

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 TOWN HALL CENTRE  
400 AIRPORT ROAD  
KUUJJUAQ (QUÉBEC) J0M 1C0

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**POUR LA COMMISSION:**

**Me GENEVIÈVE RICHARD**

**Me ÉDITH FARAH-ELASSAL**

**Me MARIE-ANDRÉE DENIS-BOILEAU**

**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

**POUR LA PARTIE INTERVENANTE :**

**Me JEAN-FRANÇOIS ARTEAU**, Régie  
Régionale de la Santé et des  
Services Sociaux du Nunavik

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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 Québec, presided by the Honourable Jacques Viens,  
6 is now in session.

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

8 Good morning. Welcome this Friday morning in  
9 Kuujjuaq, Inuit Territory, for the last day of our  
10 hearings in Nunavik.

11 I will first ask counsel to introduce  
12 themselves for the benefit of the record.

13 **Me MARIE-ANDRÉE DENIS-BOILEAU,**

14 **PROCUREUR POUR LA COMMISSION VIENS :**

15 Marie-Andrée Denis-Boileau for the Public Inquiry.

16 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

17 Welcome, Me Denis-Boileau.

18 **Me JEAN-FRANÇOIS ARTEAU,**

19 **PROCUREUR POUR LA RÉGIE RÉGIONALE DE LA SANTÉ ET DES**  
20 **SERVICES SOCIAUX DU NUNAVIK :**

21 Bonjour, Monsieur le Commissaire. Bonjour tout le  
22 monde. Jean-François Arteau pour la Régie  
23 Régionale de la Santé et des Services Sociaux du  
24 Nunavik.

25 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

1           Bonjour, Me Arteau.

2           **Me JEAN-FRANÇOIS ARTEAU:**

3           Bonjour.

4           **Me MAXIME LAGANIÈRE,**

5           **PROCUREUR POUR LE DIRECTEUR DES POURSUITES CRIMINELLES**

6           **ET PÉNALES:**

7           Bonjour à tous. Maxime Laganière pour le Directeur  
8           des poursuites criminelles et pénales.

9           **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

10          Bonjour, Me Laganière.

11          **Me MARIE-PAULE BOUCHER,**

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

13          Bonjour. Me Marie-Paule Boucher pour la Procureure  
14          générale du Québec.

15          **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

16          Bonjour, Me Boucher.

17          **Me DENISE ROBILLARD,**

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

19          Bonjour. Denise Robillard pour la Procureure  
20          générale du Québec.

21          **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

22          Bonjour, Me Robillard. So, welcome, all of you.

23          Now, Me Denis-Boileau, you will present the program  
24          of the day?

25          **Me MARIE-ANDRÉE DENIS-BOILEAU:**

1           Yes.

2           **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

3           *(inaudible)* or your first witness?

4           **Me MARIE-ANDRÉE DENIS-BOILEAU :**

5           I'll present my witness. So, this morning, we'll  
6           be hearing from Lucy Grey. So, before I introduce  
7           her further, we can swear her in.

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1 Lucy Grey  
2 Témoin citoyen  
3 Assermentation sur la bible

4 -----

5 **LA GREFFIÈRE-AUDIENCIÈRE :**

6 Thank you.

7 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

8 Welcome. I'm very happy to have you at the  
9 hearing. I will listen carefully what you have to  
10 tell us. Me Denis-Boileau?

11 **Me MARIE-ANDRÉE DENIS-BOILEAU :**

12 So, Ms. Lucy Grey, as everyone know, is our liaison  
13 officer here at the Public Inquiry in Nunavik, but  
14 before that, she has a very lengthy and very full  
15 experience in the justice... in the justice system.  
16 That's the topic she will be talking about this  
17 morning, justice system.

18 So, Lucy served already as a CAVAC worker in  
19 Nunavik. She was also the Director of Makitautik  
20 halfway house, but she was also the coordinator for  
21 Justice Committee for all Nunavik. So, before  
22 Lynne Saint-Louis had that job, Lucy did this job,  
23 the coordinator for all Nunavik. And she was also  
24 an interpreter for the court. So, as you can see,  
25 she has a very (*inaudible*) experience of in

1 justice. So, that's what she was going to...  
2 will talk about this morning.

3 So, Lucy, can you just start and talk to us  
4 about justice?

5 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

6 So, just... just before, I will like to add that as  
7 liaison... liaison officer for us in Nunavik, she  
8 did a great job. She went in all fourteen (14)  
9 communities with the staff of the Commission to  
10 meet people. And if it has been possible to have  
11 hearings in Nunavik, I think we have to thank you.  
12 Thank you very, very, much.

13 **Mme LUCY GREY:**

14 My pleasure. Okay. So, I'm Lucy Grey. I live in  
15 Kangirsuk, Nunavik, on Ungava Bay. Presently, this  
16 year, I have been working as the liaison  
17 coordinator for Nunavik for the Viens Commission.  
18 So that has been an honour and a privilege.  
19 Previous to that, I worked doing replacement as an  
20 interpreter for the CLSC. Previous to that, for  
21 two (2) years, I worked at Makitautik CRC to get  
22 its accreditation back because it had lost its  
23 accreditation.

24 And then previous to that, I worked as a  
25 coordinator for the Dog Slaughter file Makivik

1 Corporation, on-and-off for twelve (12) years. And  
2 then I've worked as a community justice  
3 coordinator, as a CAVAC worker, and interpreter for  
4 the court. So that's... that's my background.

5 So, I've seen... I've seen some... some things  
6 in... in the justice: how justice is rendered, how  
7 justice is... and it's kind of... it's kind of  
8 disturbing. There's... where our Inuit rights are  
9 regularly infringed on. Where Inuit rights are not  
10 respected. People from the government have been  
11 aware of the problems for many decades because the  
12 social problems keeps getting worse. And there's  
13 been reports after reports, different reports on  
14 how (*inaudible*)... you know, there was the Bar  
15 Association of Québec who made these reports, the  
16 reports on how the police stations are. So,  
17 there's (*inaudible*) Justice Task Force, the PRC,  
18 the Truth and Reconciliation, the Royal... you  
19 know, so we've seen a lot of reports. And the  
20 problems that we face are known. They are... they  
21 are documented. The recommendations, we do not see  
22 them followed through.

23 So, the apathy on the problems, the state of  
24 the problems needs to be fixed. Both levels of  
25 government can no longer ignore the deplorable,

1 unjust justice system. I think there's been enough  
2 research, enough that we already know how bad it  
3 is. Now, we need to ensure that our human rights,  
4 that our Aboriginal rights, our rights of human  
5 beings are respected by the system. And this needs  
6 to be done urgently because my people are dying at  
7 an alarming rate.

8 Apathy is killing our people. Ignoring the  
9 problems is killing our people. People are in  
10 despair. People are suffering. The frontline...  
11 I mean, and I do not blame the frontline workers  
12 from these six (6) public services because they've  
13 been telling government officials that they need  
14 the help, and they don't get it, and we all lose.  
15 The people of the region lose, Québec society  
16 loses; Canadians, all of Canada loses by letting  
17 this unjust justice system to continue. And it's  
18 not just in the justice field. This system is  
19 killing our people in all six (6) public services.

20 So, if things are not done immediately, I  
21 don't expect a very good future for our next  
22 generation, as we already in a crisis. You keep  
23 hearing about deaths, the suicides, crisis, people  
24 dying. I mean, this has to stop. What is Québec  
25 and Canada going to do with their fiduciary

1 obligations, which they have said that they would  
2 protect and ensure our wellness? When they... when  
3 they signed the BNA Act, when Québec signed the  
4 Extension Act, nineteen twelve (1912), they took on  
5 these obligations. So, these obligations  
6 regularly, regularly are ignored because report  
7 after report after reports come out to say the  
8 state of the situation, and we do not see anything  
9 getting any better. It's getting worse and I am  
10 deeply concerned for the region of Nunavik. And  
11 this ignorance, this apathy has to stop  
12 immediately.

13 We have the same rights as any other citizen.  
14 How come our rights are not respected? A lot of the  
15 times we heard from these six (6) public  
16 institutions that they do not have the proper  
17 funding, they do not have the proper resources.  
18 So, if it's about money, Québec really needs to  
19 start questioning itself if it can afford Nunavik  
20 because Québec cannot afford to give our basic  
21 services, to respect our basic rights, to respect  
22 our human rights. So, these things, these laws are  
23 there to protect us, but they are hardly ever  
24 applied.

25 Is it because we're in the Arctic? Is it

1           because the colour of skin? Is it because we don't  
2           speak French? Is it because our working language  
3           is English? Is it because it's too expensive? And  
4           if it's too expensive, can Québec afford to keep  
5           its political lines? If not, if Québec cannot  
6           afford to give these basic services, Québec society  
7           really needs to start considering if it can afford  
8           Nunavik. And the way I see it, it cannot because  
9           our basic services cannot be given to us, our basic  
10          rights cannot be respected, and... but the main  
11          reason is monetary.

12                 So, I call on, with my fellow Quebeckers, can  
13          you question yourselves: can you afford Nunavik?  
14          Will you start giving the services to us in  
15          Nunavik, above the 55<sup>th</sup> parallel? A lot of the  
16          times, the court system, the Justice Department,  
17          they always say, "Oh, it's up to the communities.  
18          It's the communities' responsibility to take care  
19          of these social problems." The communities and  
20          the frontline workers, they... we need your help.  
21          This is what we need to do. And regularly,  
22          regularly they are told, "No. We cannot give you  
23          the funding. We cannot give you these things."

24                 So, I think we are at this turning point. We  
25          are at this point where as a society, we really

1           need to question: Is this how we are going to  
2           continue? Is this how people in (*inaudible*)... is  
3           this how they will continue to treat us? And if  
4           they continue to treat, they really need to  
5           consider, is this what they really want to do  
6           consciously? Because ignorance cannot be used as  
7           an excuse anymore. Reports, after reports, after  
8           reports are ignored. And when... with this  
9           Commission, if things don't improve, it's... we're  
10          in a bad situation. I don't think it's going to  
11          get any better. So, my question is to all  
12          Quebeckers, "Can you afford Nunavik?"

13          **Me MARIE-ANDRÉE DENIS-BOILEAU:**

14          You're talking about sometimes the lack of support  
15          that frontline workers can have? You've told me  
16          that when you were a coordinator for Justice  
17          Committees, you tried to start working on Inuit  
18          law, and you didn't have the funding to finish your  
19          research. Can you explain that? And can you  
20          explain what you mean by "Inuit law"?

21          **Mme LUCY GREY:**

22          When colonization started, when the colonization  
23          began in Nunavik -- which was very quite recent --  
24          nineteen twelve (1912), we may have become in the  
25          borders of the Québec Province, but Québec never

1           came up here till, they say, nineteen... late  
2           nineteen sixties (1960s). And our elders say, "We  
3           may have been poor, we may have been cold, but we  
4           lived in harmony." And they say, "We are living  
5           now more comfortably, but social chaos." Chaos,  
6           suffering, despair, and it's getting worse, and  
7           worse, and worse. So, Inuit had a way to apply  
8           their law, and it's not customary law. It's not  
9           customary law, it's the law. It's the law. And  
10          when you put the label "customary law," it is very  
11          paternalistic. It is the view of a colonizer that  
12          our ways are less than, that they are customary.  
13          And when they introduced their law, it's the law.  
14          But the same word in Inuktitut for law, is the  
15          same, whether we're talking about the Constitution  
16          or if we're talking about the Criminal Code or when  
17          we're talking about Inuit law.

18                 So, when colonization started, they said, "Your  
19          way doesn't work. We are... you are now going to  
20          use our way of how we render justice." And because  
21          Inuit back then thought that the Qallunaat and the  
22          Wee-wees (*ph*) knew a lot more, they said... they let  
23          go. They let go of their social control. They let  
24          go of their own laws. And it's crucial at this  
25          point that we do the research to really find out

1           how these laws were applied, how these laws were  
2           practiced, what these laws were, because when I  
3           first started working as a community justice  
4           coordinator, I had nothing... absolutely no  
5           literature to fall back on. What is Inuit law?  
6           How did they render law? How did they... how did  
7           they have a form of a social control? Because  
8           there was no crimes. There were no police. I  
9           mean, of course, there were crimes, but not at this  
10          level. Inuit had social control. Inuit even had  
11          to do executions when need it be. And these...  
12          when these laws were applied, there was careful  
13          considerations.

14                 Now, our elders... our unilingual elders who  
15                 were born in igloos, who... who were born in tents,  
16                 who lived the nomadic life, we are losing these  
17                 walking encyclopedias. Every time an elder passes  
18                 away, we lose a big chunk of history. We lose a  
19                 big chunk of their knowledge, and we have been  
20                 asking for this for a good thirty (30), forty (40)  
21                 years. The answer always is, "There's no funding."

22                 So, it was very difficult, extremely difficult  
23                 to figure out how they rendered and how they  
24                 practiced Inuit law. The biggest challenge working  
25                 with the Justice Committees was having them believe

1           in their own system. I was trying to convince that  
2           our laws were better, that they were more just,  
3           that real justice was rendered, that... because the  
4           main goal is to... for harmony, for social harmony.  
5           And when this foreign system came in, it just  
6           destroyed the social fabric of how our society  
7           worked, to the point where people are dying at  
8           alarming rates... alarming rates. Where our  
9           prisoners are sent so far away that you cannot even  
10          talk to your family? The only way to is to call,  
11          and this puts a financial burden on the families.

12                 Now, imagine... imagine, let's say a country  
13          that has to hear (*inaudible*) would come to Québec,  
14          deal with the justice, take the prisoners, bring  
15          them back, and then they're imprisoned in a  
16          language they don't understand, with a law that  
17          they don't understand. So, this is the very  
18          situation that we are in. A foreign country,  
19          because Nunavik is almost a different country,  
20          different landscape. We may have the Canadian  
21          dollar, but it's the Canadian peso up here. Your  
22          one dollar (\$1.00) is worth one dollar (\$1.00).  
23          When you come up here, it's worth thirty-three  
24          cents (\$0.33). The way we pay taxes, you pay one  
25          dollar (\$1.00) for this, and on taxes, you pay

1           fifteen cents (\$0.15), fifteen percent (15%). The  
2           same product comes to Nunavik, it's now worth three  
3           dollars (\$3.00), and we have to pay forty-five  
4           cents (\$0.45) on the same object.

5           So, Nunavik is, in a way, almost a different  
6           country within Québec, within Canada. So... so,  
7           this new foreign system that our elders were told  
8           were better, is not. It's not working. And report  
9           after report, after report will confirm this.

10       **Me MARIE-ANDRÉE DENIS-BOILEAU:**

11           This Inuit law, you said that there's these walking  
12           encyclopedias now, and that more and more, it's  
13           being lost. Could it be applied, according to you,  
14           to all infractions in Nunavik?

15       **Mme LUCY GREY:**

16           Yes. Definitely. As I said before, Inuit rendered  
17           executions when needed be... when needed be. Now,  
18           these Justice Committees are only dealing with  
19           small little summary convictions. It's not... and  
20           the real problem, the court system, the Crown,  
21           refuses to give more power to the Justice  
22           Committees. Now, I worked on the Justice Committee  
23           year two thousand (2000). It's been eighteen (18)  
24           years. They haven't been given more power. They  
25           haven't been given more training. I mean...

1           So, it's urgent that we research on Inuit law.  
2           It's urgent that we start applying Inuit law, that  
3           Inuit law is practiced, and the court system can  
4           take care of the summary convictions. We can take  
5           care of the indictable offences. We don't... we  
6           don't want to deal with the small stuff. The court  
7           can deal with the small stuff and postpone, and  
8           postpone, and postpone. If there's a crime  
9           committed, we... in our Inuit law, we take care of  
10          it right away and resolve it. The way the system  
11          is applied, it takes average, two (2), three (3),  
12          four (4) years. Is this justice? No. This is an  
13          unjust justice system.

14          **Me MARIE-ANDRÉE DENIS-BOILEAU:**

15          You were talking of the fact that... that Nunavik  
16          seems like a foreign country, and now the court is  
17          from Abitibi. You were telling me that you have  
18          a... you don't like that. Can you explain?

19          **Mme LUCY GREY:**

20          Abitibi might as well be across the ocean. Abitibi  
21          might as well be near Australia. We have no  
22          connection to Abitibi. Our connection is in the  
23          Montreal region. They're where our organization...  
24          Inuit organizations are, where our medical... where  
25          we get medical attention. No one goes to Abitibi.

1           No one goes to Val D'Or. There's no Inuit living  
2           there, and these Inuit are put in Amos. Totally  
3           isolated. No one there to protect them. No one  
4           there to ease them. No one there to... to ensure  
5           that they are corrected. They always, regularly,  
6           come back more damaged, more hurt. And then  
7           they... and then they become repeat offenders.

8           So, all these people from Abitibi, that might  
9           as well be across the ocean, give... they are...  
10          they administer our justice. They come in on the  
11          charter. They come in and then they're full of  
12          dockets. And then they are totally, most of the  
13          time, totally unaware of how our social fabric  
14          works. They're totally unaware of how our culture  
15          works. Totally unaware that there was even Inuit  
16          law, and Inuit justice system.

17          So, Abitibi... you know, it'd be better if...  
18          if the justice was administered at least from the  
19          Montreal region. If our people could be imprisoned  
20          in the Montreal region, there's direct flights  
21          there, there's Inuit living in the Montreal region.  
22          There's Inuit organizations there. It's easier to  
23          get there. If you want to go to Abitibi -- and  
24          this happened to me regularly when I worked on the  
25          Viens Commission -- I would come from Kangirsuk,

1 I'd have to fly down to Montreal and take a flight  
2 from Montreal to Val D'Or. And this regularly  
3 happens to Inuit inmates. Cruel. What a cruel  
4 way, where they have not even been found guilty.  
5 They fly them in from their community, they bring  
6 them to Montreal, and then they have to take a  
7 vehicle to drive to Val-D'Or. And that's what?  
8 Eight (8) hours? Nine (9) hours, in good  
9 condition? So, how long does it take for a prisoner  
10 to finally get to Amos? It takes... it takes  
11 shorter to go to Europe. That's how far it is.  
12 That's how far Abitibi is. No connection to us.  
13 And... and just put aside to that, Nunavik  
14 does not even have a representative in the Québec  
15 legislative assembly. We are... we are in the same  
16 region, it's called Ungava, but it's part of  
17 Abitibi. And our will, our need to get a proper  
18 representative -- because our numbers are a lot  
19 less -- we'll never get an Inuk in the legislative  
20 assembly. And I find it really ironic that  
21 Magdalen Islands, less population, they have...  
22 they have a representative. How come we don't have  
23 a representative? Québec society likes to say, "We  
24 have a distinct language, and we have a distinct  
25 culture." But they turn around and do not respect

1           these very foundations that they get so mad about  
2           when they... they're not respected.

3           **Me MARIE-ANDRÉE DENIS-BOILEAU:**

4           And about this law situation, you were talking  
5           about the fact that for a lot of professions, for  
6           example, in Québec, if you want to be a lawyer,  
7           there is no school in Québec who can teach you law  
8           only in English.

9           **Mme LUCY GREY:**

10          No.

11          **Me MARIE-ANDRÉE DENIS-BOILEAU:**

12          And that's a problem. So, Inuit people can't  
13          become lawyers.

14          **Mme LUCY GREY:**

15          No.

16          **Me MARIE-ANDRÉE DENIS-BOILEAU:**

17          *(inaudible)*

18          **Mme LUCY GREY:**

19          They're not becoming nurses, and they cannot become  
20          doctors, and they cannot become accountants because  
21          our working language is English, and this is  
22          regularly, regularly... I mean, we're in Canada,  
23          where we fall under the Charter of Rights and  
24          Freedom, where our rights are supposed to be  
25          protected, but not in Québec because they use the

1 non-withstanding clause, because they openly  
2 discriminate against non-French speaking people.  
3 Historically, the Federal people came first and  
4 only much later did Québec come. So, a lot of us  
5 were not educated in French. We don't understand  
6 French, so we cannot be fully participatory. We  
7 cannot fully participate in this society.

8 **Me MARIE-ANDRÉE DENIS-BOILEAU:**

9 Earlier, you were talking about the fact that for  
10 the criminals, they are being sent down south, and  
11 it's... what it did sometimes, is that the  
12 criminals become the martyr.

13 **Mme LUCY GREY:**

14 Uh-hum. I'll use an example. Domestic violence...  
15 domestic violence has exploded. More than half of  
16 the dockets is domestic violence. It's creating  
17 deplorable situations. It makes it even worse  
18 because of the housing shortage. Inuit did not  
19 accept domestic violence at all, and they had a way  
20 to deal with it, where we... they were regularly  
21 told, "A man will lose his strength if he strikes a  
22 woman." Now, it's almost accepted.

23 And when a woman gets in danger -- and I saw  
24 this regularly as a CAVAC worker -- this man who,  
25 in the past, forty (40), fifty (50) years ago would

1           have been corrected right away, but now, because  
2           the control is not within our community anymore,  
3           because a foreign court, justice system comes in  
4           what, four (4), five (5) times a year? They come  
5           in, and then three (3), four (4) years later, a  
6           sentence is finally rendered. The man then is put  
7           in Abitibi, that might as well be in a different  
8           country, and then he is seen as a martyr. And then  
9           the woman then, is told, "You... you shouldn't have  
10          pressed charges." And then the woman then gets  
11          the burden, you know, she... who wants to live in a  
12          violent situation? And then when that happens, the  
13          man is sent away, and then he becomes the martyr;  
14          doesn't see his family, he's gone a long time, you  
15          don't see him.

16                 So, and then, most of the time, when young  
17          families... he's... he's the breadwinner. You  
18          know, he... he's the one that's... that is  
19          supplying for food; he's hunting. Supplying, you  
20          know, providing for his family. And when he is  
21          removed, that puts the family in a vulnerable  
22          situation. The young kids, they no longer have  
23          someone to feed them. So, people get... women now  
24          have to make a decision, "Will I feed my kids and  
25          be protected, or will I accept to be beaten up?"

1           And even when she knows... even when she knows she  
2           needs to leave, where is she going to go? Where is  
3           she going to go? There's no women's shelters.  
4           There's women's shelters in large communities. You  
5           know, women's shelters are badly needed in the  
6           smaller communities, but they will never get it  
7           because it costs too much. She will become...  
8           *(inaudible)* she will become vulnerable. Where is  
9           she going to go?

10                 So, these social situations are made worse by  
11           this foreign system that has good intentions, but  
12           it makes it worse and it does not... it's not  
13           justice. It's an unjust justice system. So  
14           that's... that's an example.

15           **Me MARIE-ANDRÉE DENIS-BOILEAU:**

16                 So, you were just saying about the fact that the  
17           criminal can become... becomes the martyr, but as  
18           well that the victims... so this woman who is being  
19           beaten up, she can become like the villain...

20           **Mme LUCY GREY:**

21                 Yeah.

22           **Me MARIE-ANDRÉE DENIS-BOILEAU:**

23                 ... for some people?

24           **Mme LUCY GREY:**

25                 Yes.

1 **Me MARIE-ANDRÉE DENIS-BOILEAU:**

2 How come?

3 **Mme LUCY GREY:**

4 Because she's seen as the person who talk to the  
5 police, and then she's the one that sent the man  
6 away. And regularly, regularly, as a CAVAC worker,  
7 I have... women tell me, "I want to drop the  
8 charges." And as a victim support agent, I had to  
9 support them in these decisions. And the  
10 prosecutors don't like it, the police don't like  
11 it. So, then they start making the criminal, who  
12 did the offence, even worse. So, then they become  
13 targets.

