

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  
KATTIVIK CULTURAL CENTRE  
515, RUE ST-EDMUNDS  
KUUJJUARAPIK (QUÉBEC) J0M 1G0

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**POUR LA COMMISSION :**

**Me ARIANNE MARTEL**

**Me CHRISTINE RENAUD**

**Me ÉDITH FARAH-ELASSAL**

**POUR LES PARTIES PARTICIPANTES :**

**Me DENISE ROBILLARD**, pour la  
Procureure générale du Québec

**Me MARIE-PAULE BOUCHER**, pour la  
Procureure générale du Québec

**Me MAXIME LAGANIÈRE**, pour le  
directeur des poursuites  
criminelles et pénales

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1 **OUVERTURE DE LA SÉANCE**

2 **LA GREFFIÈRE-AUDIENCIÈRE :**

3 The Public Inquiry Commission on relations between  
4 Indigenous people and certain public services in  
5 Quebec, presided by the Honorable Jacques Viens, is  
6 now in session.

7 **L'HONORABLE JACQUES VIENS (LE COMMISSAIRE) :**

8 So, good morning. Welcome. I will first ask  
9 counsels to introduce themselves for the record.

10 **Me EDITH-FARRAH ELASSAL,**

11 **PROCUREURE POUR LA COMMISSIONS VIENS :**

12 Yes. Good morning everyone. Edith-Farrah Elassal  
13 pour la Commission.

14 **Me MAXIME LAGANIÈRE,**

15 **PROCUREUR POUR LE DIRECTEUR DES POURSUITES CRIMINELLES ET**  
16 **PÉNALES :**

17 Good morning everyone. Maxime Laganière pour le  
18 Directeur aux poursuites criminelles et pénales.

19 **Me MARIE-PAULE BOUCHER,**

20 **PROCUREURE POUR LA PROCUREURE GÉNÉRALE DU QUÉBEC :**

21 Good morning. Marie-Paule Boucher pour le  
22 Procureur général du Québec.

23 **Me DENISE ROBILLARD,**

24 **PROCUREURE POUR LA PROCUREURE GÉNÉRALE DU QUÉBEC :**

25 Denise Robillard pour le Procureur général du

1 Québec. Hi.

2 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

3 Thank you. Welcome, all of you. I will now ask  
4 you, Me Ellassal, to present the program of the day.

5 **Me EDITH-FARRAH ELASSAL :**

6 Yes, yes. This morning, we're going to have at nine  
7 (9) now, Mrs... Mr. Qalingu Angutuggiq. Later on  
8 this morning at ten (10), we will have Janice and  
9 Jobie Kasudluak. At eleven (11), we will hear the  
10 story of Alicie, and Simeonie Nalukturuk. We will  
11 hear their stories through investigative agent. And  
12 later on this afternoon, we will have other citizens  
13 that will share story with us.

14 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

15 Um-hum.

16 **Me EDITH-FARRAH ELASSAL :**

17 So, that's the program of the day, Mister  
18 Commissioner.

19 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

20 Okay. So, I will just add that I welcome  
21 everybody. I will just specify that we are lucky  
22 to have the presence of a teacher, Catherine, with  
23 her students from Secondary II and III. So, you're  
24 all welcome. I'm always happy to see youngsters  
25 interested in what's going on.

1 **Me EDITH-FARRAH ELASSAL :**

2 Before we start, Mister the Commissioner, I would  
3 have a request to you. I would switch in French to  
4 do that request, if I may?

5 Hier, nous avons entendu un témoin, le huit  
6 centième (800e) témoin de la Commission. Suite à  
7 son témoignage, madame a exprimé le souhait de  
8 bénéficiaire de mesures de protection de l'identité.  
9 Donc, c'est une demande que je vous formule pour  
10 protéger son nom, son image et sa voix, ainsi que  
11 toute information qui permettrait de l'identifier.

12 Si vous l'acceptez, ça serait la mesure de  
13 protection PI-64.

14 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

15 Bon. As I already said, I prefer to have a  
16 testimony than no testimony. And when somebody is  
17 asking to protect her or his identity, I always  
18 accept. The target of the Commission is to learn  
19 what's going on, and it's important that witnesses  
20 feel at ease to testify here.

21 So, I will agree to your motion, and I will  
22 order that the... the protection of the identity of  
23 the witness, the eight... huit-centième (800e)  
24 témoin - I will say it in French. Ça va?

25 Alors, j'ordonne la protection de l'identité du

1 huit-centième (800e) témoin et l'interdiction de  
2 diffuser son témoignage et de laisser connaître son  
3 nom, son image ou la communauté d'origine ou toute  
4 autre information qui pourrait permettre de  
5 l'identifier.

6 Par la suite, nous recevrons la transcription  
7 de son témoignage et il y aura caviardage de toutes  
8 les informations permettant de l'identifier. Et  
9 le... ce qu'elle a raconté pourra être sur le site  
10 de la Commission dans les transcriptions, mais de  
11 façon à ne pas permettre qu'elle soit identifiée.

12 **Me EDITH-FARRAH ELASSAL :**

13 Um-hum.

14 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

15 Ça complète, Me Elassal?

16 **Me EDITH-FARRAH ELASSAL :**

17 Oui, tout à fait. Merci beaucoup.

18 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

19 Now, you can go with the first witness?

20 **Me EDITH-FARRAH ELASSAL :**

21 Yes, Mister the Commissioner. We are very honoured  
22 to have Mr. Angutuggiq with us this afternoon...  
23 this morning, I'm sorry. And mister is an elder  
24 from Salluit who wish to share his knowledge  
25 regarding Inuit traditional culture, how it used to

1           be before White people came, and how it is today.

2           Mister wish to share his thoughts regarding  
3           many services: police, justice, social services,  
4           the Youth Protection. So, Mister the Commissioner,  
5           I suggest we listen to his sharing. We will learn a  
6           lot from her... from him this morning.

7           **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

8           Um-hum.

9           **Me EDITH-FARRAH ELASSAL :**

10          Before we start, I would ask the clerk to swear you  
11          in, Mister.

12          -----

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1 Qalingu Angutuggiq  
2 Témoin citoyen  
3 Assermentation sur la bible

4 -----

5 **LA GREFFIÈRE-AUDIENCIÈRE :**

6 Thank you.

7 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

8 I want to say to you "Welcome." I'm honoured to  
9 have you here in the room to testify on important  
10 matters. I will listen to you with great care.

11 Now, I'll let you go with Me Elassal.

12 **M. QALINGU ANGUTUGGIQ :**

13 Um-hum. (En langue Autochtone, traduction  
14 française :)

15 Je voudrais... je... vous pouvez commencer.

16 **Me EDITH-FARRAH ELASSAL :**

17 Mister Angutuggiq, if you wish to start with...  
18 start... you wish that your knowledge, you wish to  
19 share with us, we would listen to you.

20 **M. QALINGU ANGUTUGGIQ :**

21 Hi, nakurmiik. (En langue Autochtone, traduction  
22 française :)

23 Mon nom c'est Qalingu Angutuggiq. Même si  
24 j'ai pas beaucoup de la sagesse, même si j'ai pas  
25 des... de la grande sagesse, j'ai été né quand

1 l'homme Blanc est arrivé. Comme vous pouvez voir,  
2 je suis mixte, je suis... j'ai la moitié de moi qui  
3 est Blanc.

4 Je... j'ai grandi dans des coutumes  
5 traditionnelles, même si nos Aînés étaient pas  
6 toujours parfaits dans leur gouvernance, parce que  
7 je me rappelle maintenant, quand j'y pense de...  
8 j'y pense plus, quand j'étais garçon, il y avait  
9 des gens qui avaient... qui étaient en désespérance  
10 psychologique ou qui étaient en colère.

11 Avant même qu'il y avait de la police ou des  
12 services sociaux, je me rappelle qu'ils... que ces  
13 gens-là, qui avaient des problèmes psychologiques,  
14 mais on les aidait. Mais avant tout, j'aimerais  
15 dire... je voudrais remercier Jésus.

16 J'étais au courant. Quand les Aînés dans le  
17 passé étaient en désespoir, on prenait ces gens-là  
18 et on les isolait un peu dans une place qui  
19 était... où pour qu'ils soient seuls, parce qu'ils  
20 étaient trop désespérés. Alors nos travailleurs,  
21 nos intervenants sociaux, dans le passé  
22 traditionnel, et ils se faisaient aider, ces gens  
23 désespérés, et ils se faisaient guérir avec  
24 multiples personnes qui intervenaient avec eux, et  
25 éventuellement ils devenaient autonomes.

1           Je peux me rappeler au moins de quatre (4)  
2           personnes qui étaient... ou qui ne restaient pas  
3           dans la communauté, parce qu'ils étaient trop en  
4           désespérance.

5           Alors, les Aînés, en gros, ils se regroupaient  
6           pour gérer ces problèmes ou ces gens qui avaient  
7           des problèmes. Les gens qui se faisaient aider par  
8           les Aînés... en fait, c'est ce que je me rappelle  
9           que c'étaient les Aînés qui s'occupaient de ces  
10          gens. Puis ça, c'étaient les choses que j'ai vues.  
11          Il n'y a aucune façon pour moi de pouvoir dire  
12          qu'on peut utiliser ces méthodes traditionnelles,  
13          parce que quand quelqu'un était désespéré ou en  
14          distress... détresse, ça peut être très apparent et  
15          visible, parce que même si on n'utilise pas le  
16          système de justice ou la police, nous n'utilisons  
17          pas le système de la police ou de la... de justice,  
18          on était encore capables d'utiliser les façons  
19          traditionnelles et on se fiait pas toujours à la  
20          justice ou à la police. C'est ça, la tradition  
21          Inuite. C'est comme ça qu'on gérait nos problèmes,  
22          les gens qui avaient des problèmes.

23          Alors, si les gens pourraient avoir une façon  
24          bien organisée, traditionnelle de gérer ses  
25          problèmes, peut-être que aujourd'hui, on pourrait

1 encore le mettre en oeuvre. C'est pour ça que je  
2 suis ici aujourd'hui, je suis ici pour vous dire  
3 que ça pourrait peut-être être utile. On pourrait  
4 peut-être même encore utiliser ces vieilles  
5 méthodes.

6 Alors maintenant, j'ai terminé de vous parler  
7 des... de cette façon traditionnelle de gérer ou de  
8 traiter les gens qui étaient en détresse.  
9 Maintenant, je vais procéder au prochain sujet.  
10 Quand la Commission était là, je l'ai mentionné  
11 auparavant, je l'ai mentionné avant, j'ai vu la  
12 police avec mes propres yeux, comment les gens...  
13 traitaient les gens, pas seulement qu'une personne,  
14 mais le peuple, parce que même les Inuits, il y a  
15 beaucoup d'Inuits qui ont été blessés par la  
16 police. Même les gens qui n'essayaient pas d'être  
17 dérangeants pour... au reste du peuple, parce que  
18 j'ai vu pas seulement qu'une fois une personne qui  
19 se faisait gérer par la police, puis c'était  
20 toujours de manière agressive.

21 J'ai vu une fois une personne qui se faisait  
22 suivre par la police, qui ne se battait contre  
23 personne, il dérangeait personne, mais on était  
24 capables de voir que la personne qui se faisait  
25 suivre par la police avait de la misère à marcher.

1 C'était facile à voir qu'il était intoxiqué et la  
2 police a commencé à l'attaquer physiquement et il  
3 n'avait rien fait. Et je l'ai vu de mes propres  
4 yeux.

5 Je vois qu'il n'y a pas assez de nika(?)...  
6 On cherche le mot. Il y a pas assez de... d'appui  
7 pour les gens qui se font gérer par la police de  
8 manière *forcive* ou de manière exagérée, puis les  
9 gens qui se font blesser par la police, ils ont  
10 nulle part où aller, ils ont aucune façon d'avoir  
11 de la compensation ou de faire de l'argent. Ils  
12 ont pas de façon de se retourner de bord, ils ont  
13 pas de manière de générer des sous.

14 J'étais... je faisais partie du Conseil pour  
15 la municipalité et on se faisait dire que ils ne...  
16 ils utiliseraient... que les policiers  
17 n'utiliseraient pas les menottes et qu'ils  
18 utiliseraient les menottes seulement si c'était  
19 extrêmement nécessaire. C'est ça qu'on s'est fait  
20 dire, que premièrement, les policiers essaieraient  
21 de calmer les gens et c'est ça qu'on leurs a dit.  
22 On leurs a dit: « Et n'utilisez pas vos menottes.  
23 Utilisez les menottes juste quand c'est vraiment  
24 nécessaire, parce que les menottes, ça rend les  
25 gens inconfortables. »

1           Alors, quand les polices étaient censés se  
2           faire... euh... c'est ça qu'on a dit à la... au  
3           chef de police, mais les choses que nous avons dits  
4           à la police, au chef de police, ce sont... les  
5           gens, ils nous écoutent pas. Ils ne font pas ce  
6           que ils ont dit ils feraient. Je le sais pas si la  
7           loi a changé, je le sais pas s'ils ont le droit  
8           d'être plus agressifs? Je... il n'y a pas assez de  
9           support.

10           Je ne sais pas si... En fait, je me pose juste  
11           la question que... je me pose la question : Est-ce  
12           que les policiers ont changé leur façon de traiter  
13           les gens?

14           Maintenant, je vais vous parler de mon  
15           proche... du prochain sujet qui est plus présent.  
16           Pour les gens qui demeurent dans les centres de...  
17           correctionnels, nous avons des membres de familles  
18           qui sont envoyés en prison. On les aime toujours,  
19           ces gens, et on les appelle. Et on essaie de les  
20           consoler et on essaie de pas être choqués contre  
21           eux, parce que c'est les membres de notre famille,  
22           on les aime même s'ils sont en... dans un centre  
23           correctionnel.

24           J'ai un de mes membres de familles qui a été  
25           intoxiqué et il vivait dans une région qui

1 s'appelle « La Baie » et quand il s'est fait  
2 envoyer en... au centre correctionnel, il n'avait  
3 aucun sou et moi, je dis qu'il aurait dû être  
4 envoyé... renvoyé à la maison. Il a tout  
5 simplement été envoyé à l'extérieur. Il a été  
6 envoyé là-bas sans aucun sou. Alors, j'ai dû lui  
7 acheter une... un billet d'avion d'urgence. Je lui  
8 ai envoyé huit cent six cents... euh, huit cent  
9 soixante dollars (860 \$) pour payer pour son vol.  
10 Et quand il s'est fait appréhender à nouveau, il  
11 s'est fait donner quelques semaines de plus au  
12 centre correctionnel et ensuite, on l'a libéré à  
13 nouveau, et il n'avait nulle part où aller. Il  
14 vivait dans les rues, en fait. Et ensuite, j'ai dû  
15 payer pour son billet d'avion à nouveau.

16 Vous savez, c'est pas parce que les gens, ils  
17 vont au centre correctionnel que l'on arrête de...  
18 d'aimer nos membres de familles. Vous voyez que  
19 quand les gens vont au centre correctionnel, ils se  
20 font maltraiter et c'est pas le seul qui a été  
21 traité de cette manière.

22 Et il faut garder ceci en tête. Nous devons  
23 le considérer. Je le sais qu'ils se font envoyer  
24 dans le Sud en prison, parce qu'ils ont fait  
25 quelque chose de mal. Et même quand ils se font

1 libérer, ils ont absolument nulle part où aller.

2 Ceci doit changer et je veux que ça soit changé.

3 Alors maintenant, je vais parler de mon  
4 prochain sujet. Maintenant, je vais parler de la  
5 personne qui a été assassinée. Quand elle, la  
6 personne en tant que telle a été portée disparue,  
7 je le sais même pas si on... que... je le sais même  
8 pas si la police a réellement fait des recherches.  
9 Puis je pense que la population Inuite a même pas  
10 été mis au courant et je pense que c'est ça qui est  
11 encore pire. En fait, on s'est fait dire que...  
12 ils étaient censés s'occuper de ce cas, mais ils  
13 nous ont pas mis en oeuvre ce que ils étaient pour  
14 faire exactement. Même si le peuple était pas au  
15 courant, parce que en fait, il y a pas eu une  
16 enquête adéquate qui a été fait. Elle a été portée  
17 disparue et elle est toujours maintenant disparue.  
18 Elle est toujours manquante. C'est pour ça que je  
19 suis ici ce matin, c'est pour ces raisons que je  
20 vous ai exprimées.

21 La question, j'ai manqué la question. Je n'ai  
22 rien d'autre à rajouter.

23 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

24 Um-hum. Do you have questions, Me Elassal?

25 **Me EDITH-FARRAH ELASSAL :**

1 I won't have any questions. I won't have any  
2 questions, nakurmiik.

3 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

4 I will ask other counsels if they have questions.

5 **Me MAXIME LAGANIÈRE :**

6 I don't have no question. Thank you, sir, for your  
7 testimony.

8 **Me MARIE-PAULE BOUCHER :**

9 I won't have any question. Thank you very much.

10 **Me DENISE ROBILLARD :**

11 No question, thank you.

12 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

13 So, I will now thank you very much again for sharing  
14 with us what you feel necessary to tell, to help the  
15 Inquiry Commission to go on with the mandate to help  
16 things to improve in Nunavik. I understand that you  
17 feel that training for the police should be  
18 improved. Treatment for people from Nunavik going  
19 to detention, to jail, should improve also. I  
20 understand that twice, you had to pay plane tickets  
21 for somebody to come back after being released. It  
22 should not happen.

23 **M. QALINGU ANGUTUGGIQ :**

24 Um-hum.

25 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

1           And I understand that police searching somebody  
2           should take all the measure to do their job  
3           correctly, to find people missing.

4           **M. QALINGU ANGUTUGGIQ :**

5           (En langue Autochtone, traduction française :)

6           J'ai oublié quelque chose que je pense que  
7           c'est très important. Alors, je suis désolé.

8           **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

9           Don't be sorry, I'll listen.

10          **M. QALINGU ANGUTUGGIQ :**

11          (En langue Autochtone, traduction française :)

12                Les drogues et l'alcool. Je savais, quand  
13                c'est arrivé au début, à Salluit, je pense que  
14                premièrement, à Salluit, quand c'est arrivé, lorsque  
15                nous avons eu ou lorsque les compagnies minières a  
16                commencé à s'installer, il y avait un bar dans la  
17                baie Deception et ils avaient un bar et ils ont  
18                commencé à livrer des drogues et on ne savait même  
19                pas qu'est-ce... quel type de drogues. Et  
20                apparemment, c'étaient des drogues et ils allaient à  
21                Salluit pour les vendre. Salluit est très proche de  
22                la compagnie minière et les drogues... dans les  
23                soixante (60), le cannabis, ç'a été introduit par  
24                les compagnies minières. Alors, je blâme... Dans  
25                les années soixante (60), je voulais blâmer et les

1 gens de Salluit étaient les premiers à être  
2 introduits au cannabis. Je le sais pas si nous  
3 avons été les premiers, parce que le taux de... les  
4 suicides ont commencé par après à cause des drogues.  
5 Pour moi, je crois que c'est parce que les drogues  
6 ont été introduits à notre peuple et lorsque les  
7 drogues ont été introduites, les suicides ont  
8 commencé. Je n'ai jamais entendu parler de suicides  
9 auparavant. Alors, les suicides ont commencé après  
10 l'introduction des drogues.

11 Il n'y avait pas de... d'intoxications même  
12 s'il y avait des bars dans Salluit, alors, je  
13 blâme... parce que il y avait pas de suicides  
14 auparavant. C'étaient des gens normaux et en  
15 santé, et lorsque les drogues ont été introduites à  
16 Salluit, les suicides ont commencé.

17 C'était très... ça... c'était très troublant,  
18 traumatisant pour nous. Alors, c'est comme... c'est  
19 de cette façon que cela a eu lieu, alors, j'accuse  
20 et je blâme que les suicides ont commencé après  
21 que... une fois que les drogues ont été introduites.  
22 Même Qallunaat, dans la baie de Déception, les  
23 Qallunaats ont commencé à s'éloigner lorsqu'ils  
24 étaient intoxiqués de drogues. Alors, je peux dire  
25 que je blâme les drogues, parce que je crois

1           vraiment que les drogues ont été... ont introduit  
2           les suicides. Merci beaucoup.

3           **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

4           Nakurmiik. I understand also that you remember the  
5           time when people in desperation or angry were going  
6           to a vacant place alone, and coming back after,  
7           feeling better. And that traditional way do not  
8           exist anymore, if I understand well what you're  
9           telling. It could help.

10                   And we heard, a few days ago, somebody  
11           suggesting that when people are in trouble, to have  
12           group or organizations to help them to go on the  
13           land hunting, things like that to help.

14                   Also, when you're speaking about traditional  
15           ways, it adds it... it's going to add to what I have  
16           already listened this week.

17           **M. QALINGU ANGUTUGGIQ :**

18           Um-hum.

19           **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

20           And finally, you're telling us that when drug,  
21           cannabis was introduced in Salluit, it has caused  
22           many problems, especially suicide. And we are...  
23           we heard that suicide is occurring very often in  
24           Nunavik, too often. It should be taken care of.

25                   And somebody also suggested to have groups,

1 organizations, to go to radio, to go to school, to  
2 go... to help... to try to help so this kind of  
3 problems may disappear. One (1) suicide is already  
4 too much, and if something is done to help so this  
5 could not happen again, it will help.

6 I understand, do you feel it would be a good  
7 idea to have groups or organizations working on this  
8 matter all around Nunavik, trying to help?

9 **M. QALINGU ANGUTUGGIQ :**

10 Um-hum. (En langue Autochtone, traduction  
11 française :)

12 Oui. Même si c'est difficile, comment que,  
13 elle pourrait être initiée, parce que les gens qui  
14 sont en détresse ou qui sont déprimés, parce qu'ils  
15 sont tellement opprimés, alors, j'aimerais voir des  
16 gens qui peuvent gérer et arrêter ces problèmes, et  
17 c'est pour ces raisons. C'est vraiment difficile  
18 lorsque vous devez aller dire à un parent que  
19 leurs... leur enfant s'est suicidé. Une personne  
20 comme moi, de informer les parents. Lorsque vous  
21 rentrez dans une maison et que les parents sont  
22 contents et heureux, et vous les voyez, et vous  
23 devez ensuite leur dire la nouvelle de... du  
24 suicide de leur enfant, c'est une... un sentiment  
25 des plus horrifiants, horribles de pouvoir déclarer

1           cette nouvelle à la famille.

2                   On voit des Inuits qui deviennent complètement  
3           écrasés lorsqu'ils reçoivent cette nouvelle. En  
4           autant qu'on puisse... on peut chercher à alléger  
5           ces... ce fardeau, ce problème, ça pourrait aider  
6           là.

