon contrôle et au
meilleur de la qualité dudit enregistrement, le tout
conformément à la Loi;

Et j'ai signé :



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Ann Montpetit, s.o.b.