14 **Me MARIE-ANDRÉE DENIS-BOILEAU:**

15 What do you mean "they become targets"?

16 **Mme LUCY GREY:**

17 A woman has pressed charges, so then she wants to  
18 drop the charges because she's going to get into a  
19 worse situation, so then the police and the Crown  
20 become aware that, you know, she's experiencing  
21 violence. So, then they will feel that they need  
22 to protect her, but the best way to protect her is  
23 if Inuit law is applied in a situation like that  
24 because they had a way to deal with domestic  
25 violence.

1 **Me MARIE-ANDRÉE DENIS-BOILEAU:**

2 Now, going back to Inuit law, you were telling me  
3 about what we called "legends," the "Inuit  
4 legends." Can you talk about that?

5 **Mme LUCY GREY:**

6 Inuit legends... in the Inuit legends, there are  
7 teachings. There is teachings that tell you how  
8 should conduct yourself, and how you should not  
9 conduct yourself. So, these legends, in them, is  
10 our criminal code. In these legends, it clearly  
11 tells you what the law is, what Inuit law is, and  
12 what the consequences are if you do not respect  
13 this... these law.

14 **Me MARIE-ANDRÉE DENIS-BOILEAU:**

15 So, you're telling me, sometimes you don't like  
16 that we call them "legends"?

17 **Mme LUCY GREY:**

18 It's like when you say, "customary law," very  
19 paternalistic, very colonialistic. It doesn't  
20 respect... it doesn't see it as an equal. It's sub  
21 par because the court system is so afraid that  
22 we're going to let the criminals get away with it  
23 when... if we were to apply our law, we'd be a  
24 little bit more harsh. But because they are taken  
25 away in very cruel, like cruel, inhumane, they

1           become the martyrs. And then, the social system,  
2           the social fabric of harmony is broken. So, when  
3           the court system says, "Oh, it's up to the  
4           communities." Ah, and lawlessness. No, it's the  
5           court system that has brought this lawlessness  
6           because they were controlled. There was social  
7           control. They had the way to deal with criminals.  
8           They had a way to deal with crime, and they... and  
9           they did it in a humane, just way. And this new  
10          justice system is unjust and it's inhumane.

11       **Me MARIE-ANDRÉE DENIS-BOILEAU:**

12           Can you explain us what the word used for "law" in  
13           Inuit, and is it different when you talk about  
14           Inuit law or you talk about English law?

15       **Mme LUCY GREY:**

16           (*Inuktitut*) means it's... it literally means "how  
17           you should conduct yourself." There is no  
18           difference when we talk Inuit law or Qallunaat Wee-  
19           wee law. It's the law. It's not customary law.  
20           It's not traditional. It's the law. And the very  
21           wording, the very way things are described needs to  
22           change. The very description when a non-Inuk hear  
23           customary law compared to, let's say, criminal law,  
24           customary law being not legitimate. But they're  
25           legitimate because it works, and maybe the

1           Qallunaat Wee-wee law has something to learn from  
2           our Inuit law.

3           **Me MARIE-ANDRÉE DENIS-BOILEAU:**

4           So, going back to the fact that you started a  
5           research, but on Inuit law, what did you do to  
6           start it and how... why did it stop, and what...  
7           what was started?

8           **Mme LUCY GREY:**

9           Because there was absolutely no literature, like  
10          there was nothing. I had... I mean, there was the  
11          Inuit Justice Task Force and, you know, they kind  
12          of explained, but there was no real... nothing in  
13          writing. You know, it was all in... in the elders'  
14          heads, these walking encyclopedias. So, when I  
15          first started, I was like, "Where do I start? What  
16          is Inuit law?" How did they... how did they render  
17          justice? How did they... how did they do it?

18          So, I approached Dr. (*inaudible*)... the late  
19          Dr. (*inaudible*) Palluq(*ph*) from Kangiqsujuaq. So,  
20          I went and spent a couple of days, and I asked her  
21          a lot of questions. So, it was all done in  
22          Inuktitut. So, at that time, at Makivik, we  
23          produced a little booklet on... on how justice was  
24          practiced, but it hasn't been translated. It's the  
25          only elder that I went and talked to. There's a

1 lot more. They need to be documented. It needs to  
2 be researched. But again, there's no money because  
3 it's not legitimate in the eyes of the Qallunaat  
4 Wee-wee law, because it's customary law.

5 **Me MARIE-ANDRÉE DENIS-BOILEAU:**

6 So, this research you started, so you did it for  
7 yourself, but for who did you do it? Why... how  
8 would you think it could be used after?

9 **Mme LUCY GREY:**

10 Because we needed to know how Inuit rendered  
11 justice. We're going to start Justice Committees,  
12 we need to know how we... what is the Inuit law?  
13 And a lot of the knowledge that the... and you  
14 know, it's really, really unfortunate because there  
15 were amazing, knowledgeable elders who were Justice  
16 Committee members who could have helped. But no  
17 resources, no money. It's scary. It's scary to  
18 think when Québec and Canada finally open their  
19 eyes, we're going to lose these walking  
20 encyclopedias. And what are we going to do with  
21 the younger generation? How... who's going to guide  
22 us? And we don't even have it in writing. It's  
23 scary to think, but this is our reality. It needs  
24 to be done urgently, and we've been saying as a  
25 society, "This needs to be done urgently," for the

1           last thirty (30) years.

2           Apathy is killing our people. Apathy is  
3           killing our culture. Apathy is the cause of this  
4           social chaos. People are dying. People are living  
5           in despair and suffering, and we heard this. I  
6           heard this throughout the whole year. You heard it  
7           the last two (2) weeks, the despair. But what  
8           keeps us going is... is our culture. In our...  
9           Inuit are very forgiving, and... and the White  
10          Qallunaat Wee-wees, it's kind of hard... have a  
11          hard time with that. They want to punish. Punish.  
12          But the unconscious of justice is to bring social  
13          harmony, and that... this version is not bringing  
14          harmony, it's bringing chaos. Chaos, chaos, so  
15          much chaos and suffering. And... and because  
16          people do not believe in this justice system,  
17          there's so many people that are silent that would  
18          never come forth that we know who need help.  
19          People who need the services, who need healing,  
20          have nowhere to go. Nowhere to go. It's so  
21          fucking sad.

22                 I'm sorry. I need to take a break.

23           **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

24                 We'll take...

25           SUSPENSION

1 -----

2 REPRISE

3 **LA GREFFIÈRE-AUDIENCIÈRE :**

4 The Commission is back in session.

5 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

6 So, welcome back. You're continuing?

7 **Me MARIE-ANDRÉE DENIS-BOILEAU :**

8 Yes.

9 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

10 Yes?

11 **Me MARIE-ANDRÉE DENIS-BOILEAU :**

12 Before we continue, I'm just going to file into  
13 evidence the Inuit Justice Task Force Report under  
14 P-1141. Yes.

15 - PIÈCE COTÉE P-1141 -

16 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

17 This is the piece.

18 **Me MARIE-ANDRÉE DENIS-BOILEAU :**

19 So, now we're going back... we're back with Lucy  
20 Grey. Mrs. Grey was director of Makitautik. Can  
21 you just tell me, more or less, in which year you  
22 were the director of Makitautik?

23 **Mme LUCY GREY :**

24 Makitautik lost its... lost its accreditation  
25 because of the Wee-wee Qallunaat rigid rules.

1 Makitautik is a... is a community reintegration  
2 centre that is based on Inuit rehabilitation  
3 practices, but it's severely underfunded. It's  
4 severely restricted. So, it cannot fully give the  
5 services the Inuit population deserve. It gives  
6 regional services to all of Nunavik, to Inuit  
7 inmates who have been in provincial system. So,  
8 what happens is that they... the big large  
9 component of Maktautik is the "On the land  
10 Program," learning Inuit history and culture. It's  
11 about empowering the... the Inuit men offenders.  
12 It's for... it's just for Inuit offenders.

13 And it was very difficult. Like, we lost...  
14 we didn't have the funding and I can just... I can  
15 talk about it all day, but it's severely  
16 underfunded. It's severely underused. It's  
17 severely undervalued like our Inuit value systems.

18 **Me MARIE-ANDRÉE DENIS-BOILEAU:**

19 You're saying in... it's underused. Why do you  
20 think it's underused?

21 **Mme LUCY GREY:**

22 Well, there's fourteen (14) beds. How many Inuit  
23 inmates are in the provincial system? You can tell  
24 me better, how many there are.

25 **Me MARIE-ANDRÉE DENIS-BOILEAU:**

1 I don't know the numbers, but I can... much more  
2 than...

3 **Mme LUCY GREY:**

4 I'm sure it's...

5 **Me MARIE-ANDRÉE DENIS-BOILEAU:**

6 ... fourteen (14).

7 **Mme LUCY GREY:**

8 ... too high.

9 **Me MARIE-ANDRÉE DENIS-BOILEAU:**

10 Yes.

11 **Mme LUCY GREY:**

12 Proportionately, way too high.

13 **Me MARIE-ANDRÉE DENIS-BOILEAU:**

14 Yes. What do you think Makitautik would need to be  
15 exploited to its full potential... be used to its  
16 full potential, what would it need?

17 **Mme LUCY GREY:**

18 Because it will... it... it works. It's efficient.  
19 It uses Inuit values and it's... it works. Sending  
20 Inuit inmates to be caged like animals, to  
21 deplorable, inhumane conditions that are not even  
22 at par to the French Wee-wee inmate population, I  
23 mean, it's... this is the way real rehabilitation,  
24 corrections, should be practised, using Inuit  
25 values, practices and Inuit law.

1 **Me MARIE-ANDRÉE DENIS-BOILEAU:**

2 So, you were talking about the fact that it's  
3 underused, only four (4) beds when we know that the  
4 numbers are very high of Inuit people being  
5 incarcerated. You said it's underfunded.

6 **Mme LUCY GREY:**

7 Um-hum.

8 **Me MARIE-ANDRÉE DENIS-BOILEAU:**

9 So, I presume you think that if we want to use it  
10 better, if we want to use more Makitautik, we need  
11 more funding...

12 **Mme LUCY GREY:**

13 Yes.

14 **Me MARIE-ANDRÉE DENIS-BOILEAU:**

15 ... first? It needs...

16 **Mme LUCY GREY:**

17 Needs more infrastructure, it needs more funding.  
18 There needs to be more research done on Inuit law  
19 and Inuit corrections and Inuit rehabilitation  
20 procedures.

21 **Me MARIE-ANDRÉE DENIS-BOILEAU:**

22 So, these are the steps that you think that are  
23 needed for Makitautik to work more, to take more  
24 people to be...

25 **Mme LUCY GREY:**

1           Yeah, because people at Makitautik... you know,  
2           because most of the cases that come, we work...  
3           they work on the offender, but the offender goes  
4           back home to a situation that hasn't changed. So,  
5           if you're really going to do proper rehabilitation,  
6           proper correction of their past behaviours, you  
7           need to do it... approach it as a family unit. If  
8           a man is in there having... there for, let's say,  
9           for domestic violence, how can you really correct  
10          him without the... without the spouse there? And a  
11          lot of the times, the offenders will come to  
12          Makitautik and their families will follow, but  
13          there is no proper house for them. So, then they  
14          end up being in homes and, you know, we can't  
15          really recruit from outside Kangirsuk because  
16          there's no staff housing. So, our... our... the  
17          pool to hire qualified, knowledgeable people is  
18          very restrictive.

19          **Me MARIE-ANDRÉE DENIS-BOILEAU:**

20                 So, it's hard to hire outside Kangirsuk?

21          **Mme LUCY GREY:**

22                 Impossible.

23          **Me MARIE-ANDRÉE DENIS-BOILEAU:**

24                 Okay.

25          **Mme LUCY GREY:**

1           It's not just hard, it's impossible.

2           **Me MARIE-ANDRÉE DENIS-BOILEAU:**

3           Because there is no house for them, or...

4           **Mme LUCY GREY:**

5           There's no house, there's no benefits. There's...  
6           you know, when they hire, let's say, probation  
7           officers, they get trips, they get housing, they  
8           get cargo, they get benefits. And what do Inuit  
9           get? Nothing.

10          **Me MARIE-ANDRÉE DENIS-BOILEAU:**

11          None of that.

12          **Mme LUCY GREY:**

13          None of that.

14          **Me MARIE-ANDRÉE DENIS-BOILEAU:**

15          Okay. You said also it's undervalued, what do you  
16          mean by that?

17          **Mme LUCY GREY:**

18          Well, it should be used more. There should be more  
19          of a collaboration with the... Amos and Saint-  
20          Jérôme Detention Centres. You know, it should be  
21          used... the beds should be full.

22          **Me MARIE-ANDRÉE DENIS-BOILEAU:**

23          It's not full?

24          **Mme LUCY GREY:**

25          Hardly.

1 **Me MARIE-ANDRÉE DENIS-BOILEAU:**

2 How come?

3 **Mme LUCY GREY:**

4 I don't know. You can tell me that.

5 **Me MARIE-ANDRÉE DENIS-BOILEAU:**

6 Um-hum.

7 **Mme LUCY GREY:**

8 Maybe people from the Correctional System can tell  
9 you that. I can't answer that. I don't know.

10 **Me MARIE-ANDRÉE DENIS-BOILEAU:**

11 Okay. Are the sexual offenders, can... do they...  
12 can they go to...

13 **Mme LUCY GREY:**

14 No.

15 **Me MARIE-ANDRÉE DENIS-BOILEAU:**

16 ... Makitautik?

17 **Mme LUCY GREY:**

18 No, no.

19 **Me MARIE-ANDRÉE DENIS-BOILEAU:**

20 Okay.

21 **Mme LUCY GREY:**

22 When Makitautik was first established, the  
23 Community of Kangirsuk said they do not want sexual  
24 offenders to go to the community. They... they  
25 felt that this would put the population at risk,

1 and sexual deviation and sexual crimes, you know,  
2 the only one for Inuit is in a Federal... it's in  
3 the Federal system in Fenbrook, but you have to be  
4 in the Federal system. So, there is no real  
5 program for sexual offenders to get the proper  
6 programs so that they will not reoffend again.

7 **Me MARIE-ANDRÉE DENIS-BOILEAU:**

8 Okay.

9 **Mme LUCY GREY:**

10 And none of that is available, unless you're in the  
11 Federal system, and this... and the Fenbrook, the  
12 Tupiq program, it's more specifically for the  
13 Nunavut Inuit... Inuit in Nunavut.

14 **Me MARIE-ANDRÉE DENIS-BOILEAU:**

15 Okay.

16 **Mme LUCY GREY:**

17 So, there's nothing, and we cannot treat... and we  
18 also, at Makitautik, we cannot take clients in with  
19 mental health issues because we do not have the  
20 capacity or the expertise to offer services like  
21 that. So sexual offenders and... and people with  
22 psychiatric challenges cannot... cannot go to  
23 Makitautik.

24 **Me MARIE-ANDRÉE DENIS-BOILEAU:**

25 Okay. Are the people in Makitautik being consulted

1           for the... with the plan when people go back into  
2           the community?

3       **Mme LUCY GREY:**

4           No.

5       **Me MARIE-ANDRÉE DENIS-BOILEAU:**

6           No?

7       **Mme LUCY GREY:**

8           Well, there was supposed to be, but... no, no.  
9           There's no funding, there's no resource for that.  
10          The hockey program in Nunavik gets more funding  
11          than Makitautik.

12       **Me MARIE-ANDRÉE DENIS-BOILEAU:**

13          So, I understand that there is no... Makitautik  
14          doesn't take women?

15       **Mme LUCY GREY:**

16          No. And we have seen women offenders skyrocket.  
17          We hardly saw women in the court system about  
18          fifteen (15), twenty (20) years ago. It's almost  
19          like half of them now. Isn't that like an  
20          alarming... and people have been asking, Nunavik  
21          needs a CRC for women and then Québec officials  
22          say, "Oh, get... fix Makitautik first before we  
23          even talk about the women."

24       **Me MARIE-ANDRÉE DENIS-BOILEAU:**

25          Uh-hum.

1 **Mme LUCY GREY:**

2 So, Makitautik can't be fixed unless they're given  
3 the proper tools. Because as people said, we are  
4 ready as a society to take care of our problems,  
5 and we've been saying this for years... years.

6 **Me MARIE-ANDRÉE DENIS-BOILEAU:**

7 So, I understand one of the questions was, "Do you  
8 think you have appropriate support by the Ministry?"

9 **Mme LUCY GREY:**

10 Absolutely not.

11 **Me MARIE-ANDRÉE DENIS-BOILEAU:**

12 Okay.

13 **Mme LUCY GREY:**

14 Like, we heard from the Ministry, you know,  
15 previous: there's no issue with FASD. As a  
16 community, we know it's a huge problem. Have they  
17 addressed it? No. Are they going to? I don't  
18 know. We need... we need allies. We need  
19 Quebeckers to become our allies in order to change  
20 this.

21 **Me MARIE-ANDRÉE DENIS-BOILEAU:**

22 I have no more questions on Makitautik. Do you  
23 want to add something on that or anything else, or?

24 **Mme LUCY GREY:**

25 No.

1       **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

2               Will you have questions, Me Laganière?

3       **Me MAXIME LAGANIÈRE :**

4               No questions. Thank you very much.

5       **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

6               Me Boucher?

7       **Me MARIE-PAULE BOUCHER :**

8               I won't have any questions. Thank you for your  
9               testimony.

10       **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

11              Me Robillard?

12       **Me DENISE ROBILLARD :**

13              I don't have questions. Thank you.

14       **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

15              So, I understand counsel representing government  
16              don't have any questions, but I hope they heard  
17              what you told, what you said, and that they will  
18              transmit it to government authorities.

19              It's the last day of two (2) weeks of hearing  
20              in Nunavik. A week in Kuujjuarapik, and this week  
21              in Kuujjuaq. I will repeat myself, we are proud of  
22              our large province, proud to have Nunavik, which  
23              represents a third of the province. But, as Mrs.  
24              Grey told, can Québec afford Nunavik? I think it's  
25              a real question. I won't repeat all what you said.

1 I can't repeat it the way you did it. I think you  
2 and other witnesses, we listened during these two  
3 (2) weeks, shall be listened to and people shall  
4 try to understand the message you're transmitting.

5 I realize that people of Nunavik forgive, used  
6 to do it. I was told last Friday by Mayor Anthony  
7 Ittoshat in Kuujjuarapik, we should add "hope" to  
8 the words on the post, the word post, "hope." So,  
9 I understand there's still hope in Nunavik, but for  
10 how long? Mrs. Grey is telling it's urgent to do  
11 something, not only in the justice system, health,  
12 social services, police, correctional, Youth  
13 Protection. I have the feeling it's urgent. And  
14 for how long they will have hope in Nunavik? I  
15 think we have to do something while there is still  
16 hope.

17 I hope government will listen, will understand  
18 that they... people representing each of the six  
19 (6) services and even more because what's involved  
20 in these six (6) services, there's relied also to  
21 other services: problem of housing, education,  
22 training. I hope they will come and sit with  
23 people here to listen to them, and to do with them  
24 what will be necessary to change the situation.  
25 It's not just that the justice system doesn't work

1 at all. I'm hearing what's going on. I saw it by  
2 myself in the past and I believe people telling me  
3 it's not working at all. It's getting worse. It's  
4 not the justice system, it's the system destroying  
5 harmony and families and communities, and nothing  
6 is done.

7 So, Mrs. Grey, thank you very much for  
8 sharing with us. Thank you for the work we did  
9 with the Inquiry Commission in Nunavik.

10 **Mme LUCY GREY:**

11 It was an honour.

12 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

13 Yes, it was an honour and a necessity for us  
14 because you are the person who gave opportunity to  
15 people of Nunavik to be heard in this Commission,  
16 and I want to thank you very much. And I think  
17 people from Nunavik may thank you also, because  
18 you're the person who gathered everybody, so we can  
19 listen to them. So, nakurmiik, and I wish you the  
20 best. And don't quit. You're... you're... people  
21 of Nunavik need you.

22 **Mme LUCY GREY:**

23 No, I'll never quit that. Never.

24 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

25 And keep hope.

1 **Mme LUCY GREY:**

2           Yeah. We have hope. We have hope in this  
3           Commission.

4 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

5           Yes, but...

6 **Mme LUCY GREY:**

7           There's a lot riding on this Commission.

8 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

9           But, like I told you before, I don't have the power  
10          to change things. I just have the power to tell  
11          it, and even to write it. And it will be done.  
12          Take it for granted. So, nakurmiik again. Thank  
13          you very...

14 **Mme LUCY GREY:**

15          Nakurmiik.

16 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

17          So, we'll suspend, take a break before going with  
18          the next witness.

19 SUSPENSION

20 -----

21 REPRISE

22 **LA GREFFIÈRE-AUDIENCIÈRE:**

23          The Commission is back in session.

24 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

25          So, welcome back.

1                   Maître Elassal, you will present the next  
2                   witness?

3                   **Me ÉDITH-FARAH ELASSAL:**

4                   Yes. And, maybe, if I may, before just to add into  
5                   evidence some documents that we have received  
6                   yesterday? During the testimony of the Nunavik  
7                   Regional Board of Health and Social Services, we  
8                   filed in a brief that was submitted in English and  
9                   French. So, I would like to add, in Inuktitut, the  
10                  version of the brief.

11                  So, it's going to be under the same quotation:  
12                  P-1137 and M-023.

13   **- PIÈCE COTÉE P-1137 -**

14                  And, the second thing, is regarding the  
15                  testimony of the Midwifery Program on the Hudson  
16                  Coast. We received recommendation about important  
17                  action needed for the Midwife Re-education Program.  
18                  So, I'm going to add it to the document we filed in  
19                  the course of that testimony.

20                  So, that would be under P-1131.1.

21   **- PIÈCE COTÉE P-1131.1 -**

22                  So, those were the two follow-ups I wanted to  
23                  do before going on.

24                  So, we have with us, now, Mary Aitchison, who  
25                  is the chairperson of Histoire civique recovery

1 Centre.

2 So, welcome. Before we start, we are going to  
3 swear you in on the Bible.

4 **Mme MARY AITCHISON:**

5 Nakurmiik.

6 **ME ÉDITH-FARAH ELASSAL:**

7 Oh, yeah. Maybe I should file in another evidence  
8 regarding your PowerPoint. So, it's going to be  
9 under P-1141.

10 **ME ÉDITH-FARAH ELASSAL:**

11 Four-two, I'm sorry.

12 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

13 Four-two?

14 **ME ÉDITH-FARAH ELASSAL:**

15 Yeah.

16 - PIÈCE COTÉE P-1142 -

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1 Mary Aitchison  
2 Vice-présidente/Isuarsivik Treatment Centre  
3 Assermentée

4 -----

5 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

6 So, welcome. Thank you for sharing with us.

7 **Mme MARY AITCHISON:**

8 Nakurmiik. Is my microphone on?

9 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

10 Yeah.

11 **Mme MARY AITCHISON:**

12 Nakurmiik.

13 **Mme MARY AITCHISON: [TRANSLATION]**

14 Alors, merci. Ce dont je vais parler... Je suis  
15 très reconnaissante pour avoir ce privilège pour  
16 cette commission d'enquête au Nunavik je vais  
17 parler d'Histoire civique. Je vais essayer d'être  
18 brève.

19 Alors, concernant moi et les directeurs, dans  
20 quel état nous nous trouvons, auxquelles est aux  
21 conditions actuelles concernant la toxicomanie et  
22 les services de ceux qui ont besoin de services  
23 pour la toxicomanie?