7           **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

8                   Is there something else you would like to say?

9           **M. QALINGU ANGUTUGGIQ :**

10                   (En langue Autochtone, traduction française :) )

11                   Non, je n'ai rien d'autre à ajouter.

12           **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

13                   So, now, I will thank you again. Thank you very  
14           much. Nakurmiik. I wish you the best. It will  
15           help, what you told us. It will help.

16           **M. QALINGU ANGUTUGGIQ :**

17                   Um-hum.

18           **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

19                   Help us and help people of the community.

20           **M. QALINGU ANGUTUGGIQ :**

21                   Um-hum.

22           **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

23                   Thank you, and I wish you again the best to you, and  
24           your family.

25           **M. QALINGU ANGUTUGGIQ :**

1 Um-hum.

2 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

3 We'll now suspend a few minutes...

4 **Me EDITH-FARRAH ELASSAL :**

5 Yes.

6 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

7 ... before going with the next witness?

8 **Me EDITH-FARRAH ELASSAL :**

9 Yes, Mister the Commissioner. Thank you.

10 SUSPENSION

11 -----

12 REPRISE

13 **LA GREFFIÈRE-AUDIENCIÈRE :**

14 The Commission is back in session.

15 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

16 So, welcome back. Me Ellassal, you will present the  
17 next witnesses?

18 **Me EDITH-FARRAH ELASSAL :**

19 Yes, Mister the Commissioner. We do have with us  
20 Janice Kasudluak and her dad, Jobie Kasudluak, and  
21 they're from Inukjuak. They are there along with  
22 relatives and support.

23 They wish to share a story regarding health  
24 services provided by the local CLSC regarding the  
25 death of their mother, and their wife, Eva Kullula-

1            Ookpik, who died from botulism last year.

2                    So, before we start, I would ask the clerk to  
3            swear you in. The clerk is there.

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1 Janice Kasudluak  
2 Témoin citoyen  
3 Assermentation sur la bible

4 -----  
5 Jobie Kasudluak  
6 Témoin citoyen  
7 Assermentation sur la bible

8 -----

9 **LA GREFFIÈRE-AUDIENCIÈRE :**

10 Thank you.

11 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

12 Welcome. We'll listen to you carefully.

13 Me Ellassal?

14 **Me EDITH-FARRAH ELASSAL :**

15 Yes. So, well, if you want to start by presenting  
16 yourself, it could be a good... a good start. And  
17 after that, we will listen to the story you wish to  
18 share with us.

19 **MME JANICE KASUDLUAK :**

20 (Speaking in Inuktitut, traduction française:)

21 Alors, Janice Kasudluak de Inukjuak. Je suis  
22 ici pour raconter l'histoire, ce qui est arrivé  
23 entre moi et ma mère.

24 **M. JOBIE KASUDLUAK :**

1 I'm Jobie Kasudluak. I'm from Inukjuak, and I'm  
2 here to talk about my wife's passing.

3 **Me EDITH-FARRAH ELASSAL :**

4 Okay. So, I don't know who wants to start? It's  
5 really up to you. We'll listen to you if you could  
6 start with the beginning of the story, of the event  
7 that occurred last year.

8 **MME JANICE KASUDLUAK :**

9 (Speaking in Inuktitut. Traduction française : )

10 Ma mère, à ce moment-là, je vais commencer  
11 lundi, à partir de ce lundi. Ma mère a reçu de la  
12 viande et elle l'a préparée le mercredi. Le  
13 mercredi, je suis allée chez ma mère pour manger et  
14 je savais qu'ils avaient de la nourriture. Et à ce  
15 moment-là, elle avait de l'huile de graisse de  
16 phoque. Elle avait fait de la graisse de...  
17 d'huile de graisse de phoque avec de la viande  
18 séchée. Je sais pas si je suis allée là le jeudi,  
19 mais vendredi, moi et ma famille, nous allons...  
20 nous sommes allés chez ma mère, parce que nous  
21 savions qu'elle avait de la viande et de la  
22 nourriture, et de la viande sauvage, alors, mais  
23 je... elle n'était pas là, mais je ne savais pas  
24 pourquoi elle n'était pas là.

25 Même si elle n'était pas à la maison, je suis

1 allée à l'endroit où elle faisait... où elle  
2 séchait sa viande et j'en ai pris la moitié. Je  
3 savais que... mais mes frères et soeurs n'allaient  
4 pas avoir beaucoup, alors, je lui ai... j'ai... je  
5 suis partie de sa maison et après, j'ai vu sa... ma  
6 mère et après avoir pris la viande séchée, ma  
7 fille, elle avait deux (2) ans à ce moment-là, je  
8 crois, ou un... ou elle allait avoir deux (2) ans.  
9 Elle était un petit bébé et je l'ai nourrie. Après  
10 qu'elle a tout mangé ce qu'elle voulait, j'ai eu  
11 mangé tout ce que je voulais, parce que cette  
12 viande séchée était la moitié de ce que ma femme...  
13 ma mère avait fait et après avoir retourné à la  
14 maison, après une heure (1 h), mon chum et le père  
15 de mes enfants a dit que... il a dit: « Je ne pense  
16 pas que je suis pas capable... je suis pas capable  
17 de voir correctement. Je ne vois pas bien. »  
18 Parce que je connais... je ne connaissais pas le  
19 botulisme, qu'est-ce qui pouvait arriver après  
20 avoir mangé.

21 Alors, c'était environ une heure (1 h) après  
22 et deux heures (2 h) après, j'ai commencé à vomir  
23 et je ne pouvais pas... ça n'arrêtait pas. Alors,  
24 je vomissais. Alors, puisque j'avais besoin, j'ai  
25 appelé la clinique, je croyais que j'avais besoin

1 d'une intraveineuse et c'était environ une heure  
2 (1 h), je crois. Une heure (1 h) de... à treize  
3 heures (13 h). Et après le premier appel  
4 téléphonique, j'ai dit: « Je vomis. Je suis en  
5 train de vomir et je vomis des choses, des  
6 excréments jaunes » et que je voulais avoir une  
7 intraveineuse. Ils ont dit qu'ils pouvaient... ils  
8 peuvent (pas) aider quelqu'un qui vomit. Ils ont  
9 dit de revenir le matin. Alors, je n'ai pas  
10 rappelé. Mais je vomissais, je continuais à vomir,  
11 et ma respiration était vraiment restreinte. Et je  
12 ne voulais pas non plus voir aucune lumière  
13 brillante. Juste mon autre oeil pouvait voir à ce  
14 moment-là.

15 J'ai appelé la clinique encore une fois, parce  
16 que je savais que quelque chose n'allait pas. Elle  
17 a dit: « On peut pas faire... » Alors, j'ai appelé  
18 et ils m'ont dit encore: « On peut rien faire, il  
19 faut que tu reviennes le lendemain matin. » Ils  
20 m'ont pas donné aucune chance d'argumenter et de  
21 discuter. Alors j'ai raccroché encore une fois.

22 Ils m'ont dit d'attendre jusqu'au matin. Alors  
23 même si j'étais très malade, je suis allée au lit  
24 et je vomissais encore des excréments, des  
25 excréments jaunes, alors j'ai rappelé encore pour

1 voir s'ils voulaient être d'accord à me... de me  
2 recevoir. Je fallais... je savais qu'ils allaient  
3 me refuser encore, mais je voulais rappeler,  
4 j'avais pas le choix; il était cinq heures (5 h) du  
5 matin, et à mon troisième appel. Alors j'ai décidé  
6 d'attendre au moins jusqu'à huit heures (8 h) et  
7 j'ai essayé de me rendormir, même si ma respiration  
8 était très restreinte, une respiration courte, mais  
9 j'allais recevoir une... un appel de la clinique.  
10 Ils m'ont appelé pour me dire que ma mère avait  
11 décédé... était décédée; mais j'étais trop malade à  
12 ce moment-là.

13 Même s'ils m'ont dit tout ce que je pensais  
14 combien j'étais malade, parce que j'étais très  
15 malade. Ils m'ont dit de revenir à la clinique et  
16 je voulais pas me lever, je voulais simplement me  
17 coucher, rester couchée. Même si j'avais entendu  
18 cette nouvelle, je voulais pas aller à la clinique,  
19 je voulais simplement retourner sur mon lit pour  
20 m'endormir. Mais je ne me rappelle pas beaucoup  
21 lorsqu'ils sont venus me chercher. Ils sont venus  
22 me chercher dans leur camion, mais pas par  
23 ambulance. Ça, c'est mon histoire à ce moment-là,  
24 lorsque j'étais très malade. J'ai fini.

25 **M. JOBIE KASUDLUAK :**

1           Okay.

2           **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

3           Nakurmiik.

4           **M. JOBIE KASUDLUAK :**

5           As for me, like Janice said, from the beginning, my  
6           wife, she had received some beluga meat and all  
7           jerky and stuff like that from her (*Inuktitut*).

8           **VOIX FEMININ NON IDENTIFIÉE:**

9           Godson.

10          **M. JOBIE KASUDLUAK :**

11          Oh, it's godson and... anyways, it was the first  
12          week of July. It was on a Sunday. And Monday,  
13          she... she had some... some to eat. I had a little  
14          bit. But like Janice said, on Wednesday, they got  
15          together or they had something... some to eat, and  
16          all that. And I think it was on Wednesday, my  
17          wife... first, started having symptoms of not  
18          feeling well. Like, she had a fever, getting hot  
19          and cold spells. So, she went to the CLSC, and she  
20          was there. They didn't do anything, she didn't get  
21          anything for her visit there. She was sent home.

22          She went back the next day, same symptoms, but  
23          still, they never gave her anything or did any  
24          blood test. And on Friday, she went in the  
25          afternoon, regular hours, and she was given...

1           what, those packs of Gastrolyte. The clearer ones  
2           for kids, not even for adults, and she never took  
3           those because they were for kids. And she was...

4                   Anyways, that evening around ten thirty  
5           (10:30), she was feeling really... really sick,  
6           really weak, couldn't keep her eyes open, and she  
7           was having a hard time walking. She was very weak.  
8           She called around ten thirty (10:30) that evening.  
9           So, the nurse on call told her to go in, in about  
10          fifteen (15) minutes when she... when she... when  
11          the nurse gets to the CLSC that evening, she would  
12          call. So, she called when she got there. So, we  
13          went, and my wife was really having a really hard  
14          time standing up, walking. She was really weak. I  
15          had to ask for a wheel chair. And she got... when  
16          we finally got in...

17                   Ah, anyways. When she was in, she got checked  
18          out. She was telling the nurse on call, her  
19          symptoms, what she was feeling like. And she  
20          couldn't keep her eyes open. She couldn't... you  
21          could hardly hear her voice when she was talking,  
22          she was very shallow, and slow, like she was  
23          whispering, and...

24                   So, she got checked out, but the nurse on call  
25          was very young... new, a new nurse. She was

1           probably maybe younger than Janice or something.  
2           It was the first time I had seen her. She just...  
3           she was a new nurse. Very young, she didn't seem  
4           to know what she was doing. She... she was on the  
5           phone with the doctor to get instructions on how  
6           to...

7           **VOIX FEMININ NON IDENTIFIÉE:**

8           Care.

9           **M. JOBIE KASUDLUAK :**

10          Huh? Anyways, the probes or whatever you call  
11          them, you got to put in certain areas for... I  
12          think you call them electrode or something like  
13          that. And so, after that, she got checked. When  
14          she was all hooked up and everything and she said,  
15          "Everything seems okay," and all that, but I don't  
16          understand how she could say that. My wife was  
17          really struggling to breathe. And she did... she  
18          couldn't keep her eyes open. She was just... when  
19          she opened her eyes, it was too bright for her.  
20          And she got... she was having dizzy spells and all  
21          that. And she was feeling sick, like, vomiting,  
22          but she goes through the motion, but there was  
23          nothing coming out. It was, like, gagging and all  
24          that. And they... she finally took, the nurse,  
25          blood samples. And she... we had to wait for the

1 results until Monday because they had to sent the  
2 results to POV, and then, we... and then, they had  
3 to find out, or whatever she has, only on Monday.  
4 And she couldn't do... they couldn't do anything  
5 for her until they find out what's wrong with her.

6 And we were there for a couple of hours, from  
7 ten thirty (10:30) until twelve thirty-five (12:35)  
8 in that morning, and the nurse on call just told us  
9 to go home. There was nothing she... they could  
10 do.

11 So, my wife, she asked if she could stay for  
12 the night in the emergency room with oxygen to help  
13 her breathe, but the nurse refused, says, "The  
14 emergency room is for emergencies only. If  
15 somebody comes in, you would be in the way." But  
16 right across the emergency room, across the  
17 hallway, there's two (2) rooms. And in those two  
18 (2) rooms, there's two (2) beds each which are  
19 never used. She could have stayed in one of those,  
20 but the nurse said, "No, you go home. Come back  
21 Monday when we have results. So, we'll see you."

22 So, that's... there was nothing we could do.  
23 Even when she requested to stay and have oxygen  
24 help her breathe better, she refused... they  
25 refused her. So, we went home around twelve thirty

1 (12:30) that... twelve thirty... before one (1), we  
2 went home, and it took... because...

3 So, when we came in, she sat down in the  
4 living room, the couch. She was too weak to go to  
5 the room. She had to rest and asked me to make her  
6 a bed... fix up her bed, her pillows, so she could,  
7 like, kind of sit instead of lying down, because  
8 when she was lying down, she was... she couldn't  
9 breathe. She was having a hard time really  
10 breathing. So, it was easier for her to breathe  
11 when she was sitting. So I fixed her up... fixed  
12 her place. Like she asked me to put a few pillows  
13 and put it in the sitting position for the rest of  
14 the night. And she asked me to sleep on the couch  
15 in the living room because when she gets those hot  
16 and cold spells, she didn't want me to be close to  
17 her because I... I was warm, and it was too hot for  
18 her to...

19 So, I went... I went to the living room to  
20 sleep on the couch; just told her "If... when you  
21 need help... if you need help, just call." So,  
22 after that I must have fell... fell asleep because  
23 I woke up around seven thirty (7:30) that morning,  
24 and I went to check with... check right away the  
25 bedroom, but she was not in bed. So, I knew right

1           away she was in the washroom because the washroom  
2           from our bed is just a few feet across the room,  
3           right next door.

4           So, the door was open. So I was saying, "Hey,  
5           dear, you okay?" There was no answer. So, I went  
6           into the washroom. She wasn't there or I didn't  
7           see her. And then... then I walked into the  
8           washroom just... just to be sure that she was  
9           around the corner or not, you know. That's when I  
10          found her in the bathtub lying down. She had fixed  
11          up some towels for her pillow, I guess, and she  
12          had... she had put a wet face cloth, damp... a wet  
13          face cloth behind her neck, I guess, to cool her  
14          down, because I checked... I checked it. But  
15          before that, I was talking to her, and I was  
16          thinking she was just sleeping. She didn't move,  
17          she didn't answer. So, I went to touch her,  
18          thinking she was just sleeping, not hearing me.  
19          So, I shook her a bit, talking to her. She never  
20          answered. That's when I touched her, started  
21          feeling her. She wasn't warm, she was a little bit  
22          cool.

23          And then, I called the CLSC and the same nurse  
24          that was on call, she... she was still there  
25          working. She answered the phone, and I told her

1           what's happening. I told her, "We're the same  
2           people that you sent home earlier." So, and I gave  
3           her the house number and everything, for the First  
4           Responders to come. And, I guess, she... she  
5           called the First Responders on the radio. They  
6           have a radio and she was talking to them...  
7           that's... my... my other daughter, Martha, she was  
8           there for another reason, and she overheard her  
9           talking to First Responders, telling them which  
10          house to go to. They were saying there was a woman  
11          not breathing, and my daughter, right away, said  
12          that she knew... she knew it was her mother because  
13          that was our... that's our house number, 262. And  
14          the nurse gave that to the First Responders, and  
15          she knew right away that it was her mom that passed  
16          away. And she knew Janice was... had the same  
17          symptoms as her mom. That's... and that's when...

18                 So, First Responders came. They tried to  
19          resuscitating her for ten (10) minutes or so at our  
20          place, nothing. Then, they transported her to the  
21          CLSC, and there they tried her again, but that's  
22          when the other nurses and... started coming in.  
23          They had heard the news, and that's when my  
24          daughter Martha, she grabbed one of the nurses and  
25          told the nurse to follow her. And she went to pick

1 up Janice because nobody was taking it seriously, I  
2 guess. And I will be forever grateful to Martha  
3 for saving my daughter.

4 That's when Janice came in and comes right  
5 away, so I could see she was exactly the same as  
6 my... going through the same... same thing as my  
7 wife did. She couldn't keep her eyes open, she was  
8 vomiting, she was trying to vomit. She was cold.  
9 And it was not easy. I think that was... I lost my  
10 best friend and I was about to lose my daughter.

11 And then after... right after, she was getting  
12 Medevac'd to POV that morning, to take the  
13 Challenger from POV to Montreal later, and it was  
14 just (inaudible). And she needed an escort, and it  
15 was decided between me and her that I would escort  
16 her. Well, her boyfriend looked after his kids...  
17 her kids, but I had to leave my... my kids that  
18 just lost their mom, but I had to be with my  
19 daughter too.

20 And when we finally got to Montreal, saw  
21 Janice, first time, hooked up to machines, tubes  
22 here and there. It's... it was not easy.

23 I just hope that nobody ever goes through  
24 that, what we went through. And... oh... So, I  
25 have nine (9) kids. I have three (3) sons, six (6)

1 daughters and something like fourteen (14)  
2 grandchildren.

3 **MME JANICE KASUDLUAK :**

4 Twenty-one (21).

5 **M. JOBIE KASUDLUAK :**

6 Twenty-one (21)? Yes. So, she's a little bit like  
7 my wife. My wife knew everything. So, it's... I  
8 guess I'll leave it at that. Thank you.

9 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

10 Nakurmiik. Would you like to add something, Janice?

11 **MME JANICE KASUDLUAK :**

12 No, thanks.

13 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

14 No? Me Ellassal, do you have questions?

15 **Me EDITH-FARRAH ELASSAL :**

16 If you allow me, I would have two or three  
17 questions to ask you.

18 **M. JOBIE KASUDLUAK :**

19 Okay.

20 **Me EDITH-FARRAH ELASSAL :**

21 You described the lack of health services you  
22 received at Inukjuak Health Clinic. You said you  
23 were not taken seriously. So, do you think it  
24 would have been different... a different treatment  
25 if that situation would have occurred with a White

1 person going to the clinic?

2 **M. JOBIE KASUDLUAK :**

3 Oh... oh, she would have... that person would have  
4 been on a Medevac in an hour or so because I've  
5 seen it with teachers and other... other people,  
6 White people in town, getting Medevac'd and coming  
7 back on... on a sched flight the next day. That's  
8 how... like it must have been not... but for...

9 **MME JANICE KASUDLUAK :**

10 (Speaking in Inuktitut. Traduction française: )  
11 Elle... cette personne aurait été sur... envoyée en  
12 Medevac dans une heure (1 h), parce que je l'ai vu  
13 avec des enseignants. Avec d'autres personnes, des  
14 Blancs qui sont envoyés en Medevac et qu'ils  
15 reviennent le lendemain sur un autre vol.

16 **M. JOBIE KASUDLUAK :**

17 But for us, it's something else. You got to be  
18 really sick or whatever, because before my wife, I  
19 have known a lot of people go CLSC, get sent home  
20 and then they pass away the next day or so. And  
21 even after my wife had passed away, there was still  
22 people being sent home and then they passed away.

23 **MME JANICE KASUDLUAK :**

24 Um-hum.

25 **M. JOBIE KASUDLUAK :**

1           There's a lot of people that have gone through  
2           this.

3           **MME JANICE KASUDLUAK :**

4           Um-hum.

5           **M. JOBIE KASUDLUAK :**

6           And it's still going on. There's people that are  
7           being sent home when they should have been sent to  
8           a hospital for further observation or something,  
9           and not us. Okay, thank you.

10          **Me EDITH-FARRAH ELASSAL :**

11          Nakurmiik.

12          **M. JOBIE KASUDLUAK :**

13          Um-hum.

14          **Me EDITH-FARRAH ELASSAL :**

15          Last summer, when that event occurred with your  
16          family, were there other people in Inukjuak, you  
17          know, who died from the same medical issue from  
18          botulism at that period?

19          **MME JANICE KASUDLUAK :**

20          (Speaking in Inuktitut. Traduction française: )

21                 Ma fille...

22          **M. JOBIE KASUDLUAK :**

23          Yeah, Saturday morning.

24          **MME JANICE KASUDLUAK :**

25          Lorsque je suis partie samedi matin d'Inukjuak, je

1 me suis réveillée le lundi. Je... j'ai demandé  
2 quelle date on était et quand je me suis réveillée  
3 la journée d'après, mais c'était deux (2) jours  
4 finalement.

5 J'ai demandé à l'infirmière, je voulais aller  
6 en ligne en... je... sur... avec mon ordinateur ou  
7 l'ordinateur et ma fille était faible, rouge. Elle  
8 était très faible. Elle était à la garderie et  
9 lorsqu'on a voulu prendre un sous-vêtement, elle  
10 était très faible, elle avait les mêmes symptômes  
11 que moi. J'étais sec, déshydratée. J'ai...  
12 j'avais... je devais même introduire de l'eau dans  
13 ma bouche et je disais à mon père de me donner... je  
14 disais toujours à mon père de me donner de l'eau et  
15 quand je savais que ma fille avait les mêmes  
16 symptômes et qu'elle n'était... on ne l'a même pas  
17 amenée jusqu'au CLSC et c'était un bébé, et elle  
18 était là couchée et on n'a même pas... on l'a même  
19 amenée au CLSC et j'ai dû avoir de l'aide du  
20 docteur, du médecin pendant que j'étais à Montréal  
21 pour que ma fille puisse recevoir les soins  
22 appropriés et j'ai dû faire des appels. Et je les  
23 suppliais et je leur disais de ne pas l'envoyer à  
24 la... de la renvoyer à la maison avant de la  
25 traiter.

1                    Si ma fille devait être envoyée à l'hôpital  
2                    deux (2) fois, parce que premièrement,  
3                    initialement, lorsqu'elle a envoyée à l'hôpital,  
4                    ils l'ont amenée trop tôt et elle s'est... elle est  
5                    devenue... tombée malade encore une fois et avant  
6                    que moi, je sois renvoyée à la maison pendant que  
7                    j'étais à Montréal, on aurait dû la renvoyer à  
8                    l'hôpital, ma fille.

9                    **M. JOBIE KASUDLUAK :**

10                    Like I said... like my daughter says -- I forgot to  
11                    mention -- my granddaughter, her daughter, she was  
12                    (inaudible). But to the convince them, the nurses,  
13                    the CLSC in Inukjuak, we actually had to have  
14                    Janice's doctor in Montreal tell the CLSC, the  
15                    nurse in Inukjuak, that this... her daughter has to  
16                    be Medevac'd out because the first... just Medevac  
17                    her out the first time, and she had to... and there  
18                    was nothing wrong, but she was sick, really sick.  
19                    And they had... her father had taken her to the  
20                    CLSC again, but they just sent her home. But  
21                    Janice's doctor from Montreal General, actually had  
22                    to tell... request and tell the nurse that this  
23                    little girl has to be Medevac'd to POV and kept  
24                    there until she's better. And that's when they  
25                    finally Medevac'd her out. So, they had... they

1           had to be told by a doctor down south to do their  
2           job. Thank you, that's it.