24 Alors, Histoire civique essaye d'obtenir un  
25 nouveau bâtiment, mais aussi nous avons des plans

1 commençant en 2016 à 2036, et j'aimerais aussi  
2 exprimer que nous avons de l'espoir avec cette  
3 Commission. Avec cette -- pour les recommandations  
4 futures.

5 Premièrement, Histoire civique, nous sommes  
6 reconnaissants qu'elle existe, parce que j'ai été  
7 élevée, j'ai été élevée, je suis une des aînées ici  
8 et je connais nos valeurs inuites. J'allais avec  
9 les voyages de chien avec mon père et, durant  
10 l'hiver, nous allions sur les territoires et,  
11 lorsque l'été arrivait, on allait sur le rivage de  
12 l'océan, et je suis assez vieille pour avoir eu le  
13 privilège de vivre lorsqu'on utilisait encore nos  
14 valeurs inuites.

15 Alors, j'essaye de poser mes assises, mes  
16 fondements, sur ces valeurs. Et mes collègues, je  
17 vais essayer de les représenter, puis bien les  
18 représenter, c'est une communauté bénévole.  
19 Alors, nous avons: Martha Craig qui représente la  
20 population et elle est aînée; Charlotte Perret  
21 représente le Centre de santé Ungava; Steven Kelly,  
22 représentant du Centre de santé Innulitsivik.  
23 Alors, ce sont les bénévoles. Et, aussi, alors une  
24 autre personne qui représente nos villages  
25 nordiques de Kuujuaq.

1           Alors, je suis fière de notre jeunesse qui  
2           travaille maintenant au Centre de santé, alors:  
3           Alicia Aragotak, elle a donné une représentation  
4           l'autre jour, alors, elle est notre directrice et  
5           elle est aussi la présidente antérieure pour le  
6           conseil de jeunes, Conseil de la jeunesse, et aussi  
7           pour le -- elle aussi, elle fait partie du Comité  
8           régional de prévention du suicide et elle est  
9           présentement la directrice exécutive pour ces  
10          comités. Et, aussi, elle est l'ancienne présidente  
11          du Conseil de jeunesse Uashut et nous avons donné  
12          des services de qualité, respectueux de la culture,  
13          aux Inuits du Nunavik pendant -- aux 14  
14          communautés, pendant plus de 25 ans ou 20 ans.

15                Et notre programme actuel dure 42 jours et  
16                repose sur le modèle des 12 étapes des AA. Pour  
17                ceux qui veulent faire le traitement de six  
18                semaines, c'est là où est-ce qu'on peut travailler  
19                avec les gens qui veulent aller en traitement.  
20                Nous avons aussi... nous enseignons aussi comment  
21                l'alcool peut affecter la toxicomanie, la  
22                dépendance, et nous avons aussi un modèle AA auquel  
23                nous avons ajouté une composante traumatologique  
24                spécifique aux Inuits qui dure deux semaines.  
25                C'était quatre semaines avant. Ils avaient quatre

1            semaines. Avant, c'était seulement une semaine de  
2            quatre semaines et, maintenant, c'est -- quatre  
3            semaines, parce que nous avons vu que nous devons  
4            étendre la formation, étant donné que nous avons...  
5            c'est pour ça que nous avons ajouté deux autres  
6            semaines.

7            Alors, ceux qui veulent aller à Histoire  
8            civique, ceux qui veulent céder, notre mission,  
9            c'est de fournir, donc, un programme de  
10           réadaptation basé sur la culture. On parle de  
11           notre histoire, qu'est-ce qu'on a vécu, et comment  
12           les Inuits -- parce que, les Inuits, on veut vivre  
13           sainement et, ça, ça devrait pas être une surprise  
14           pour personne.

15           Nous voulons tous vivre une vie sans  
16           dépendance, un style de vie libre. C'est la seul  
17           centre de traitement au Nunavik, un endroit où  
18           est-ce que les gens peuvent s'aider et, donc, les  
19           gens des autres communautés peuvent se rendre au  
20           Centre Histoire civique, et on leur fait savoir.  
21           Et, souvent, on est évalué par d'autres endroits  
22           sur ce que l'on fait. Alors, je suis très fière de  
23           nos services.

24           Et, aussi, nous avons aussi une accréditation  
25           d'Agrément Canada, un statut primant, parce que

1 nous nous enlignons à leurs critères, et, surtout,  
2 surtout ce qui s'aligne avec les besoins inuits.  
3 Alors, on est capable d'aider.

4 Alors, la situation avec l'installation  
5 actuelle d'Histoire civique. Alors, Histoire  
6 civique opère à partir d'un bâtiment construit dans  
7 les années 40 qui avait été utilisé par l'armée de  
8 l'aire américaine. Alors, c'est très -- un vieux  
9 bâtiment et sa taille est petite. Alors, parfois  
10 on ne peut pas offrir tous les programmes que nous  
11 aimerions fournir.

12 Alors, on n'est pas capables de pleinement  
13 fournir les programmes que nous aimerions fournir.  
14 Même les personnes qui veulent aller au Centre, on  
15 n'a pas assez de place, et il y a seulement neuf  
16 lits et c'est pas suffisant. Parce qu'ils doivent  
17 faire une rotation dans les trois chambres avec  
18 trois lits pour les hommes et les femmes. Les  
19 hommes et les femmes doivent faire des rotations.  
20 Alternent entre les femmes.

21 Étant donné le manque de lits, une moyenne de  
22 10 candidats se voit refuser l'admission à chaque  
23 cycle. Parce qu'on n'a pas de ressources et,  
24 aussi, les délais pour ceux qui aimeraient suivre  
25 le programme, c'est aussi un autre point difficile

1           pour ceux qui veulent participer, surtout pour  
2           ceux, parfois, qui doivent se voir refuser, donc,  
3           l'admission et qui veut faire partie de ce  
4           programme, même s'ils le veulent. Alors, il y a  
5           des personnes qu'on ne peut pas aider et qui  
6           aimeraient recevoir de l'aide.

7           Et les familles et les enfants qui aimeraient  
8           recevoir de l'aide comme familles, surtout  
9           lorsqu'ils ont terminé le programme, ils peuvent  
10          dire: « Maintenant, ma famille a besoin d'aide  
11          aussi. » Alors, souvent, ils disent ça après avoir  
12          suivi les programmes. Souvent, ils mentionnent  
13          cela.

14          Nous devons avoir des activités inuites, des  
15          activités traditionnelles comme la couture, les  
16          arts, alors, les activités culturelles. Je fais  
17          partie, donc, de ses activités. Nous utilisons les  
18          ateliers que nous avons, mais il manque d'espaces  
19          de bureau pour le personnel quand ils doivent aller  
20          en « counselling » avec un client. On n'a pas  
21          assez d'espace. Alors, ils doivent s'attendre l'un  
22          et l'autre pour utiliser cette salle. Donc, le  
23          personnel manque d'espaces de bureau. Alors, c'est  
24          assez difficile d'avoir du personnel pour recruter.

25          C'est pas seulement le personnel qui a besoin

1 d'espaces, mais aussi le personnel qui manque de  
2 logements. Nous cherchons toujours un endroit que  
3 nous devons louer ou à louer -- pour louer.  
4 Les questions concernant Histoire civique, si vous  
5 regardez comme quelle est la situation au Nunavik:  
6 alors, l'abus de substances, la toxicomanie, en  
7 tant que société, nous sommes tous affectés,  
8 touchés. On entend déjà que les gens meurent.

9 Vous avez entendu parler des gens qui meurent  
10 à cause de l'alcool. C'est quatre fois plus élevé.  
11 Les incidences, il y en a quatre fois plus qu'au  
12 Québec, que le reste du Québec. Et, aussi, les  
13 enfants qui sont affectés par les troubles du  
14 spectre de l'alcoolisation fœtale, TSAF, on voit de  
15 plus en plus d'enfants qui sont affectés par le  
16 TSAF, et à un rythme alarmant. Il y a aussi un  
17 nombre alarmant de crimes enregistrés et une  
18 surreprésentation, comme nous avons entendu, une  
19 surreprésentation d'Inuits dans les services  
20 correctionnels. C'est étonnant, et beaucoup trop  
21 d'avoir...

22 Et beaucoup de nos enfants sont enlevés de  
23 leur famille, de leur foyer. Plusieurs d'entre  
24 eux.

25 La DPJ a enlevé des enfants de leurs parents.

1           Ils sont enlevés de leur foyer, et ça fait  
2           longtemps qu'ils ont commencé à faire cela. Ça  
3           fait un bon bout de temps. Il y a une étude qui a  
4           été menée par le Centre de santé Inuit, a conclu  
5           que le coût lié à l'abus d'alcool est un coût  
6           choquant de 72 M \$ par année, quand les coûts  
7           d'incarcération des problèmes liés à la santé, au  
8           maintien de l'ordre et de pertes d'emploi sont  
9           considérés aussi.

10                    Pourquoi est-ce que cela a lieu? Quels sont  
11           les processus historiques et sociaux? Et une  
12           partie, donc, des problèmes de consommation  
13           d'alcool et de drogue au Nunavik, pourquoi c'est si  
14           élevé?

15                    Il faut regarder à la colonisation et les  
16           changements ultérieurs. Ces deux ont été des  
17           changements radicaux et rapides, et cela a  
18           été -- ce que les Inuits ont vécu -- moi-même, au  
19           cours des dernières décennies, moi-même, j'ai passé  
20           par là. Moi-même, comme j'ai dit plus tôt,  
21           j'allais -- l'habitude d'aller avec les équipes de  
22           chiens avec mon père. J'ai vu des aînés qui ont  
23           été envoyés de leur famille, loin de leur famille.  
24           Des pères, nos pères, et on leur a enlevé leur  
25           capacité, leur « empowerment », leur

1           responsabilisation. Et quand on était relocalisé à  
2           Kuuujuaq pour devenir communauté, j'ai vu mon père  
3           qui s'affaiblissait énormément. Et il essayait de  
4           dire, il voulait construire son propre édifice,  
5           mais le gouvernement lui a dit de pas le faire, et  
6           il a dit: « Bien, je vais payer pour », et on leur  
7           a dit non. On lui a dit: « Non, tu vas pas payer  
8           pour. » On n'était pas capables de faire nos -- de  
9           prendre nos propres décisions. Alors, ça, ça nous  
10          a affectés négativement d'une grande manière.

11                 J'ai vu... toute ma vie j'ai essayé de  
12          chercher, trouver des solutions, au-delà de 30 ans  
13          maintenant, sur qu'est-ce qu'on peut faire.  
14          Comment on peut avoir une guérison par ce système.

15                 J'ai essayé. Il y a des gens avec qui j'ai  
16          travaillé, des gens qui m'ont aussi aidée, des  
17          collègues avec qui on cherche des solutions à  
18          travers le système d'éducation.

19                 Ce que vous avez entendu, ils ont des racines,  
20          les causes profondes. On a vu juste vu les  
21          symptômes à partir d'en haut, mais il y a des  
22          racines sous-jacentes. Il faut regarder aux causes  
23          profondes: la surpopulation des maisons, la  
24          souffrance, la pauvreté. On n'a pas été capables  
25          de prendre nos propres décisions, parce qu'il y a

1 pas assez de centres de traitement ou de  
2 ressources.

3 Ce qu'ils ont expérimenté historiquement, nos  
4 ancêtres, on reçoit les problèmes qu'ils ont  
5 laissés derrière eux. Alors, nous le passons à nos  
6 enfants, les problèmes que nous avons. Il faut  
7 reconnaître cela, que ce sont les causes profondes  
8 qu'on faut reconnaître, parce que ce sont les...  
9 certains d'entre nous, on peut pas parler de notre  
10 histoire. Parce qu'il y en a encore qui... ils  
11 vivent ces traumatismes.

12 Et même si l'utilisation problématique de  
13 l'alcool, alors, c'est difficile à entendre parler  
14 qu'il y a des problèmes liés à l'abus d'alcool.  
15 Cela peut aussi nous -- quand on connaît nos  
16 problèmes, ça peut aussi nous aider, nous guider  
17 pour savoir quoi faire. Les buveurs occasionnels  
18 ou réguliers sont passés de 17 pour cent, à 92, à  
19 77 pour cent en 2014. C'est une proportion  
20 légèrement inférieure à celle du reste du Québec.

21 Qu'est-ce qui caractérise la consommation  
22 d'alcool au Nunavik est comparé au reste du Québec?  
23 C'est la proportion de beuveries. On boit trois  
24 fois plus que le reste du Québec et du Canada.  
25 Aussi, le TSAF a aussi été identifié. En 2004, il

1 y avait un rapport: presque 50 pour cent des femmes  
2 enceintes qui ont déclaré avoir bu de l'alcool.  
3 Alors, 44 pour cent. Et les travailleurs de  
4 première ligne constatent que le TSAF affecte les  
5 nouveau-nés, les enfants du Nunavik. Ils sont  
6 affectés par le TSAF par les femmes enceintes qui  
7 boivent et les jeunes.  
8 L'âge de la première consommation est en  
9 décroissance. Ça, ça nous a été rapporté aussi...

10 **L'INTERPRÈTE :**

11 J'ai mal compris le dernier point.

12 **Mme MARY AITCHISON:**

13 La proportion d'étudiants maintenant qui  
14 s'engagent, depuis 1995, qui boivent en continu,  
15 sont plus élevés ou sont... La proportion d'élèves  
16 qui se livraient à une consommation excessive  
17 d'alcool en 2005 était un petit peu plus supérieure  
18 à celle du reste de la province. La consommation  
19 occasionnelle excessive d'alcool explique certains  
20 types de comportements à risque observés tels que:  
21 actes criminels, négligence parentale, violence,  
22 abus sexuels, actes suicidaires, accidents et  
23 conduite sous influence, trouble du spectre de  
24 l'alcoolisme fœtal.

25 Bon, les problèmes d'utilisation de drogues

1           chez les adultes.

2           Le pourcentage des toxicomanes est passé de 36  
3           pour cent à 60 pour cent entre 1982 à 2004,  
4           exactement. On peut le voir, ça. Et le cannabis  
5           était de loin la drogue le plus souvent consommée.  
6           Maintenant, on parle de la cocaïne. Et c'est  
7           suivi, de manière très proche, par la cocaïne qui  
8           est à ça 7,5 pour cent, et c'est marqué ici que 80  
9           pour cent des jeunes hommes consommant du cannabis  
10          de manière régulière.

11          L'utilisation du cannabis banalise le risque  
12          de dépendance ou de problème de santé mentale. En  
13          fait, c'est sous-estimé, parce que ça cause des  
14          problèmes de santé mentale. Et, en 2005, 2006,  
15          l'enquête par le RISQ auprès des élèves du  
16          secondaire a rapporté que beaucoup, 50 pour cent  
17          des étudiants ayant utilisé les drogues au moins  
18          une fois au cours de l'année précédente. Et ils  
19          utilisent les drogues régulièrement. Et ça fait  
20          partie de leur style de vie.

21          La consommation régulière du cannabis par la  
22          jeunesse, dont le cerveau est en  
23          sous-développement, augmente le risque de psychose  
24          et les troubles mentaux à long terme. Parce que,  
25          en tant que parents, on ne comprend pas ses effets,

1           ses conséquences, comment ça peut affecter le  
2           cerveau qui est encore en développement. Le  
3           cannabis et la drogue sont légalisés maintenant, et  
4           on le sait pas combien d'un effet ça va avoir sur  
5           nous.

6           Bon, les services courants. Les services  
7           courants pour les gens qui abusent de substances et  
8           les dépendances au Nunavik.

9           Et plusieurs informations qui existent dans  
10          certaines régions et c'est disponible aussi de  
11          s'éduquer parmi ces substances dans les écoles.  
12          C'est surtout visé à informer les femmes enceintes  
13          qu'elles ne devraient pas boire du tout quand elles  
14          sont enceintes. Et, aussi, les employés du CLSC et  
15          les agents de liaison communautaire participent  
16          régulièrement ou organisent des activités de  
17          prévention ou de sensibilisation dans les  
18          communautés.

19          C'est pas comme si on fait absolument rien.  
20          Nous essayons de faire quelque chose. Par rapport  
21          à l'abus de substances et les dépendances, il faut  
22          y travailler.

23          Bon, maintenant, dans les services de soutien  
24          communautaire pour les jeunes et les adultes qui  
25          souffrent dû à l'abus de substances peuvent

1            consulter les intervenantes du CLSC. Il y a des  
2            adjoints, des conseillers, parce que le fait qu'on  
3            soit pas formé pour être intervenants nous-mêmes,  
4            alors, ceux d'entre nous qui essayent d'aider, on  
5            n'a pas nécessairement la formation, on n'a pas la  
6            formation nécessaire. Fait qu'il y a passé de  
7            formation pour nous, qui essaye d'aider.

8            Et pour les services spécialisés, à part  
9            d'Histoire civique, il y en a pas dans notre  
10          région. Ils peuvent seulement occuper... on peut  
11          juste aider neuf personnes et ça représente pas les  
12          besoins des adultes et des femmes enceintes réelles  
13          ou les réels besoins de ces gens-là, les femmes  
14          enceintes. Le fait qu'il y ait pas assez  
15          d'infrastructures, nous devons souvent envoyer nos  
16          mondes ou notre peuple dans le Sud.

17          Bon, pour la jeunesse, il y a pas assez de  
18          service pour la jeunesse. On a de la misère à se  
19          concentrer sur la jeunesse, parce qu'il y a trop de  
20          problèmes.

21          Alors, maintenant, nous allons parler des  
22          questions sur le contexte de l'abus de substances  
23          au Nunavik. C'est quoi qu'on peut faire? C'est  
24          quoi qu'on peut faire?

25          En ce moment, Histoire civique développe un

1           plan avec l'aide des services sociaux que, en fait,  
2           en ce moment, nous avons des résultats tangibles et  
3           nous avons des plans qui fonctionnent. Ça a été  
4           identifié clairement au Nunavik.

5           Et les CA ont été dans les communautés pour  
6           faire des consultations sur ce sujet. Depuis 2010,  
7           il y a eu plusieurs consultations. En 2016, notre  
8           conseil d'administration a adopté le plan de  
9           développement Histoire civique pour 2016-2036. Ce  
10          plan est notre façon de contribuer au chemin  
11          parcouru par l'Inuit pour recouvrir leur santé,  
12          leur pouvoir et leur avenir. Et pour le faire de  
13          manière en collaboration.

14          Les objectifs du plan, c'est d'améliorer les  
15          services et l'organisation actuelle. Nous devons  
16          renforcer les organismes et ces programmes afin de  
17          garantir la qualité des services offerts aux  
18          clients.

19          Comme j'ai dit auparavant, nous avons augmenté  
20          le montant de semaines pour assurer un meilleur  
21          suivi et une meilleure qualité de service. Puis,  
22          ça, tout ceci se fait à travers nos services. Et  
23          le personnel doit travailler dans un environnement  
24          qui est sécuritaire pour avoir un standard, pour  
25          qu'on puisse être certifiés, et nous devons

1           augmenter la capacité pour qu'on puisse accueillir  
2 plus de clients.

3           Les adultes, nous devons rejeter certains  
4 adultes, parce qu'il y a passé d'adulte - excuse --  
5 il y a passé deux lits. Nous avons rejeté des  
6 adultes, parce qu'il y a pas assez de lits. Nous  
7 devons avoir -- des normes doivent être plus  
8 culturellement pertinentes. Et nous espérons  
9 maintenir cette cadence jusqu'en 2036.

10           Troisièmement, comme j'ai mentionné, pour les  
11 individus qui viennent au Centre, ils disent  
12 toujours: « Ma famille... puis, ma famille, est-ce  
13 qu'ils peuvent venir? » Alors, nous essayons  
14 d'accommoder pour les familles. On essaie  
15 d'accommoder les familles. Mais c'est du travail  
16 supplémentaire.

17           On veut travailler avec tout le monde,  
18 ensemble, parce que c'est comme ça que ça se fait.  
19 Pour que quelqu'un puisse se réhabiliter, bien, on  
20 doit avoir un esprit de famille, équipe, puis on  
21 veut aussi que les femmes enceintes soient les  
22 bienvenues en tout temps à notre Centre.

23           Là, j'ai deux fois en inuktitut. O.K. Comme  
24 c'est mentionné, parmi toutes ces choses, on a  
25 surligné des priorités régionales.

1 Histoire civique, ça veut... l'engagement  
2 d'Histoire civique, c'est de contribuer de manière  
3 importante puis d'avoir une approche  
4 intersectorielle pour montrer aux gens de refuser  
5 de faire des abus de substances, et ça doit devenir  
6 une priorité.

7 Dans ces communautés, les conseillères en  
8 toxicomanie sont associées avec une aussi, et le  
9 Tribunal du bien-être.

10 Alors, notre centre de recherche et flambant  
11 neuf, vous pouvez le voir. C'est un exemple de ce  
12 que ça pourrait... à quoi ça pourrait ressembler,  
13 et ça va être une infrastructure qui a 22 lits pour  
14 des individus et jusqu'à 32 clients pendant un  
15 programme familial. Ils vont pouvoir participer  
16 ici.

17 Bon, il va y avoir assez d'espaces de bureau  
18 pour 40 employés. Il va y avoir une garderie, il  
19 va y avoir du tutorat scolaire pour les enfants et  
20 les clients, il va y avoir 12 unités de deux  
21 chambres pour le personnel.

22 Le projet planifie pour l'admission d'urgence  
23 des femmes enceintes pour prévenir les effets de le  
24 ETCAF, dans le fond, le syndrome du spectre de  
25 l'alcoolisme, le renforcement de la composante

1           culturelle pour augmenter les facteurs de  
2           protection. La création d'un service de soins  
3           contient -- excuse-moi.

4           Nous avons eu deux hommes qui ont gradué tout  
5           récemment. Ils étaient très fiers de dire qu'ils  
6           ont appris à propos de leur culture et ils ont  
7           mentionné et exprimé leur appréciation d'avoir  
8           terminé le programme. Et on peut le voir. Et ce  
9           facteur fait en sorte que, quand ils sont fiers de  
10          finir ce programme, bien, ça devient moment très  
11          fier pour nous aussi. Et c'est pour cette raison  
12          que nous travaillons.

13          La création d'un service en continu ou, au  
14          moins, la création d'un service de soins continus  
15          pour déployer des services de soins ambulatoires et  
16          les suivis à travers le Nunavik. Par exemple:  
17          quelqu'un qui participe à Histoire civique, il pour  
18          avoir des soins postérieurs aux faits ou des après  
19          soins, même après que les gens aient gradué.  
20          Alors, le concept, c'est de vraiment aider un  
21          client avant et après -- bien, pendant et après.  
22          Bon, maintenant, parlons de ceci plus en détail.  
23          Les partenaires régionaux, provinciaux et fédéraux  
24          se sont ralliés au projet Histoire civique en tant  
25          qu'initiative positive majeure visant à s'attaquer

1           aux causes profondes de la toxicomanie, de la  
2           violence et du suicide chez les Inuits du Nunavik.  
3           Nous allons parler maintenant de financement  
4           opérationnel. Le budget annuel est de  
5           6,1 millions. Ça a été entièrement sécurisé grâce  
6           au financement de l'enveloppe de ressources de la  
7           RRSSN pour les organismes communautaires et du  
8           programme Ungaluk géré par la société Makivik et le  
9           Gouvernement régional du Kativik, ARK. C'est ce  
10          que nous avons. C'est à nous. C'est pas seulement  
11          pour les membres du CA, Histoire civique. C'est  
12          pour tous les gens du Nunavik.

13                 Maintenant, projet de construction. Ce sera  
14          un peu difficile à faire, mais c'est un organisme  
15          communautaire, alors, c'est très difficile de  
16          sécuriser du financement. C'est dur d'obtenir du  
17          financement pour le volet « infrastructures ». Ça  
18          a été très difficile, ça a pris longtemps. Mais  
19          nous sommes dans la phase de conception de  
20          l'infrastructure. Le budget de construction est  
21          estimé à 37 millions. Jusqu'à présent, plus de  
22          17,5 millions de dollars ont été obtenus auprès  
23          d'Histoire civique, de KRG, de Makivik. Alors,  
24          nous avons obtenu auprès d'Histoire civique le ARK,  
25          Makivik, la Société plan Nord, le gouvernement du

1 Canada, Service Canada aux services autochtones.  
2 Les partenaires sont confiants que les fonds  
3 restants seront obtenus dans le cadre du nouveau  
4 programme d'infrastructures pour les communautés  
5 rurales et nordiques géré par Infrastructure  
6 Canada. J'espère que... la construction débutera  
7 en été 2019, si tout va bien, et l'ouverture prévue  
8 est l'automne 2021.

9 Bon, parlons maintenant de ce centre de  
10 recouvrement ou ce centre de guérison Histoire  
11 civique. 'The path ahead', 'The path ahead', qui  
12 veut dire « le chemin droit devant. » Le centre de  
13 « reliance » régionale Nous, Histoire civique, est  
14 un symbole de mobilisation de nos communautés.  
15 C'est pour la santé. Ça peut aider à relier nos  
16 communautés et de planifier le futur pour nos  
17 enfants. Parce que nous sommes le peuple et nos  
18 ancêtres ont travaillé très fort et ont démontré  
19 qu'ils étaient très forts. Nous devons travailler  
20 très fort pour essayer d'être forts et fortes pour  
21 qu'on puisse tous être ensemble et se développer  
22 dans une manière appropriée.

23 Pour que nous puissions avoir de bons  
24 dirigeants qui sont capables de diriger et qui ont  
25 appris, je commençais à voir parmi les jeunes et

1 j'ai vu qu'il y en a qui commencent à diriger, à  
2 prendre une position de leadership avec Histoire  
3 civique, et ils sont disposés à le faire.

4 Ce sont les gens, donc, qui nous dirigent pour  
5 renouveler notre foi. Nous, nous travaillons avec  
6 le programme Sariouk dans les communautés. Ils  
7 apprennent à aider leurs jeunes, leur peuple, quand  
8 on a commencé ce projet à Puvirnituk, comme Lucie a  
9 mentionné, des comités de justice. Alors, on veut  
10 que ça devienne un processus entier et de  
11 travailler ensemble. On s'attend à ce que quelque  
12 chose de bon en sorte, ressorte de tout cela. On  
13 espère que quelque chose de bon ressorte de tout  
14 ça.

15 Alors, de traiter les questions du traumatisme  
16 et de la toxicomanie qui sont des causes profondes  
17 de la détresse et de reconnaître que nous sommes  
18 forts, que nous puissions nous tenir debout.  
19 Lorsque nous sommes debout, dans une bonne manière,  
20 on est capable de mieux faire notre travail. On  
21 est capable d'utiliser notre culture pour vivre en  
22 harmonie et de faire du développement culturel,  
23 sociopolitique aussi, de la région.

24 Tous les services, et je vais ajouter, tous  
25 les services, tous services pour le peuple ne peut

1 pas fonctionner par lui-même. Ces gens qui sont  
2 les dirigeants montrent à notre peuple comment ils  
3 peuvent diriger, comment ils peuvent vivre en  
4 harmonie. C'est ce que j'apprécie beaucoup. Sur  
5 le fait que nous travaillons ensemble et qu'on nous  
6 donne cette occasion de parler ici. Et on espère  
7 pour un meilleur future, ce qui peut découler de la  
8 Commission.

9 S'il y a des questions, je suis prêt à  
10 répondre aux questions.

11 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

12 Maître Ellassal?

13 **Me ÉDITH-FARAH ELASSAL :**

14 Yes. Nakurmiik Mrs. Aitchison. I understand there  
15 is no in-patient centre on the Hudson Coast?

16 **Mme MARY AITCHISON :**

17 No.

18 **Me ÉDITH-FARAH ELASSAL :**

19 Okay.

20 **Mme MARY AITCHISON :**

21 There isn't.

22 **Me ÉDITH-FARAH ELASSAL :**

23 Do you... I guess, you do have patients, in-  
24 patient coming from the Hudson Coast to...?

25 **Mme MARY AITCHISON :**

1           Yes, we do. In fact, I was just looking at  
2           statistical information and 60 percent of our  
3           clientele comes from the Hudson Coast.

4           **Me ÉDITH-FARAH ELASSAL:**

5           Hudson? Okay. So, I understand the fact that, for  
6           now, you don't have accommodation for partners and  
7           family does not prevent Inuit from coming from the  
8           Hudson Coast?

9           **Mme MARY AITCHISON:**

10          Sorry?

11          **Me ÉDITH-FARAH ELASSAL:**

12          I was saying: actually, the Centre doesn't have  
13          accommodation for family of in-patient?

14          **Mme MARY AITCHISON:**

15          The Histoire civique is regional and when we talked  
16          about family services, it includes the whole  
17          region.

18          **Me ÉDITH-FARAH ELASSAL:**

19          Okay.

20          **Mme MARY AITCHISON:**

21          It includes the... including families from the  
22          Hudson Coast.

23          **Me ÉDITH-FARAH ELASSAL:**

24          Okay.

25          **Mme MARY AITCHISON:**

1 Right now, there's, as you saw, the facility being  
2 very, very small. It's only in the new centre that  
3 families can come together. The facility will be  
4 constructed in such a way that it can accommodate  
5 individuals. Right now, we have cycles, five  
6 cycles a year where we alternate gender. But in  
7 the new centre, we will be able to alternate, have  
8 two wings where the men and the women can come, and  
9 receive the service at the same time and, at the  
10 same time allow the calendar, because it will be  
11 continuous, we will have family, family intake.

12 **Me ÉDITH-FARAH ELASSAL:**

13 Mm-hmm.

14 **Mme MARY AITCHISON:**

15 And, then, let's say, there is, at the beginning of  
16 the year, there is an individual program, a youth  
17 program, and a family program, and two consecutive  
18 six-week sessions, because it would operate  
19 throughout the whole year, we will have intake for  
20 expectant mothers, through all of the cycles.

21 **Me ÉDITH-FARAH ELASSAL:**

22 Okay. Yesterday, you told me about the importance  
23 of the need to help the person right away, when she  
24 ask for help. Could you tell us a bit more about  
25 this aspect that is important when someone is

1           asking for help?

2       **Mme MARY AITCHISON:**

3           Sorry, I'm hard of hearing. Can you repeat that  
4           closer to your microphone?

5       **Me ÉDITH-FARAH ELASSAL:**

6           Yes. Yesterday, you spoke about the importance of  
7           helping someone...

8       **Mme MARY AITCHISON:**

9           Yeah.

10       **Me ÉDITH-FARAH ELASSAL:**

11           ... right away.

12       **Mme MARY AITCHISON:**

13           Yes.

14       **Me ÉDITH-FARAH ELASSAL:**

15           When that person is looking for help.

16       **Mme MARY AITCHISON:**

17           Yeah.

18       **Me ÉDITH-FARAH ELASSAL:**

19           Could you tell us a bit more about this importance?

20       **Mme MARY AITCHISON:**

21           Yeah, with the current centre, we can take up to a  
22           maximum of nine clients per cycle and we turn away  
23           10. It's always... We can only accommodate half  
24           of the requests. And by the time a person will  
25           come forward and, say, that they want to help

1           themselves, they may not be available and ready to  
2           come forward by the time that we provide the next  
3           cycle for the gender. So, the intake, the fact  
4           that we have limited space, if they go on the  
5           waiting list, they have to wait until the next  
6           gender.

7           Let's say we have the women cycle this time,  
8           and the women who wanted to come to help  
9           themselves, they have to wait until we finish the  
10          man cycle before that opportunity is open again.  
11          So, it's not ideal with the nature, nature of  
12          addictions youth... If you are ready to go for the  
13          help and it's not available, then you definitely  
14          change your mind.

15         **Me ÉDITH-FARAH ELASSAL:**

16                 Mm-hmm. Yesterday, we spoke regarding the support  
17                 you provide to men. Could you tell us a bit more  
18                 about men in-patient and how you offer the program  
19                 to them?

20         **Mme MARY AITCHISON:**

21                 The men's program, since we revised the program in  
22                 2006, includes what is innate in us. The  
23                 traditional role is very, very important in our  
24                 society, in our values. Each family member has a  
25                 role, like, universal; but, in our society, they

1           are the provider, they go and gather for us the  
2           family, and they are the ones that develop the  
3           tools, they develop our Ulu, they develop the  
4           Hamuti.

5           So, our program includes the traditional  
6           hunting and when they get their catch, we do  
7           traditional sharing. They share with the elders,  
8           the elders' home. And you see the pride in the  
9           men, when they are able to practise, and some of  
10          them, when they, say they are in the cycle of  
11          addiction. I saw with women, who tell me that they  
12          haven't provided clothing for their children for  
13          20, 29 years. So, when we stitch, make a parka  
14          knit gummy, these are all part of providing. And  
15          likewise, for the men: when they finish the hamuti  
16          there is no better gratification. You see the  
17          pride, you see the...

18          It's part of the identity. It's part of... In  
19          order to have pride, you need a sense of identity.  
20          And when they graduate, they talk about  
21          appreciating their counsellor, the work that they  
22          did regarding the trauma, recovery, validating the  
23          history of the trauma. And also focusing on the  
24          strength, and the strength of the role as a  
25          provider. Some of them... At the graduation

1           yesterday, the day before really, really  
2           appreciated the culture teachers.

3           When they tell us in their evaluation, at the  
4           end of each, you see the highlight of what was most  
5           meaningful, and this tells us that: what path we  
6           must take and it has to be culturally based,  
7           culturally relevant. And it has to address the  
8           history, the history of the trauma, but also the  
9           history of our resiliency, the history of our  
10          strength. And we find that this works best. We  
11          must validate our history. The trauma, the grief,  
12          but, at the same time, it's so, so important to  
13          validate our strength. And when we do... It's a  
14          beginning of (inaudible).

15          When you have practised a certain behaviour  
16          for such a long time, Histoire civique in the short  
17          six weeks, you are starting to re-pattern your  
18          behaviour, and I see that they have not practised  
19          like amauti making, skinning caribou, providing.  
20          They go back with their creation and they are so  
21          happy to say: "I'm going to bring this to my  
22          family", it is a garment or a tool, often they make  
23          an ulu for their spouse. You can see the pride.  
24          And they are very, very -- they even sign the  
25          hamuti when they donate it to the others. You can

1 -- I stand there with them and they are proud.

2 That's what building the...

3 We can't give self-esteem courses. We hear  
4 "self-esteem courses", you feel good for a little  
5 bit and feel bad on the next day. But when you do  
6 something concrete, like this, in a program, it  
7 gives a tool, not only the sense of who you are,  
8 but the sense of pride. And that's what I find  
9 with -- that the cultural component of our program.

10 **Me ÉDITH-FARAH ELASSAL:**

11 Could you tell us a little bit about the new  
12 location of the new centre that is coming?

13 **Mme MARY AITCHISON:**

14 Yes. It is at Nobuk Bay, it's in a secluded area.  
15 It's peaceful, it's in front of the water. We've  
16 had the land blessed, it's peaceful. in Inuktitut.  
17 It's... We are connected to the land. It's very,  
18 very much connected to the land, and the land  
19 teaches us the -- when I say "teach us", as we  
20 gathered it down to make... there's the best  
21 clothing for the environment. We are gathering  
22 people. We gather very seasonal gathering, we  
23 gather... They can do all that. We will have  
24 hakmak, we will have a traditional tent (inaudible)  
25 setting on the grounds that they can do traditional

1 skinning, they can do traditional carving, they can  
2 do traditional... We are very fortunate. In  
3 Kuujjuaq, we have... We use the men's carpenter  
4 shop right now.

5 But, with the family program, they will  
6 have... their children will be safe in the centre.  
7 So, they can focus, focus on bringing back their  
8 traditional ways, creation. Creation, there is no  
9 substitute for creation, and I think that's the  
10 foundation of our program. The recovery of the  
11 inner child, the recovery of the self. We really  
12 believe that we build on our strengths, in a  
13 program like... (Inaudible) program.

14 **Me ÉDITH-FARAH ELASSAL:**

15 And you spoke earlier regarding the needs of  
16 pregnant woman. Could you share more about the  
17 specific need of pregnant woman?

18 **Mme MARY AITCHISON:**

19 The program, we are meeting with the team that is  
20 helping us to revise the program, beginning of  
21 December. We have allowed ourselves to develop the  
22 program for a year and, in order to have the  
23 expanded services, it is self-care. Everything is  
24 based on self-care. The value... Or the value of  
25 the self and the value as a traditional role as a

1 mother, childbearing. We are created as beautiful  
2 people and we really focus on the role of being a  
3 provider and giving life.

4 So, when we look at the physiological and  
5 psychological impact of substance, we have to  
6 educate on the facts, but also really focus on the  
7 role.

8 In the family... The family unit was the most  
9 important governing unit before foreign services,  
10 and it's how well we are as a provider in the  
11 family unit that will create the wellness of the  
12 critical mass, and we really believe that each...  
13 we each have a precious role. And as bearing  
14 mothers, childbearing mother, we have to honour; we  
15 have to honour that value. And there's been enough  
16 shaming and blaming. We have to look at honouring,  
17 how we are created as beautiful people with our  
18 unique language and culture.

19 And the program, the family program that was  
20 developed, we are going to... like, we do right  
21 now, we're going to give priority to families that  
22 have been signalled, we're going to give priority  
23 to families that have had their children in foster  
24 care.

25 And it's a strength to ask for help. There is

1           this stigma that it's a weakness to ask for help.  
2           We promote that its strength to ask for help. And  
3           I cannot conclude what the committee -- we're doing  
4           a full consultation with the health providers,  
5           December 4 and 5. We're doing the full  
6           consultation. So, I cannot pre-answer what the  
7           full program will entail for expecting mothers.

8           **Me ÉDITH-FARAH ELASSAL:**

9           And in the future or... and even actually, I  
10          understand there is going to be a new centre, there  
11          is in Ungava Coast in Kuujjuaq. Do you see need as  
12          well for a centre like your centre on the Hudson  
13          Coast?

14          **Mme MARY AITCHISON:**

15          It's been asked for in the (inaudible)  
16          consultation. It has been asked for. And we hope  
17          that we are going to be well equipped enough to  
18          provide assistance to realize that, to be like a  
19          training centre for such a facility. If that dream  
20          could be realized. We know about that request and  
21          supported 100 percent, and we hope to be able to  
22          provide assistance in terms of training and  
23          providing that support to such a facility. It  
24          could be realized in the future.

25          **Me ÉDITH-FARAH ELASSAL:**

1           Okay. I won't have any more questions, but, I  
2           know, on your PowerPoint, there were slide at the  
3           end for -- meeting, Mrs. Leduc, you could put back  
4           the PowerPoint on the screen? I saw a slide  
5           regarding calls for action, and if you wish to say  
6           some word regarding that? And we listen to you.

7           **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

8           I'm really interested.

9           **Mme MARY AITCHISON:**

10          Yeah.

11          **Me ÉDITH-FARAH ELASSAL:**

12          The last one.

13          **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

14          Half page.

15          **Me ÉDITH-FARAH ELASSAL:**

16          No. After that one.

17          **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

18          Yeah, the...

19          **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

20          The following.

21          **Mme MARY AITCHISON:**

22          Okay.

23          **Me ÉDITH-FARAH ELASSAL:**

24          Ah.

25          **Mme MARY AITCHISON:**

1           Okay.

2           **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

3           There you are.

4           **LA GREFFIÈRE-AUDIENCIÈRE:**

5           "Call for action"?

6           **Me ÉDITH-FARAH ELASSAL:**

7           Yeah, "Call for action". Yeah, that one. Thank  
8           you.

9           **Mme MARY AITCHISON:**

10          Yeah. Sorry, I missed that one.

11          **Me ÉDITH-FARAH ELASSAL:**

12          No, it's okay.

13          **Mme MARY AITCHISON:**

14          Nakurmiik. We have great expectations. We have...  
15          We appreciate this opportunity.

16                 I believe, it's the right time. We can have  
17          our regrets and say: "We are..."... This is a long  
18          outstanding request, we can do that. But with lots  
19          of hope, I'm here with lots of hope, and the  
20          empowerment of indigenous people is a key to  
21          healing and development.

22                 I cannot say enough that the government, the  
23          people here, every agency, the leaders,  
24          communities, we must ensure that the programs'  
25          frameworks and sufficiently flexible to support our

1 communities' initiatives and priorities. It has  
2 been clearly spelled out what the priorities are:  
3 the development of the academic accredited  
4 culturally relevant training programs that will  
5 foster our professional development and leadership  
6 is a must, and it has to be a priority.

7 You know the impact, I'm sure you have heard  
8 it over, the impact of colonialism on indigenous  
9 communities, it has to be recognized, and the  
10 programs created and deployed to actively support  
11 decolonization, at every level. We say it happened  
12 in the past, but it's still happening today.

13 In the recovery, recovering from trauma will  
14 lessen the impact of substance abuse. It has to be  
15 a priority. And it is a priority in Nunavik. The  
16 governments, civil servants, public services must  
17 ensure that we realize the construction of the new  
18 Histoire civique Recovery Centre. It cannot be  
19 delayed anymore.

20 The specialized in-patient services for youth  
21 must be designed and deployed urgently. The out-  
22 patient and in-patient detoxification services must  
23 be created. We need enough funding to deploy Inuit  
24 addictions workers (inaudible) across the region.  
25 We have to secure that. An academic accredited

1 training for Inuit addictions workers must be  
2 designed, and urgently deployed.

3 Thank you. I did not want to miss this slide  
4 of all slides.

5 We have a wonderful support from our partners.  
6 We recently held our first AGM, and the  
7 partnership, and the expectation that we will  
8 realize this project is in everyone's focus. And I  
9 cannot emphasize enough how grateful we are or with  
10 the hope, extended hope, that I received from this  
11 hearing.

12 We need to be heard. We need to take action,  
13 because the cost of doing nothing is too high. The  
14 cost of doing nothing is a way, way too high on our  
15 people. Nakurmiik.

16 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

17 Nakurmiik. Do you have other questions?

18 **Me ÉDITH-FARAH ELASSAL :**

19 No. Nakurmiik.

20 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

21 I have the last pages in front of me. Maître  
22 Laganière, Maître Boucher, Maître Robillard?

23 **Me MAXIME LAGANIÈRE :**

24 No question. Thank you for your testimony.

25 **UNE VOIX FÉMININE INCONNUE :**

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

2 **UNE VOIX FÉMININE INCONNUE:**

3 No question, thank you.

4 **Mme MARY AITCHISON:**

5 Thank you.

6 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

7 So, I will thank you very much for sharing with us.

8 After hearing what we heard for two weeks, it's

9 obvious that the Centre, your wish to build pretty

10 soon is necessary. It urges. It's very important.

11 And I heard that almost half the funding is already

12 gathered?

13 **Mme MARY AITCHISON:**

14 Yeah. Yeah.

15 **Me ÉDITH-FARAH ELASSAL:**

16 And I hope -- if I understood well, you will get

17 some more news in the near future?

18 **Mme MARY AITCHISON:**

19 Yeah. Next week.

20 **Me ÉDITH-FARAH ELASSAL:**

21 Next week? So, you can count on this, and it will

22 go on.

23 **Mme MARY AITCHISON:**

24 Okay.

25 **Me ÉDITH-FARAH ELASSAL:**

1           It's very important. It's urgent that...

2           **Mme MARY AITCHISON:**

3           I appreciate the opportunity to speak for the  
4           board, the volunteer board of Histoire civique.  
5           And also, for a child, who once said to me: "If you  
6           want to help me, help my family". So, I would like  
7           to honour, our children they have a rightful place  
8           to be well, and they are or future. Nakurmiik.

9           **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

10          Yeah. So, I will... I noticed also when you said,  
11          "the cost related to alcohol abuse is shocking",  
12          and you gave some numbers. I won't repeat that.  
13          It's huge. So, I wish you the best in this wish  
14          will serve all Nunavik.

15          **Mme MARY AITCHISON:**

16          Yeah.

17          **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

18          And I will repeat myself and repeat what Mayor  
19          Anthony Ittoshat told last week at the closing  
20          ceremony: we should have or add hope to the list on  
21          the (inaudible).

22          **Mme MARY AITCHISON:**

23          Yes. That's... That's a very...

24          **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

25          And I realize that, in Nunavik, there is still

1           hope.

2       **Mme MARY AITCHISON:**

3           Hope.

4       **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

5           And I hope that people at government are listening  
6           to you.

7       **Mme MARY AITCHISON:**

8           Yes.

9       **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

10          So, hope may become reality.

11       **Mme MARY AITCHISON:**

12          Yeah.

13       **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

14          You deserve it. So, Nakurmiik.

15       **Mme MARY AITCHISON:**

16          Thank you.

17       **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

18          Thank you very much.

19       **Mme MARY AITCHISON:**

20          Thank you.

21       **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

22          I wish you the best.

23       **Mme MARY AITCHISON:**

24          Thank you.

25       **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

1           We will now suspend until one o'clock? One  
2           o'clock, okay.

3           SUSPENSION

4           -----

5           REPRISE

6           **LA GREFFIÈRE-AUDIENCIÈRE:**

7           The Commission is back in session.

8           **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

9           So, welcome back in this last afternoon of our  
10          hearings in Nunavik. I was very happy to be here  
11          for two weeks. Now, we are going through the last  
12          afternoon. We heard many witnesses, some more this  
13          afternoon. I think it's important. Nunavik has to  
14          be heard by government. And I think, we will have,  
15          this afternoon, great persons to send the message.

16          So, I understand, Maître Richard, you will  
17          present the next witnesses?

18          **Me ÉDITH-FARAH ELASSAL:**

19          Yes. So, we have the honour to have Makivik  
20          Corporation with us. So, we are going to start  
21          with François Duval, whose lawyer is for Makivik.  
22          We have Johnny Adams who is president of First Air.  
23          We have Lizzie Aloupa who is the crime prevention  
24          officer at the KRPF. We have Charlie Watt, who is  
25          president of Makivik Corporation. And we have

1           William Tagoona, who is director of the  
2           communications at Makivik.

3                       So, Mrs. the Clerk, you can swear them in.

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1 François Duval  
2 Lawyer of Makivik Corporation  
3 Serment d'office

4 -----  
5 Johnny N. Adams  
6 President of First Air  
7 Affirmation solennelle

8 -----  
9 Lizzie Aloupa  
10 Crime prevention Officier at KRPF  
11 Assermentation sur la bible

12 -----  
13 Charlie Watt  
14 Président/Société Makivik  
15 Affirmation solennelle

16 -----  
17 William Tagoona  
18 Director of communication at Makivik  
19 Assermentation sur la bible

20 -----

21 **LA GREFFIÈRE-AUDIENCIÈRE:**

22 Thank you.

23 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

24 I am very honoured to receive you this afternoon.

25 I will listen to you very carefully. It's

1           important that the message to government comes from  
2           people involved in the community. So?