3           **Me EDITH-FARRAH ELASSAL :**

4           Do you know if there were any meetings by  
5           councillors in Inukjuak regarding the situation...

6           **M. JOBIE KASUDLUAK :**

7           Only...

8           **Me EDITH-FARRAH ELASSAL :**

9           ... that (inaudible)?

10          **M. JOBIE KASUDLUAK :**

11          In the fall... last year, I think it was last year,  
12          the councillors of the town asked the  
13          (inaudible)... the senior people from POV Hospital  
14          to come to Inukjuak, and explain why there are so  
15          many people passing right after being seen in  
16          Inukjuak and sent home because my wife was not the  
17          first one. There was a few, quite a few before  
18          her, and a few after her death that the nurses sent  
19          these people home and they're not with us anymore  
20          the next day.

21                 So, the councillors asked the... the hospital  
22          brass, I guess... I guess, you could say, to come  
23          to Inukjuak and explain what's happening. That's  
24          when they came, and there was... and the council  
25          met with them. I don't know what happened. I

1           didn't hear what happened, but since then, been a  
2           little bit better. People actually get Medevac'd  
3           out sometimes now.

4           **MME JANICE KASUDLUAK :**

5           Okay.

6           **M. JOBIE KASUDLUAK :**

7           That's it.

8           **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

9           So, I understand you have the feeling it's going  
10          better now since the meeting of the... with the  
11          councillors and hospital authorities?

12          **M. JOBIE KASUDLUAK :**

13          Well... well, they had to change a bit, I guess,  
14          when asked certain... like questions, "Why? Why is  
15          this happening? Why is this? Why is that?" So it  
16          got a little bit better, but it's still a long way  
17          to go.

18          **Me EDITH-FARRAH ELASSAL :**

19          Were you offered any social services following the  
20          event?

21          **M. JOBIE KASUDLUAK :**

22          No.

23          **Me EDITH-FARRAH ELASSAL :**

24          No offer of social services?

25          **M. JOBIE KASUDLUAK :**

1           No.

2           **Me EDITH-FARRAH ELASSAL :**

3           Okay.

4           **VOIX MASCULINE NON IDENTIFIÉE :**

5           Merci.

6           **Me EDITH-FARRAH ELASSAL :**

7           Did you wish you would have been able to receive  
8           support during that period?

9           **M. JOBIE KASUDLUAK :**

10          I got support from family.

11          **Me EDITH-FARRAH ELASSAL :**

12          Sorry?

13          **M. JOBIE KASUDLUAK :**

14          I got support from family.

15          **Me EDITH-FARRAH ELASSAL :**

16          Ah, okay. That's good.

17          **M. JOBIE KASUDLUAK :**

18          Yeah.

19          **Me EDITH-FARRAH ELASSAL :**

20          I won't have any more question. Thank you,  
21          nakurmiik.

22          **M. JOBIE KASUDLUAK :**

23          Thank you, nakurmiik.

24          **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

25          I will ask other counsels if they have questions,

1           please.

2           **Me MAXIME LAGANIÈRE :**

3           No question. Thanks to all of you.

4           **Me MARIE-PAULE BOUCHER :**

5           I won't have any question, thank you.

6           **Me DENISE ROBILLARD :**

7           I don't have any question. Thank you.

8           **M. JOBIE KASUDLUAK :**

9           Yes. Nakurmiik.

10          **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

11          So...

12          **M. JOBIE KASUDLUAK :**

13          Yeah.

14          **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

15                 ... nakurmiik. I will thank you very much for  
16                 sharing with us this sad, very sad stories. It's  
17                 hard to listen to what happened to your wife, to  
18                 your mother. What could have happened to you also,  
19                 Janice, and your daughter; your granddaughter to  
20                 you, Jobie. It's sad, very, very sad, and it's  
21                 important that you came here today to tell the  
22                 story.

23                 So, the authorities managed that such sad  
24                 stories don't happen again in the future. It's  
25                 important to tell it. It takes courage to speak

1           about those sad stories, but you did it. It may  
2           help other people in Nunavik. We heard many sad  
3           stories concerning health services, Medevac, people  
4           who return home with pills, saying, "Come tomorrow  
5           if it's not settled." But it's obvious that your  
6           wife was very, very sick, being told, "It's not an  
7           emergency, go home, and come later when we'll have  
8           the blood sample result," when there are two (2)  
9           other rooms where she could have been taken care  
10          of. It's very, very sad. I hope it will never  
11          happen again.

12       **M. JOBIE KASUDLUAK :**

13           Um-hum.

14       **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

15           I wish you the best to your family. I understand  
16           nine (9) children, twenty-one (21) grandchildren.  
17           I wish you the best to you, and all your family.  
18           Nakurmiik.

19       **M. JOBIE KASUDLUAK :**

20           Thank you, nakurmiik.

21       **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

22           We'll suspend, and then, go with the next witness.

23       **Me EDITH-FARRAH ELASSAL :**

24           Um-hum.

25       **SUSPENSION**

1 -----

2 REPRISE

3 **LA GREFFIÈRE-AUDIENCIÈRE:**

4 La Commission reprend.

5 **L'HONORABLE JACQUES VIENS (LE COMMISSAIRE):**

6 So, welcome back. Me Renaud...

7 **Me CHRISTINE RENAUD,**

8 **PROCUREURE POUR LA COMMISSION VIENS:**

9 Yes.

10 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

11 You will present the next witnesses?

12 **Me CHRISTINE RENAUD:**

13 Yes, Mr. Commissioner. So today, we will hear the  
14 declarations of two (2) citizens of Nunavik through  
15 the mode of witness tellers. So, we have Ms.

16 Alicie Nalukturuk and Mr. Simeonie Nalukturuk.

17 The investigative agents: Benoit Théoret and Annick  
18 Wylde will read each of these two declarations in  
19 front of you today, to submit them as evidence.

20 So, I will let them begin. Maybe just give a  
21 tiny... before you read it, a tiny presentation of  
22 how the person was met. Yes, we will swear the  
23 witness tellers in, please. Thank you.

24 -----

1 Annick Wylde  
2 Enquêtrice rapportant le témoignage d'Alicie Nalukturuk  
3 Affirmation solennelle

4 -----

5 Benoit Théoret  
6 Enquêteur rapportant le témoignage de Simeonie  
7 Nalukturuk  
8 Affirmation solennelle

9 -----

10 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

11 So, welcome. Welcome both of you. We'll listen  
12 carefully to the declaration you will report to us.

13 **Mr. BENOIT THÉORET:**

14 I will start. So, it's the declaration of Simeonie  
15 Nalukturuk, who was met by Annick Wylde in Inukjuak  
16 on the fifteenth (15<sup>th</sup>) of June two thousand  
17 eighteen (2018):

18 Q: Which services you want to speak about?

19 A: Justice system... justice systems in our  
20 community. I am concerned that it's not  
21 working. Even the community, my people  
22 are always having to wait for a long time  
23 there. The cases are always moved to the  
24 next session and so on, you know?

25 Q: It always postpone?

1                   Answer: Yeah. Many of them, almost all  
2                   of them. I know that because I was  
3                   involved with the Justice Committee for a  
4                   while, maybe five (5) years or so, and  
5                   they... the one thing that they... that  
6                   is a concern for me is the law.

7                   Q: The by-laws?

8                   A: Every law. Every mayor in our community  
9                   once said in a meeting with justice...  
10                  people from justice and government  
11                  officials, she said that laws are imposed  
12                  on us... laws that are imposed on us are  
13                  foreign to us. We do not understand  
14                  them, so we break them without knowing.  
15                  So that's what's happening with the laws  
16                  that are imposed upon us. I think we  
17                  have never been taught about those  
18                  things, the law, so we don't understand  
19                  them. Our People do not understand the  
20                  laws that are given to them or they know  
21                  about them only after they have been  
22                  charged.

23                  Q: After being charged, they don't know  
24                  what... what's going... what's going on  
25                  after?

1 A: That's right. Most of the time.

2 Q: Most of the time when they get arrested?

3 A: Yeah.

4 Q: And when they go into court?

5 A: Yeah.

6 Q: They don't understand the meaning of the  
7 law?

8 A: Yes. I don't remember any time where  
9 those laws are... were taught to my  
10 people anywhere, not even in school, you  
11 know? So, it's very hard for my people to  
12 follow laws that they do not understand.  
13 I know when there used to be six (6)  
14 communities here, three (3) communities  
15 north of here, and three (3) others...  
16 three (3) other ones south, they used to  
17 have their own laws. They used to have  
18 their own rules.

19 Q: Custom laws?

20 A: Custom, even natural rules and  
21 regulations and laws. You know, we did  
22 have rules in place. I was born thirty  
23 (30) miles south of here; we were total  
24 Eskimo at that point. For seven (7)  
25 years of my life, we lived in igloos, and

1 tents in the summer. No other foreign  
2 element telling us what to do, how to do  
3 it, and not imposing on us something that  
4 we do not know. Our elders used to tell  
5 us what is right and what is wrong, and  
6 there was very little, if not at all,  
7 crime in our communities at that time.  
8 I think when the laws that were imposed  
9 upon us when we became a community here,  
10 that did not include any laws or  
11 regulation. Our other scar is that we  
12 were not given the opportunity to voice  
13 our concerns about justice, you know? So,  
14 I think we still have those values and  
15 tradition, and such that we probably  
16 interfere into laws that are in place now  
17 or sometimes replace the laws that are in  
18 place from Québec City or Ottawa. I  
19 think it's time to start making some new  
20 arrangements for justice services in the  
21 community. If that does not happen, the  
22 situation that we are in now will not be  
23 solved... would not solve problems that  
24 are happening in the community.

25 Q: Would you have a recommendation?

1           A:    Yeah.  I have started working with the  
2                    community elders, and you know, people  
3                    that would know what they used to have,  
4                    how they used to do it, because we still  
5                    have those people with us.  Very few now,  
6                    but I think we should work with the Inuit  
7                    Elders to make some changes to the way  
8                    justice is served in the community,  
9                    not...  I'm not able to tell you right  
10                   now, we should change that and that and  
11                   that, but I know.

12          Q:    What would you like to see in the future?  
13                    Answer:  I would like to see in the  
14                    future, Inuit Justice people sitting  
15                    in...  where the judge, and the other  
16                    people usually sit and make decisions for  
17                    their own.  I don't know criminals, you  
18                    know?  You know, I don't mind at all the  
19                    recommendations from the judges, and so  
20                    on, to try to work this out, but Inuit  
21                    help or input into this, it needs to be  
22                    done.  That's all I have to say for now.

23          Q:    Did you feel discrimination or racism  
24                    with the justice since you're here?

25          A:    I haven't seen it or felt that recently,

1 but maybe some years ago they used to,  
2 you know, not even consider that Inuit  
3 had their own laws and so on, who were  
4 affected by situations or events they  
5 could not, you know, control.  
6 Residential school, relocation to many  
7 other communities, and the slaughtering  
8 of dogs really had a very negative impact  
9 on our people. Those things are not  
10 being sort of considered in the court  
11 system, but the delivery of a sentence or  
12 an act of criminality is not taking care  
13 of fast enough. It should be taken care  
14 of the day after or the week after. All  
15 those judges and lawyers come every four  
16 (4) months or so.

17 Q: And sometimes they postpone court?

18 A: Yeah, many times.

19 Q: Many times, they postpone cases?

20 A: Yeah.

21 Q: How do you feel when you see that?

22 A: I sometimes wonder about the guy who is  
23 in court, his feelings. It must be very  
24 bad. I'm sad. He must be building them  
25 up all... all the time in himself causing

1                   problems in the family more and more, you  
2                   know?

3                   Does is it have an impact...

4                   Q:    sorry, Question: Does it have an  
5                   impact with the community like the  
6                   hunters?

7                   A:    Yes.

8                   Q:    Can you explain?

9                   A:    You know, the criminal is always seen in  
10                  the community, you know, and sort of  
11                  shamed or, "Stay away from me," sort of  
12                  thing, because our current members that  
13                  used to deal with whatever crime that it  
14                  was not being given a chance to work with  
15                  their people anymore. All they can do is  
16                  trying to protect themselves or something  
17                  like that... or something like that from  
18                  any situation of violence or something  
19                  like that. They try stay away from even  
20                  helping out or dealing with a situation  
21                  because they know court will be coming.  
22                  They will deal with that person and put  
23                  them in jail. I wish there was another  
24                  way of dealing with this.

25                  Q:    When they're sent in jail, they... they

1                   send them south, out of the community?  
2                   They're being sent out after their...  
3                   their sentence?

4                   A:    Yes, because I think they end up more and  
5                   more into problems and breaking laws  
6                   because their elders are not given the  
7                   opportunity to...

8                   Q:    To speak?

9                   A:    To speak or to take care of them from  
10                  time they were born right up to the time  
11                  they're able to take care of themselves,  
12                  you know? So, I wish there was somebody I  
13                  can work with that would help me prepare  
14                  this part of recommendation. You would  
15                  do the right thing, I would do the  
16                  talking, and then we would present it to  
17                  the government for approval, for  
18                  sovereignty.

19                  Q:    Would you like a Justice Committee where  
20                  the elders have the right to make a  
21                  recommendation to the Court, the Justice,  
22                  when the Accused has a sentence in court?

23                  A:    Yeah.

24                  **Mr. BENOIT THÉORET:**

25                  C'est terminé.

1           **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

2           Okay. Thank you. I will... I noticed that it  
3           shall be important for the witness that elders  
4           be involved more in... in what's going on in  
5           communities, in villages. He insists also on  
6           the fact that Justice Committee may be  
7           considered, and elders sitting on the  
8           committees to help, especially for  
9           recommendations when an Accused is at court.  
10          He also noticed that cases are too often  
11          postponed later, and it's hard on everybody.  
12          It should go faster.

13                 Just before going to the other witness, I  
14                 will... I will just mention that we still have  
15                 students from Secondary II and III with their  
16                 teachers: Catherine and George, with us. They  
17                 are welcome. I think it's important that you  
18                 young people know what's going on. So, thank  
19                 you for being here. I wish you the best.

20                 Now we can go with the next witness.

21           **Me MARIE-PAULE BOUCHER,**

22           **PROCUREURE POUR LA PROCUREURE GÉNÉRALE DU QUÉBEC:**

23           Monsieur le Commissaire, si je pourrais me  
24           permettre, j'aurais deux (2) questions pour monsieur  
25           Théoret.

1           **L'HONORABLE JACQUES VIENS (LE COMMISSAIRE) :**  
2           Ah. You will...

3           **Me MARIE-PAULE BOUCHER :**  
4           Si c'est possible?

5           **LE COMMISSAIRE :**  
6           ... have some questions? Okay.

7           **Me MARIE-PAULE BOUCHER :**  
8           Yes.

9           **LE COMMISSAIRE :**  
10          You will put it in French or English?

11          **Me MARIE-PAULE BOUCHER :**  
12          Is it possible to do it in French? Because... I can  
13          tell in English, but it's not going to be perfect.

14          **LE COMMISSAIRE :**  
15          It may be in French. We have good translators. Ah!

16          **Me MARIE-PAULE BOUCHER :**  
17          Donc, monsieur Théoret, est-ce que la déclaration  
18          que vous avez lue a été signée?

19          **Mr BENOIT THÉORET :**  
20          (Inaudible).

21          **Me MARIE-PAULE BOUCHER :**  
22          Et le contenu a-t-il été validé avant le dépôt?

23          **Mr. BENOIT THÉORET :**  
24          Um-hum.

25          **Me MARIE-PAULE BOUCHER :**

1 C'est une question qu'on pose habituellement lors  
2 de ce type de déclaration-là.

3 **M. BENOIT THÉORET :**

4 Ah oui?

5 **Me MARIE-PAULE BOUCHER :**

6 Vous voulez tout...?

7 **Mr. BENOIT THÉORET:**

8 So, I... I read the declaration, but I was not the  
9 one to... to pick it up. It was picked up by  
10 Annick Wylde.

11 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

12 I think you said it was taken by Annick Wylde, who  
13 is sitting right beside...

14 **Mr. BENOIT THÉORET:**

15 Yeah. So, she would be the one able to answer this  
16 question.

17 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

18 Mme Wylde...

19 **Mme ANNICK WYLDE:**

20 Yes.

21 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

22 ... do you have an answer to that?

23 **Mme ANNICK WYLDE:**

24 Yes, we confirmed this by phone with... with the...  
25 the witness.

1 **Me MARIE-PAULE BOUCHER:**

2 Thank you very much. So, it's not signed but  
3 (*inaudible*)?

4 **Mme ANNICK WYLDE:**

5 Um-hum.

6 **Me MARIE-PAULE BOUCHER:**

7 Perfect.

8 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

9 And you were with him when the declaration was  
10 taken?

11 **Mme ANNICK WYLDE:**

12 Yeah.

13 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

14 You have put the questions...

15 **Mme ANNICK WYLDE:**

16 Yeah, I put the question...

17 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

18 ... heard the answers...

19 **Mme ANNICK WYLDE:**

20 Yeah.

21 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

22 ... then you have to... you had recorded the  
23 interview and then you put it on paper?

24 **Mme ANNICK WYLDE:**

25 Yeah. And may I add that the witnesses have been

1           advised that the declarations are being read in  
2           front of the Court today.

3           **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

4           Okay. So, we are going with the next declaration  
5           with Mme Wylde.

6           **Mme ANNICK WYLDE:**

7           Okay. The witness, Alicie Nalukturuk, she was met  
8           by Benoit Théoret, my Colleague. She was met in  
9           Inukjuak. She wanted to talk about the lack of  
10          resources, lack of services in the community of  
11          Inukjuak:

12           Q: She wanted to talk about the lack of  
13           resources and services.

14           A: My name is Alycie Nalukturuk. I live...  
15           I live here in Inukjuak and I was born on  
16           May fourth (4<sup>th</sup>), ninety fifty-six (1956).  
17           I basically want to talk about the lack  
18           of services that we have... that I know  
19           are available in southern Québec that are  
20           not available here. For one (1) thing,  
21           we lack of information about... we don't  
22           have enough information. There is no one  
23           to explain to the Justice System. Québec  
24           government services that if were there,  
25           what are the benefits for the civil

1 people. Who else can't we have access to  
2 different services and now... and know,  
3 be able to know how to apply for them?  
4 These are they types of services that we  
5 don't have. A few people might know  
6 because they can access it through the  
7 Internet and that, but a lot of our  
8 population don't have the ability to go  
9 on the Internet. They don't speak the  
10 second language, so that's one of the  
11 concerns that I have.

12 Another area, we were lack of  
13 information is how the justice system  
14 works or the police... policing services.  
15 Like if you don't... if you do something  
16 wrong, what can... what kind of  
17 consequences does it have? The lack  
18 that... the lack of the information that  
19 we have, like people are not allowed to  
20 assault anyone. We know that what they  
21 do. It... anyway because I don't think  
22 they have the proper information of the  
23 consequences that can occur. That's just  
24 one (1) area.

25 We also have a Justice Committee

1 here in Inukjuak which deals with  
2 possible alternative measures, but I  
3 think the court system needs to know more  
4 about how we can help in the community  
5 rather than have someone be sent down to  
6 jail. I think the Justice Committee and  
7 the court system could get better  
8 understanding of how they could work  
9 together. That's one... one (1) area.

10 In the Health Services area, there  
11 are people, I feel, are not sent down for  
12 proper diagnosis. When they're sick,  
13 they're often kept there... kept here.  
14 Well, I've seen if you're getting better,  
15 take Tylenol. But if they look really  
16 sick or something looks serious, I feel  
17 they should them down to a... the  
18 hospital for a proper medical checkup...  
19 follow-up, instead of letting them wait.  
20 Sometimes while they're waiting, I mean,  
21 after having waited for so long,  
22 sometimes people find they... that they  
23 have... example... example, cancer that  
24 has advanced and as a result, people  
25 passed away. So that's one (1) area that

1 I have concern, and the lack of  
2 counselling services in our community.

3 Q: Can you explain a little bit more what  
4 you mean by "counselling"?

5 Q: I know down south, there's a kind of  
6 counselling services for different  
7 problems. Whether it be marital  
8 problems, people can go for the therapy.  
9 They can see a psychiatrist,  
10 psychologist, and these services are  
11 available down south, but we don't have  
12 anything here. We can go to Social  
13 Services, but a lot of people don't want  
14 to go Social... to go to Social Services.  
15 I think in that area, I will be very...  
16 it will be very important to train Inuit  
17 to take one of those roles because I want  
18 to see Inuit working for the Inuit. I  
19 know we have a few people in the Social  
20 Services area, but why not get Inuit  
21 people trained to take one of the  
22 responsibilities of the (*inaudible*)  
23 marriage counsellor of dealing with  
24 people who have been psychological,  
25 emotional, or sexual abused. There's all

1 kind of possibilities, but we don't have  
2 the funding to implement these things to  
3 train Inuit people to take one (1) of  
4 the... one (1) of those responsibilities.

5 Q: Did you already have some ideas on what  
6 kind of... how it would take place, and  
7 what kind of structure?

8 A: Not really because I'm one (1) of the  
9 commissioner at the school board. I've  
10 been working with the school board. I'm  
11 sure we can start training people if we  
12 work with the Health Board and to the  
13 Adult Education program or... there's  
14 possibilities, but we have to work  
15 together to implement these things.

16 Q: Yes, okay. I see.

17 A: And I said earlier that I feel that it  
18 takes some time. Regarding the Health  
19 Services, I said earlier that there is  
20 no... sometimes people wait a long time  
21 before they went... they're sent south,  
22 and by the time they're sent, it's a bit  
23 too late in some cases. So, I wanted to  
24 give an example of what happened to my  
25 brother.

1                   A couple of years ago, maybe two (2)  
2                   or three (3) years ago now, he had a  
3                   stroke at home. He's in his late sixties  
4                   (60s), so I headed up... so we went to  
5                   the clinic. I think he was picked up by  
6                   the ambulance. So, he was in the clinic  
7                   and he went to... I went to see him.  
8                   They were not doing all kind of tests  
9                   trying to find out exactly what's wrong  
10                  with him because half of his... I  
11                  think... I think it was his right side.  
12                  Yes, his right side was kind of  
13                  paralyzed. He could not really move. He  
14                  was kept at the clinic all day, but by  
15                  the evening, he was sent home. And  
16                  because I was the one who was going to  
17                  drive him home, I had to hold him up,  
18                  make sure he doesn't fall, and carry him  
19                  to the vehicle... to my vehicle.

20                  Well, hold him while he was dragging  
21                  himself (*inaudible*), but he did manage,  
22                  although he was struggling with it. So,  
23                  I took him home and the next morning, he  
24                  woke up and his left... his right side  
25                  was completely paralyzed. By the time

1                   they woke up in the morning... also, he  
2                   was walking a bit with... with me holding  
3                   him when I took him home. So, we called  
4                   the clinic again and he got picked up by  
5                   the ambulance again that morning. But  
6                   this time, he was going to be sent out,  
7                   but the bad weather interfered. If he  
8                   had been sent early, as soon that it  
9                   happened to him, I don't think he would  
10                  have... I think he would have been able  
11                  to recover. Not completely, even if he  
12                  didn't completely recover, but at least  
13                  maybe the paralysis could have been...

14                Q:    Prevented?

15                A:    Not prevented, but easier... easier  
16                  for... for... maybe it would have done  
17                  less damage.

18                Q:    And then was he finally sent to Montreal,  
19                  but many days after?

20                A:    Yes, and I took him. I think he was out  
21                  of... at least... it happened in  
22                  December, and I think he finally went  
23                  home around February or March with all  
24                  the therapy that they had to do with him  
25                  to try and get him at least a bit mobile

1                   again.

2                   So those are the different concerns  
3                   that I have, and we need... when  
4                   professionals from the south are hired to  
5                   work here, such as nurses, social  
6                   workers, police officers, I feel it's  
7                   important that they get trained first of  
8                   how we are, what kind of lives we have as  
9                   Inuit people. What we... what we have  
10                  gone through, because... because all the  
11                  problems that occur in our community are  
12                  the result of what happened to us as  
13                  people, such as residential schools,  
14                  relocation. All those things that  
15                  have... have had an impact in our lives.  
16                  It's just we never healed from them.  
17                  That's why I feel we have too... so many  
18                  problems in our community. I mean, the  
19                  all of Nunavik. I will say we're seeing  
20                  more and more suicides. We're seeing  
21                  more and more violent crimes, and I  
22                  really feel we need from government, to  
23                  establish healing centres with proper  
24                  professionals to come along with it;  
25                  train Inuit professional. So, these are

1 my recommendation.

2 Q: Excellent. You talked a little bit about  
3 the possibilities of training with, for  
4 example, Adult Education. Did you have  
5 any other ideas? For example, what could  
6 be (*inaudible*) or training nurses or  
7 social workers, for example, Inuit?

8 A: I think, in collaboration with the Health  
9 Services, I feel that we will be able to  
10 offer college level, university level...  
11 university level courses for Inuit in our  
12 community.

13 Q: In our... in your community, either  
14 locally or regionally?

15 A: Yes. Yes, I think that's possible,  
16 whether we... whether is it to be hire  
17 someone for a college in the south to  
18 come work up... come here and give  
19 college level courses or university level  
20 courses. I know maybe it will take  
21 years, but if you follow it, then you'll  
22 be able to take a... on the job.

23 Q: Will a class of competent Inuit in  
24 whatever the domain will be?

25 A: Yes, because a lot of the problems

1                   that... I mean, not problems, but  
2                   misunderstandings do occur when we are  
3                   having to work with the White people from  
4                   the south. They're doing... they're  
5                   doing all of... all this for us, not  
6                   necessarily in our way. So, there's  
7                   always that... sometimes there could be  
8                   clashes, and sometimes it can lead to  
9                   anger, racism, whatever.

10                  Q: Do you think you said all you wanted to  
11                   say?

12                  A: I think so.

13                  **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

14                   I understand, Mr. Théoret, you are the one  
15                   who have taken the declaration?

16                  **Mr. BENOIT THÉORET:**

17                   Yes. And I was able to confirm the content of  
18                   the declaration on the... in October, through  
19                   email communication with Alisie Nalukturuk.

20                  **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

21                   Okay. So, thank you. So, I realize that,  
22                   especially, the witness wishes that people  
23                   coming up north to work here, like nurses,  
24                   police officers, Social Service servants, be  
25                   trained correctly concerning the way of life

1 of Inuit, traditions, culture, to be able to  
2 better understand their way of life.

3 Also, I think the witness mentioned that  
4 it would be appropriate to have more person...  
5 more Inuit person having responsibility. And  
6 I see young students here in the room. I  
7 think it will be interesting for them to  
8 understand that their communities, their  
9 villages, and what people in Nunavik would  
10 like them to continue to go to school and be  
11 those person with these responsibilities a bit  
12 later. And you see life is going so fast, if  
13 you work hard, you'll see it won't be too  
14 long. You'll be those persons with  
15 responsibilities. These are police officers,  
16 nurses, Social Service workers, teachers.  
17 Just think to that.

18 So, I will thank you. I will... Me  
19 Renaud, can you give an idea of the program of  
20 the afternoon?

21 **Me CHRISTINE RENAUD:**

22 I'm not sure I can (*inaudible*) afternoon. I  
23 did not take the names. I don't know if  
24 Marjorie have it? We start again at one thirty  
25 (1:30). We have a new witness.

1           **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

2                   We start at one thirty (1:30)...

3           **Me CHRISTINE RENAUD:**

4                   Yes.

5           **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

6                   ... with Louisa?

7           **Me CHRISTINE RENAUD:**

8                   With Louisa Brown...

9           **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

10                  Yes.

11           **Me CHRISTINE RENAUD:**

12                  ... Cookie.

13           **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

14                  I will be glad to listen to her.

15           **Me CHRISTINE RENAUD:**

16                  Exactly. And afterwards, I'm not certain of  
17                  the names of the following witnesses. There's  
18                  two (2) other witnesses. I'm sorry, I did  
19                  not...

20           **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

21                  No, okay.

22           **Me CHRISTINE RENAUD:**

23                  ... take the calendar with me.

24           **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

25                  Elders have so much to tell to help... to help

1                   us and help communities also.

2                   So, I invite everybody for lunch at the  
3                   Co-Op, and see you at one thirty (1:30).

4                   **Me CHRISTINE RENAUD:**

5                   Thank you.

6                   SUSPENSION

7                   -----

8                   REPRISE

9                   **LA GREFFIÈRE-AUDIENCIÈRE:**

10                  The Commission is back in session.

11                  **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

12                  So welcome back. Me Renaud, you will present the  
13                  next witness?

14                  **Me CHRISTINE RENAUD:**

15                  Yes. Mr. Commissioner, this afternoon, we are  
16                  very lucky to have Ms. Louisa Cookie-Brown with us  
17                  this afternoon. She's an elder from the community  
18                  here and she had many stories she wanted to share  
19                  with us regarding Inuit culture and the history of  
20                  Nunavik, and the arrival of White people and how it  
21                  changed... how it changed the course of history for  
22                  the people Nunavik. So, we can swear in the  
23                  witness.

24                  -----

25

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ANNICK WYLDE AND  
BENOIT THÉORET

1  
2  
3

1 Louisa Cookie-Brown  
2 Témoin citoyen  
3 Assermentation sur la bible

4 -----

5 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

6 Welcome. I'm very honoured to have you here this  
7 afternoon. I'll listen very carefully.

8 **Mme LOUISA COOKIE-BROWN:**

9 Um-hum.

10 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

11 Elders are important for the Inquiry Commission  
12 and...

13 **Mme LOUISA COOKIE-BROWN:**

14 Yes.

15 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

16 ... and for people of Nunavik.

17 **Mme LOUISA COOKIE-BROWN:**

18 Okay.

19 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

20 Me Renaud?

21 **Me CHRISTINE RENAUD:**

22 Yes. So, I... I will not have many questions for  
23 Miss Cookie-Brown. I think you can start by  
24 presenting yourself and then we're ready to hear  
25 the stories as you feel they should be told.

1 **Me CHRISTINE RENAUD:**

2 Okay.

3 **Me CHRISTINE RENAUD:**

4 Thank you.

5 **Mme LOUISA COOKIE-BROWN:**

6 Thank you. My name is Louisa Cookie-Brown. I was  
7 originally born north of Kuujjuarapik. When I was  
8 a child, we were brought in by the government, so  
9 most of my younger years were here, in  
10 Kuujjuarapik. We had neighbours, Crees, that were  
11 very close to us and there was a group of people  
12 from the south. First group were the army. This  
13 was originally army base. And where the hotel is  
14 right now is where the army used to be, in that  
15 section. And all the Indigenous were never allowed  
16 to step in, and they used to be fenced around. And  
17 before that, it was the whalers. That's why...  
18 because the whales used to come here in  
19 Kuujjuarapik and they were in numbers... in great  
20 numbers, to have their babies because they would  
21 have to go into the sand to have... to give birth.  
22 So that's where the name came from: Great Whale  
23 River. That's just a little bit of history of this  
24 lake.

25 I am now retired. I worked for Kativik School

1 Board as a regional student counsellor. I've been  
2 in counselling for over forty (40) years. I had  
3 gone down to Ottawa and London... London, Ontario  
4 to do some studies in counselling. I was in... I  
5 was also sent to Churchill for residential...  
6 residential school. I... I just wanted to explain  
7 how we struggled in this town. Not only this town,  
8 but other places as well.

9 So, I'm going to start by saying, when... when  
10 I was... when I was a baby, actually, my parents  
11 and grandparents still nomads. They were  
12 travelling from... my great-grandfather lived up in  
13 Kangirsuk area. They came this way to check to see  
14 if there's any better animals and whatnot because  
15 they were, at that time, in depression. There were  
16 hardly any animals. So, they came around this way  
17 and they walked, and in their dog teams, travelled  
18 this way. So that's how we end up being here;  
19 otherwise, if they never moved, we would have been  
20 up in Kangirsuk in Ungava.

21 Before I was eight (8) years old, we moved  
22 from winter camp to summer camps, and my parents  
23 were travelling to their summer camp at the time  
24 when I was born. At that time, they still had very  
25 strong values and lived by their system, not by

1           other culture system, but in their Inuit... Inuit  
2           system, who had values of obeying who the creator  
3           was, obeying how to live with each other and... and  
4           respecting animals and... and the people.  
5           Honouring each other, respecting each other, having  
6           great faith of who... who the creator is, and not  
7           only that, having faith with one another. Sharing  
8           what little they had without any cost, and giving  
9           thanksgiving, child-rearing. There were about  
10          fourteen (14) values that they lived by and they  
11          were very strong in using those. Half of the  
12          values that we had were under the woman, that were  
13          not touched by a man because men, at that time,  
14          were... they hunted, they provided a place, they  
15          made sure all the... everything was safe. And a  
16          lot of the times women were in... in their camps  
17          while their husbands were out hunting.

18                 And we... a lot of the children and young  
19                 people were taught by women, who very strongly  
20                 believed that their teaching was good. And each  
21                 one had a talent, and they recognized each talent  
22                 and they didn't step over another. If the lady had  
23                 such a good... if she was a good seamstress, and  
24                 the other lady isn't, then they didn't put each  
25                 down. They respected the person who has these

1 talents. And there would be another who's a story-  
2 teller. Another one who's a good teacher in  
3 teaching all the skin. The system itself ran with  
4 the season and with the people around. And as you  
5 go from one place to another, it was not any  
6 different because there were under the same system;  
7 although, it was never taught, but they lived it.

8 When... when the other cultures started to  
9 come into our area, it was really hard to know  
10 whether if the things that they were doing was good  
11 for us or not because they never introduced to us  
12 or talked to us or explained things to us, how...  
13 how to run it. For example, for the... for the  
14 dollar, we hadn't... we didn't run by the dollar.  
15 We... we didn't have any money when we... lived in  
16 those system. So, when it was introduced, it was  
17 introduced so wrongly, like, they were saying, "You  
18 can... you can have it in a credit. If you go and  
19 get sealskin this high, then you will pay me."

20 Like we never lived in times where you owe me.  
21 We didn't have those... we... it was really hard to  
22 understand why... why are they owing each other?  
23 Why are they asking them to pay or... anyway, it  
24 was difficult and when we lived in those values, as  
25 we stand and work together, it... it was so in a

1           rhythm, in a... like for example, when... when we  
2           had someone who was pregnant and if we didn't have  
3           a mid-wife, usually there's a hunter that would  
4           hunt in the area and would talk to the people, "Do  
5           you have mid-wives?" And they would say, "Yes".  
6           So, they said, "Okay, this person is expecting and  
7           probably will be born at a certain time, and we  
8           will need help." So, they would go and get or ask  
9           if they could have that person go to the camp  
10          and... and of course, their families would agree or  
11          ask if they would... should go, and they would.  
12          And the person would stay there until baby is born  
13          and the mother was well enough. So, they would  
14          then go back to... and that's how... if we didn't  
15          have it, they would ask.

16                 And if... and they... sometimes, people pass  
17                 on the different legends or stories from one camp  
18                 to the other. So, we all knew similar stories and  
19                 legends, even though we didn't have any TV or  
20                 telephone or any of these media stuff that we have  
21                 today. They were very much courageous people and  
22                 they were very visual, and... and we were very,  
23                 very spiritual. And because we were very  
24                 spiritual, we were able to know other person, even  
25                 if they didn't say anything. We would somehow

1 connect and kind of know what to say to the person.  
2 All of us inside, different... like when someone  
3 has died, people go and they would stay with the  
4 person until the person was able to stand on their  
5 own feet again. Sometimes, he would take six (6)  
6 months, a week, or it depends on the person who had  
7 lost their relative. And they were not in a rush.  
8 They wanted the person to be healthy and well  
9 enough to go back on their feet again.

10 And I remember when... I must have been around  
11 almost five (5) years old when someone in the  
12 community was under stress and crying and yelling  
13 and crying. So, the family was... the siblings  
14 were asked to go with another family for until that  
15 person was well enough, and we would know. And  
16 elders and those who were over thirty (30), made  
17 sure kids or... teenagers were not close to the  
18 person who was under stress because they didn't  
19 want them to have the... the feeling of sadness or  
20 they didn't want them to get the feeling of not  
21 able to do anything. Like... so if the person was  
22 in a tent, we... we made sure or the people made  
23 sure we didn't even go close to the tent so that we  
24 don't hear the distress. And the only people that  
25 were there, were the ladies and the elders that

1           were able to help the person.

2                   And it wasn't just during the day, it was even  
3           at night. They always had some people staying  
4           there at night, making sure that they were... the  
5           families were okay. So, these are some of the  
6           things that we have lost. We lost... we were told  
7           not to do that anymore. The responsibility that  
8           was unsaid was very strong in those days, to make  
9           sure each one in community were looked after. If  
10          someone died, children weren't even allowed to go  
11          and see the person that died until they're able to  
12          understand or until they're able to help to... to  
13          prepare the body to be buried. We... we weren't  
14          even allowed to speak. There was always someone  
15          that came and said, "Just help. Get the water.  
16          Get the wood. Get whatever they need. Don't ask  
17          what is going on. Just... just do the... just  
18          (*inaudible*) so that they will be at ease. If  
19          people are cooking for the family, you help."

20                   It was a good network. It was strong. And in  
21          the evening, just... just in the back where people  
22          are starting to come in, you could hear them laugh.  
23          You could hear laughter. You can hear... I mean,  
24          you can hear singing. And you can hear stories  
25          being told from the hunt, the men mostly, and then

1           they would talk about their experiences. There are  
2           times when children weren't even allowed to listen  
3           to some of the things that were saying. So, they  
4           would ask them, "Go... go to the next door and play  
5           with these children over there or stay with them."

6           So... and a lot of the other times too, we  
7           were... as were growing up, we were also  
8           responsible to make sure the dogs are being looked  
9           after. As we were playing with the dogs, puppies,  
10          we... we teach them to obey the... the instructions  
11          that they will be receiving when they are in the  
12          dog team. I was very much responsible for my  
13          father's dogs as I was growing up. And my  
14          grandfather used to teach me. Whenever there was a  
15          puppy that was yapping, yapping all the time, all  
16          you have to do, he says, "Go to it and just poke it  
17          on the side and... on the ribs. And each time when  
18          he does, it will stop," and then sure enough, he  
19          would stop. And then if the puppy is biting all  
20          the time, bite the ear. Let it know how... how  
21          hurtful it is.

22          So, these are different... as we were growing  
23          up, we were taught, and we were also taught to make  
24          sure that our clothings were looked after because  
25          it really hard to go and get clothings from like

1 sealskin and... and fur, and all those different  
2 things that we have to wear during the winter or in  
3 summertime. So, everything was close-knit.

4 I'm saying all those things first because as  
5 we were moved from that kind of life, that system  
6 where people were appointed to be a leader, people  
7 who were recognized to do certain things and  
8 respected, and in fact, in my great... my  
9 grandfather's grandfather... my great-grandfather,  
10 he had a wife that had the markings on her face,  
11 and that was to indicate that she was able to have  
12 children and do really good child-rearing, good...  
13 that she's able to do the... look after all the  
14 animals, to make clothings for... to preserve food  
15 in no matter what season. And she had those three  
16 (3) marks on her face, and I used to look at her,  
17 and I used to go and kiss her and just kiss her  
18 cheek because I thought it was so beautiful, and I  
19 couldn't understand why. And it was later on that  
20 I was explained to that these are... these are her  
21 degrees. Like these are the things that she knows  
22 and holds on to and that she can teach anyone at  
23 any age.

24 And today, we don't see that. She was the  
25 last one that I saw with the markings. When men

1           lost their wives because of sickness or birth, or  
2           giving birth, they used to go around and check to  
3           see if they would have these markings because if  
4           you have those markings, and if you're single, they  
5           go after them because they... they know, "Oh, she  
6           knows how to do this. I need a woman who knows how  
7           to do these things."

8           So, it was like a scholarship or... and we had  
9           the markings on our arms that showed us our  
10          family... family tree. She had a lot, and I used  
11          to ask her who they were, and she told me who they  
12          were. And a lot of them were from Ungava because  
13          that's where she was originated from. And... and I  
14          had... and she had a lot... last... the last mark  
15          that she had, I said, "What... how come that one is  
16          all by itself?" And then she says, "That's you."  
17          And I felt so good because I was part of her. I'm  
18          part in her skin. I'm... to be connected... to  
19          know that I'm connected, stayed in me. I'm  
20          emotional because later in years, that's what kept  
21          me alive when I was living down south.

22          It seems like it was a hard life, but yet we  
23          had such a strong, good life. It's because we  
24          were... first of all, we were very honest with each  
25          other and we were very spiritual, and we were

1 connected straight to the creator. And because we  
2 were able to connect, even the men had an idea  
3 where to go and what to hunt because they were  
4 guided. The ladies were very safe... felt safe,  
5 and if there was some things that were coming in,  
6 they knew right away, "Okay. Where's my children.  
7 They better come close to me." And all these  
8 things are now not even felt.

9           Anyway, when... when we were there, my  
10 grandfather was asked to come in to this town to  
11 work. And because he was asked to work here, we  
12 had no choice but to move here. My... my father  
13 and my uncles, they still lived in different camps.  
14 And because they were missing us so much, they had  
15 no choice but to come. And when they came, they...  
16 they were asked to... if they go out, to leave  
17 their kids so the kids... kids can go to school.  
18 And they said, "No. I can't leave my kids here."  
19 So, they were torn.

20           It was... I started to see anger I've never  
21 seen before when these things started to happen,  
22 when we moved here. And we started to see a lot  
23 of... a lot of other cultures. A lot of White  
24 people. And there were some Crees here too, but we  
25 knew them from up the coast and that, so... and

1           they were very close to my family. So, they were  
2           not strangers to us, but the White people, it was  
3           like they were... like you couldn't even look at  
4           them because our grandparents used to be so afraid  
5           of them. Was it because they didn't have the same  
6           language or is it because they didn't have the same  
7           culture? I have no idea, but they were so fearful.  
8           And they used to tell us, "Don't do this if you're  
9           in front of the White person. Don't do... you have  
10          to respect them." And right away, it was like a  
11          negative thing that we had to do. So, we were  
12          always frightened of what to say or even do.

13                 When we came here, the government started to  
14          be developed and they were running, and they  
15          were... the religion, as well, was here. They...  
16          they did their thing as well. And there was one  
17          (1) nursing station where it was run by the Armed  
18          Forces, but then the government said, "We should  
19          have a nurse." So, there was one (1) nurse for  
20          many, many years. And in... in those years when we  
21          were learning to live together, from... people from  
22          all over the north, they came into this place.  
23          They were strangers to each other. They didn't  
24          know how... how to talk. What... what is it that  
25          they do? Why do they do that? Like they're Inuit,

1           but they have such a different behaviour. All  
2           these people from way up north, they... that's  
3           how... probably because they're so far... from far  
4           that they are doing things like that. It was the  
5           first time I started to see criticism, putting  
6           down, all those things that I never felt as I was  
7           growing up outside of this big square place. I  
8           will call it a square place because it was like  
9           boxed in. They have so many rules run by the White  
10          people that we were strangers to it, but then they  
11          said, "You have no choice but to live this way."

12                 And there were sicknesses that came in:  
13          tuberculosis, Chicken Pox, measles. A lot of  
14          people died from those. I, myself, was attacked by  
15          the tuberculosis twice as a child. So, my lung...  
16          my left lung never operate. The only half of it is  
17          able to operate okay. They didn't do any  
18          operations because it was too late. They said,  
19          "You're functioning okay, so we leave it like  
20          that." So, it is... and it's forever, giving me a  
21          hard time when I have to do certain things when I'm  
22          tired.

23                 But when we were sent down, our parents never  
24          came, and we were gone for a long, long time. And  
25          when we went into these hospitals, we were given

1 pills that didn't even explain to us what they were  
2 for, make sure we swallow it or... many times, I  
3 was tied on the bed because they didn't want any  
4 children walking around, play around. So, they  
5 tied us on the bed and we'd be there for weeks,  
6 never to touch the floor. We'd look at each other  
7 and throw things to each other to share our toys  
8 that were given to us. There were no body contact.  
9 The only person that came to touch was the one that  
10 was giving us needles or a pill. For all that time  
11 when we there, we were craving for someone to  
12 touch.

13 When I was studying in university, there was  
14 one that talked about the monkeys, explaining a  
15 monkey who was never been touched by another  
16 animal, that had a skeleton... monkey was skinny  
17 and not well, and then there was another one. When  
18 I saw that, it reminded me of the time when I was  
19 nursing in the hospital, and I just cried and  
20 cried. I can't study this. I cannot be here  
21 because I was comparing myself to that. As a  
22 child, when we lived in camps, everybody gave us  
23 hugs. Everybody gave us kisses on the cheeks.  
24 Everybody had these wonderful things to... saying  
25 things to us or even saying to us. And there, in

1           this big box, everybody was stranger. And even the  
2           parents didn't even touch you anymore. They...  
3           they ask you, "Go and do this." They were angry.  
4           We could never understand why they were so angry,  
5           and it was because they were so hurt from all the  
6           things that were being done to them.