3           **Me ÉDITH-FARAH ELASSAL:**

4           Yes.

5           **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

6           Maître Richard?

7           **Me ÉDITH-FARAH ELASSAL:**

8           But before starting, I will just present, briefly,  
9           Johnny Adams and Charlie Watt.

10           So, Johnny Adams has worked for 28 years at  
11           the Municipal Council of Kuujjuaq. He was also a  
12           mayor. He worked 10 years as chairman of Kativik  
13           Regional Government, and he was also the  
14           co-negotiator of Tanarutik, the agreement, in 2002,  
15           and he also implemented the KRPF in 1995.

16           We also have Charlie Watt, who is the funding  
17           president of Makivik Corporation. He was president  
18           from 78 to 82, president again 88 to 94, and today  
19           since January 2018. He was one of the negotiators  
20           of the James Bay and Northern Québec agreement, and  
21           he was senator of Canada from 84 until 2018.

22           So, welcome.

23           **M. CHARLIE WATT:**

24           Thank you.

25           **Me ÉDITH-FARAH ELASSAL:**

1           You can...

2           **M. CHARLIE WATT:**

3           So, I can begin?

4           **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

5           I'm listening to you.

6           **M. CHARLIE WATT:**

7           Just to let you know that I was trusting to get to  
8           Kuujjuaq and make it to this Commission, and I left  
9           my earpiece by accidentally. So, I'm going to need  
10          you, people, to speak a little bit louder so I can  
11          (inaudible) what is being talked about. I  
12          appreciate that very much. Just to let you know on  
13          that.

14          First of all, I would like to thank the  
15          Commissioner on his team accepting the Makivik  
16          invitation to come to Nunavik and hear the concerns  
17          of Nunaviniuts. That request for you to come here  
18          was done by Joe (inaudible). And I do appreciate  
19          the fact that you are here.

20          I will also acknowledge Lucie Grey, who played  
21          a big role ensuring that Nunaviniuts have an  
22          opportunity to be heard by the Commission. I  
23          think, having an Inuk person is a very good start.  
24          When you don't have Inuk at present with many  
25          important issues is being talked about, we all sort

1 of got the feelings that, maybe, certain things are  
2 not being understood properly. So, I really  
3 appreciate the fact that Lucie was tushu, to be a  
4 part of the Commission. Thank you.

5 By saying that, recognizing the Commission's  
6 mandate is important. That's upon the important  
7 aspects of our daily life, justice, corrections,  
8 police, health and social services and youth  
9 protection services. So, our life in the North,  
10 it's not necessarily the same life we do enjoy when  
11 we are down South.

12 Having a very small communities and limited  
13 number of a population at times when you ended up  
14 knowing everybody. That helps, in some ways, and  
15 that also doesn't help you in some other ways.  
16 But, nevertheless, would you have a problem, a  
17 unique problem that we would like to address. I  
18 think that we will be able to come up with some  
19 solutions to the problems that we have.

20 Before I get into this issue, I think I should  
21 also address the fact that we are very cautious of  
22 this. As you know, that I have been around in  
23 Nunavik for quite a long time. I started when I  
24 was quite young, and I'm still involved with the  
25 communities of Nunavik and, at the same time, I was

1           also away -- not necessarily away on a daily basis,  
2           because I was commuting back and forth, even though  
3           that I have too decent responsibility when I was a  
4           senator and Ottawa. So, I never actually lived  
5           permanently down South. For an example, during the  
6           whole time that I was a senator, I was commuting  
7           back and forth: Monday down; Friday up. So, I  
8           never run... You know, I was (inaudible), and it's  
9           important for me to be with my people. I know I  
10          understand, and if I don't live with them, then, I  
11          might not be able to (inaudible) to be able to  
12          express myself and on the reality basis if I am  
13          living down South. So, that's one of the reasons  
14          why that I always tried to stay within the North  
15          and stayed close to the people that I do represent.

16                 I also understand the time that I was  
17          appointed back in 1984 by Pierre Elliot Trudeau  
18          into the Senate, and I believe that you were also  
19          appointed by the same person...

20          **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

21                 Yeah.

22          **M. CHARLIE WATT:**

23                 ... in that same year.

24          **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

25                 Yeah.

1       **M. CHARLIE WATT:**

2           So, we have something in common. And that is good  
3           to know and maybe we could build on that and,  
4           hopefully, that whatever the issues that we're  
5           dealing with will become to start materializing it  
6           in order for the people to utilize it to their  
7           benefits in the North. Because our problem is not  
8           going to be straightened out in the South, and it  
9           only can be straightened out by our own people.

10           So, for that reason, we are carrying ourselves  
11           as Nunavik people to make some certain  
12           modifications to the convention that we have, that  
13           is the James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement, in  
14           regard to a number of different chapters of the  
15           Agreement, which are not working, and we are going  
16           to be seeking to for the solution.

17           So, therefore, we are planning to input into  
18           negotiations with the government of Canada and also  
19           the government of the provinces -- "province", I  
20           should say, Québec province, to look into what's  
21           wrong with the convention that we find back in  
22           1975.

23           Some people say that the text cannot be  
24           modified, but it was done by human beings, at the  
25           time by -- in 1975. It can be re-corrected and be

1 re-aligned with certain other factors that have to  
2 be realigned.

3 Following about a year ago, the Prime Minister  
4 of Canada has indicated the fact that the modern  
5 treaties were established and they were seven  
6 ministers who were appointed to come up with the  
7 solution examining the policy of a government and  
8 the law of the land to see what did they have, to  
9 correspond with the modern treaties. And still up  
10 to now, neither one of the governments, neither the  
11 provincial government or the federal government,  
12 have really examined closely enough to see whether  
13 there is a correspondence between the two: our  
14 society and the outside society. Because certain  
15 things have changed through the negotiations and  
16 those still have to be corrected, even though that  
17 it was signed back in 1975 in actual scrutiny of  
18 the law and the policy of the government have not  
19 (inaudible) yet. This is a long overdue.

20 If the law that applies to the country, if it  
21 was modified to a certain extent to accommodate us  
22 during the time that we were negotiating, it  
23 should've been adjusted. It has never been  
24 adjusted. This is one of the problems that we are  
25 also having, not only with the federal government

1           and not only with the provincial government either.  
2           So, the two levels of government, we still have to  
3           sit down ironing out the arrangement that we were  
4           able to do at the time. So, there is many aspects  
5           of our... The agreement require revisiting.  
6           Modification have to be made.

7           Let me give you a couple of examples, the one  
8           that related to the land. We do have called  
9           (inaudible) one land, it's supposed to be outright  
10          ownership on the basis of (inaudible) simple  
11          rights. That is supposed to be... that is the land  
12          that (inaudible) one land that Inuit own. And,  
13          inside of that, if you would require to get some  
14          sort of a financing, making arrangement with the  
15          financial institutions, even if you have a property  
16          that you own, it's supposed to be adapted to the  
17          land by the fact that the land is collectively  
18          owned, but not owned -- not on the basis of  
19          individuals. So, we can't use those assets as the  
20          collateral if we need financing from the financial  
21          institutions. So, that is one area that is not  
22          working. That's one of the issue.

23          There are many other issues that we do have a  
24          problem, because they are not working and they are  
25          never going to work. So, what's the use having

1           certain agreement with the government if they are  
2           not working. So, we need to revisit some of those  
3           issues that we are having a problem with.

4           The other problem that I mentioned is, since  
5           the agreement, it was the mixture of the agreement,  
6           one is: ethnic component, related to Makivik  
7           Corporation, that's why Makivik exists. A similar  
8           to the one is the land-owning corporation  
9           responsibility. Those are the two ethnic  
10          components.

11          Then, the rest, like school board, health  
12          board, justice issues, environmental issues. That  
13          is still being driven by the (inaudible) loss of  
14          obligation. They are not ethnic components.

15          But, for that reason, when you are having an  
16          instrument that is supposed to have served you, to  
17          your benefit, up from the ethnic component  
18          perspective, at times that it doesn't really  
19          correspond with your lifestyle. In other words,  
20          it's something that it will never work. For that  
21          reason, we are on the process to try to, to begin  
22          to start identifying matters such as public  
23          (inaudible) needs to become ethnicized. I don't  
24          know whether you fully understand that concept?

25          It has to be ethnicized. In other words, if

1 we are ever going to ended up with the... let's  
2 say, a self-government for an example, self-  
3 determination, and things in that nature and that,  
4 we will be pushing to have legislative rights and  
5 legislative powers within ourself. That is an area  
6 that we are starting to move towards to now. So,  
7 hopefully, this will be able to help us to  
8 administer our own case rather than being  
9 administered by the South. Micromanagement is not  
10 working. It will never work.

11 We do have a coordinating committee, for an  
12 example, deals with the renewable resources. When  
13 every time there is an issue that we have to make  
14 recommendations, we have to get to the ministers'  
15 level. And it is always kept at the Deputy  
16 Minister's level and you don't go any further.  
17 When we are highlighting some changes, the  
18 directives that have to be given. So, those are  
19 number of issues that we have (inaudible) with the  
20 establishment, because of the way the system works.

21 We are not (inaudible), individual people.  
22 It's a system, over time, that has become a system  
23 applied to the South and it's also penetrating into  
24 our lifestyle. So, that is one aspect of our lives  
25 probably, we could say, is disturbing us rather

1           than helping us.

2           So, in other words, Commissioner, if you would  
3           look at it from the standpoint, you know, if the  
4           assistance that we are receiving from the South is  
5           not really helping, and I would have to tell you:  
6           no, not helping. Interfering with our lives very  
7           negatively.

8           And at times, the people are supposed to be  
9           working for us, it works against us. Because they  
10          have understanding the law that they have always  
11          worked from the government perspective, it has been  
12          driven by those people, even if they working for  
13          us, because of lacks of our own system in place.  
14          So, we need to move towards positively forward to  
15          become, as much as possible, to have autonomy  
16          within our own system, being able to sustain in our  
17          own way and according to the way we understand,  
18          according to the law that is applied to us, in our  
19          own setting. Not necessarily from the general loss  
20          of obligation.

21          So, we do have a great deal of grievances that  
22          we need to rectify with the government of Québec,  
23          with the government of Québec, certain aspects of  
24          agreement contemplated in the convention is under  
25          the provincial jurisdiction. The education of the

1 health issue, environmental issues and things in  
2 that nature. And the funding is also an important,  
3 because we're nowadays, without money, you can't do  
4 anything. And it is very hard to achieve anything  
5 without having a financial backing. So, that is  
6 another factor.

7 In one hand, you see, again, that we have  
8 received a compensation from the government of  
9 Québec and the government of Canada in order to  
10 make, so-called, a "friendly relation" or make  
11 peace or we are entering into a modern treaty. So,  
12 at times, we said to ourselves: "How did we get  
13 ourselves into that predicament?"

14 I can only go back to the point of 1912  
15 Extension Act. When the government of Québec  
16 assumed the land, they were very much not inclined  
17 to represent the people or provide services to the  
18 people. They wanted the land, but not the people.

19 Well, the fact, back in 1936 and 1939, there  
20 was a court action that went to place between the  
21 government of Québec and the government of Canada:  
22 Québec sued the federal government, assuming they,  
23 the federal government, are the one that should  
24 take the responsibility of the people, and when  
25 Québec was assuming the land. And there has never

1           been a harmony between the two.

2           I always state the fact, in order to get  
3           clarity, what happened back in 1912, we need to go  
4           back to that point and determine what went wrong.  
5           We were not informed. We were here. Like,  
6           deputies always say: "My grandfather woke up one  
7           morning and realized that the land was to become a  
8           part of Québec". He woke up one morning realizing  
9           that he is no longer a part of (inaudible), you  
10          know? He thought he had an ownership of land. We  
11          all did. And finding out later on that we were  
12          just the attendant of the land. So, that issue is  
13          always keeps coming back.

14          When you look at it from the standpoint of  
15          people, a newcomers from the outside world, from  
16          international community coming into the Canadian  
17          side, we asked ourselves a question: what  
18          authorities do they have to run our life? Yes.  
19          And still today. So, you can see that, you know...  
20          I think it's correct to say that it seems like the  
21          land was stolen. With no (Inaudible) that was used  
22          by way of dealing with the question of land.

23          The stronger you are, you begin to have a  
24          upper hand, than the other people that are smarter  
25          people. And that's what has been happening over

1           the years.

2           We thought, at the time, that we entered the  
3           modern treaty that the life would start to spin  
4           differently, and that did not happen. It's even...  
5           in some cases, it even got worst. So, there is  
6           many issues that we need to focus, and if we hope  
7           to be able to say that we are good partners with  
8           the government of Québec. So, there is  
9           realizations have to take place, and I don't think  
10          that how they have taken place yet.

11          If one of the things, what I would like to  
12          indicate to you is that there have been a couple  
13          attempts over the years to establish a mechanism, a  
14          tools that we need in order to advance ourselves.  
15          That's the problem that we are having, with youth  
16          protection act as an example. And a lot of our  
17          kids, as you know, that are being taken away from  
18          their families. And, according to the law, they  
19          will not be returning back to us until they become  
20          18 years of age. It makes you wonder: what kind of  
21          a society are we going to have? Yes. Yes. It's  
22          something that is making us... in a pos... a very  
23          vulnerable to, you know, and it's a position that  
24          we don't want to be in. We would like to be able  
25          to have a control of our own society, and the

1 control of our society is being slowly crushed,  
2 being taken away by way of micromanagement from the  
3 South.

4 So, I don't want to sound like everything that  
5 I have to say is very negative but, let me say one  
6 more thing: when the agreement was put together,  
7 there was a formula attached to that convention.  
8 When you have a people, a police chief making a  
9 sort of a threat, it's not his place. He doesn't  
10 have the authority, even to make a recommendation,  
11 to say that we should turn that over to the  
12 provincial police. If we would have turned around  
13 and say: "This is matter have to be turned back to  
14 the Inuit people, because it was dealt with through  
15 the negotiations, they would not have been able to  
16 accept that and more. But the fact is: you think  
17 he is so authority, and that's the way the police,  
18 here, in Kuujjuaq, not only Kuujjuaq, but  
19 throughout the whole North in Québec. They are  
20 number one. They considered themselves the number  
21 one authorities over everything else. And they  
22 were supposed to be providing assistance and to  
23 help the coordinate the municipalities they were  
24 supposed to be operating under the municipal  
25 direction, and that is not what is happening today.

1           They are becoming instruments of their own  
2           stand-alone and when it was supposed to be getting  
3           the direction and supervision by the regional  
4           government. And that's not what is happening, and  
5           we call that "runaway". It's very important.

6           And I think the whole question of a justice  
7           issue is also a big problematic. We need to have a  
8           judge, permanent judge, of our own, here, in the  
9           North. How do we end up getting that? That  
10          remains to be seen and how we are going to be able  
11          to put it together. I would prefer to have an Inuk  
12          person to be trained and to become a judge. Until  
13          that time that happens, we still have no choice at  
14          the moment being able to utilize the person that  
15          might not be within our culture to -- at least,  
16          it's within the territory. That's the way we are  
17          looking at.

18          It might help. It might not help. But  
19          without doing anything about it, it's not going to  
20          help. And, at least, we will have somebody here, a  
21          permanent, in Nunavik, and that probably will start  
22          to turn things around a bit more positively.

23          Another issue we are also having is: it's  
24          related to the Young Offenders Act, Youth  
25          Protection Act, and the way that our people have

1           been dealt with when you do something wrong or when  
2           they break the law.

3           There is very minor things that also could be,  
4           could escalate into becoming a permanent thing.  
5           Let's say, for the Young Offenders Act, might be 16  
6           or 15 or 16 or 17 years of age, first got caught.  
7           They do a little minor thing. Then, what happens  
8           is it's repeated, he comes a repeat offender. A  
9           few years down the line, you still see that same  
10          person when he becomes 16 years of age, he is still  
11          going back and forth. It's going around. It's a  
12          cycle. It's a cycle that we go through. Our  
13          people go through.

14          But we have to find a way to stop that. And  
15          the only place that I see where there could be  
16          proper services, could be established, is to keep  
17          those people, the young offenders, in the North to  
18          try to keep them busy, you know. It doesn't  
19          necessarily have to go into the penitentiaries.  
20          But, say, suppose if they don't go to the  
21          penitentiaries and, then, it's correctional  
22          institute that do exist.

23          I have visited some of those people, made a  
24          visit to some of those instalments in the South.  
25          They tell me one thing: "There's no program for the

1 Inuit". They are just wasting time. "They are not  
2 learning anything?" And, when they come back, they  
3 become repeat offenders again. There's no  
4 solution. So, we need to put a stop to that and  
5 come out with some alternative way of dealing with  
6 people.

7 And, I do believe there is a law also that  
8 provides -- that gives you an opportunity to have a  
9 certain amount of leniency on account of the lack  
10 of certain things. I think that law is not being  
11 used on a regular basis. And I would like the  
12 (inaudible) lawyers to express on that part of it  
13 to make it a bit more clear, and details, what that  
14 is. And I would appreciate if you could cover that  
15 a few minutes and that would be useful.

16 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

17 Me Dorval?

18 **UNE VOIX MASCULINE INCONNUE:**

19 Pardon? (Inaudible).

20 **M. FRANÇOIS DUVAL:**

21 So, what President is referring to here is... What  
22 we are looking for is more, the justice to be more  
23 adapted. We want more justice for and by the  
24 Inuit. So, we need alternative justice measures.  
25 At Makivik, we already have our justice, our

1           Community Justice Program with Justice Committees.  
2           Unfortunately, that program is funded, yes, by  
3           Québec and Canada, but we don't get sufficient  
4           funding to provide all the necessary working  
5           conditions to our staff. So, it is one thing we  
6           need: we want our Justice Committee Program to be  
7           growing, so we can provide better services to the  
8           communities.

9           We believe that the way justice is handled  
10          now, even if we do more of the same justice, it  
11          won't help solve the issues. We are really looking  
12          at alternative ways. We have very good projects  
13          that are being implemented such as this Sariouk  
14          Project, probably that you heard from it. And we  
15          believe -- this is being implemented right now in  
16          Puvirnitug, but it will need to be implemented in  
17          our communities at one point, and it's something we  
18          will require support to do, as a way to deliver  
19          alternative justice, and help people deal with  
20          their issues instead of send them all to a  
21          detention.

22          So, it's really that kind of justice that we  
23          are looking for, and, President, what will probably  
24          refer to it later, but when you read reports that  
25          were done on justice, like the one that was done in

1           1993 from the Inuit Justice Task Force, if you read  
2           it today, if you read the introduction, I could  
3           have written it today. The issues are still the  
4           same 25 years later. Something went wrong at one  
5           point. So, we are really looking at  
6           community-based justice. And another example of, in  
7           the justice field, when we say we want more  
8           community justice: the Crown prosecutor's office,  
9           now, here, in Kuujjuaq, there is no more  
10          persecutor. They pulled out of Kuujjuaq. They are  
11          delivering services out from the South. We are  
12          being told that we get better services this way,  
13          but we don't believe that. We believe that  
14          community-based service, and when you have a Crown  
15          prosecutor living in the community, knowing the  
16          people, you can't... do that from a distance. You  
17          need to be living among the people to understand  
18          and deliver proper services. And that decision to  
19          pull out and close the Crown prosecutor office, for  
20          us, it's totally unacceptable. It was done with no  
21          consultation. We are not even sure at what level  
22          of authority the decision was made, but it's  
23          something we are going to raise and President Watt  
24          will address it and denounce it to the Minister of  
25          Justice in the coming days. We have a letter ready

1 to go out. But it's an issue that has been on our  
2 mind since it was announced to us, and we will push  
3 for it, so.

4 It's just an example, but it's a major step  
5 backwards in terms of delivery of justice. We are  
6 feeling, we were making some progress here and  
7 there, but, now, that's a major step back and we  
8 hope other services want to be taking the same  
9 approach, so. That's one thing I wanted to raise  
10 as a final point under "Justice".

11 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

12 Thank you.

13 **M. CHARLIE WATT:**

14 Nakurmiik. If you don't mind, I do believe that we  
15 have translators available to us?

16 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

17 Yes.

18 **M. CHARLIE WATT:**

19 In Inuktitut?

20 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

21 You may use Inuktitut if you wish.

22 **M. CHARLIE WATT:**

23 I'm just going to switch over to the Inuktitut for  
24 a minute rather than trying to express myself in  
25 English. Let me switch over to the Inuktitut side.

1 I don't even know who the translator is.

2 **UNE VOIX MASCULINE INCONNUE:**

3 (Inaudible).

4 **M. CHARLIE WATT:**

5 Who is our translator?

6 **UNE VOIX MASCULINE INCONNUE:**

7 (Inaudible).

8 **M. CHARLIE WATT:**

9 Who?

10 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

11 (Inaudible) on the other side. Is it working?

12 **M. CHARLIE WATT:**

13 Who is the translator? So, you know, I noticed  
14 about the (inaudible) everybody here, so I know  
15 when somebody is doing the translation for me, I  
16 know how much he has and how much he is going to be  
17 able to express...

18 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

19 We have three of them.

20 **M. CHARLIE WATT:**

21 Three of them?

22 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

23 Yeah.

24 **M. CHARLIE WATT:**

25 Okay.

1       **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

2               Vinny, Lizzie, Susie.

3       **M. CHARLIE WATT: [TRANSLATION]**

4               Je pense que nous avons un interprète inuktitut,  
5               alors je vais parler en inuktitut, (inaudible) en  
6               inuit...

7               La police et la justice, si on ne commence pas  
8               à vérifier ou à analyser ces enjeux, et si nous  
9               arrêtons -- si les gens continuent à nous  
10              manipuler, viennent dominer par les autres, on le  
11              sait que nos vies ne vont pas s'améliorer si on  
12              continue de se faire manipuler de cette manière.  
13              Alors, je suis très, très content du fait que vous  
14              êtes ici pour enquêter, parce que, en somme, en  
15              tant qu'Inuits, nous allons devoir prendre action.  
16              Je crois que nous allons régler plus de problèmes  
17              et naîtront plus de solution, parce que les gens de  
18              l'extérieur vont pour pouvoir toujours régler les  
19              enjeux ou les problèmes pour nous.

20              Et les gens sont au courant pour des enjeux  
21              par rapport à la transportation par voie aérienne.  
22              Même avant que les gens soient au courant de c'est  
23              qui qui était en charge à ceci, et la juge est la  
24              personne qui était, en fait, un juge pour les  
25              assises, avant même qu'il... Je sais que la

1           décision est prise, même avant qu'on compare en  
2           cour, parce que, les gens, ils prennent tout  
3           l'avion ensemble: les procureurs et les avocats,  
4           etc., et je... je pense que c'est une joke, en fait,  
5           tout ceci, la façon que ça se fait. Alors, on  
6           n'est pas censé être gouverné de cette manière,  
7           parce que nous sommes tous humains et nous avons  
8           nos droits.

9           Et, parfois, les gens qui vont comparaître  
10          devant le juge, ils se font demander de plaider  
11          coupable pour qu'il puisse avoir -- juste, tout  
12          simplement, finaliser les audiences ou les  
13          comparutions en cours. C'est inacceptable.

14          Plusieurs, plusieurs, plusieurs choses que  
15          nous devons réparer. Alors, cette année, cette  
16          nouvelle année, nous allons commencer à établir nos  
17          droits, nos droits hérités pour s'autogouverner, et  
18          on appelle ça de l'« autodétermination ». Ça  
19          s'appelle l'« autosuffisance », c'est ça qu'on  
20          appelle. C'est de même, c'est appelé en anglais.  
21          Alors, nous allons commencer à travailler  
22          là-dessus. C'est ça, en fait, on a commencé en  
23          mai, alors ça sera, en fait, la deuxième fois, et  
24          on veut commencer à reprendre ce que nous avons  
25          perdu et on veut commencer à changer ce que nous

1           avons perdu.