7           And as I was... when I went... when I came  
8           back here, I saw big changes in my relatives.  
9           There were a lot of drinking, home brewed. They  
10          learned how to make home brew. I started seeing  
11          fights outside. And they'd yell and scream at each  
12          other for why? We didn't know. And then there was  
13          a lot of gambling. There were so many things that  
14          changed when I came back from the hospital. I even  
15          looked at my mom, but my mother didn't want to look  
16          at me anymore. My grandmother didn't want to look  
17          at me. They were... like why, why are they giving  
18          me this horrible treatment when I didn't do  
19          anything? My grandmother used to kick me and say,  
20          "Go back to where you were." Where would I go back  
21          to? And I would ask, "To the hospital?" Didn't say  
22          anything and turn around and tell me to go right  
23          back. When we become very isolated from everybody,  
24          although they were in the same room, they didn't  
25          talk to each other anymore. They were hardly any

1           laughter. And you could hear drunks coming by,  
2           yelling and screaming and arguing.

3           I used to ask my grandfather when we were  
4           alone together, when we... sometimes he would take  
5           me out on the land to do things and to hunt. So  
6           that's when I would ask, "How come there's so much  
7           change? Why are you... why are they so mean to each  
8           other?" And he said... took my shoulder and he  
9           said, "My dear, dear, granddaughter. We are  
10          stripped of our own culture. We... they don't  
11          respect each other anymore. They're not honest  
12          with each other anymore. They tell lies about each  
13          other. They don't care about children anymore  
14          because the White people took our children to the  
15          school and they said they were going to be  
16          responsible, but they're not teaching them  
17          anything. And when they should be scolded, they're  
18          not doing anything and that's why we have very  
19          mouthy children now and they don't listen to  
20          anybody. And it's going to get worse, my dear," he  
21          says.

22          And that was the darkest day... at that time,  
23          I had a burden (*inaudible*) on my shoulders. I  
24          said, "God, what are we going to do? How am I going  
25          to survive?" Of course, there were no answers and

1           we learned to cope. When you think things were  
2           better, more cheerful, always there was something  
3           else. I could hear boys and girls saying that  
4           their private parts were very sore. Didn't  
5           understand why. I thought maybe, "Is it sickness?  
6           It's a sickness that they have right now?" Because  
7           they didn't say anything, until the day I was  
8           raped, and I understood what they said, what they  
9           meant. It doesn't destroy your physical being, it  
10          also destroyed your very Inuk being, your spirit,  
11          and makes you very lonely in the world because it's  
12          very embarrassing, it's shameful, and you'd have...  
13          you think that, "It was my own fault. If only if I  
14          didn't go there, I would not... it wouldn't have  
15          happened." Little did I know that this person was  
16          waiting because he knew my (*inaudible*) and my  
17          patterns.

18                 And that's when I said, "Okay. I have to have  
19                 almost three (3) eyes, like to make sure that I'm  
20                 going to be safe from what is going on in this  
21                 town, in this box that we now live in... that we're  
22                 forced to live in." They were praying in the  
23                 church and all that, but they were (*inaudible*), and  
24                 it has nothing to do with your life, really,  
25                 because it only talked about people way out in

1           Jerusalem area and I couldn't understand why are  
2           they talking about Jerusalem when we are here.  
3           Because there was no explanation. As a child, you  
4           think about it and you see it, but it didn't make  
5           any sense because it was not explained to us like  
6           it used be explained to us as a child when... when  
7           we were... when we asked, they gently, and took  
8           time, and answered everything that we asked for,  
9           but we weren't even supposed to be talking at all  
10          when the teacher is speaking. So, there's no way  
11          to ask... ask or get information the way we should  
12          be asked... receiving it.

13                 In this box, because there's so much turmoil,  
14                 because there's so much abuse, the people will  
15                 start to get their leaders because they said...  
16                 they were told, "You vote, you don't appoint. You  
17                 vote, and if you're going to be voting, then you  
18                 should have said 'I could be a good leader.'" And a  
19                 lot of times, we get leaders that don't know how to  
20                 lead people. And it was very opening; perhaps if  
21                 they were shown a way... to be taught the way to  
22                 us, they would have probably done good job, but  
23                 there was no explanation. There was just, "Oh,  
24                 could you..." in the way they understand it, they  
25                 tried to lead. But really, it was only for

1           themselves. And that was one of things I started  
2           to see and understand, it was for themselves, for  
3           self... selfish reasons. Not for the community,  
4           not for the people. Not to lead the people, but it  
5           was for themselves.

6           And I looked at the White people, "Ah, yes.  
7           They are here for themselves, for their own good,  
8           for their (*inaudible*), for their money." We were  
9           just being used. So, kind of put that aside and  
10          live the best way you can. I used to babysit for  
11          days because my uncles were drunk, my aunts were  
12          drunk. And if the other lady was saying to be  
13          responsible as a young person, it... it is really  
14          difficult because suddenly you're supposed to be  
15          adult when you're still supposed to be a young  
16          person. Yeah, it was really hard to know, "Did I  
17          do the right thing? Did I think the right thing?"  
18          It... I said to myself, "If... when my grandmother  
19          dies, I'm leaving this place. It's too painful.  
20          I'm going to go and educate myself. I'm going to  
21          go and educate myself to educate the government. I  
22          will find a way to get to Ottawa."

23          So, I went... when there was a... when  
24          residential students were being sent to Churchill,  
25          I made sure I got on, and I went on, and I was

1           there for three (3) years. And my aim, my goal,  
2           was to go to Ottawa. They were giving us... if you  
3           wanted further education, you can go to Ottawa or  
4           Winnipeg. So, I said, "I'm going to go to Ottawa."  
5           So, I went there, and I went there to further my  
6           education. And as I was there, I decided to  
7           take... they were saying that they need Inuk at  
8           the... one (1) of the departments in the  
9           government. So, I said, "It's me. I'm the one."  
10                 So, I went. I made sure at certain times,  
11           ministers and others were... I started to see their  
12           pattern and I made sure I was in one of those areas  
13           where I can meet Chrétien. And I met Chrétien, and  
14           I said, "I want to sit with you. I want to explain  
15           things to you. We are hurting up north. You are  
16           hurting us. You are killing us." And he looked at  
17           me, "Who are you?" I said, "I'm from the north. I  
18           want to talk to you to explain to you your  
19           government is killing my people." And he got  
20           interested, so I sat with him and I tried to  
21           explain it, but he didn't catch on to what I was  
22           saying because he didn't hear anything about these  
23           people from up north. He knew there were Natives,  
24           but never heard. So, I had invitations two (2)  
25           times, so that... because he wanted to understand

1 more. So, we sat together a few times.

2 And then one (1) time, when I was on a bike  
3 near Sussex, I noticed Trudeau was not far. So, I  
4 went closer. Of course, they have security and the  
5 person came right to me and said, "Get away from  
6 here." I said, "No. Is that Prime Minister?" He  
7 said, "Yeah. Go away." "Can I speak to him? Can I  
8 just say 'hi'? I'm a Canadian." "Show me your  
9 Canadian citizen." "No. I'm Canadian." And he  
10 said I cannot talk to him or speak to him unless I  
11 am a Canadian citizen. So, when I went back to the  
12 office, I made sure I went and got that paper to  
13 say that I'm a Canadian. It took a while, but I  
14 got it.

15 I sat with them... Trudeau. I sat with  
16 Trudeau and explained to him, "You have... these  
17 are one (1) of the places I would like to go and  
18 find out." And when he said that, it was like,  
19 "Ah, okay. I did it. He's going to go and check  
20 who we are." But little did I know that political  
21 people only (*inaudible*) for political reason, not  
22 for their social... social...

23 As the years go by, sometimes I used to  
24 wonder, "Who am I?" There are times when I really  
25 wanted to just get rid of myself and kill myself.

1           And I was getting ready to kill myself at one time  
2           when my friend said, "No, you're not going to do  
3           that and I'm going to stay with you until you're  
4           okay." I promised her, "Okay. I'll be okay." If  
5           it had been my only option to be well again, it's  
6           just kill myself. She said, "No, you're not going  
7           to do that." Anyway, she end up staying with me  
8           for three (3) days to make sure that I was okay.  
9           And I said, "All right. All right. I'll be okay.  
10          I'm going to go back up north and... and work.  
11          There's an opening. They might call me and send me  
12          up to Kuujjuaq." So that's... that's what they  
13          did.

14                 And as I was travelling, I was looking at the  
15          land, the massive land that we have up here. And I  
16          said, "There are places where my parents, my  
17          grandparents used to walk on and lived in." And if  
18          I was looking at all the values that were in...  
19          that were given to me as I was growing up, it  
20          started to come back. It was like a plant that  
21          starts to sprout, and you feel... I could almost  
22          feel it in me. All these values are still in me  
23          and they tried to kill it, they tried to kill me,  
24          but they're there. They're coming back, and I got  
25          strong and I said, "I'm going to fight to make sure

1           our people are... get what they need."

2                   And in those years, I made sure that our  
3           values were recognized in the school. They  
4           recognized what I was saying. The respect, yeah,  
5           "You... you respect." But they didn't see the  
6           respect in the way I have seen it inside or  
7           introduced to me. So, I said, "Aw, I don't think  
8           they will ever understand me, so I better not push  
9           myself to go crazy." But I started to work with  
10          young people who were starting to get into drugs.  
11          People who started to drink and they were hooked.  
12          And they were hooked, they... even today, they're  
13          still drinking. They're still into drugs. I see  
14          them whenever I go into their community. I also  
15          deal with their children in the schools. I had  
16          dealt with their children in the schools.

17                   In that box that I described to you, all the  
18          things that were going on, the police was brought  
19          in because we have taken aside all the values that  
20          we... the elders that had responsibility to make  
21          sure that... that everything is done properly.  
22          Spanked if you needed to be, scolded if you needed  
23          to be, so that you don't repeat. So that you will  
24          live... live in a good, strong life with the right  
25          mind, and live well with happiness sprouting out of

1           you no matter where you were. And if they had  
2           problems, they had someone to talk to. I often  
3           used to see those who were in late twenties (20s),  
4           thirties (30s) and even forty (40) that were  
5           whacking at their bedding and (*inaudible*) speaking  
6           as they were whacking at it. I asked my  
7           grandfather one time, "What are they... why is she  
8           yelling and screaming at the same time?" And she  
9           says, "Instead of giving it to the person that  
10          she's angry, she's putting on this rack... the...  
11          the rug. She's whacking it." "Oh, she's so  
12          exhausted." "Yeah, she needs to do that in order  
13          to get rid of that anger so that it doesn't pass on  
14          to those who are living with her."

15                 So he was quick to see that. And every time  
16                 when I see that, I said, "Oh, another person that  
17                 will be sitting strongly and... and not bothered by  
18                 the stuff." But when alcohol came, when sexual  
19                 abuse came, they didn't even do that anymore. They  
20                 stopped. And instead, they start whacking at their  
21                 kids. They didn't want to... and they're the kids  
22                 that I used to see. There's so many programs that  
23                 people try and put in. They come, they... like  
24                 Barbara said, "I came there as a Social Worker to  
25                 solve problems." I asked her if I could say that

1           in this, and she said, "Yeah, go right ahead and  
2           use what I said. It's okay." So, she... she said,  
3           "We went there to fix. We went there to solve.  
4           And that's what people did. They tried to come and  
5           solve. They can't solve. They can't solve without  
6           giving back our values, without giving back all the  
7           things that we had in the past. How could they?"

8           I mean, when... when I see my relatives being  
9           sent to jail and come back, and go back out again,  
10          I often used to think, in the olden days, we... he  
11          would have been met by men and told by men and  
12          straightened out by men. And it would've have been  
13          done in that day, not the next day or not next  
14          week. That day. The day when it happened. They  
15          dealt with things immediately. So, they had no  
16          chance to get roots of bitterness, roots of...

17          Today, I deal with people who have roots that  
18          are deeply rooted down and it's hard to pull those  
19          roots when they go and do their healing because it  
20          hurts so much to try and pull those roots out. And  
21          to deal with parents that lost their kids that  
22          committed suicide, it's hard. We don't grieve the  
23          way we should grieve because it's one right after  
24          the other. There was one (1) family who lost their  
25          relatives within a month, one after the other. And

1           it was so hard, and it was very difficult to even  
2           deal with the first one that she lost, never mind  
3           the one that she's dealing with now. It's... it's  
4           just so much, and there are very few of us.  
5           They're a lot of people that used to help that are  
6           now dead. They were all tired. They were  
7           exhausted because it exhausted their... their  
8           immune system was weak, and when it was weak, and  
9           they got sick and they got cancer, and they got all  
10          these things to fight, regardless of all those  
11          things that I'm saying now, they still have  
12          *(inaudible)* high and with a smile, and gratitude.  
13          Glad... so glad to see you.

14                 There's some things that we are holding onto,  
15          us Inuit, that keep us going and survive. Today, I  
16          deal with young people who... who are in First  
17          Responder, dealing with their relatives that was  
18          hanging and trying to put that person down, and  
19          trying to revive the person if there's nobody else  
20          to do it. And then once it's all done, there's  
21          nobody to talk to, it... it does something to the  
22          mind, so they go into drinking and they... they  
23          quit the job and they never had a chance to get rid  
24          of all the garbage that they just dealt with.

25                 If you're going to have a program, we should

1           have these programs where these people who are in  
2           first line and to front-line workers, to de-brief,  
3           to make sure that they're okay, that they will  
4           survive the whole thing that they had just gone  
5           through, and make sure that they don't go into the  
6           next crisis right within a week or so. Because I  
7           know in south, when you have gone through crisis,  
8           they're given months before they're able to face  
9           another one who is going through crisis. Why can't  
10          we do that up here? Is it because we're in less  
11          numbers? It should not be looked at because of  
12          that. We should be given the same because it's  
13          even more difficult to deal with your own relative  
14          than still you deal with people that are strangers  
15          to you, and so it's not as hard.

16                 Abused become abusers. When there's healing  
17          sessions that goes on in the communities, they  
18          don't show because they're not ready. It's too  
19          difficult to face their own demons that have...  
20          they're stuck in there. They're afraid of what  
21          they might be doing or what they could do. If they  
22          finally deal with where the person's still alive,  
23          "Maybe I'll go and kill a person because he's hurt  
24          so much." All these things that were being said,  
25          what answers do you give? Except to try and calm

1           the person down and get the person to see that in  
2           their past, there was good values. Let's take one  
3           of those and hang onto them. Let's try and do  
4           something about that.

5           So, within that box, I have found the only way  
6           I can really help is by taking them out of that box  
7           and go out... outside of the circle because within  
8           that box, there's a circle. And when you go  
9           outside of that circle and deal with the person,  
10          they see the person differently. They see  
11          themselves differently. They start seeing the  
12          strength. They start seeing their ancestors the  
13          way they... they lived and say, "Yeah, I am a  
14          survivor. I can do it. I'm going to change. It  
15          was good. It was great."

16          Because there's so many people to try and keep  
17          up with, it's hard to do any follow-up because they  
18          live in the other communities too. It's hard to do  
19          follow-ups. Sometimes they do the follow-ups by  
20          phone. I'm very fortunate and lucky to have a  
21          place down in the Eastern Townships where I can go  
22          and regroup, to refresh, to let go of all the  
23          things that were being just done and said. If I  
24          didn't have that place, I would have never survived  
25          the work. It's very heavy because forever we have

1 deal with our own relatives or the relatives of...  
2 of good friends.

3 There's so much to cover. All the things that  
4 you heard at the court session... under the court  
5 session, under the health, under the education,  
6 under the hospitals, they're all true and we all  
7 don't know how to handle them, but they're voicing  
8 it. I'm so happy that they're given a chance to  
9 voice it because once they voiced, then we can move  
10 on to try and grasp all the things that were taken  
11 away.

12 When I went to Australia, I was talking to  
13 Indigenous there, and I explained to them what I...  
14 what we're going through with all the murders and  
15 suicides and not having enough grief, and she  
16 laughed at me. I said, "Don't laugh at me. It's  
17 not funny." And she said, "No. We went through  
18 that. If we had gone through it and survived and  
19 now, we have our own government, you will do it.  
20 You... you have hope. You... you can do it." What  
21 they need is someone to voice, to make sure that  
22 they get what they have to have instead of being...  
23 instead of people coming in to try and solve  
24 things. If... before they come just say, "What can  
25 I give you when you get out of my town? What can I

1           teach you when you get out of my town?" Because we  
2           have a lot to teach as Natives. We can teach those  
3           who are coming with their degrees and that. I'll  
4           be so happy when I see that day when our young  
5           people are able to stand and say, "Okay. What did  
6           you learn? What are you taking with you that you've  
7           learned from us?" I hope... I hope that happens.

8                        We started to get young people who are  
9           educated, learning to do things that we were never  
10          able to do. I'm so proud of them. Their  
11          foundation just needs to be re-fixed because right  
12          now they don't have foundation. I am so glad I'm  
13          able to voice all the things that I have seen and  
14          lived and worked. I hope it helps for people to  
15          understand why are in a situation we are in. We...  
16          my great-grandfather used to say, "We are very  
17          wonderful, beautiful people that the world needs to  
18          see. Not... not our furs and little that we have,  
19          but we're rich inside. We're rich." I don't know  
20          if I have missed any other...

21       **Me CHRISTINE RENAUD:**

22                No, it was very interesting.

23       **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

24                Yes, we're listening to you.

25       **Me CHRISTINE RENAUD:**

1           Is there something else you wanted to talk, or you  
2           feel you discussed all the topics you wanted to  
3           cover with us today?

4           **Mme LOUISA COOKIE-BROWN:**

5           I'm always ready to explain. One of the elders  
6           told me one time, "Just be very careful as to who  
7           you're giving it to because it could be turned  
8           around and... and used as..." I said, "Oh, yeah?  
9           Okay." I have to be very careful as to whom I'm  
10          talking to. I can say that I am a survivor for all  
11          the things that were in that box, and that is still  
12          in the box. The Youth Protection, the justice,  
13          there's so much to do in those. When I see  
14          children being taken to another community, and when  
15          I go into that community to see them, it's like a  
16          bad toothache. But elders are starting to talk and  
17          say that, "We have to find a way to make sure that  
18          the children are in our town. We have to voice  
19          again." Because the elders were put aside and now,  
20          we're... we're starting to get our stance again.  
21          We are starting to fight again. We're starting to  
22          voice.

23                 Those that used to shut us down are not really  
24                 the White people. It's our own people that shut us  
25                 down because they were put in this position where

1           they are leading, and if we are to say something,  
2           they say, "No. You don't talk about that." It's  
3           not only White people that shut us down. It was  
4           also our own people because the way they understood  
5           the rules and regulations that they're under. And  
6           they became people... the elders became servants to  
7           the kids, to their grandchildren, provider and  
8           giving their money to the young because they were  
9           never taught how to save, never... they just take  
10          it and use it as quick as they can. I'm sure they  
11          would have kept a lot and put aside because they  
12          were good at that in the olden days, making sure  
13          they will have something when... when the bad  
14          weather or the season is coming that's going to be  
15          difficult. They used to save up certain things to  
16          survive those months that are coming. They knew  
17          how, it's just that with money, it was a whole  
18          different thing and it was money that is like a  
19          killer of our own.

20                 I experienced it with my parents. My father  
21                 became a gambler. He used to have boats. He had  
22                 all kinds of things, but in gambling he lost it all  
23                 and my mother had nothing but blankets and her own  
24                 clothes. My father gambled everything away and it  
25                 was the hardest time for my sisters. By that time,

1           when that was happening, I was out of town. I was  
2           down south trying to get myself together, trying to  
3           learn so that I can be of help in the future. And  
4           I became a stranger to my sisters and brothers.  
5           And my mother used to say, "Your sister's coming.  
6           Make sure that she has all these things." Because  
7           I was... I was treated that way by my grandfather.  
8           She wanted to continue, and she did. She made  
9           them. Even today, my sister would say, "When you  
10          come... when I know you're coming to my place, I  
11          make sure that tea was ready, (*inaudible*) was  
12          ready. Because, you know, my mom is watching me in  
13          heaven."

14                 We are... we still hold onto some of the  
15                 things that were shown us. So, I have hope. It's  
16                 not hopeless. We have hope. We just got to find a  
17                 way to turn from this box to more in... in the way  
18                 we had our system, and if our young people just  
19                 learned that system, I know we can stand on our own  
20                 feet and have you, as workers, coming in to help  
21                 instead of controlling the job. We're starting to  
22                 see it, bit by bit and hopefully in the future we  
23                 will do more. That doesn't mean we're never going  
24                 to welcome you. We welcome you, but in a different  
25                 way. I'm so happy that people are voicing all the

1           horrible things that they had to go through in  
2           life. They're telling the truth. And I thank you  
3           for giving me this opportunity to... to kind of  
4           give you a window where I have been and see. I  
5           hope it's going to be helpful. Thank you very much  
6           for this time.

7           **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

8           Nakurmiik. Thank you very much for sharing with  
9           us. Do you have questions?

10          **Me CHRISTINE RENAUD:**

11          No, I don't have any questions.

12          **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

13          No.

14          **Me CHRISTINE RENAUD:**

15          Thank you.

16          **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

17          I will ask other counsel if they have questions?

18          **Me MAXIME LAGANIÈRE,**

19          **PROCUREUR POUR LE DPCP:**

20          I have no questions, but I just want to tell you  
21          that I learned a lot and I thank you for your  
22          testimony.

23          **Me CHRISTINE RENAUD:**

24          Thank you very much. I learned a lot too. Thank  
25          you.

1 **Mme LOUISA COOKIE-BROWN:**

2 Thank you.

3 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

4 So, thank you very, very much. You see, we are  
5 learning... Me Laganière told you, "I learned," and  
6 it's important to know how it was before...

7 **Mme LOUISA COOKIE-BROWN:**

8 Um-hum.

9 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

10 ... because there was a "before," before what's  
11 going on actually. It was different before, you're  
12 telling us. It's important to... to listen to  
13 elders who can teach... teach us and teach  
14 students, young. I'm happy we have still some  
15 students from Secondary II and III with their  
16 teacher Catherine, who sometimes (*inaudible*). And  
17 I'm happy that they had the opportunity to listen  
18 to you.