2                   Parmi les composantes de l'accord où, par  
3           exemple, les Blancs, sous les lois canadiennes...  
4           Alors, basé sur toutes ces lois, c'est pour ça que  
5           nous avons cet accord. Alors, si on est pour  
6           continuer, le fait que nous devons avancer en tant  
7           qu'Inuits, nous devons avancer en tant qu'humains.  
8           Ça, ça sera, dans un sens, ce sera important de  
9           changer l'accord pour que ça soit plus pertinent  
10          culturellement.

11                   Nous allons aussi devoir parler avec le  
12          gouvernement du Québec et le gouvernement du Canada  
13          par rapport à ces changements que nous voulons.  
14          Parce que le fait que ça commence à changer, ça,  
15          c'est la première chose. Ça, c'est la première  
16          chose au Canada. Nous allons pas toujours utiliser  
17          la manière de l'homme Blanc. On va utiliser la  
18          façon inuite. On va s'assurer que c'est plus  
19          culturellement pertinent.

20                   Et il y a deux choses sur lesquels on  
21          travaille, il y en a un qui est presque terminé.  
22          La loi, quelle loi nous allons utiliser? Il faut  
23          que ce soit reconnu. Peut-être que, dans le futur  
24          éloigné, je peux visionner la façon qu'on va vivre.  
25          Nous devons faire des ajustements, surtout sur la

1 Section 35 sous l'Acte américain. Ça s'appelle  
2 « Section 35 », c'est là-dedans. C'est pas l'acte  
3 canadien -- c'est pas la loi canadienne, c'est la  
4 loi -- c'est pas la loi américaine, c'est la loi  
5 canadienne, excusez-moi. Alors, c'est sur ceci que  
6 nous allons travailler cette nouvelle année.

7 Et nous sommes en négociation avec le  
8 gouvernement fédéral pour les compétences, et c'est  
9 les premiers avec qui nous allons négocier.  
10 Ensuite, nous allons commencer à travailler avec le  
11 gouvernement du Québec pour que les deux ont pas  
12 nécessairement besoin de s'en mêler les uns les  
13 autres ou de s'entremêler des autres. Nous devons  
14 avoir notre propre façon, notre propre espace, nous  
15 devons avoir notre propre façon de s'autogouverner  
16 ou de se gouverner, tout simplement.

17 La façon que la police fonctionne et la façon  
18 que, nous, en tant qu'Inuits, nous devons contrôler  
19 notre propre culture. Nous devons le faire de  
20 notre propre façon. Ça sera pas facile, et nous  
21 allons le faire. Nous allons devoir le faire.

22 On peut voir, on pense que quand le  
23 gouvernement du Canada et le gouvernement du  
24 Québec, qu'on n'aura pas besoin de toujours  
25 continuer demander, mais l'idée c'est qu'on veut

1           que l'Inuit ait leur propre gouvernement. C'est  
2           ça, notre futur. Si on n'est pas pour le faire de  
3           cette manière, si on utilise toujours la façon de  
4           l'homme Blanc sans regarder la culture des Inuits,  
5           on le sait que ça sera mal, que ça va juste mal  
6           aller.

7           On peut déjà le voir. C'est même dangereux  
8           pour notre propre monde inuit, pour notre propre  
9           culture. Si c'est pour prendre très, très  
10          longtemps à réussir ceci, ce sera dangereux pour le  
11          peuple inuit. En tant qu'Inuits, on veut être  
12          solidaires. On veut vivre en harmonie, même avec  
13          les différentes races.

14          Mais le fait que, quand un homme Blanc regarde  
15          un Inuit comment qu'il travaille, quand qu'ils  
16          semblent dire, « il faut que tu le dises de ma  
17          façon », si c'est pour continuer dans nos vies,  
18          nous allons continuer à se battre, il y aura des  
19          conflits. On va jamais pouvoir penser pareil ou  
20          d'avoir un point de vue commun, et on va s'aligner  
21          vers le danger.

22          Par exemple, la liberté au Canada. Il y a  
23          multiples cultures qui viennent de différents  
24          « background » ethniques et ils ont deux  
25          fondations, soit en anglais, en français -- ou en

1 français. C'est les deux langues officielles du  
2 Canada. En tant qu'Inuits, nous avons besoin d'une  
3 bonne fondation qui...

4 Les Anglais et les Français sont de cette  
5 manière, alors nous avons le droit de... Le fait  
6 que les autres cultures ont pas le traitement  
7 équivalent, nous devons devenir autosuffisants, et  
8 tout coûte de l'argent. Par exemple: pour nos  
9 concitoyens inuits, il y a même des évictions qui  
10 prennent place. C'est où qu'ils vont aller, eux,  
11 quand ils sont poussés de la maison, tu sais.  
12 Puis, pourquoi on expulse les gens de leur maison à  
13 l'hiver? Pourquoi on le fait pas à l'automne?

14 C'est toutes les choses comme ça. C'est tout  
15 très douloureux. Ça fait mal à l'intérieur de nos  
16 cœurs, dans nos âmes. (Inaudible).

17 Et, si ça va continuer, ça va faire des  
18 affaires de la même façon: ce sera jamais réglé, on  
19 trouvera jamais une solution. Nous devons se  
20 reconnaître les uns les autres, reconnaître nos  
21 divers arrière-plans, et j'espère que ces choses  
22 peuvent être réglées. Et nous savons que les  
23 Inuits, que nous vivons dans des endroits isolés,  
24 il y a pas d'infrastructures.

25 **M. CHARLIE WATT:**

1           I don't know what happened to... Okay. (In  
2           Inuktitut). Our translator has started to talk  
3           into my ears, and I was wondering what was  
4           happening, so.

5           Anyway, so, Mr. Commissioner, as you are  
6           aware that we have no, a proper mechanism in place  
7           to deal with our problem... We have no real  
8           mechanism in place to deal with our problems. And  
9           this is going to take some time to develop some  
10          infrastructures we need and specialized people.

11          At the moment, we don't have the same kind of  
12          an access the Southern people have in terms of  
13          dealing with their problems. And, probably, it's  
14          going to take some time to, probably to (inaudible)  
15          the government who will hopefully, one day, will  
16          come to realize that we need some extra tools we  
17          don't have in the North, which are not available to  
18          us.

19          We are isolated. The high cost of living in  
20          the North is tremendously high. The difference  
21          between in terms of the gaps between the North and  
22          the South is 54 percent. It costs more, 55 percent  
23          more in the North than in the South. High cost of  
24          living, high cost of transportation, high cost of  
25          goods, taxes over taxes, government trying to

1 collect taxes when there is very little tax to  
2 collect. So, at times, we wonder whether the  
3 governments are serious about making ends meet.  
4 Because we are not making ends meet in the North.

5 Some of our communities have no (inaudible)  
6 power, due to the cost difference between the South  
7 and the North. There is many different components  
8 what makes our life is different from the South,  
9 and we have a very little chance of improving  
10 ourselves at times when we are going through the  
11 crisis.

12 And I would like to hand that over to John,  
13 just a minute, because Johnny has some experience  
14 dealing with the police, the early years of the  
15 establishment of the Regional Police Force. At one  
16 point, we were very part of it. We thought we were  
17 starting to go in the direction that is going to  
18 help our community. Reduce the crimes and, at the  
19 same time, and doing things properly, and make sure  
20 that the people should not be taken out, should,  
21 you know, not to be taken out. But, the fact is it  
22 turned out to be very different. Our expectations  
23 didn't come true.

24 Johnny, if you could elaborate on that? I  
25 would appreciate.

1       **MR. JOHNNY ADAMS:**

2               Thank you, Mr. Commissioner. Charlie.

3               I was compelled to come here, in front of you,  
4               after reading the investigative report  
5               by -- reporting by Tom Finery from APTN, the report  
6               he did on policing.

7               As you know, I've been involved with our  
8               community in our region for many years, and I was  
9               there in the beginning when we had Inuit  
10              constables, while the SQ were still enforcing the  
11              law in the region. And we had issues then. And,  
12              so, that was one of the, I guess, push that we had  
13              to form our own regional police coming from the  
14              Task Force report that was produced in 93 that  
15              highly recommended the creation of the Regional  
16              Police Force, and as well as deriving from the  
17              treaty, from the James Bay and Northern Québec  
18              Agreement that we were to have our own regional  
19              police force.

20              Going back to investigative report on  
21              October 26th, when I looked at the statistics of  
22              2017, where there had been 11,000 criminal offences  
23              for population of 12,000, and with the vast  
24              majority alcohol related, where the rate of  
25              injuries was equivalent to 50 times more than what

1           the Montréal police go through. And our KRPF  
2           having the distinction of having the most  
3           fatalities for any indigenous police force in  
4           Canada, these were shocking statistics.

5           When we had the vision and the drive to create  
6           our own police force, there was a lot of  
7           expectations, positive, very positive expectations,  
8           because we had, for many years, issues with the SQ,  
9           where not knowing any better, we were trying to get  
10          us to, yes, enforce some of our municipal bylaws,  
11          because they are the only police force in the  
12          region, but no one behold. It's not their mandate.  
13          But, for many years as a municipal government, we  
14          were asking them to enforce, but, under the law,  
15          that's not their jurisdiction. So, with that, we  
16          said: "We have to set up our own police force".

17          So, it took a lot of discussions and  
18          negotiations with both governments to convince them  
19          that we needed our own policing that would be  
20          community oriented, where the community would feel  
21          a part of the police force. That's what community  
22          policing is supposed to be, where you are working  
23          with the community. And as the chief Larose, from  
24          his interviews, he said, he agrees there is a  
25          public -- the public perception is negative at the

1 moment and, I mean, the numbers speak for  
2 themselves and, unfortunately, there are not  
3 inducing support with those kinds of figures.

4 In the creation of our police force, we had a  
5 lot of discussions during the establishment. When  
6 we finally reached an agreement with the  
7 government, we basically started with very minimal  
8 equipment, but the majority, I think, at least half  
9 were Inuit, the constables, when we started. So,  
10 with the expectations were that: with the proper  
11 agreement, with competitive salaries and benefits,  
12 and eventually equipment, that Inuit would be more  
13 inclined to join the police force. So, we would  
14 have a community policing.

15 It took many years to build the police force  
16 where we had no police stations in many of the  
17 communities. In fact, in some communities, we have  
18 no vehicles, so we have to use the municipal  
19 vehicles, the hand-me-downs to start the Police  
20 Force for the first few years. And we had the  
21 community support at the time. So, it was in  
22 cooperation with the communities that we were able  
23 to realize the Police Force to what it is today.

24 And they didn't have any handguns for a number  
25 of years as well. So, our officers, for a number

1 of years, were unarmed. For the first few years,  
2 actually one of the former officers that I used to  
3 work with for many years, she is a woman, she  
4 started with the SQ as an Inuk constable and,  
5 eventually, went with the KRPF. She was policing  
6 communities alone on many occasions, so, and  
7 without having necessarily the resources to  
8 violence. So, seeing these statistics, I said: "We  
9 have to go back to what the goal was of  
10 establishing the police force, which is to be a  
11 community police force working alongside the  
12 community.

13 In recent statements that I've had from a  
14 mayor the past few days -- if you want, later on, I  
15 can give you his name privately, so you can verify  
16 what I am going to say -- that he said: he called  
17 the police in his community, and the police officer  
18 answered him, and he was trying to give information  
19 about a bootlegger that is selling, and: "Can you  
20 do something? It's creating problems in our  
21 community. I know exactly who it is", because he  
22 has been told who it is and he verified. So, he  
23 called the police and the police literally told him  
24 in that community: "Don't call us. You're not  
25 supposed to call us. Let others call us". And

1           it's a new officer that made that statement to him,  
2           and he was discouraged, naturally. This is not  
3           what we envisioned when we created the police  
4           force.

5           And same thing, a few days ago, I was heading  
6           to Montréal and, during the walk on the  
7           underground, after we went into Montréal terminal,  
8           someone goes up to me: "In Inuktitut".

9           **M. JOHNNY ADAMS: [TRANSLATION]**

10          Il m'a dit: « Yani. Je dois vous dire, je ne suis  
11          pas très confortable avec la police. Je suis très  
12          fâché avec la police, en colère, avec la police.  
13          Cette personne était décédée et la personne était  
14          déjà froide et dure, et on a demandé de raviver  
15          cette personne morte, et on nous a dit d'arrêter  
16          simplement lorsque l'infirmière à l'arrivée. » Il  
17          était en colère. Alors, je dois vous raconter  
18          cette histoire. C'est pour ça que je vous raconte  
19          cette histoire. Cet homme a dit que...

20          **Mr. JOHNNY ADAMS:**

21          The first responders are supposed to be the ones  
22          that make the call of what... the procedure is.  
23          They are the ones that have the training and  
24          knowledge, and the fact that he was forced to  
25          provide CPR on a body that had... or rigor mortis

1           has set in, really upset him and he ran up to me  
2           and said: "I have to tell you this. It's bothering  
3           me."

4                   And that perception doesn't help his  
5           perception of the police force. And it's sad,  
6           because there is a lot of good police officers that  
7           are doing their best, that do their best every day  
8           and that work hard for the community. I have  
9           worked with wonderful police officers over the  
10          years that have the community at heart, and some,  
11          one that has even died while doing his duty in our  
12          community.

13                   And we have to turn the perception. It's  
14          going to take time. I've been out of the policing  
15          since 2005, when I retired from regional politics,  
16          but the first 10 years, I was involved through the  
17          creation through the operation and we had a good  
18          rapport. We had difficulties, and I knew, we built  
19          it from basically nothing to what it is today. And  
20          we need to get back to the community that we are  
21          serving to work with them and to listen to them.

22                   I was encouraged by the statements of Chief  
23          Larose, when reading his interview, that he's  
24          trying to go back to the community. I believe he  
25          only started in February and he is new to the

1 Force, but his attitude is positive. It was  
2 positive. Then, today, I was shocked to hear that  
3 they might hand over the operation of the Police  
4 Force to the SQ. I asked one of the regional  
5 counsellors: "Is it true or did you guys discuss it  
6 as elected officials at... if you don't get the  
7 extra funding from the government, that you are  
8 going to be handing over the operations, the  
9 operation or control of the KRPF to the SQ?" And  
10 he said: "It's the first I have heard of it."

11 So, I guess, this is still an ongoing, ongoing  
12 story, but it should be the elected officials that  
13 are making those statements, in my opinion.  
14 Because their role is to run the Police Force and,  
15 on the negotiations, on the politic side, it should  
16 be the leaders of the region that should be making  
17 those kinds of statements.

18 So, I hope, they don't hand over the  
19 operations, because it's not going to solve  
20 anything. We have to take it, work together with  
21 the police as a community, as a region, to turn it  
22 around and help one another. What I'm seeing now  
23 from the outside is: it's two different camps now,  
24 and that's unfortunate. In some respects, we have  
25 to put the two into one again.

1           And, like I said, I support our police, I have  
2           always supported them, and I respect the ones that  
3           are there over many years, sticking with the force,  
4           and that we have many young and inexperienced  
5           officers in our communities, and maybe that's one  
6           of the problems we are facing.

7           As talking with the retired SQ officer  
8           recently, he says: "Johnny, I agree, and, he says,  
9           we are all young -- we were all young once and,  
10          sometimes, when you are young, new officer with a  
11          new badge, with all that authority, sometimes, if  
12          you don't have an experienced person with you to  
13          hold you back, I mean, it's human nature." So,  
14          one of the things that, I guess, is very important  
15          is that there is experienced officers in the  
16          communities that they are serving. But, at the  
17          moment, from what I hear, it's a very difficult,  
18          because so much turnover is happening, and it's sad  
19          to see it in the situation.

20          And I, honestly, hope that we will be able to,  
21          now, to turn it around, and especially if there is  
22          respect on both sides. It's easy to move things  
23          that are insurmountable if there is respect between  
24          one another. It has to go both ways and there has  
25          to be an understanding, and, hopefully, more

1           understanding from the one that comes up North to  
2           serve in the communities and to understand what the  
3           community is about and what they are facing, and  
4           what they are faced to get to that situation.

5           Eleven thousand offences in one year. Most of  
6           these people have a difficult time getting a job.  
7           A lot of the positions require that you have a  
8           criminality check, even if it's a minor offence.  
9           Maybe a lot of these are, I don't know,  
10          administrative offences or by someone is  
11          undertaking not to drink. If you are on an  
12          undertaking not to drink, and if you are an  
13          alcoholic, it's pretty difficult to not drink, even  
14          though the court has ordered to you not to drink.  
15          Alcoholism is much stronger than a court order.

16          So, if the police officer sees that first, in  
17          not respecting their court order, well, infraction:  
18          so, they are sent down South, because they breached  
19          their probation. I think, these kinds of, in my  
20          mind, minor offences maybe will reduce the workload  
21          of the court system and, I think, these are the  
22          kinds of issues that should be addressed to the  
23          justice passport or Justice Committee that could be  
24          created.

25          Imagine, Commissioner Viens, you were a judge

1           once and in all these 11,000 defences, for 2017,  
2           are going to have to go through the court system.  
3           It just creates this snowball justice growing. I  
4           think, we have to stop and reflect. I'm not  
5           saying: "Do the same with the major crimes". No.  
6           I'm talking minor fences, breaches mostly,  
7           drinking. I'm sure, if we looked at it, a lot of  
8           them would be related to that.

9           And I thank, once again, the APTN report for  
10          putting this on the table for me to grab, because  
11          it's not easy to work on these types of issues and  
12          report, and where everyone can understand. So, I  
13          thank him for that, once again.

14          And my wish is that: let's reflect and see  
15          where we are going and look at solutions together.  
16          Because the system, the way it is now, is not  
17          working. And our officers, we have to support our  
18          police officers. But the way the system is set up,  
19          it's broken, and it has to be readdressed together  
20          with them. And I want each and every one of those  
21          officers to feel well and to be part of the  
22          solution to turn this issue around. We are in a  
23          tough situation, but I'm positive that we can turn  
24          things around. I think we hit the bottom. I hope  
25          we have hit the bottom on this issue and that we

1 can start to get out of it.

2 And I'm optimistic with your report that  
3 things will improve, and I would like to see -- I  
4 don't know how you will present your report, but I  
5 would like to see the specific section for Nunavik,  
6 because we've all have different issues as the  
7 11 nations in Québec. I'm sure our problems aren't  
8 necessarily the problems of the next one. They may  
9 be similar, but I would hope you will have a  
10 chapter related with your recommendations for the  
11 Inuit and Nunavik as an example.

12 **M. JOHNNY ADAMS: [TRANSLATION]**

13 Et maintenant, j'ai terminé, je pense, pour  
14 l'instant. Merci de m'avoir donné cette  
15 opportunité.

16 Lizzie, peut-être que c'est toi qui vas pouvoir  
17 continuer à ce moment-là?

18 **Mme LIZZIE ALOUPA:**

19 So, I will just add a little bit to what Johnny and  
20 Charlie are saying about the policing. Thank you  
21 for this opportunity to say what I want to say.

22 Since May of this year, I have been teaching  
23 the orientation to Inuit culture to newcomers, new  
24 police officers, and I have been really thinking of  
25 how crime is really more violent, and then they're

1 bringing in inexperienced young police officers.

2 And the other concern that I have been  
3 noticing is that: a lot of them have never spoken  
4 English or have never heard English being spoken  
5 every day. And if there's a call that is very  
6 urgent, we will speak English only, because a great  
7 deal of the population only speaks English as their  
8 second language. And I was thinking: "What if they  
9 receive a call, and the person is in distress and  
10 speaking in English really fast, and the young  
11 officer would not understand."

12 So, I tested one of them and I said: "If I  
13 called you and I spoke like this, would you  
14 understand me?" And he said no. So I suggested to  
15 him: "Go around and get used to hearing English."  
16 That's how, maybe, desperate they are for hiring  
17 police officers. But it is dangerous. People are  
18 more violent with an inexperienced newcomer who  
19 comes to the Tundra Region and it's a culture  
20 shock. I think, everyone is in danger of not...  
21 Everyone is in danger physically, mentally,  
22 emotionally, and also they are not able to deliver  
23 the service they came to deliver, because of the  
24 obstacles that they meet when they arrive in the  
25 community. So, I know that they are doing what

1           they can to provide us with three police officers  
2           in every village, but if it doesn't work and the  
3           people are just going to be more in danger, why try  
4           to keep it going one it's not safe for everyone  
5           anymore, even for the new police officers. And  
6           (inaudible).

7           Oh, yes. With the high problem of bootlegging  
8           in the region, which the officers always say it's  
9           the cause of all the crimes. Like some communities  
10          have alcohol order limits, and those limits are, if  
11          they are followed, there is no crime, no violence.  
12          But if there is a lot of bootlegging in  
13          communities, then there is a lot of violence and  
14          crimes. And the way...

15          One thing that I have always tried to push for  
16          or to be understood is: we know everyone. We  
17          recognize everyone in the community. So, if I go  
18          to the police and called them and say: "That person  
19          is selling alcohol", and we are always required to  
20          see the box. Did you see what is in there?", and  
21          all that, the... I realized the agent has to be  
22          there. We go there only when we know. We don't  
23          just go there because someone told us. We go there  
24          when we really are sure, for those of us in the  
25          front-line work.

1           So, that really has to change too, so it could  
2           enable the person giving information to have more  
3           credibility. Because you every day, we have to  
4           prove ourselves just because we are of a minority  
5           culture, we have to prove ourselves in the  
6           workplace all the time. So, I'm really happy that  
7           this Commission is here and that I even have a  
8           chance to say something. Thank you.

9           **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

10           Nakurmiik.

11           **M. CHARLIE WATT:**

12           Thank you, Lizzie. Nakurmiik, Lizzie.

13           Commissioner, I don't know whether we're going  
14           to get into the bottom of this in the short... in  
15           such a short period, as we would all like to do if  
16           we can. A lot of the matters that we are  
17           addressing to you, Mr. Commissioner, is matters  
18           that have to be delivered to the government of  
19           Québec, especially within the... under their  
20           jurisdictional matters, and it requires revisiting  
21           what we have done in the past, that is the James  
22           Bay and Northern Québec Agreement. We need to  
23           reveal certain sections of the Agreement to see  
24           whether they are actually serving any good to us or  
25           even to the system as a whole. There are very

1           identifiable areas that we can identify today to  
2           move in and say: "It needs to be corrected", "They  
3           need to be modified." Put it back in the reality  
4           they should.

5           By saying that, it means that we have to  
6           engage ourselves again, one more time, with the  
7           province of Québec and, hopefully that we will  
8           rectify some of those issues that we highlighted.  
9           And your assistant is going to be very important to  
10          us. Your report is going to be very important to  
11          us. You are going to be emphasizing from the point  
12          of being outside and looking at it from the inside,  
13          and, hopefully, that you will be able to direct the  
14          politician, that is, in the right directions, where  
15          we would like to go. And that fact that you have  
16          labelled the, what you call, United Nations  
17          declarations, that you have indicated support and  
18          that is the instrument that needs to go forward.  
19          And I do believe the Premier of Québec have also  
20          made the statement into the same effect. So, I'm  
21          very much looking forward to engaging with the new  
22          government and, hopefully, that we will be able to  
23          come up with some tangible solutions. What we are  
24          facing today, we know it's not easy, and we have no  
25          choice to go forward with those.

1           And if we leave things alone the way they are,  
2           continue to operate from the outside perspective,  
3           outside influences, into our system, we still are  
4           going to have a problem. And hopefully that we  
5           need to be able to address those correctly and to  
6           make the move. At times, we've been there before  
7           with the government, having a dialogue. As soon  
8           that we have an understanding, not too many years  
9           later, we find out we still... things they still  
10          have not changed.

11          In regard to the health and social service  
12          issue, no proper mental health services is  
13          available to us. I think, that, another point,  
14          that you could deliver also, as a part of your  
15          recommendations, we need to start looking into:  
16          what are the instruments that we need we don't  
17          have? That's one. No proper services for those  
18          who use special needs, and the gap as an example of  
19          (inaudible), we have no place for them.

20          I, for one, had to deliver my wife down South and  
21          she was away for two and a half years  
22          approximately. It is very recently, I brought her  
23          back. Because I felt that it was important for her  
24          to stay close to her people and the way they  
25          communicate, because she has not even been able to

1           communicate with me for two years. Don't recognize  
2           me, does not acknowledge me. Two days after I  
3           brought her back home, she recognized me, took my  
4           hands, and she was aware she was home. But that  
5           was just a short moment, an improvement that I saw.  
6           And, again, two days after that, she goes back to  
7           herself again. And she was actually uplifted for  
8           that period of time when she arrived in this  
9           community, starting to listen to her own people.

10                 So, therefore, what I'm saying to you,  
11           Commissioner, is that: we need to have some of  
12           those instruments tailor-made for the Inuit,  
13           otherwise what is brought in from the outside  
14           world, it never always worked properly.

15                 So, I hope we provide some important elements  
16           and I hope we got your attention, and I do believe  
17           we do. And especially that you and I have  
18           something in common, you know, that we were  
19           appointed by the same person.

20           **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

21                 In the same year.

22           **M. CHARLIE WATT:**

23                 Thank you.

24           **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

25                 (Inaudible)? No?

1       **M. CHARLIE WATT:**

2               No.

3       **M. JOHNNY ADAMS:**

4               In my additional, I guess, recommendation would  
5               be -- it's from experience and, then, looking from  
6               the outside. Like I said, I've been out of the  
7               regional issues for 12 years now, so, you have a  
8               chance to reflect sometimes, as well, when you're  
9               not involved in the day-to-day issues, and this is  
10              coming from experience. It's related to policing.  
11              It's something that we see and hear about.

12              We've experienced and heard a lot of standoffs  
13              over a number of years now, and these numbers  
14              aren't encouraging, where rifles, handguns are  
15              involved, with the SQ and the Inuit constables.  
16              There was more of an interaction with, let's say,  
17              an Inuk person, an elder or the mayor, when there  
18              was a standoff going on, and these used to be the  
19              norm, where the Inuit were involved, were the close  
20              person of the person that, let's say, holds up, for  
21              instance. And there would be discussions between  
22              some of the person knows and, over the number of  
23              years, that link has been pretty well severed,  
24              where: "No, you can't have any access. It has to  
25              be a negotiator from the SQ. You cannot get

1           involved.”

2                   Now they come in and then there’s no  
3           opportunity to try and de-escalate the situation.  
4           They are doing it with someone they have absolutely  
5           no clue who that person is. I think, it’s  
6           something I was encouraged in the interview  
7           statements, once again, by Chief LaRose, that... he  
8           would be willing to look at. I know, it worked in  
9           the past and I don’t understand why it was taken  
10          away in the first place, because, when you are in a  
11          situation like this, you need all the help and  
12          support you can muster around you to have a good  
13          conclusion to a situation. And I think, if you  
14          can, that should be looked at, because it worked in  
15          the past and I don’t know why it was taken away.

16                   We need to get the community feeling involved  
17          in situations like this. It’s our problem with a  
18          person in merit, it’s part of our problem, and we  
19          have to be part of the solution instead being put  
20          aside.

21          **M. CHARLIE WATT:**

22                   Just to take it sort of a step further on what  
23          Johnny is pointing out, this is a real. It’s our  
24          problem. It’s an issue, is our problem, and we are  
25          the ones that we have to find a solution. You have

1 to be some acknowledgement from law enforcement  
2 officers. They are not going to find a solution.  
3 They are not going to resolve the problem. By  
4 forcing the people to accept their notions is not  
5 going to be workable.

6 For that reason, the law enforcement officers  
7 too should stick to the law enforcement office,  
8 rather than trying to dictate how the people should  
9 live within the community. That is it. None of  
10 their business (inaudible). And I need you to  
11 address that very strongly.

12 The police are there to protect the people.  
13 The police are there to safeguard the people.  
14 That's the limitation of their authority in this  
15 community. For that reason, they should be  
16 directed by local authorities that understand and  
17 deal with the problems on a day-to-day basis. We  
18 do understand our people.

19 We know what the problem is. The problem is  
20 that have escalated up to the point that we even  
21 can say to ourselves: "We are losing the control of  
22 our own society. And this is not what is going to  
23 happen." Now, it's the time for us to take a hold  
24 of ourselves and decide, make a decision ourselves.  
25 This is our responsibility. And this is a serious

1 matter we need to take over. Whatever the  
2 jurisdictional issues that is applied to us, that's  
3 our home. This is our homeland. This is our own  
4 rules. It's going to be established in the North,  
5 eventually. And I hope the authorities from the  
6 South have a little patience. Let us get ourselves  
7 organized on ourselves. Very little disturbance,  
8 hopefully.

9 But that doesn't always happen, but we  
10 stressed that and again. And, again, the  
11 Commissioner, as I said earlier, that: James Bay,  
12 section of "Justice", "Police", etc., are not being  
13 implemented. We need to review that. That's the  
14 key. The key we thought, one day, was a solution.  
15 It's not a solution. We need to revisit and view  
16 them, and see where we withdraw.

17 Maybe we did not communicate properly with the  
18 outside authorities. On that account, maybe some  
19 of our implementation remains still today, after 43  
20 years, if we are still having a problem to  
21 implement certain sections of the agreement, which  
22 was supposed to be implemented a long time ago.

23 There is also reluctance (sic). That's not a  
24 part, a reluctance. The authorities, at times,  
25 feel, and strongly so, some of our thinking, some

1 of our proposals, they don't want to implement.  
2 But some in the precision, I guess, insecure or  
3 maybe they are jealous of their jurisdiction.  
4 Knowing the fact that I have experienced, now,  
5 dealing with the federal and provincial  
6 governments, there was always jealousy between the  
7 two.

8 Especially when you are bringing new subject  
9 matter, (inaudible) level of order that is foreign  
10 to them. They don't even want to hear that. But  
11 they have to hear it. And that's the only possible  
12 solution that is fit for us today, in this country,  
13 to understand that we all have to work together and  
14 we have to live together.

15 Another whole issue is still not being  
16 (inaudible) that's the whole economy. But economy  
17 itself also has a big play on the predicament that  
18 we are in today. As I mentioned to you earlier,  
19 the gap between the South and the North is a  
20 54 percent gap. Regardless of what the government  
21 has tried to do to come out with some substitution  
22 and so on, but still 54 percent.

23 (inaudible). It's a dollar. In Montréal: a  
24 dollar. In Ottawa: a dollar. In Québec - there is  
25 another small community some distance away from us.

1           They don't even have a purchasing power. So, that  
2           has a lot to do. The economy also has a lot to do  
3           with the social problems that we have in this  
4           community, here.

5                     And, again, will that be resolved by the  
6           South? No. It can only be resolved from the  
7           North. And, again, I think you very much.

8           **Mme LIIE ALOUPA:**

9                     I forgot one very important point. Can I say it?

10          **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

11                     Yes.

12          **Mme LIIE ALOUPA:**

13                     Yes.

14          **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

15                     Yes, I'm listening to you.

16          **Mme LIIE ALOUPA:**

17                     Thank you. When we were talking about the  
18           policing, we do this -- we are called child abuse,  
19           prevention work, and it's a criminal matter. So,  
20           about two years ago, we had 40 children that were  
21           waiting to be interviewed by SQ investigator,  
22           because it's a major crime, KRPF can't do that.  
23           So, these children were... they were placed in  
24           foster care, but the interviewer investigator had  
25           been on sick leave and nobody knew when those

1 children were going to be interviewed by the  
2 investigator. And when the interviewing is done on  
3 a little Inuk child; a little five-year-old has to  
4 answer the investigator through an interpreter.

5 I really feel that we are so remote, even if  
6 we are not police officers, front-line workers  
7 should now be trained to interview children who  
8 have been sexually abused. So, a lot of the cases  
9 do not make it to court, because (inaudible) trying  
10 to answer to the investigator through an  
11 interpreter doesn't answer properly. I know that,  
12 because I was interpreting for a little child a few  
13 times.

14 So, that's another big problem that we have  
15 that is still sitting there, and children are  
16 misplaced all over the place and a lot of them are  
17 not receiving the treatment for having been  
18 sexually abused, and it doesn't look like it's  
19 going to ever happen in the future with that, we  
20 can see.

21 So, we have these many children who really  
22 need to go to the court, if their history passes,  
23 and who really need care depending for what the  
24 crime that has been done to them, because from what  
25 we have experienced, visiting a couple of sessions

1 down South, we know, from hearing from the inmates,  
2 that many of them are victims of childhood sexual  
3 abuse, which led them into a very angry life, into  
4 a very angry, addictive to substances lifestyle,  
5 which made them a violent, and they are sitting in  
6 jail and not receiving the care they need.

7 So, we have over 200 men sitting in prisons  
8 down South who need care, not just sit there  
9 waiting for their time to run out. So, that's an  
10 important part that I forgot to mention. Thank  
11 you.

12 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

13 Thank you. There is something else? I use, at the  
14 end, to offer councils if you have questions, but I  
15 would like to give me some time.

16 **Me ÉDITH-FARAH ELASSAL:**

17 Everything was said. Thank you very much.

18 **M. CHARLIE WATT:**

19 I guess we could sit here all night and all day,  
20 and tomorrow and the week after, and so on, but we  
21 can still talk about the same things (inaudible)  
22 anywhere (inaudible). But, hopefully, that this  
23 will give you something to think about.

24 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

25 Yeah.

1 **M. CHARLIE WATT:**

2 And, like I said, I sure would like to have some  
3 opportunity to see your report, maybe, before you  
4 take it to where you need to take it to?

5 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

6 Yeah, I...

7 **M. CHARLIE WATT:**

8 If I can be of any help? I'm available.

9 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

10 Yeah. And...

11 **M. CHARLIE WATT:**

12 Yeah.

13 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

14 If you have -- you feel that some matters may be  
15 told to me, I will have (inaudible).

16 **M. CHARLIE WATT:**

17 I'm having; oh, okay, (inaudible)... you speaking,  
18 but I'm having...

19 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

20 Yeah, okay.

21 **M. CHARLIE WATT:**

22 Oh, okay. Maybe, this will help. But... Okay.

23 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

24 Yeah, yeah. I use it also, it's easier for me to  
25 hear. You see, I'm 71.

1           So, if you have something to tell to me, you  
2           are welcome. You know, we will have the office in  
3           Val-d'Or for quite a time again, and even if the  
4           hearings will ended in December in Val-D'Or, we  
5           will be writing, when the report is scheduled to be  
6           rendered in September. So, I will have go quite  
7           fast with people surrounding me.

8           But I still have a phone in Val-d'Or,  
9           (inaudible) and you are welcome (inaudible).

10       **M. CHARLIE WATT:**

11           Thank you.

12       **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

13           So, I will just comment... You spoke about the  
14           United Nations Declaration. I said a few times  
15           that my wish is that the National Assembly will  
16           adapt it in a single voice. This will be a gesture  
17           of reconciliation.

18       **M. CHARLIE WATT:**

19           Thank you.

20       **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

21           I would not like to get 70, 55 votes. It's not a  
22           true reconciliation. I wish we get a single voice  
23           adopting. Yes. This is a wish I have. And I told  
24           it a few times. And I, like you, I heard Prime  
25           Minister Legault and I hope it's going to be...

1           Also, when we are speaking of justice, please,  
2           correctional and other services, health and social  
3           services and youth protection, I have the feeling  
4           it's all linked together. He told linked together.  
5           And even if the Inquiry Commission has a mandate  
6           concerning these five, six services, it didn't  
7           happen since the last 15 years. It started long  
8           before. And we will go on this in the report. I  
9           call this "historial relations". It may explain  
10          why it is the way it is now.

11          And it's obvious to me that things should be  
12          settled with people in the First Nations and Inuit  
13          with them. Not for. The government has to sit  
14          with people of Nunavik, in each community. So,  
15          something original, but some matters may be  
16          specific in some communities, and to look at the  
17          problems with people here, and look the way it can  
18          be settled, and then give support. Not doing  
19          things for you but listen to what you need and do  
20          it with you, giving support.

21          It may be funding, it may be helping people to  
22          come up North to help, and with good training. You  
23          were speaking about training. And it's important.  
24          I was told by director Larose that 50 percent of  
25          the members of KRPF have less than one year of

1           experience, and the turnover is 17 years with about  
2           60 officers. So, where is the experience? Where  
3           is the knowledge of the way of life of the Inuit?

4           There are young officers coming here and, for  
5           most of them, waiting to go elsewhere. They are  
6           here before going elsewhere, looking at the time  
7           they will (inaudible). Do they have the mind? Are  
8           they minded to look at people, to learn the way  
9           they are, to listen to them? I doubt.

10          So, justice. So, you gave the number of  
11          charges and the number of people in the North.  
12          It's completely incredible. Most of these charges  
13          are breach of conditions and administrative  
14          offences. We heard about that. Before coming here  
15          and for the last weeks. I have the feeling that  
16          judges, attorneys, defence counsels, police,  
17          probation officers should sit with people and  
18          communities, to make sure there is a Justice  
19          Committee and support the Justice Committee, and  
20          make sure that -- and I am pretty sure that most of  
21          the offences may be referred to the Justice  
22          Committee. Or maybe a justice of the peace and be  
23          settled there, instead of putting people on planes  
24          going South with handcuffs and in front of  
25          everybody of the community at the airport. If this

1           could be avoid, it will be great. It will go  
2           faster, the Inuit way. And, as you told, maybe,  
3           major cases may be still handled by the system.

4           The system should be there to help, not to  
5           change the way of life of the Inuit. And it's not  
6           the way it's going on now. I was a judge for 30  
7           years, yes? And I have this one feeling that it  
8           doesn't work at all. Something has to be done, and  
9           not in 10 years. It may be important to revisit,  
10          modify, adjust or any word of the James Bay  
11          Agreement, but something has to be done, and, not  
12          in five years, now, concerning the justice system.  
13          It should have been done a long time before.

14          We have the result. It's incredible. I'm  
15          listening. I heard. I'm listening and I hope  
16          government will listen, and they don't -- I hope  
17          they won't take five years to discuss before doing  
18          something. It has to be done, and now.

19          And it's linked: police, justice,  
20          correctional, and social services, mental... you --  
21          health, mental health. I heard that experts of  
22          people formed, well trained in these matters should  
23          come here and help. It's a need. And we heard  
24          about a program going on concerning sexual abuse,  
25          concerning alcohol, drugs. Many things have to be

1           done, and I don't want to go back and what causes  
2           this. I heard about dog slaughtering, and  
3           residential schools, and the effects it has on  
4           people in the North. I read about that.

5           But, now, it's time to try to improve the  
6           situation, correct the situation, and to look at  
7           people of the North, what has to be done, listening  
8           to them, and... Yeah, that will be a matter of  
9           funding at one time, but it has to be done. What  
10          has not been done before should be done now. And  
11          I'm really convinced that it's important. I'm  
12          telling it. I will write it.

13          And you're telling me that some things special  
14          should be in the report concerning Nunavik. I have  
15          this feeling also. It's different. All 11 Nations  
16          in Québec are different, and even communities in  
17          the nations are different. We saw this.

18          As an example, taking Pikogan near Amos, Lac-  
19          Simon near Val-d'Or, and Kitcisakik in Parc des  
20          Laurentides: it's different. It's Anishinaabe, but  
21          it's different. And Nunavik is very much  
22          different. I don't mean there is no problems down  
23          South and First Nations, but Nunavik is special: no  
24          roads, the weather is different, the value of the  
25          dollar is different, and we can add much more.

1                   So, I just wanted to tell you that I'm  
2                   listening to you and that I hope the governments  
3                   will listen and that something will be done. That  
4                   we will not have waste our time for two years  
5                   listening to people. I hope people we heard during  
6                   hearings and we had 38 weeks of hearings. I hope  
7                   the people will be heard, listened to and that  
8                   something will be done. I think it's time. Yes.

9                   **M. CHARLIE WATT:**

10                  Just one more... Since we talked about the way  
11                  things have been happening, revolving over the  
12                  years since 1975, but we cannot also forget the  
13                  fact: what is going to happen to those people now  
14                  to have very deep criminal record? It started off  
15                  that they, maybe they were just a small fraction,  
16                  because of their breaking the conditions, it gets  
17                  bigger, and bigger, and bigger.

18                  Now, it probably has started when they were  
19                  16 years old, let's say, I use that as an example.  
20                  And I still see the same people when they become  
21                  50, 60 years old. It's still recycled. All the  
22                  same thing. What are we going to do with those  
23                  people, knowing the fact, in the other provinces  
24                  like Manitoba, for example, the penitentiary is  
25                  full of aboriginal people, okay? It could happen

1 to us. And some of those people have never been  
2 revealed properly. Neither of our people have been  
3 revealed properly. They are not. No one is really  
4 trying to figure out what is really causing the  
5 problem? Why that person decided to do certain  
6 things in a certain way, and in his own way,  
7 breaking the law? No.

8 I think we need to come to grips with that  
9 also. You know? Do you have the opportunity to go  
10 and declare themselves that: "I'm not a criminal."  
11 How do we reveal that? This is a real big issue,  
12 because you're going back to the point, backwards  
13 in a sense; how do you deal with those people that  
14 already have heavy criminal record and, therefore,  
15 they can't even become the workforce anymore? What  
16 are we going to do with those people?

17 Maybe we should find some way of helping them  
18 to get pardoned. You know? That wasn't possible  
19 anymore before but, now, it's possible again. So,  
20 maybe we should take the opportunity, the fact the  
21 system is open for the people to really come  
22 forward and say: "Look, I'm not a real criminal.  
23 Therefore, what are you going to do with my case?  
24 Because I am classified now as a criminal person."  
25 I bet you, it might be more than half of our

1 population is facing that crisis right now.

2 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

3 And I remember when I was presiding jury trials,  
4 people were summoned to come as jurors, and many  
5 people were telling me: "I've got a file". So,  
6 usually, when it was summary conviction, the Crown  
7 Attorney would let it go. But many people were  
8 telling me that.

9 **M. CHARLIE WATT:**

10 Could you, look into that and see how we can deal  
11 with that aspect of it?

12 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

13 Yeah. There's a possibility of pardon I'm -- I'm  
14 not a lawyer anymore.

15 **M. CHARLIE WATT:**

16 I know that

17 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

18 (Inaudible) I heard from the court, but I did and  
19 went back to the bar. I'm not a lawyer anymore.  
20 But we may see what the lawyers...

21 **M. CHARLIE WATT:**

22 Maybe in your recommendations you might find a way  
23 to address that issue, because lots of our  
24 population is... cannot you put themselves in the  
25 right position, to be able to be recognized so they

1           could be hired and make an ends meet to keep their  
2           families alive. You know? In some ways, some of  
3           those people that have a criminal record are not  
4           even allowed to go out and feed their family? Are  
5           you aware of that? They can't handle a gun, they  
6           can't go out, because the guns have been taken  
7           away.

8                     If you go to the police station, I bet you,  
9           you might not even be able to find the space on the  
10          floor, because it's full of rifles. That is what  
11          is happening to everyone in our community. They  
12          kept it to the point that they came disabled. Why  
13          do I call them disabled? Because they are not  
14          allowed to go out and bring the country for back in  
15          to feed their families. So, there will has to be  
16          justice somewhere.

17                    So, I leave that with you and I'll do what--  
18          my best to try to help in that area to try to find  
19          a solution. Maybe we need to set up an instrument  
20          to deal with that particular sector. They require  
21          a partner. At least to be examined.

22          **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

23                    I'm listening to you.

24          **M. CHARLIE WATT:**

25                    Thank you.

1 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

2 But you understand...

3 **M. CHARLIE WATT :**

4 Yeah.

5 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

6 ... I'm leading the provincial inquiry Commission  
7 and this is a federal matter. Maybe you know that?

8 **M. CHARLIE WATT :**

9 Yes.

10 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

11 Even more than I.

12 **M. CHARLIE WATT :**

13 Thank you. Maybe I want you to put our voice  
14 towards the federal government also.

15 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

16 Yeah.

17 **M. CHARLIE WATT :**

18 Thank you.

19 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

20 It may go through provincial-federal relations,  
21 anyway...

22 **M. CHARLIE WATT :**

23 (Inaudible).

24 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

25 So, thank you very, very much.

1 **M. CHARLIE WATT:**

2 Thank you. Thank you.

3 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

4 And thank you for sharing with us. I wish you the  
5 best. And if, as I told you, if there is something  
6 else you would like me to know -- ah?

7 **M. CHARLIE WATT:**

8 Don't forget this one.

9 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

10 Ah, I read it.

11 **Me GENEVIÈVE RICHARD:**

12 Thank you.

13 **Me ÉDITH-FARAH ELASSAL:**

14 Nakurmiik.

15 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

16 I (inaudible)...

17 **M. CHARLIE WATT:**

18 (Inaudible). We (inaudible) have the time.

19 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

20 Okay. So, thank you.

21 **M. CHARLIE WATT:**

22 Thank you. Thank you.

23 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

24 We will suspend, take a break, and go on with the  
25 next witness?

1 **Me ÉDITH-FARAH ELASSAL:**

2 Yes. And (inaudible) will be 10 minutes. Thanks.

3 SUSPENSION

4 -----

5 REPRISE

6 **LA GREFFIÈRE-AUDIENCIÈRE:**

7 The Commission is back in session.

8 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

9 So, welcome back. Me Richard, you will present the  
10 next witness?

11 **Me GENEVIÈVE RICHARD:**

12 Yes. So, we have the honour to receive Mark Tassé,  
13 who is the coordinator of the group home here in  
14 Kuujjuaq, and he has been working in the group home  
15 for twenty (20) years. But before, I would just  
16 like to file in evidence, a Statutory Declaration,  
17 under PI-169, P-1143, and it was the witness 1034.

18 **- PIÈCE COTÉE P-1143 -**

19 And you can swear in the witness, please. Oh,  
20 yes. I would... thank you. I would like to ask  
21 you the motion for the protection of identity for  
22 the...

23 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

24 Okay. It's the wish of the witness that...

25 **Me GENEVIÈVE RICHARD:**

1           Yes.

2           **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

3           ... his or her...

4           **Me GENEVIÈVE RICHARD :**

5           Yes.

6           **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

7           ... identity be protected?

8           **Me GENEVIÈVE RICHARD :**

9           Yes, yes.

10          **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

11           And as I told many times, I prefer to have a  
12           declaration, a testimony with protection of  
13           identity than no testimony at all. When people are  
14           met by our investigators told they wish their  
15           identity be protected, I always agree with that.  
16           So, I order the protection of the identity of  
17           Witness No. 1034.