19 **Mme LOUISA COOKIE-BROWN:**

20 Um-hum.

21 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

22 It's very important. And you're talking also  
23 concerning Youth Protection. Children taken out of  
24 their community, their village, to go elsewhere.  
25 Losing culture, language, and everything, and what

1           they... when they are back, they... if they are  
2           Inuit, and being placed in Montreal, they are still  
3           Inuit, but they come back and they... they don't  
4           know where they belong. It's difficult. We heard  
5           about that in Montreal. And when you say "teach,  
6           learn," I think for the government, it's important  
7           to listen, to ask people in Nunavik especially,  
8           because we are in Nunavik. It's the same in other  
9           communities with First Nations, but especially in  
10          Nunavik to... to listen to what people like you,  
11          elders, and people who have lived very sad, very,  
12          very sad. You were here. You heard some histories  
13          that was related to us since the beginning of the  
14          week. It's important that they listen, they  
15          understand that's something is going wrong. But  
16          it's also important that they hear what... what  
17          happened, how it was before, why it is like this  
18          now, and then come and sit with people in Nunavik  
19          and listen to what they have to say. Listen to  
20          what they need to help themselves to correct the  
21          situation. It's not from government to come here  
22          and tell, "Oh, now you'll do this and this, this  
23          way and that way." I don't think it will work. It  
24          has to work. When people are doing this together,  
25          it's all together; not for people of Inuit, but

1 with people in... in Nunavik.

2 This is the message I understand you're telling us.

3 **Mme LOUISA COOKIE-BROWN:**

4 Um-hum.

5 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

6 If I'm wrong, just tell me.

7 **Mme LOUISA COOKIE-BROWN:**

8 Basically that... basically that.

9 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

10 It's like this? So, I hope... and we have  
11 counsellors from the government, they represent the  
12 government and I'm pretty sure they will pass the  
13 message, and if they don't, feel assured that I  
14 will pass the message in my report at the end.

15 **Mme LOUISA COOKIE-BROWN:**

16 Thank you.

17 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

18 I think it's necessary. And for the students who  
19 are here, they are the future. They are the person  
20 who will be the leaders of the community in the  
21 near future. They have to get ready for that, to  
22 prepare seriously. Nunavik need person. So, I  
23 wish they... they work hard and get ready to take  
24 their responsibilities. This morning, we were told  
25 that it will be important that people from Nunavik

1           take the responsibilities that are taken by some  
2           people of the south, as policemen, policewomen,  
3           nurses, and things like that. It's up to them to  
4           come back and take those responsibility. I wish it  
5           happen.

6           **Mme LOUISA COOKIE-BROWN:**

7           Um-hum.

8           **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

9           So, thank you very, very much. We'll now suspend  
10          before going...

11          **Me CHRISTINE RENAUD:**

12          Yes. I can think we can suspend for ten (10),  
13          fifteen (15) minutes.

14          **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

15          Yes.

16          **Me CHRISTINE RENAUD:**

17          Me Martel will be with you for the rest of the  
18          afternoon.

19          **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

20          Okay.

21          SUSPENSION

22          -----

23          REPRISE

24          **LA GREFFIÈRE-AUDIENCIÈRE:**

25          La Commission reprend.

1 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

2 So welcome back. Me Renaud?

3 **Me CHRISTINE RENAUD:**

4 Yes. So, we're again with Ms. Louisa Cookie-Brown  
5 because there was another subject she wanted to  
6 talk about and I forgot to ask her about this  
7 before we took the break. So, I think she will  
8 continue under the same oath and share the other  
9 story about...

10 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

11 Under... under...

12 **Me CHRISTINE RENAUD:**

13 *(inaudible)*

14 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

15 ... the same oath?

16 **Me CHRISTINE RENAUD:**

17 Under the same oath.

18 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

19 It's so great to listen to what she has to say.  
20 I'm pleased to see her back. So, I'm listening to  
21 you.

22 **Mme LOUISA COOKIE-BROWN:**

23 The part I forgot to mention that really affected  
24 us so deep that we can't even talk about at times,  
25 is the times when our dogs were slaughtered. I

1           mentioned just a wee bit of... about the little bit  
2           of how... how I used to look after the puppies and  
3           make sure that they were able to obey so that they  
4           will be ready for the dog team, for the owner to  
5           start giving commands for it to obey in a dog team.  
6           I really enjoyed looking after puppies and training  
7           them and being... to nurture them and making sure  
8           that they were okay. And we used to name each dog,  
9           each dog had to -- excuse me, excuse me -- each dog  
10          had its name and we made sure that they recognized  
11          their names because when... when they were on a  
12          team, as we were going, my father used to name them  
13          and as soon as they heard their name, they  
14          straightened out and... and would behave. But  
15          sometimes the hormones of the dogs when the female  
16          is in heat, that was the most difficult time to...  
17          to make sure that they were obeying. So, I also  
18          was responsible for the dogs that were on heat, to  
19          make sure the... that they were not among the dogs  
20          because you cannot control dogs when they're with a  
21          dog that's in heat.

22                 So, it was a big responsibility to make sure  
23                 that the dogs didn't come, although, they could...  
24                 they know, they can smell. Anyways, I learned a  
25                 lot as I was responsible for all the dogs. And we

1           used to make harness, and each one would have a...  
2           certain things that we put on their harness to...  
3           so that we don't look for the right one, we used to  
4           say, "This is for that dog." So right away,  
5           automatically, when we start harnessing the dogs,  
6           we just know which harness to go to which one  
7           because we made marks, like the blue bonnet or a  
8           mark of... with yarn. And sometimes I used to get  
9           carried away making very beautiful... my father  
10          used to say, "Don't do that because it's really  
11          disturbing when I'm getting them to go. They're so  
12          pretty, I forget what I'm looking... going  
13          towards." So, they had to be (*inaudible*).

14                 Anyways, when we were brought here to this  
15          town, we used to use the dogs... dog teams because  
16          there were no ski-doo's at the time to go get wood  
17          or for them to travel north, to go seal hunting and  
18          stuff like that. So, we... and by the way, we were  
19          looking after the dogs... just by the way we  
20          treated the dogs, neighbours were able to see, "Oh,  
21          now I see why they have such strong teams." And it  
22          wasn't competition, it's just the way we were able  
23          to handle them, and they learned from us, and they  
24          would do the same thing. We heard in nineteen  
25          sixty-three (1963), that RCMP was going to come in

1           and we heard that he was going to go and slaughter  
2           the dogs. My father, when he heard that, he really  
3           wanted to get out of town. And he managed, but he  
4           came back, and it was not long after he came back,  
5           the RCMP came. And he was telling all the families  
6           that if you didn't tie your dogs, that he was going  
7           to kill them.

8           So, I made sure all our dogs were tied. I was  
9           cutting with an axe, the wood to put on the grass  
10          where I can tie up the dogs. And... and my father  
11          was not helping me, and I couldn't understand. And  
12          my grandfather was not around. "Why are they not  
13          around? What's going on?" I couldn't understand any  
14          of that. I was young. I... I went in to our hut.  
15          I said, "All the dogs are now tied." And my father  
16          never said anything. And I thought something  
17          strange was happening here. I didn't understand  
18          why my father was not answering me. And I would go  
19          look for my grandfather, and my grandfather was not  
20          around. And I could see the RCMP coming,  
21          approaching to our place. I could see him, he was  
22          killing all the dogs as he was passing. And I  
23          said, "It's finished," because I didn't... I  
24          didn't... I didn't have the... the words in  
25          English, I just managed to use that one (1) word,

1            "It's finished." And he didn't understand me, and  
2            I keep yelling at him. And he just pushed me, and  
3            he shot one of the dogs. And I looked at him, I  
4            could say... I start saying, "No. No." I yelled  
5            and screamed. And he keep pushing me, and I keep  
6            going that one time he almost shot me because I  
7            keep going towards... I said, "Don't shoot," in my  
8            own language. And at one point, he just grabbed  
9            me, took my shoulders and threw me as far as he  
10           can.

11                    And when I... when I got up, I ran, and I was  
12           holding onto the dog that he was aiming at, and I  
13           was not going to let go. I was not going to let go  
14           of the dog. And I was talking to the dog, and he  
15           just said, "Okay. I'm going to shoot you." I  
16           didn't understand him, so I kept on holding onto  
17           the dog. And then he took me, and he told me to go  
18           far, and I keep saying, "No". I was trying to  
19           demand the dogs to... to bite him, to stop him, but  
20           they were... because of the shots, they were very  
21           timid and... and didn't do anything. And then he  
22           keep kicking me, and he kicked me in... in my rib  
23           area and I couldn't breathe. So, I stand there and  
24           as I was trying to get up, I pushed him. And then  
25           the word in my mind, my grandfather who had said in

1           the past, "Don't even look at (*inaudible*). They're  
2           scary, they're... they might do anything to you."  
3           And that... my... the thinking came into my mind.  
4           I looked at him and I was thinking of what my  
5           grandfather had said, and I said, "Okay. I have to  
6           listen to my grandfather." So, I sat there and  
7           watched him kill each dog.

8                     And then he went over to my grandfather's team  
9           and did the same thing. And he went from... one...  
10          one spot to another. And the dogs were all dead.  
11          The land was all blood. When I went into the hut,  
12          I wanted to tell my father... I said, "All the dogs  
13          are dead." By that time, he was under the covers  
14          and he was there for days and days. Didn't eat.  
15          He went to pee and that was it. He couldn't even  
16          drink. He just lay there. I thought at one point,  
17          he was dead. I checked to see if he was still  
18          breathing and he looked up at me and he said,  
19          "Thanks for helping me." I'm crying because there  
20          was no more spirit in his eyes. It was like  
21          looking at a person who is dead. I've never seen  
22          that before.

23                    All the dogs were taken to the river to be  
24          burnt. And it was the darkest day, the smoke was  
25          dark, and it stunk for days. And the area was

1           stunk... stinking. Neighbours were... for sure  
2           our... our (*inaudible*) tradition was dead. All the  
3           things we had to do, gone. And then I've never  
4           seen my father... he smiled, but not a real smile.  
5           He... he got into drinking and he drank, and drank,  
6           and he drank. He... he became very mean. My  
7           mother was forever scared of him whenever he was  
8           drinking. And then he was sent to Deception Bay  
9           because they needed someone who can be out in the  
10          land and know the area. So, he went to Deception,  
11          where they mined asbestos.

12                 Everybody had cover on their mouth for  
13          their... for their breathing, but they never gave  
14          him anything to cover his. Years later, he died of  
15          cancer from asbestos. He tried so hard to provide.  
16          He made up his mind that he was going to go back to  
17          being a provider, but that killed him. And we had  
18          nobody to talk to, nobody to explain to us. When  
19          he went to Montreal for a checkup, they found  
20          cancer in his lungs and they said it was asbestos.  
21          Even today, I don't know if anybody... there isn't  
22          anything from the company to say that, "We should  
23          have had him cover his mouth." He used his  
24          (*inaudible*) to try to cover, at one point, but that  
25          was because some White people used to be so mean

1           and they took that from him, and he couldn't find  
2           it. So, he worked without it.

3           And I... I sat with him and he started  
4           remembering the dogs. He started naming all the  
5           dogs' names and looked at me and he said, "I'm  
6           going to bury that. I'm going to the grave. You  
7           want to come with me? Let's go bury our dogs." I  
8           said, "What's it mean? How?" "Let's go bury their  
9           names. Write the names." So, I did. So, we went  
10          to the grave and we put the names in... in the  
11          sand. Put those names in there. "You were a good  
12          dog to me. You served me good. I went far, we  
13          went distance. You provided for me." Patted... he  
14          patted... he looked at me and he said, "In that  
15          life, we did good. In that life, we were strong,  
16          and we have to remain strong." And that gave me  
17          strength within.

18          Whenever someone talks about dog slaughter  
19          everywhere in Nunavik, of course, I always think of  
20          what we went through as family. All my uncles had  
21          dog teams. They were... they were a very strong  
22          family because my grandfather, my great-grandfather  
23          was very strong as well. So that's one of the  
24          things I forgot to mention because it did affect  
25          our... our lives. We changed. It's not only us,

1           it's the whole town that changed. Now we have dogs  
2           that are stray, and I get really angry with them.  
3           "No, you're the one who should've been dead,"  
4           *(inaudible)*. Anyway, I thank you for giving me  
5           this time to finish off that dog slaughter because  
6           it was very difficult.

7           **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

8           Nakurmiik, Louisa. Thank you very much. I  
9           think... I understand that the dogs were destroyed,  
10          but the way of life of your family also at the same  
11          time.

12          **Mme LOUISA COOKIE-BROWN:**

13          Yes.

14          **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

15          Consequences were terrible for your family, for  
16          your father, your mother, yourself.

17          **Mme LOUISA COOKIE-BROWN:**

18          Um-hum.

19          **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

20          You told you used to take care of puppy, and one  
21          time puppy are dogs, are in the team. And it's  
22          your puppy, some of your puppy were...

23          **Mme LOUISA COOKIE-BROWN:**

24          Um-hum.

25          **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

1           ... with names. It's a very sad story. I will say  
2           horrible. Awful, with great consequences. It's  
3           not only for your family, but probably for many  
4           other families.

5           **Mme LOUISA COOKIE-BROWN:**

6           Yeah.

7           **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

8           Yes. It's important that this story be known. We  
9           still have students listening.

10          **Mme LOUISA COOKIE-BROWN:**

11          Um-hum.

12          **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

13          Maybe they knew, but general public in Québec, I'm  
14          not sure they know very much about it.

15          **Mme LOUISA COOKIE-BROWN:**

16          Um-hum.

17          **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

18          I wish they can listen to what you told us today.  
19          Maybe they will understand.

20          **Mme LOUISA COOKIE-BROWN:**

21          Um-hum.

22          **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

23          It may help. So, thank you very, very much,  
24          Louisa, again. I wish you the best.

25          **Mme LOUISA COOKIE-BROWN:**

1 Thank you.

2 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

3 We'll suspend just a few minutes...

4 **Me CHRISTINE RENAUD:**

5 Just a few minutes.

6 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

7 ... before going on...

8 **Me CHRISTINE RENAUD:**

9 Yes. Thank you.

10 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

11 ... with next witnesses?

12 SUSPENSION

13 -----

14 REPRISE

15 **LA GREFFIÈRE-AUDIENCIÈRE:**

16 The Commission is back in session.

17 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

18 So, welcome back. Me Martel, you will present the  
19 next witness?

20 **Me ARIANNE MARTEL:**

21 Yes. So, this afternoon, we will hear Mr. Shaomik  
22 Inukpuk from Inukjuak. He will be speaking about  
23 many problems encountered as a town manager.  
24 Problems related to police services, to  
25 Correctional Services and to the justice system.

1           Later on, his wife, Mary Kasudluak Inukpuk, will be  
2           joining him to share a story about the Health  
3           System. For that second part, upon the request of  
4           the witnesses, I would ask a closed hearing,  
5           please.

6           **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

7           Okay. Yes, we'll... you will have to go. Ask the  
8           clerk to swear in the witness.

9           -----

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1 Shaomik Inukpuk  
2 Témoin citoyen  
3 Assermentation sur la bible

4 -----

5 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

6 Welcome, we'll listen to you carefully.

7 **Mr. SHAOMIK INUKPUK:**

8 Okay.

9 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

10 Okay? It's okay? You have questions, or the  
11 witness may tell the story?

12 **Me ARIANNE MARTEL:**

13 Yes. Maybe for you, just for... to be sure that  
14 the second part is heard behind closed door?

15 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

16 Um-hum.

17 **Me ARIANNE MARTEL:**

18 *(inaudible)*

19 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

20 Under the second part, with the next witness?

21 **Me ARIANNE MARTEL:**

22 Yes.

23 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

24 Yes. Okay. It's going to be behind closed door,  
25 and number HC-79, I think. Okay?

1 **Me ARIANNE MARTEL:**

2 Thank you.

3 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

4 Okay.

5 **Me ARIANNE MARTEL:**

6 So first of all, thank you very much for being with  
7 us. Maybe we can start by... we can start by...  
8 you can start by telling us about you, a little bit  
9 more, as your... about your role as a town manager  
10 in your city.

11 **Mr. SHAOMIK INUKPUK:**

12 Okay. Well, I... I would first want to introduce  
13 myself. I'm Shaomik Inukpuk. I was... I was born  
14 in one cold February morning, inside an igloo. My  
15 parents were still in nomadic living style at the  
16 time I was born. So, since I was born inside the  
17 igloo, I've been here on this earth for over a half  
18 century now. And I have gained some knowledge of  
19 what has happened in the past, which may be  
20 relevant to the work you're doing in regard to the  
21 justice system we've had.

22 My parents did not speak in English, only in  
23 Inuktitut. But for me, I was sent to residential  
24 school when I was four (4) years old, and that's  
25 where I learned English. So difficult for me

1           having parents who don't speak in English, and for  
2           me who speaks English, I can say I had to live in  
3           two (2) worlds: Inuit world and English world.  
4           That... that introduction is important to see the  
5           picture of what we've gone through, what we're  
6           trying to go through. And presently, I'm a town  
7           manager of Inukjuak, where I get to receive  
8           different calls when anything goes wrong. And the  
9           calls I received are basically in regard to police  
10          service or whatever important is not going right, I  
11          receive the calls. So that's why I know these  
12          problems in justice system.

13                 In Inukjuak, the community I worked for, there  
14          has never been any member of legislative assembly  
15          from my community. As you can see, in Québec, they  
16          make the laws at the National Assembly, but there's  
17          no... no one in Inukjuak who... who's never been  
18          there. And even in parliament of Canada, there has  
19          never been anyone there to make the laws. So, the  
20          laws that are made are made in Québec and made in  
21          Canada, but we... the Inuit people never  
22          participate in making these laws, but they were  
23          imposed, these laws, and I don't recall anyone  
24          trying to make any effort in explaining these laws  
25          that are applicable to the Inuit of my community.

1           So, the justice system itself is truly unfair for  
2           the people I represent. To make it fair, there  
3           should at least be someone to explain all these  
4           laws that are applicable to them. So that part  
5           should be corrected.

6           **Me ARIANNE MARTEL:**

7           In your declaration, you were also talking about  
8           the fact that there was a culture shock. When...  
9           when the government of Québec arrived in the north,  
10          there was a culture shock. Can you talk to me a  
11          little bit more about that?

12          **Mr. SHAOMIK INUKPUK:**

13          Yes. In... in nineteen sixty-three (1963) or  
14          sixty-four ('64), I don't remember exactly which  
15          one, sixty-three ('63) or sixty-four ('64), the  
16          Québec government came to our community and start  
17          teaching some children about French... French  
18          language. And since we were sent to the Federal  
19          school, those who did not enter the Federal schools  
20          were sent to the Québec school. That was in  
21          nineteen sixty-three (1963) and sixty-four ('64).  
22          And again, the administrators were in the  
23          community, but their work was mainly on school, and  
24          again, not... not the laws.

25                 So, they... we had to deal with three (3)

1 different languages in our community: English,  
2 French, and Inuktitut, which... which was not easy.  
3 That... that's another cultural shock the people  
4 experienced with the third language. The  
5 communication got even more difficult, and when...  
6 when there was a controversy with Bill 101, the  
7 people made a protest and sent civil servants out.  
8 They sent them out and the children that were  
9 inside the Québec school, they were just left  
10 behind without being educated enough to enter the  
11 working world. They are deprived from... from  
12 daily Inuit culture. They didn't get a chance to  
13 learn Inuit culture and they didn't get enough  
14 training on French language. So, they were... they  
15 were left with nothing to work with. And even  
16 today, we still have these problems, and they are  
17 the ones who don't have an access to the police  
18 service. The older people, I explained in my  
19 introduction, those who don't speak in English,  
20 don't have an access to the police service because  
21 the police we have don't speak in Inuktitut. And  
22 there's not even a receptionist to answer their  
23 calls. And as for me, as a town manager, these  
24 people come to me to explain their problem, and I  
25 have to become the second-hand information when I

1           have to interpret for them.

2                   We have a neighbour who's an old guy, and  
3           when... when he was experiencing a drunken man in  
4           his home, he... he had to run out over to my place  
5           and ask me to call the police for him. And there  
6           are so many questions that are asked by the police  
7           before they can respond, which is typical. With  
8           all these questions, I... I had to answer every  
9           single one of them and half-asleep, it's... it's  
10          something that should really be corrected.  
11          Everyone should be entitled to be secure and should  
12          have an access to the services that are provided by  
13          the Police Force. It's unfair for some people,  
14          especially those who don't speak in English or  
15          French.

16          **Me ARIANNE MARTEL:**

17                 So, I understand you find yourself in a position as  
18                 an interpreter without being one; right? As  
19                 you're... because you're the town manager, people  
20                 come and see you and you end up interpreting...  
21                 doing the interpretation between the people and the  
22                 police?

23          **Mr. SHAOMIK INUKPUK:**

24                 Yes. I have (*inaudible*) to interpreting and  
25                 when... when the police can't respond right away,

1           they... they have to give me a call too. There was  
2           one (1) incident where someone called that they...  
3           someone bootlegging, and when I called the police  
4           about this problem, they have to have an evidence  
5           that this is actually happening. And I was even  
6           asked to buy for the liquor to prove that it is  
7           actually bootlegging. This is completely nonsense.  
8           In my opinion, nobody should be forced to pay  
9           for... for the alcohol that to prove that it's been  
10          bootlegged.

11                   And the police sometimes don't respond when  
12          they actually should. There was also a violent  
13          beating of someone who was... who was beaten up so  
14          bad that she got into coma. And the way the police  
15          works, the person in coma, well, they should... the  
16          police can respond only when the statement is made.  
17          Without the statement, they don't do anything. And  
18          the guy who beat... who beat this... this person  
19          up, there was a witness, but even though... even if  
20          the witness made the statement, they couldn't  
21          arrest the guy who beated up because that's their  
22          rule. They're supposed to get the statement from  
23          the person who got beaten up. And there was no way  
24          that this person in coma can make a statement. So,  
25          these things are really unacceptable for the safety

1 of the people. The guy who beats up, can again  
2 beat up another one. This is unacceptable. It  
3 looks like it's okay to beat up someone when things  
4 are not dealt with in a proper manner.

5 **Me ARIANNE MARTEL:**

6 Do you think there is a lack of patrolling in your  
7 community?

8 **Mr. SHAOMIK INUKPUK:**

9 Lack of?

10 **Me ARIANNE MARTEL:**

11 Patrolling. Should the police officers patrol the  
12 city more?

13 **Mr. SHAOMIK INUKPUK:**

14 They come... they can't do anything unless it is an  
15 emergency call. When someone is released on  
16 conditions, the police cannot keep track of them  
17 because they lack resources. They lack manpower.  
18 The manpower they have is responding only to the  
19 emergency calls. And someone released on condition  
20 is... he's still in town. Our town is kind of  
21 small. In fact, they are nineteen hundred (1,900)  
22 people in my community. And there are those who  
23 are released on conditions but are free to go  
24 anywhere because nobody... nobody watches them  
25 over. Our police service should really be improved

1 to make everyone feel secure. And the way things  
2 go when someone is sentenced or... or violate a  
3 law, the justice system we have is we get to  
4 receive four... at least four (4) travelling courts  
5 in a year. Every four (4) months or so, they come  
6 to my community. This is quite too long when  
7 someone is scared. And for this reason, people...  
8 some people don't even bother in trying to call for  
9 some assistance when some... when... even in  
10 violent cases, even if someone beats up another  
11 one, they don't sometimes charge... charge people  
12 who do that, knowing that the person will be  
13 released on a condition and that he'll be free  
14 until... for the court dates. This... there's a  
15 default, then there's a hearing, and then there's a  
16 sentencing which would happen before someone can be  
17 taken away. This is... this is a very long process  
18 when we get to receive only two (2) travelling  
19 courts for every four (4) months. Court sessions  
20 should be more frequent as is, to make the justice  
21 system to be more effective.

22 That should really be... be corrected. It's  
23 unacceptable for delays after delays, and with  
24 so... so much files to be dealt with. Most of the  
25 time, it's postponement of the court hearings,

1           which makes it even more unbearable for the victims  
2           to deal with.

3           **Me ARIANNE MARTEL:**

4           You said there was also a problem with the  
5           condition of not staying in the community. What  
6           was the problem with that condition?

7           **Mr. SHAOMIK INUKPUK:**

8           My community is sometimes a safe haven for the  
9           criminals. When they get a sentence, someone, the  
10          person... for example, someone in POV, if released  
11          on the condition and should not be in the  
12          community, they are sometimes sent to my community.  
13          And my community does not have the necessary  
14          resources to deal with these people. As I said,  
15          the police are responding to emergency calls only  
16          and they don't even have the surveillance for those  
17          who are released on conditions. The judge should  
18          at least ask us if it's... if we can accept to take  
19          the person in question to our community. That's  
20          important. Without the proper resources within our  
21          community, we... we can have additional problem.

22          **Me ARIANNE MARTEL:**

23          Do you think there's a trust problem between the  
24          population and the police?

25          **Mr. SHAOMIK INUKPUK:**

1 Trust problem?

2 **Me ARIANNE MARTEL:**

3 Um-hum.

4 **Mr. SHAOMIK INUKPUK:**

5 Yes. The trust... people tried to call the police  
6 and when they don't act right away, they think  
7 it's... the problem is not... it's not dealt with.  
8 And if this keeps on happening again, they have no  
9 more trust on police service. So, they don't  
10 bother to call them thereafter. And also, the  
11 trust they have towards the police is diminishing.  
12 When people were shocked by the police force,  
13 they... that's another difficulty we had... we have  
14 in our community, when it comes to gun violence.  
15 That part is very important, and I want to talk  
16 about the procedures that are sometimes used.

17 Our police force are not... are not qualified  
18 to deal with arms... arms (*inaudible*) off. For  
19 example, if someone is threatening with the gun,  
20 the police are not equipped to deal with that. So,  
21 they have to ask for SWAT team to help them out.  
22 This is time-consuming. First, they have to fly  
23 from down south. The... our community is  
24 accessible by airplane only and even if they come  
25 to our community, they just do their work without

1 the municipality's input. Me and my... me and our  
2 mayor, we tried to assist the SWAT team, but they  
3 were not willing to listen to us because as a civil  
4 servant, we're not supposed to deal with them.  
5 We're not supposed to deal with the crisis. But we  
6 should explore some... what options can be made.  
7 The municipality's input in this matter can help,  
8 instead of just shooting the person. SWAT team,  
9 they normally just shoot the person, which has a  
10 tremendous impact on the family. Like if the man  
11 is shot, then it is a woman who have to tend for  
12 the children alone. And the SWAT team should shoot  
13 the person even in the arm or a leg, but not to the  
14 place where it can be fatal.

15 So those are the necessary measures that...  
16 that can be made, shoot the person where it would  
17 not be fatal, and also, have the municipality to  
18 have an input on what can be done because the SWAT  
19 team has no knowledge of our community and the  
20 people. And the people know one another, and there  
21 can be some options that... that can lead to safe  
22 handling, even in armed situations.

23 **Me ARIANNE MARTEL:**

24 At least you have, for example, a member of the  
25 community that could come and do the mediator

1           maybe, in those situations.

2           **Mr. SHAOMIK INUKPUK:**

3           Yes. The person in question sometimes have  
4           friends, and friends can help a lot too. So, there  
5           are people who can help to straighten things out.  
6           It's just a matter of communicating with one  
7           another, which we... in which we are just shoved  
8           aside for the SWAT team to do their job. This is  
9           unacceptable.

10          **Me ARIANNE MARTEL:**

11          Again, about the conditions and about the language  
12          problems. You told me that sometimes people have  
13          difficulties to understand their condition, so they  
14          break them because they don't understand them.

15          **Mr. SHAOMIK INUKPUK:**

16          Yes. They... even... even if they have  
17          interpreters, some have difficult times in  
18          understanding the conditions and they break them  
19          again. So that's a normal procedure that the Court  
20          takes for releasing people on conditions, which  
21          makes some people unsecured in their... in their  
22          feelings.

23          **Me ARIANNE MARTEL:**

24          In your position as a town manager, do you  
25          sometimes assist people when they want to make a

1 complaint at the ethics... the Police Ethic  
2 Commissioner?

3 **Mr. SHAOMIK INUKPUK:**

4 Yes. There are times when the police are doing  
5 more force than it is really necessary and  
6 mishandling a person. Our police officers are  
7 sometimes too aggressive, and when this happens,  
8 when someone calls me about this matter, I give  
9 them the complaint form which is normally sent to  
10 Ethics Commissioner, but I don't get to see the  
11 results. They are just sent and there's never been  
12 any follow-up, even if they sent them to the Ethics  
13 Commissioner, we've... I... I feel that it's just a  
14 waste of time to fill out the form and have nothing  
15 done thereafter. So, communication-wise, that's  
16 another improvement that should be made, the  
17 follow-ups of the complaint made... made by the  
18 people in my community. Complaints are meant to  
19 correct things that don't happen right, afterwards.

20 **Me ARIANNE MARTEL:**

21 So, I understand that you don't receive, as you  
22 assist people, you don't receive any answers from  
23 the Commissioner, but do the plaintiff receive an  
24 answer or they don't receive answers?

25 **Mr. SHAOMIK INUKPUK:**

1           No, I don't receive them. Whenever I have an  
2           opportunity to ask... the police chiefs sometimes  
3           comes to our community and when I... when I have  
4           this opportunity to discuss our problem, they say  
5           they received them, but don't give us the results.

6           **Me ARIANNE MARTEL:**

7           Has anyone from the Ethic Commissioner ever visit  
8           your community?

9           **Mr. SHAOMIK INUKPUK:**

10          Not... not in my memory. There... there has never  
11          been anyone from that department.

12          **Me ARIANNE MARTEL:**

13          Would that help...

14          **Mr. SHAOMIK INUKPUK:**

15          I...

16          **Me ARIANNE MARTEL:**

17          ... with the follow-ups?

18          **Mr. SHAOMIK INUKPUK:**

19          Yes. That would certainly help. Our municipal  
20          office, we try to figure what is the best way to  
21          correct all these problems and that can be one of  
22          them.

23          **Me ARIANNE MARTEL:**

24          Can you talk to me about the access to civil  
25          justice in your community?

1       **Mr. SHAOMIK INUKPUK:**

2           In my community, we only get to receive the  
3           criminal justice. We don't even have the civil...  
4           civil court where... where civil problems can be  
5           dealt with. We have civil problems, when people  
6           don't agree with each other or when they owe some  
7           money to one another or even on cyber-bullying.  
8           These civil matters are not dealt with because our  
9           court system is only dealing with the criminal  
10          infractions. We... we lack civil justice system  
11          in... in our community, which can help too, but the  
12          truth is, after my introduction, I explained that  
13          my parents were nomadic, and they had their own  
14          justice system that was (*inaudible*) back then.  
15          They dealt with whatever problem, same day or next  
16          day, as soon as possible, not have them to wait for  
17          four (4) months for the problems to be dealt with.

18                 The elders' role in solving all these problem  
19                 was just brushed aside and that's where... that's  
20                 why we have so many problems that wouldn't  
21                 otherwise happen if the transition between the  
22                 Inuit culture and the English culture was done  
23                 properly. So, this, I believe, should be brought  
24                 forth. How will we deal with the justice system  
25                 should be asked again, knowing the fact that

1           traditionally, we had our own justice system and  
2           were imposed by the Québec and Federal Justice  
3           System without being properly explained. So, we  
4           should go back... go back to the time how things  
5           can be worked out for... for the better and for the  
6           improvement of the justice system.

7           **Me ARIANNE MARTEL:**

8           You also told me about the story that happened to  
9           your brother and...

10          **Mr. SHAOMIK INUKPUK:**

11          Yes. Another problem we have is when someone dies,  
12          we get to receive the investigators from the south  
13          and they investigate if the death is not natural or  
14          if... if it happened other than natural cause. The  
15          investigation takes place and these investigators  
16          from south are doing their job to... to the scene  
17          only. And the people, even myself, we... we rely  
18          and hope that these investigators will find out,  
19          but that normally never happens. The people should  
20          be involved in the investigations because they know  
21          one another in the small community.

22                 And as for my brother, he... he died of  
23          choking, according to the Coroner's report. So,  
24          the conclusion was he died of choking, but for me,  
25          I... I know that he was beaten up by his son

1 earlier and his body was not strong enough. So, he  
2 choked. His body was no longer able to be strong  
3 enough up to the point where he... where he choked.  
4 And when his body came back to our community, I  
5 checked his body and there were bruises that were  
6 questionable. The bruises were not used to trigger  
7 additional investigation. The conclusion of  
8 choking was just used, but never mind the bruises  
9 that could trigger additional investigations that  
10 makes it very unacceptable to get the conclusion of  
11 choking when, in fact, I had seen the bruises in  
12 the body that makes it questionable.

13 This is not... this is not the only case with  
14 my brother and it's the same thing for suicide. In  
15 my community, there has been some cases of suicide  
16 and the conclusion, suicide is way often too used.  
17 But suicide cannot happen without a reason. So,  
18 in... according to my understanding, suicide does  
19 not exist. It is someone else who is either  
20 bullying or making someone else's life unbearable.  
21 There's always a reason why these suicides do  
22 happen. So, investigation is limited to the scene  
23 itself, and does not explore the other possible  
24 cause, which is very unacceptable to hear someone  
25 committed suicide and when we know that it has to

1           have a reason.

2           **Me ARIANNE MARTEL:**

3           I understand you're not satisfied with the  
4           Coroner's report. When... when you receive a  
5           Coroner's report, in which language is it?

6           **Mr. SHAOMIK INUKPUK:**

7           It's... it's French. Most... mostly in French and  
8           we have a hard time trying to understand it. As I  
9           said earlier, the French language was taught, but  
10          didn't go far enough up to the point where some...  
11          some students who learned French are able to  
12          interpret them. That didn't happen.

13          **Me ARIANNE MARTEL:**

14          And do the coroners visit your community when  
15          there's a death to do such kind of report?

16          **Mr. SHAOMIK INUKPUK:**

17          Coroners, they... we have no coroners in our  
18          community and they have to be sent down south to be  
19          investigated, and the report is only in French.

20          **Me ARIANNE MARTEL:**

21          And do they talk to people in the community? Do  
22          they call people?

23          **Mr. SHAOMIK INUKPUK:**

24                 Hm?

25          **Me ARIANNE MARTEL:**

1           When they do their investigation, do they call  
2           people?

3           **Mr. SHAOMIK INUKPUK:**

4           No. They... they don't. They don't even ask... I  
5           don't... I don't anyone receiving a call from the  
6           coroner. We... we hear all sorts of things, but  
7           I've never... I've never heard of anyone receiving  
8           a call from the coroner. The nurse or the priest  
9           may receive a call, but not the people.

10          **Me ARIANNE MARTEL:**

11          Before we take the break, do have anything to add?

12          **Mr. SHAOMIK INUKPUK:**

13          Yes. Yes, it's... it's what I explained, they are  
14          relevant to your work. The people I work for are  
15          losing trust on justice system and my... my  
16          comments are just explaining the facts. And based  
17          on the facts that I present, I'm... I'm calling  
18          upon the Commission to make the necessary report to  
19          allow the government to make some changes for the  
20          problems that we have to go through. And these  
21          changes are... would really make my work a lot  
22          easier. Some jobs should not always be bad. There  
23          should be some good things in... in my job. As a  
24          municipal manager, all the bad news are coming to  
25          me and I don't deserve to receive all the bad news

1 of the people. So, calling upon the Commission to  
2 make the necessary changes to (*inaudible*) all these  
3 problems that I explained. Thank you.

4 **Me ARIANNE MARTEL:**

5 Thank you.

6 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

7 Nakurmiik. I will now ask other counsel if they  
8 have questions to you?

9 **Me MAXIME LAGANIÈRE:**

10 I don't have any questions. Thank you very much,  
11 mister.

12 **Me MARIE-PAULE BOUCHER:**

13 I won't have any questions. Thank you.

14 **Me DENISE ROBILLARD:**

15 I don't have questions. Thank you.

16 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

17 So now, it's to me to thank you very much for  
18 having accepted to share with us what you see...  
19 have seen by yourself, especially with your job as  
20 municipal manager in Inukjuak. I understand that a  
21 new system, a new justice system arrived in your  
22 community at one time, replacing what was used  
23 before by elders settling the problem of the  
24 people, settling the problems almost as soon as  
25 there was a problem, not postponing it many, many,

1           many times. It was dealt with soon, so to get back  
2           to harmony and community and the (*inaudible*)  
3           between people involved. So, with the new system,  
4           nobody explains the system, the new... the law that  
5           applied in the community. I understand that people  
6           don't know too much about the law. They will learn  
7           part of it if they are accused or involved in a  
8           trial. And...

9           **Mr. SHAOMIK INUKPUK:**

10           Yes.

11           **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

12           ... also, you're telling that the court does not go  
13           to your community too often; four (4) times a year.  
14           Sometimes, something like three (3) months before  
15           each time the court is there and only with the  
16           criminal... or criminal cases. No civil  
17           jurisdiction in your community, if I understand  
18           well. So, when somebody has a civil problem,  
19           somebody owes some money or things like that, they  
20           are left to settle this by themselves. So, you  
21           also, you noticed that when somebody has to call  
22           the police, police officer do not speak Inuktitut.  
23           Everybody is a bit mixed up in your community  
24           because some learn English at residential schools,  
25           others part of French later. And people quit, so

1           they have problem with their French.

2       **Mr. SHAOMIK INUKPUK:**

3           Yeah.

4       **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

5           And officers do not speak Inuktitut, and so they  
6           will go to you to call the police...

7       **Mr. SHAOMIK INUKPUK:**

8           Right.

9       **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

10          ... when... when there's an emergency, it's not  
11          quite the good idea to find somebody who can call  
12          the police to tell them, "I'm in trouble."

13       **Mr. SHAOMIK INUKPUK:**

14          Yeah. Really, difficult...

15       **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

16          *(inaudible)*

17       **Mr. SHAOMIK INUKPUK:**

18          ... the procedures are really difficult.

19       **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

20          Yes.

21       **Mr. SHAOMIK INUKPUK:**

22          So many questions, so many questions has to be  
23          asked first and...

24       **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

25          Yes, and you told about the questions asked by the

1            police when you phone. And to answer the question,  
2            you have to ask the person asking you to call... to  
3            tell you and then tell it to the police.

4            **Mr. SHAOMIK INUKPUK:**

5            Yes.

6            **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

7            So, and many questions. So, something better can  
8            be put in place, I guess.

9            **Mr. SHAOMIK INUKPUK:**

10           Response time is not... is not sufficient enough;  
11           should be shorter. The response time should be  
12           shorter.

13           **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

14           Yeah.

15           **Mr. SHAOMIK INUKPUK:**

16           Yeah. When... especially on... on the case when  
17           someone is being beaten up, their response time  
18           should be quick before the big damage is made.

19           **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

20           Yeah. It can make a great difference on the health  
21           of the person for the future. So, I understand  
22           that you... you have the feeling that your  
23           community is a safe haven for some people you will  
24           maybe not like to have in your community, for the  
25           security of the residents. The courts will ensure

1           that there's no problem that some people may go to  
2           your community, if I understood well what you told  
3           us?

4           **Mr. SHAOMIK INUKPUK:**

5           Okay.

6           **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

7           So, the trust of the police, it's difficult. Some  
8           problem with violence, gun violence. Use of force  
9           a bit too more, or much too more...

10          **Mr. SHAOMIK INUKPUK:**

11          Yes.

12          **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

13                 ... towards individual. When we speak about  
14                 suicide or people being in trouble with guns or  
15                 rifles, you think people of the community maybe  
16                 should be involved to try to communicate with the  
17                 person in trouble? When SWAT arrive, you telling...  
18                 you're telling that they don't know much about your  
19                 community. I guess they don't speak Inuktitut  
20                 either, so communication may be difficult.

21          **Mr. SHAOMIK INUKPUK:**

22          Yes.

23          **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

24          This is...

25          **Mr. SHAOMIK INUKPUK:**

1 Yes, we can have our input there, and also, in the  
2 case of unnatural cause of death, we can have our  
3 local inquiry. If... if... that would help too, to  
4 find out why the death happened. The local inquiry  
5 would help too. The investigators do their best in  
6 trying to solve the plan or the cause, but the  
7 community itself is not consulted and they can help  
8 too, to solve these puzzles.

9 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

10 Um-hum.

11 **Mr. SHAOMIK INUKPUK:**

12 So local inquiry would help too in the case of a  
13 suicide or unnatural cause of death.

14 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

15 And I... if I understand well what you said, in the  
16 case of suicide, you will like investigation made  
17 to understand why it happened and maybe to avoid  
18 that this happen again.

19 **Mr. SHAOMIK INUKPUK:**

20 Right.

21 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

22 I understand that when there is a suicide, that's  
23 the end for the person who does it, but it may be  
24 important to know why this happened.

25 **Mr. SHAOMIK INUKPUK:**

1 Right. And...

2 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

3 You're telling there should be a reason for that.

4 **Mr. SHAOMIK INUKPUK:**

5 Right. And these... these would surely secure...

6 this would surely have the people to feel secured.

7 If these don't... don't change, the feeling of

8 insecurity will be there and more suicide can

9 happen. When someone is insecure, they can even

10 kill themselves. So, to avoid all these, the

11 questions should be answered and try to be avoided

12 in the future. So, looking for the cause is not

13 good, but having the answers is good to avoid

14 additional problems being made. So, the solution

15 would be to have the local inquiry in place.

16 I know inquiries can be called upon, but we

17 can put the system where local inquiries should be

18 mandatory for the case to be solved in a proper way

19 instead of just being brushed aside.

20 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

21 In conclusion, I understand that you have the

22 feeling that the system of justice, police, and

23 everything, should be improved in your community,

24 and it may be a good idea that the direction of the

25 police, KRP, or justice system, may have meeting

1 with people in your community to see how it can be  
2 worked out to do better... to give a better service  
3 to the population of your community.

4 **Mr. SHAOMIK INUKPUK:**

5 Yes.

6 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

7 Does it make sense?

8 **Mr. SHAOMIK INUKPUK:**

9 Yeah.

10 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

11 So, well, thank you very, very much. If there's  
12 nothing else, I will suspend now before going with  
13 the next witness, and I wish you the best. I wish  
14 that it may improve.

15 **Mr. SHAOMIK INUKPUK:**

16 Okay. Thanks.

17 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

18 Make sure some people are listening to what people  
19 are telling during the hearings, and I hope it may  
20 change to improve.

21 **Mr. SHAOMIK INUKPUK:**

22 Okay. Thank you... thank you too. And thank you  
23 for having no questions. No questions means I made  
24 my... I made myself very clear. So, thank you.

25 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

1           You did. You did make it clear. Nakurmiik.

2           SUSPENSION

3           -----

4           REPRISE

5           **LA GREFFIÈRE-AUDIENCIÈRE :**

6           The Commission is back in session.

7           **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

8           So, welcome back. Now, Me Martel, you will present  
9           the next witnesses?

10          **Me ARIANNE MARTEL,**

11          **PROCUREURE POUR LA COMMISSION VIENS:**

12          Yes.

13          **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

14          And I understand that you have a motion to have  
15          their testimony behind close doors?

16          **Me ARIANNE MARTEL :**

17          Exactly.

18          **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

19          Um-hum.

20          **Me ARIANNE MARTEL :**

21          So, I will ask you the... to...

22          **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

23          Yes, and the reason is?

24          **Me ARIANNE MARTEL :**

25          The reason is because the witnesses are more at ease

1           to tell the story that way.

2           **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

3           Okay. It's because they prefer to testify behind  
4           close door. Okay. So, as I already told, I prefer  
5           to grant a motion to have testimony behind closed  
6           door when the witnesses ask. It will... it is...  
7           it will be like this. It's the witness' choice.  
8           Yes, I prefer to have a testimony than not to have  
9           it because sometimes, if people prefer to testify  
10          behind closed doors, and if we don't agree, maybe  
11          they will tell, "No, we won't give the testimony."  
12          So, I will order that your testimony be rendered  
13          behind close door, and to protect your identity.  
14          And it will be number 79. We have to give a number  
15          to our hearings behind close door just to know  
16          where we are going, because at the end, we will  
17          receive the... the transcription, and it... this  
18          will be on our site, on our Web site. But before,  
19          everything that could identify you, both of you, or  
20          anything that could make people understand who you  
21          are, who gave the testimony, will be blank. Do you  
22          understand? Okay?

23                 So, you may proceed. And for Mr. Inukpuk,  
24                 you may testify on the same oath. Yes. And you'll  
25                 have to swear in madame.

1 Mary Kasudluak Inukpuk  
2 Témoin citoyen  
3 Assermentation sur la Bible

4 -----

5 **Me ARIANNE MARTEL :**

6 Okay. So, Mrs Inukpuk... Kasudluak Inukpuk and Mr.  
7 Inukpuk, welcome again. I will invite you to tell  
8 the story about your son.

9 **M. SHAOMIK INUKPUK :**

10 Okay. Our story is back in two thousand fifteen  
11 (2015), we lost our son to... to the medical  
12 reasons. He... he has had a heart problem ever  
13 since childhood, and he had some operations being  
14 made to him. And the history of his life is, he  
15 had several heart surgeries, and he died in twenty  
16 fifteen (2015) and was thirty-seven (37) years old.  
17 At the last surgery, he had... was supposed to last  
18 for twenty-five (25) years, but that didn't happen.  
19 And he was sent to Montreal for medical reasons, to  
20 have the problem be checked into. But when he was  
21 in the hospital, the doctors kept on postponing the  
22 dates when he was supposed to be seen.  
23 Postponement after postponement, led to his death,  
24 and which we believe was preventable if it wasn't  
25 for postponement after postponement. We think he

1 can still be around, but he isn't.

2 This... this delay after delay wasn't  
3 acceptable for us when he died, and there were  
4 other things that were not acceptable. For  
5 example, he was told by the doctors that he can die  
6 any time now. And when he received that news, he  
7 had no one to comfort him or he had no one to turn  
8 to. When he heard the news that he can die any  
9 time now, this is... this was a big shock for him,  
10 and nobody was there with him either.

11 So, given this information, should at least  
12 have someone... to me, if someone says, "You can  
13 die any time now," I would need someone to turn to  
14 and get the comfort, which... which didn't happen  
15 in his case. That was unacceptable.

16 **MME MARY KASUDLUAK INUKPUK :**

17 (En langue Autochtone, traduction française :)

18 (Un employé de la Commission: On a des  
19 problèmes...)

20 Alors, lorsqu'il est premièrement allé à  
21 l'hôpital, ses paroles étaient... c'était...  
22 - alors c'est inaudible pour l'interprète.

23 Mais je sais qu'il ne reviendra plus.  
24 Lorsqu'ils lui ont dit qu'il pourrait mourir  
25 n'importe quand. Je n'ai pas aimé ça lorsque je

1 l'ai entendu, mais je veux que tu en entendes  
2 parler et je suis heureux... je suis contente de  
3 pouvoir venir ici pour t'en parler.

4 Cela s'est produit lorsque j'étais à Montréal.  
5 J'ai dû appeler le 9-1-1 pour demander de l'aide.  
6 Ils sont venus immédiatement, mais il n'est pas  
7 revenu à lui en octobre deux mille quinze (2015),  
8 le dix-neuf (19) octobre. Il n'est jamais revenu à  
9 lui et il est mort. Il a eu une crise cardiaque le  
10 vingt-six (26) octobre. Une semaine après qu'ils  
11 l'ont examiné pourquoi il n'est pas revenu à lui,  
12 nous avons... ils ont découvert qu'il a eu une  
13 crise cardiaque et que son cerveau a été saisi et  
14 il n'avait pas d'oxygène dans son cerveau. Et ils  
15 nous ont aidés à comprendre que c'est son cerveau  
16 qui a manqué d'oxygène, ce qui... le fait qu'il ne  
17 pouvait pas revenir à lui, reprendre conscience et  
18 je n'étais pas très heureuse, très contente.

19 Qu'est-ce que vous penseriez si un docteur  
20 vous disait que tu pouvais mourir n'importe quand?  
21 Qu'est-ce que tu penserais lorsque quelqu'un dirait  
22 que votre enfant... cela à votre enfant? Alors, ça  
23 m'a fait... ça m'a inquiété beaucoup.

24 Je sais qu'il ne va plus revenir, mais je veux  
25 que cela soit entendu et c'est pour cela que je suis

1           ici, et merci de me recevoir. Et je vais arrêter  
2           ici.

3           **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

4           Is there something else? No? So, I will thank you  
5           very much for sharing... sharing with us this...  
6           this sad story, very sad story. I understand that  
7           hearing what the doctor told him without any  
8           support, at that time, it may be very difficult.  
9           And the time... the postponement, postpone... the  
10          times... the number of time it was postponed before  
11          treatment, it's difficult. I'm not a doctor. I  
12          cannot evaluate the situation, but I understand  
13          that it's hard to be postponed many, many times,  
14          and then being told it can happen any time...

15          **M. SHAOMIK INUKPUK :**

16          Yes.

17          **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

18          ... I understand. I wish it does not happen again  
19          to anybody.

20          **M. SHAOMIK INUKPUK :**

21          Okay.

22          **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

23          Okay?

24          **MME MARY KASUDLUAK INUKPUK :**

25          Yes.

1 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

2 So, thank you very much for sharing, and good luck.

3 **Me ARIANNE MARTEL :**

4 Thank you.

5 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

6 We'll suspend, and come back with the next witness?

7 **Me ARIANNE MARTEL :**

8 Yes.

9 SUSPENSION

10 -----

11 REPRISE

12 **LA GREFFIÈRE-AUDIENCIÈRE:**

13 The Commission is back in session.

14 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

15 So, welcome back. Me Martel, you will present the  
16 next witness?

17 **Me ARIANNE MARTEL:**

18 Yes. So, the next witness is Julia Kumarluk from  
19 Umiujaq. She will testify in two (2) parts today.  
20 For the first part of her testimony, she will speak  
21 about her time as an interpreter, the lack of  
22 services in Inuktitut, and the cleanliness of the  
23 cell in the KRPF police stations, but also, the  
24 problems brought by alcohol in their... in the  
25 community. To protect an ongoing inquiry, I would

1           ask that the... that we hear the second part of her  
2           testimony behind closed door. That would be the  
3           number 80, HC-80.

4           **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

5           And concerning that it's a matter subject to  
6           inquiry going on, this will be... we will accept  
7           the motion to hear that behind closed door. So, it  
8           will be forbidden to publish the testimony and it  
9           will stay completely confidential. Okay. The  
10          second part. The first part is public and after,  
11          we'll suspend a few minutes and go with the second  
12          part. And it will be behind closed door and  
13          confidential because there's an inquiry going on.  
14          Okay.

15          **Me ARIANNE MARTEL:**

16          So, before we begin, I would ask that we swear Mrs.  
17          Kumarluk in.

18

19          -----

20

21

22

23

24

25

1 Julia Kumarluk  
2 Témoin citoyen  
3 Assermentation sur la bible

4 -----

5 **Me ARIANNE MARTEL:**

6 So, thank you for being here.

7 **MME JULIA KUMARLUK:**

8 Thank you.

9 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

10 Welcome. We'll listen to you carefully.

11 **Me ARIANNE MARTEL:**

12 So first of all, maybe you could present yourself?

13 Your community, where you lived and why you want to  
14 be here today.

15 **MME JULIA KUMARLUK:**

16 Okay. I lived in Akulivik for nearly five (5)  
17 years, and I've already had experience working with  
18 the SQ and KRPF as a translator, guard, and  
19 janitor. And I loved it. I loved that job. I was  
20 able. I had the strength to help people and the  
21 police officers. I did a lot of work with them.  
22 Sometimes, I volunteered.

23 But my jobs were taken. They were taken away  
24 from me by a teacher's family. It was a White  
25 teacher and she ended up having her family there,  
26 her boyfriend, and then her sister. I worked for,  
27 like, thirteen (13) or fourteen (14) years dealing

1           with the cops. I loved it. I loved that job. I'm  
2           still willing to work with them. But without any  
3           words, without warning, without any comment or a  
4           moment to talk with me or to explain me why they're  
5           letting me go, they just stopped calling me just  
6           like that.

7           This is important for me. This job was  
8           important to me because not all Inuit understand in  
9           English or French. This is why people breach their  
10          conditions. This is why all the police stations  
11          around Nunavik are messy and smelly. I wish each  
12          community have someone like me... somebody like me,  
13          somebody who is willing to do the janitor, cleaning  
14          the cells and the police station for health  
15          matters. And to translate, to help the detainees,  
16          victims, suspects, witnesses, to have... to be able  
17          to understand their rights, to understand their  
18          conditions. They don't understand nothing. That's  
19          why when they get released, they go out party again  
20          or breach their conditions. They go... be sent  
21          down to jail more often because they don't  
22          understand. And with guarding, us Inuk, it's  
23          something special to me because I talk to them.  
24          They communicate with me because when they're in a  
25          heavy situation where when they need help, they can

1 tell me in Inuktitut and I do the favour, passing  
2 the message to the police officers. If I wasn't  
3 there, nothing would have been solved or get in  
4 touch with, instead of breaching all the time.  
5 They need translators at the police stations and  
6 janitors. This was my job and I loved it, but it  
7 was taken away by a teacher's boyfriend who  
8 recently... like, two (2) years ago... I lost my  
9 job two (2) years ago when that man recently got  
10 there and just like that, I lost it. They just  
11 stopped calling me, and I... I asked them why.  
12 They prefer a White man.

13 I'm not racist, I'm (*inaudible*). But I really  
14 loved that job helping people. Even elders need  
15 me. Sometimes I still do translating, but  
16 volunteering without getting paid, when they call  
17 me for help. But I wish each community in Nunavik,  
18 they would get that person for each police  
19 stations. This is my first case.

20 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

21 I understand you live in Akulivik?

22 **MME JULIA KUMARLUK:**

23 I'm now back to Umiujaq.

24 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

25 Umiujaq?

1 **MME JULIA KUMARLUK:**

2 Yeah. I was living in Akulivik from two thousand  
3 twelve (2012)... two thousand fourteen (2014), July  
4 twelve (12), but last week, I went back to Umiujaq.  
5 Yeah.

6 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

7 I understand also that you like your job...

8 **MME JULIA KUMARLUK:**

9 Yes. I loved it.

10 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

11 ... and you're willing to do this job again?

12 **MME JULIA KUMARLUK:**

13 If... if...

14 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

15 And for people...

16 **MME JULIA KUMARLUK:**

17 If they... if they need someone, I'm available.

18 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

19 I was asking where you're living because somebody  
20 will listen to what we are discussing here today.  
21 I just wanted to make sure to know if you are  
22 willing to go anywhere in Nunavik where you could  
23 be needed?

24 **MME JULIA KUMARLUK:**

25 I wouldn't mind.

1       **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

2               Okay.

3       **MME JULIA KUMARLUK:**

4               I liked the job.

5       **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

6               Okay.

7       **MME JULIA KUMARLUK:**

8               I liked it.

9       **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

10              So...

11       **MME JULIA KUMARLUK:**

12              I was able.

13       **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

14              ... and we heard that people from the community,  
15              people fluent in Inuktitut, are very important...

16       **MME JULIA KUMARLUK:**

17              Yes.

18       **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

19              ... to help.

20       **MME JULIA KUMARLUK:**

21              It is.

22       **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

23              We heard about that since the beginning of the  
24              week. I hope somebody is listening to us.

25       **MME JULIA KUMARLUK:**

1 I hope so too because this is really important.

2 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

3 Do you have questions, Me Martel?

4 **Me ARIANNE MARTEL:**

5 Only one (1) question.

6 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

7 Yeah, okay.

8 **Me ARIANNE MARTEL:**

9 If you will allow me? Can you speak about the  
10 collaboration between the police, the mayor, the  
11 town... and the town, how should it be? Should  
12 police officers collaborate more with the town?

13 **MME JULIA KUMARLUK:**

14 Yes. They need more communication. They need to  
15 do more team work. Like, if there were less  
16 alcohol being sold, re-sale, in Nunavik, I think  
17 they can figure out something to have it more less  
18 in the towns, for the children's sake. Because I  
19 do so much volunteer, I have not been drinking for  
20 nearly sixteen (16) years now. I love children.  
21 They know I'm sober, they come to my house a lot.  
22 I feed them. I warm them up or dry their wet shoes  
23 or boots, but without complaining, without asking  
24 for a reward, without any payment, without being  
25 able to be close with their parents because they're

1 drunk. But I'm okay... I'm okay with that. These  
2 little people who were like my family, my friends.  
3 They were the only ones I had. I was happy to live  
4 there. It was heartbreaking. It changed my life.  
5 I wish there were less alcohol in communities.  
6 Example, hard liquor, ninety-four percent (94%),  
7 forty percent (40%), all those liquors, it's  
8 ruining and it's killing us, so many people.

9 I witnessed a lot. I... I volunteered too  
10 much. I forgot myself.

11 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

12 Okay.

13 **Me ARIANNE MARTEL:**

14 We'll take a break now.

15 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

16 Yeah. If you agree, may I ask other counsel if  
17 they have questions?

18 **Me MAXIME LAGANIÈRE:**

19 I don't have any question.

20 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

21 No?

22 **Me MARIE-PAULE BOUCHER:**

23 I won't have question. Thank you very much.

24 **Me DENISE ROBILLARD:**

25 No questions. Thank you.

1 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

2 No? I can't promise we will receive call from  
3 person needed... needing interpreters, but if it  
4 happen, if somebody in Nunavik call Me Martel or  
5 call the Inquiry Commission to join you, do you  
6 agree that we give your... the way to join you if  
7 it happens? I can't promise, but if it is, you  
8 agree? Okay. So, I wish you the best. I wish that  
9 you can do this kind of job again. You like it,  
10 it's obvious when we see the way you testified, you  
11 talk about that. So, I wish you the best. And,  
12 nakurmiik, thank you for sharing with us.

13 **MME JULIA KUMARLUK:**

14 Thank you.

15 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

16 Okay. We'll suspend a few minutes and then we will  
17 continue behind closed door. It will be closed  
18 door number...

19 **Me ARIANNE MARTEL:**

20 80.

21 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

22 ... 80.

23 **Me ARIANNE MARTEL:**

24 Thank you.

25 SUSPENSION

1 -----

2 REPRISE

3 **LA GREFFIÈRE-AUDIENCIÈRE:**

4 The Commission in back in session.

5 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

6 So, welcome back. Me Martel, you will present the  
7 next witness?

8 **Me ARIANNE MARTEL:**

9 Yes. So, the next witness is Julia Kumarluk. She  
10 will tell us about the story that she lived when  
11 she was in Akulivik. So, Ms. Kumarluk, I will let  
12 you begin with your story.

13 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

14 So, it is going to be behind close door...

15 **Me ARIANNE MARTEL:**

16 Yes.

17 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

18 ... and we have to give a number to our (*inaudible*)  
19 of closed door. It's number 80. Okay? So, we may  
20 go on the same oath you... I'm listening to you,  
21 unless you have questions to start?

22 **Me ARIANNE MARTEL:**

23 No. I will just let you...

24 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

25 Okay.

1 **Me ARIANNE MARTEL:**

2 ... talk about the event you lived, when you're  
3 ready.

4 **MME JULIA KUMARLUK:**

5 On June ten (10), two thousand seventeen (2017), I  
6 woke up around six thirty (6:30) and I started  
7 making my coffee. I was happy, like, it's good to  
8 wake up in the morning with good energy. And when  
9 I opened my first window, it was blue and sunny  
10 sky. It was a beautiful morning. And when I went  
11 to the living room side to open more curtains, I  
12 saw a body. A man body. And I when I turned my  
13 head on the right side, I saw another body of a 12-  
14 year old boy. And I looked away again, further, I  
15 saw another body. I freezed like a kid, like I  
16 even jumped to my couch, sofa, on my PJ's. I was  
17 standing like a little girl. I just freezed there.  
18 I couldn't move or speak. It felt like I woke up  
19 in Iraq or Pakistan, three (3) dead bodies in front  
20 of my home. [REDACTED]

21 [REDACTED]  
22 [REDACTED] and I understood these bodies are  
23 dead.

24 And I... I saw the boy, his legs were... it  
25 was still moving. So, I jumped, took whatever what

1           was ready, clothing, took my jacket, took the  
2           cordless phone, and I went out; locked my boys,  
3           they were still sleeping. And I wanted to call for  
4           help. I even forgot the numbers. Like, just my  
5           head was away. I forgot numbers, how to dial. I  
6           even forgot 819. And I just look at the phone and  
7           I didn't know what to do. I just looked around and  
8           moments later, I finally dialled. And I dialled to  
9           the First Responders, ambulance, and the person who  
10          answered the phone was intoxicated. He was very  
11          drunk. I... I told him, "We need you beside my  
12          home, [REDACTED] "  
13          I told him. He say loudly, he say, "Call the  
14          police." I told him, "They're... but they're busy,  
15          trying to get a man with weapons," I told him.  
16          "Call the nursing station." I told him, "They're  
17          busy. They're very busy with other people who have  
18          cuts." In Inuktitut, he say, "(Inuktitut) You take  
19          care of them," he say, and hang up on me.

20                 I tried to call again, there was no answer.  
21                 So, it was only me. I wanted to save the boy. I  
22                 tried. I wanted to save the boy. All of them, but  
23                 the boy, he's only a child, and I saw him still  
24                 moving his legs. Then, because the ambulance told  
25                 me to do it, so I did it. I grabbed my boyfriend's

1 chest, here, like that. I told him, "I'm sorry.  
2 We have to do it." I told him to back up the truck  
3 to have the body ready for the back, so it went  
4 fast. We waited and put him at the back and he  
5 left really fast, and I was left behind. So, I  
6 helped... [REDACTED]

7 [REDACTED]  
8 [REDACTED]  
9 [REDACTED]  
10 [REDACTED]  
11 [REDACTED]  
12 [REDACTED]  
13 [REDACTED]  
14 [REDACTED]  
15 [REDACTED]  
16 [REDACTED]  
17 [REDACTED]  
18 [REDACTED]  
19 [REDACTED]  
20 [REDACTED]  
21 [REDACTED]

22 [REDACTED] And I freezed,  
23 like I've never seen anything like that in my life.

24 [REDACTED]  
25 So that's when I understood he's dead. I

1           understood. And then I had no idea how many people  
2           have died that morning and how many people have  
3           survived.

4           I went to the nursing... I ran to the clinic  
5           from that scenery, I mean from that area [REDACTED]  
6           [REDACTED] I ran to the clinic to see if they need  
7           help. Just when I went in, there was someone who  
8           gave me a baby who lost his dad, covered blood  
9           with... from his parent's blood because there was  
10          no ambulance. So, I took the baby even when I was  
11          just taking off my shoes, I was still in the  
12          entrance and they passed me the baby because that  
13          baby had no more dad, or mother was in very  
14          critical condition. They didn't know if she was  
15          going to make it or not, but she's alive. Luckily,  
16          she's survived. But when I was there at the  
17          nursing station, I helped the nurses too with box  
18          of blood. When they were filling the mother of  
19          blood, blood infusions, and they couldn't catch up  
20          with her, so I was holding the baby, all bloody,  
21          and I pushed the box of blood. And when the empty  
22          one being pushed away, I put it away.

23          I was busy. I was really busy that morning of  
24          fifteen (15) hours of volunteer. I never went  
25          home. I couldn't leave what was started. I

1           couldn't... I couldn't just turn away. It was big.  
2           It changed my life. For three (3) days, I couldn't  
3           sleep, I couldn't smoke my cigarettes, have my  
4           coffee or eat, not even a nap. Just eyeballs for  
5           three (3) days, no tears. No speak, nothing. Just  
6           sitting and just breathing. I was traumatized. It  
7           broke me. I wanted to save the boy. I tried my  
8           best, but I was too shocked. I wish ambulance were  
9           there.

10                 Us Inuit, us women, we clean our country food,  
11           we cook. We deal with blood and cutting, like  
12           goose meat, caribou meat, seal meat, ptarmigan.  
13           It's our country food. It's our traditional life.  
14           But for me, I never wanted to see that blood, that  
15           food for a long time. It took a long time for me  
16           to get back to my life because it reminds me. All  
17           I see is those people, that guy. It's hard. It  
18           feels like... just last week or just yesterday,  
19           when I think about it, I never... and the town, and  
20           the community, never noticed me or apologized to me  
21           or thanked me for this. I did... I became  
22           ambulance, [REDACTED], a nurse, and a mother  
23           to all. And it wasn't easy. It wasn't easy. It's  
24           still eating me up sometimes. Like, sometimes I  
25           think I could have done more. I wish I could... I

1 did more, but this is all I had. This is all I  
2 could do.

3 It's hard being me, did all this. I was  
4 worried that I wasn't going to be able to speak or  
5 have strength, but I'm happy, even though when I'm  
6 crying, I'm able to talk. It was scary. It was  
7 really scary. I tried to help the boy. [REDACTED]

8 [REDACTED] I... I helped the nurses and I  
9 helped the baby because of lack of First Responders  
10 or too much alcohol in Nunavik, but it had to me.

11 Am I forgetting something?

12 **Me ARIANNE MARTEL:**

13 I don't think you are. Thank you very much.

14 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

15 Thank you very much. I don't think it's necessary  
16 to ask questions. It's clear. And you said it was  
17 scary? I understand. And you are... I feel that  
18 not many person would have done what you did that  
19 day. Most people will hide... will have hidden  
20 somewhere. I think you did the best it was  
21 possible to do. I don't know many person who will  
22 have get out and follow the suspect and speak to  
23 him, try to solve the... to save him.

24 **MME JULIA KUMARLUK:**

25 Yeah.

1       **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

2               This is what you tried to do. I can't see what you  
3               could have done more than what you did.

4       **MME JULIA KUMARLUK:**

5               I...

6       **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

7               This is my feeling, and I want to tell you that you  
8               should feel the same way. You did the best you  
9               could do at the time and you did even more, taking  
10              care of the child after, (*inaudible*) dinners. What  
11              you did was very courageous, and I think you may be  
12              proud of what you did. So, thank you very much for  
13              sharing this with us. I hope it helped you to  
14              speak about it.

15       **MME JULIA KUMARLUK:**

16              I'm sure... I'm sure I'll feel better...

17       **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

18              Yeah.

19       **MME JULIA KUMARLUK:**

20              ... because I feel neglected in Akulivik. Like  
21              they... I'm not... like, I think they should thank  
22              people like that. They should recognize them.

23       **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

24              Um-hum.

25       **MME JULIA KUMARLUK:**

1           At least to apologize and to thank would be good  
2           from them.

3           **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

4           Yeah, what you did...

5           **MME JULIA KUMARLUK:**

6           If it wasn't for me, maybe he would have got more  
7           families of killing, taking their lives if I didn't  
8           show up or... I don't know. I cannot think  
9           anything (*inaudible*) but sometimes I wish it didn't  
10          happen... it didn't happen. It was not in the TV,  
11          it was not in Iraq or Pakistan. It was in Nunavik,  
12          right in front of my home.

13          **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

14          Is there something else? No? So, I'll repeat, you  
15          were very courageous, and you have to be proud of  
16          yourself. You did the best and I can't see what  
17          else can be done. I... you tried to save him.  
18          Feel at peace. Nakurmiik. Thank you for...

19          **MME JULIA KUMARLUK:**

20          Thank you.

21          **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

22          ... sharing with us and I wish you the best. And I  
23          wish you somebody will call and say, "Hey, I need  
24          somebody."

25          **MME JULIA KUMARLUK:**

1           Now... now start hiring fourteen (14) ladies, so  
2           fourteen (14) guys for fourteen (14) communities...

3           **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

4           Um-hum.

5           **MME JULIA KUMARLUK:**

6           ... for each police station...

7           **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

8           Yeah.

9           **MME JULIA KUMARLUK:**

10          ... so, they'll each have janitor, translator, and  
11          a guard as Inuk.

12          **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

13          Yeah. So...

14          **MME JULIA KUMARLUK:**

15          That's from me...

16          **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

17          Yeah.

18          **MME JULIA KUMARLUK:**

19          ... to them.

20          **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

21          So, thank you very much, and I wish...

22          **MME JULIA KUMARLUK:**

23          Thank you.

24          **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

25          ... you the best. We'll suspend till tomorrow

1 morning, nine thirty (9:30)?

2 **Me ARIANNE MARTEL:**

3 Nine... nine o'clock (9:00) I think. Thank you.

4

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5

FIN DE L'AUDIENCE

6

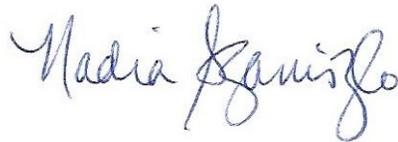
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AND WE HAVE SIGNED:

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