18          **Me GENEVIÈVE RICHARD :**

19           Thank you.

20          **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

21           And what will be protection of identity number?

22          **Me GENEVIÈVE RICHARD :**

23           PI-169.

24          **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

25           169? Okay.

1 **Me GENEVIÈVE RICHARD:**

2 Thank you.

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1 Mark Tassé  
2 Témoin citoyen  
3 Affirmation solennelle

4 -----

5 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

6 Welcome.

7 **Mr. MARK TASSÉ:**

8 Thank you.

9 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

10 Thank you for sharing with us.

11 **Mr. MARK TASSÉ:**

12 Yeah.

13 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

14 I'm listening to you.

15 **Me GENEVIÈVE RICHARD:**

16 *(inaudible)*

17 **Mr. MARK TASSÉ:**

18 Okay. Yeah, I've been still working at the group  
19 home now and, for many years I have seen Youth  
20 Protection workers come in and out and witnessed  
21 them not explaining the role... their role, and  
22 just letting the kids sign papers... like forcing  
23 them to sign. And if they do not sign, they  
24 threaten them, saying, "If you don't sign, we're  
25 going to get the police to get involved to make you

1 sign."

2 And I do not like that and I approached them  
3 before that, "But do you... did you let them  
4 understand what they're signing?" And they do not  
5 respond, they just try to do short-cuts and  
6 everything all the time, just trying to... and I  
7 feel that's not right for the kids. And when I  
8 say, "Talk to the kids, tell the kids if they  
9 understand what they're signing." And if they do  
10 not understand, I tell them, "Don't sign." But the  
11 Youth... the case worker that's there, is not so  
12 happy with me and a few times, they've approached  
13 their director and tried saying different stories  
14 of how I'm not doing my job well, and they're  
15 trying to change stories and everything. And they  
16 tried to contact me to see why am I doing these  
17 things, and I tell them what happened and what... I  
18 asked them if they did what they're supposed to do,  
19 to let the kids understand or the parents...  
20 because most of these kids barely speak English and  
21 they do not understand anything what's on the  
22 paper. And I always ask them when... a few times I  
23 have read to them and translated -- to the best I  
24 can -- and they always say, "No, I do not agree  
25 with that. I do not agree with anything," what

1           they... they're being proposed to.

2           And the social workers always say, "Why did  
3           you tell them that?" And said, "You're working with  
4           these kids to entrust... like to trust them to work  
5           with them. You're going to be handling their  
6           life," and it's not fair for the kids not to...  
7           because a lot of them, they lose interest in  
8           trusting the adults because all the time they're  
9           being misguided and lied to. And it's not fair for  
10          these kids and a lot of them lose hope and resort  
11          not wanting to continue to do everything else. So,  
12          it makes it harder for us to try to work with them  
13          because we have to end up dealing with them and we  
14          do our best to get these kids to go home. But at  
15          the time when they're going back to the social  
16          worker, they do not even communicate with them.

17          It's like, when they're brought to the group  
18          home, they never contact their clients unless the  
19          clients... we ask them to speak to their social  
20          workers because none of them... even though  
21          they're from Kuujjuaq, they're here and they don't  
22          even get to come to see them, only if the child  
23          demands. They don't even check on them once a  
24          week, once every two (2) weeks, nothing. And I  
25          feel that it's not fair because these kids are

1           forced to sign, and they sign, and the social  
2           workers are taking them away from their families.  
3           And what they're being told and... it's not fair.

4           And they're our future, and when they're  
5           being, like, treated like that... myself, being  
6           from a broken home too, I understand the kids. I  
7           mean, it's hard to try to trust adults again  
8           after, and that's why I do my best to try to help.  
9           Yeah, there's a lot more too, but it's hard right  
10          now. I'm just... yeah. There was...

11       **Me GENEVIÈVE RICHARD:**

12           You want to talk also about the court interpreter,  
13           what happens in court.

14       **Mr. MARK TASSÉ:**

15           Oh, yes. Even one time, I went to court with one  
16           of the clients we have there. An elderly lady that  
17           was trying to get her son back, was very tired of  
18           going back and forth to Kuujjuaq -- which she was  
19           from another community -- and she was trying to say  
20           stuff to the judge, and the interpretation was not  
21           correct at all; that everything she said, the  
22           interpreter did not interpret right. And I tried  
23           to put my hand up to see if I... to let them know,  
24           but they didn't even acknowledge my (*inaudible*).  
25           And it was very, very discouraging, even with the

1 court system, to see that as well. And when you  
2 see the court system, when they go to communities  
3 for here, or POV, they're always all together in  
4 the same place. And when you see them through the  
5 window of the hotel, they're just laughing and  
6 talking away. It just makes it harder to trust the  
7 system like that too. And the kids are paying for  
8 all that too and without even understanding  
9 anything.

10 **Me GENEVIÈVE RICHARD:**

11 So, you're saying that the need of interpreter...  
12 the interpreter should be there at all times with  
13 the kids?

14 **Mr. MARK TASSÉ:**

15 Yes. The kids should have interpreters all the  
16 time, because they do not understand anything.  
17 Because even though you try to talk to them and do  
18 a reflect right away, like, ask them what we just  
19 talked about, it's, "I don't know." It's always  
20 just, "I don't know." But sometimes you just got  
21 to do it slowly and just let them understand. And  
22 if you try to speak to them in English, they  
23 just... gone. And even... yeah (*inaudible*).

24 **Me GENEVIÈVE RICHARD:**

25 Do you have anything... anything to say on the way

1 the escorts were handling the children?

2 **Mr. MARK TASSÉ:**

3 The escorts?

4 **Me GENEVIÈVE RICHARD:**

5 Yes.

6 **Mr. MARK TASSÉ:**

7 Yeah, some escorts, also from the south, when they  
8 come to pick up some clients (*inaudible*) they treat  
9 them badly. Like not badly, just not good. Like,  
10 it's not how they would treat their own certain  
11 people too. Like, I'm... I'm not saying...  
12 I'm... I'm just... I think that they were  
13 treating them like an animal or something, just  
14 every time a kid... like, I was on the same flight,  
15 and I happened to witness it... it was a French  
16 lady escorting a new client. Every time the child  
17 moved or just... "Sit down. Don't move." And  
18 she's just having a conversation with her friend  
19 and everything. And every time the kid moved, just  
20 told in front of fifty (50), sixty (60) other  
21 passengers at security over there. So, I just went  
22 over and talked to her and just stayed calm, just  
23 eased the girl and... and it makes it harder for  
24 the kids when they do not understand other people  
25 too. Like because I... I can connect with the

1 kids right away because I'm also Inuk and speak to  
2 them in Inuktitut, and...

3 So, it's hard to find good workers as well  
4 too, that speak Inuktitut in these cases also. So,  
5 it's just hard to find, and it requires no criminal  
6 record as well and... yeah.

7 **Me GENEVIÈVE RICHARD:**

8 Do you have the feeling that the social workers,  
9 they work for the best interest of the child?

10 **Mr. MARK TASSÉ:**

11 Not lately. No. Like it seems like they're trying  
12 rush, rush, rush. Because even a few times,  
13 they've tried saying, "It's almost five o'clock  
14 (5:00), I have to get everything done now. Can we  
15 take them now, even without the papers or  
16 whatever?" I said, "No." Because even before, we  
17 had an Inuk DYP director before. When she was  
18 there, I felt like all the kids were being treated  
19 fairly. And now, she... she retired, and now it's  
20 not an Inuk person, it's always not... no interest  
21 for the children or it's just move around quick,  
22 quick, quick. And I feel like that they're not  
23 even being treated fair at all, nothing, like not  
24 even close to half or whatever.

25 It's sad. And every time we try to bring it

1 up, they're saying they're going to do something  
2 about it, but never happened.

3 **Me GENEVIÈVE RICHARD:**

4 Do you think that before there was an Inuk DYP,  
5 right now, how do you feel... Martin Careau, the  
6 DYP here in Ungava, do you have a vision on him?  
7 An opinion?

8 **Mr. MARK TASSÉ:**

9 No. I just... a lot of his co-workers come in and  
10 out, and always say stuff about him that he's  
11 not... never there, not always doing what he's  
12 supposed to do, and a lot of things like that. And  
13 every time we try to have a meeting, he's always  
14 never around, and when he's there, it's always  
15 somebody else we have to deal with. And we have  
16 directors before that stopped because of him as  
17 well, that couldn't work with him. Just left  
18 because they couldn't work with him, yeah.

19 **Me GENEVIÈVE RICHARD:**

20 And how do you find Mrs. Lee Johnston, the  
21 director of rehabilitation services?

22 **Mr. MARK TASSÉ:**

23 Lee Johnston is a very good person right now, that  
24 she's... she listens and asks questions and talks  
25 to us, what we need, and what's to be done.

1           She's... she listens and asks questions of what  
2           we... not kind of orders around, just... she's a  
3           very good person, yeah.

4           **Me GENEVIÈVE RICHARD:**

5           Do you think there's enough services in suicide  
6           prevention for the kids in Nunavik?

7           **Mr. MARK TASSÉ:**

8           Suicide prevention, I do not think so because it's  
9           harder, because there's no hotline for us. And the  
10          hotline is in English and people... and when people  
11          speak to their friends and their friends speak to  
12          their friends, and I think that's why there's not  
13          much trust, and that's why it happens. I'm not...  
14          don't get me on that one because it can be very  
15          difficult. That's my assumption of this. One  
16          person talks to another person that talks to  
17          another person. There's no... like our population  
18          is low that almost everybody knows everybody from  
19          every community. And it's hard to speak your own  
20          language to somebody that you do not know. And  
21          when you speak English, it's sometimes when you say  
22          stuff that you don't say... you intend to say. And  
23          sometimes, it's always misinterpreted. And it's  
24          just... I don't think there's any... a lot of  
25          resources for suicide prevention, but that I feel.

1           Yeah.

2           **Me GENEVIÈVE RICHARD:**

3           What could be the solution?

4           **Mr. MARK TASSÉ:**

5           That's a big question that I don't... that I cannot  
6           really answer because it's a lot of... it's a  
7           really big effect right now, that's going very  
8           strong and hard, and... yeah, it's not... yeah, I  
9           can't.

10           I'm sorry. I'm sorry about that.

11           **Me GENEVIÈVE RICHARD:**

12           Take your time. (*inaudible*)

13           **Mr. MARK TASSÉ:**

14           I don't think that thing can be fixed. It's just  
15           something that's... I don't know. I... I can't...  
16           I can't answer that. It's just something that, you  
17           know, I don't think it's ever going to go away, and  
18           be presented. You can't. It's... I don't know.

19           It doesn't matter how young or old, now these  
20           days, it's just... I don't think it's ever going to  
21           be (*inaudible*). It's never going to be... I don't  
22           know. I don't think that's ever going to be fixed.  
23           That's just my thought.

24           **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

25           If you had the magic stick in your hands today...

1 **Mr. MARK TASSÉ:**

2 Erase that word.

3 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

4 ... what would you like to do?

5 **Mr. MARK TASSÉ:**

6 Erase that word. Never exist in the world, that  
7 word. Just that one word.

8 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

9 Uh-hum.

10 **Mr. MARK TASSÉ:**

11 Never... nobody do it. That word never exists.  
12 That's my magic. That's the only one. And we all  
13 work together good, very... Yeah. That's all for  
14 now, I guess.

15 **Me GENEVIÈVE RICHARD:**

16 Do you have anything more to say? We're open.

17 **Mr. MARK TASSÉ:**

18 Yeah, that little... that little thing, just made  
19 me lose hair (*inaudible*).

20 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

21 Yes. If you had the possibility to change things,  
22 what will you do?

23 **Mr. MARK TASSÉ:**

24 Oh...

25 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

1           How about translators...

2           **Mr. MARK TASSÉ:**

3           ... good... like DYP have translators to talk to  
4           the clients. If not, they should not talk to them  
5           unless they have a full agreement with each other  
6           that the kids sign... understand what the kids sign  
7           or the parents, and everything like that. Like a  
8           good... I know it's hard, but that would be one of  
9           things I would really recommend to have,  
10          interpreters for DYP and have them all the time,  
11          because when they have to go to house calls, they  
12          don't understand each other too. Yeah. And that's  
13          the biggest thing, is the language.

14          **Me GENEVIÈVE RICHARD:**

15          And on the training, do you have... do you think  
16          the social workers, they are trained correctly to  
17          come here in Nunavik?

18          **Mr. MARK TASSÉ:**

19          I don't think so. They're like... there's a lot of  
20          friends that always tell their friends to come and  
21          too many friends' friends come, even though...  
22          because that... I worked with the hiring process.  
23          I was kept out for a while, but I had to fight for  
24          me to get in with the hiring process, and that's  
25          one of the first things I (*inaudible*), is the

1 language, because the kids barely speak English.  
2 When the new workers come, they barely speak  
3 English and that's where it agitates the kids as  
4 well, when they... you can't understand the client.  
5 And that's why we are here for, is for the client.  
6 If there's no clients, we have no jobs. So, and  
7 we're here for them. And if we can't help them,  
8 why are we here? And we have to understand them.  
9 That's the thing I would want (*inaudible*) because  
10 the kids are being taken advantage of not being  
11 respected at all. Yeah.

12 **Me GENEVIÈVE RICHARD:**

13 That's all for me, I don't have anymore questions.

14 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

15 I will ask other counsel if they have questions?

16 **Me MARIE-PAULE BOUCHER:**

17 I won't have any questions. Thank You for coming  
18 here.

19 **Me DENISE ROBILLARD:**

20 I don't have questions.

21 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

22 All right. So, I also need to thank you very much  
23 for sharing with us. I understand that it's  
24 difficult for kids to have good communication with  
25 social workers. And you had the feeling that they

1           sign, once in a while, anything, and telling you  
2           after all that this is not what they meant.

3           **Mr. MARK TASSÉ:**

4           And there's a big turnover too with the social  
5           workers too.

6           **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

7           Yes.

8           **Mr. MARK TASSÉ:**

9           Even one kid had like six (6) social workers in one  
10          year.

11          **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

12          And having to tell his story again and again and  
13          again.

14          **Mr. MARK TASSÉ:**

15          Yeah.

16          **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

17          I guess it's hard, eh?

18          **Mr. MARK TASSÉ:**

19          It is. Sometimes it's... they sound like a broken  
20          record.

21          **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

22          Yes, and with difficulties of communication,  
23          difficulties of language, every time a new social  
24          worker, probably most of them young.

25          **Mr. MARK TASSÉ:**

1           Yeah.

2           **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

3           It's their first job or...

4           **Mr. MARK TASSÉ:**

5           And that's where the trust is gone too, from  
6           changing all the time too.

7           **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

8           Yes. And it's much easier to destroy confidence  
9           and trust than to build it.

10          **Mr. MARK TASSÉ:**

11          Yeah.

12          **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

13          It takes time build trust, but it (*inaudible*).

14          **Mr. MARK TASSÉ:**

15          Yeah.

16          **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

17          So, you will like to have more training in social  
18          worker and that they take the time to make sure,  
19          with interpreters, that...

20          **Mr. MARK TASSÉ:**

21          To at least make the kid understand, you know?

22          **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

23          They explain why they are there, what they are  
24          doing, why they are doing it.

25          **Mr. MARK TASSÉ:**

1           Yeah.

2           **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

3           Yes, and make sure that the kids understand, asking  
4           questions to him, and to see if... not only tell...  
5           tell it, but also check if it's clear, if the kids  
6           understand.

7           **Mr. MARK TASSÉ:**

8           Uh-hum.

9           **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

10          And to be fair with the kids also.

11          **Mr. MARK TASSÉ:**

12          Yeah.

13          **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

14          You're telling that sometimes it's not fair. So, I  
15          understand. I wish the best. I wish that... and I  
16          understand that when you realize that something is  
17          going wrong, you... you try to fix it.

18          **Mr. MARK TASSÉ:**

19          Yeah.

20          **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

21          Okay. So, that it's totally fair with the children  
22          because you're there for children, not the children  
23          for you.

24          **Mr. MARK TASSÉ:**

25          Yeah.

1 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

2           *(Inaudible)* different, for you and for the social  
3           workers. All of you are there for the kids.

4 **Mr. MARK TASSÉ:**

5           Uh-hum.

6 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

7           So, I'm glad you... you have this way to think what  
8           you're doing...

9 **Mr. MARK TASSÉ:**

10          Yeah.

11 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

12          ... and keep doing right...

13 **Mr. MARK TASSÉ:**

14          Thank you.

15 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

16          ... and help others to do the same.

17 **Mr. MARK TASSÉ:**

18          Yes.

19 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

20          The kids need that. So, thank you very, very much  
21          for sharing with us. Nakurmiik, and I wish you the  
22          best.

23 **Mr. MARK TASSÉ:**

24          Yeah.

25 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

1           So, now we'll suspend before...

2           **Me GENEVIÈVE RICHARD:**

3           Yes.

4           **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

5           ... going with the last witness...

6           **Me GENEVIÈVE RICHARD:**

7           It's the last witness.

8           **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

9           ... of our hearings in Nunavik. Already the end.

10          So, we take...

11          SUSPENSION

12          -----

13          REPRISE

14          **LA GREFFIÈRE-AUDIENCIÈRE:**

15          The Commission is back in session.

16          **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

17          So, welcome back. Me Elassal, you will present the  
18          next witnesses?

19          **Me ÉDITH-FARAH ELASSAL:**

20          Yes. We're pretty lucky to have with us today,  
21          Hilda Snowball -- who is the co-founder of  
22          Qarmaapik, which is a family house -- along with  
23          Maggie Emudluk, a board member of the Family House.  
24          Before we start, I would ask the clerk to swear you  
25          in. Welcome.

1 Maggie Emudluk  
2 Témoin citoyen  
3 Affirmation solennelle

4 -----  
5 Hilda Snowball  
6 Témoin citoyen  
7 Affirmation solennelle

8 -----

9 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

10 So, welcome both of you. I'll listen to you very  
11 carefully.

12 **Mme MAGGIE EMUDLUK:**

13 Thank you.

14 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

15 Me Ellassal?

16 **Me ÉDITH-FARAH ELASSAL:**

17 If I may, before you start, I will file into  
18 evidence the documents you share with us. So, the  
19 PowerPoint will be under P-1144. And there is also  
20 an article about Qarmaapik that will be filed in  
21 under 1145. So... so, but... I invite you to  
22 start. Present yourself and to present your  
23 organization.

24 - PIÈCE COTÉE P-1144 -

25 - PIÈCE COTÉE P-1145 -

1 **Mme MAGGIE EMUDLUK:**

2 Okay. Thank you, Mr. Commissioner. We're... we're  
3 very happy to be part of this Commission. My name  
4 is Maggie Emudluk. I'm from Kangiqsualujjuaq, one  
5 of the communities east to Kuujjuaq. If I can say,  
6 I've been a mayor some lifetime ago, for about  
7 eight (8) years, and I've also been involved with  
8 the region as the chairperson of the Kativik  
9 Regional Government for nine (9) years; more  
10 recently as a board member for the Qarmaapik House  
11 back home.

12 Before we... we talk about Qarmaapik within  
13 the slides, I would like to give just a brief  
14 context to what we will talk about. Our community  
15 Kangiqsualujjuaq, started in early nineteen sixties  
16 (1960s), after the First Cooperative movement  
17 started back in nineteen fifty-nine (1959). Before  
18 the signing of the nineteen seventy-five (1975)  
19 agreement, life for a lot of people were mostly out  
20 in the land as hunter-gatherers. And our  
21 municipality became an official municipality in  
22 nineteen eighty (1980). A lot of our people... we  
23 had to adopt to a modern way of life within a very  
24 short span of time, to a more expanded way to  
25 economy lifestyle.

1           Today, we have about one thousand (1,000)  
2           people. Our community faces many of the same  
3           challenges as other Nunavik communities. As a  
4           result of all these rapid changes and some hunter-  
5           gatherer lifestyle to a modern way of life in a  
6           very short span of time, sixty percent (60%) of our  
7           people is under age thirty (30) more or less.  
8           Fifty (50) to sixty percent (60%) of our population  
9           is... it's a very young population. We have a lot  
10          of teenage pregnancies, a lot higher than other  
11          regions in southern Québec.

12                 I'm sure you've heard a lot of these  
13                 statistics, but I'd like to just quickly say them.  
14                 Life expectancy for both men and women are much  
15                 lower than elsewhere. A lot of the household  
16                 income earn less than thirty-three thousand dollars  
17                 (\$33,000.00) a year. The way we knew that was  
18                 because at least close to seventy percent (70%) of  
19                 our households receive Solidary Tax Credit, and if  
20                 you have less than thirty-three thousand (33,000)  
21                 income per year, then you're eligible.

22                 A lot of overcrowding in our... in our  
23                 community as well. Education, from kindergarten to  
24                 high school, our community is no worse than the  
25                 other communities. We have high drop-out rates, so

1           the graduation rate is not very high. We have no  
2           road links, it's only by air; and also, during the  
3           summertime, sea lift... annual sea lift. So, cost  
4           of living is very high up here. Just an example:  
5           forty percent (40%) of the family income is going  
6           towards food... purchase of food. Gasoline today,  
7           it's a dollar sixty-three (\$1.63) per litre  
8           because... I think it's around two dollar two cents  
9           (\$2.02), but we do get a subsidy from negotiated  
10          agreements with the province, which is managed by  
11          the Kativik Regional Government.

12                 Anyway, locally, a lot of our people depend on  
13          snowmobiles and ATVs for harvesting activities.  
14          With high unemployment and high cost of goods,  
15          essential equipment required for important manned-  
16          based activities and travel are not easily  
17          accessible to most families because they're  
18          extremely expensive. All these social and economic  
19          stresses and historical context of the twentieth  
20          (20<sup>th</sup>) century, we believe has really ruptured the  
21          ability of many Inuit to transmit their own model  
22          for proper education, protection, and support of  
23          their children.

24                 Psycho-social problems coupled with post-  
25          traumatic stress, depression, addiction, and even

1           incarceration have prevented some parents' families  
2           from appropriately fulfilling... fulfill their  
3           roles, you know, towards their children, how to  
4           bring them up properly. So, this (*inaudible*) has  
5           to go in this special project that the community  
6           has been working on. So, we'll start with the  
7           PowerPoint.

8           **Mme HILDA SNOWBALL:**

9           Thank you very much for inviting us to speak about  
10          our project in our community. My name is Hilda  
11          Snowball, and I was the mayor of Kangiqsualujjuaq  
12          for the past six (6) years. Then recently, I was  
13          elected as a municipal councillor and appointed a  
14          representative to the Kativik Regional Government.  
15          And I am one of the co-founders of the Family  
16          House... the Qarmaapik Family House.

17          **Mme MAGGIE EMUDLUK:**

18          Back in two thousand... April two thousand and  
19          seven (2007), there was a Commission on Human...  
20          Human Rights of Youth and Children, a report  
21          called: Nunavik -- it's in French -- and there were  
22          conclusions and recommendations in that report  
23          where... where it was quite alarming to hear. This  
24          report highlighted that family violence is... it's  
25          very high in the region, and that Nunavik has the

1 highest suicide rate.

2 This Commission made an urgent call for  
3 frontline and preventive... preventative services  
4 in the region, and... but it also said that it's  
5 important to note that for many years, (*inaudible*)  
6 had clearly voiced their concerns of about existing  
7 Youth Protection services. We know, over the  
8 years, that the Youth Protection is overwhelmed by  
9 many cases. There's a lot... there has... there  
10 has been a lot of mistrust in the Youth Protection  
11 system in the region. Many staff turnovers, not  
12 only with the non-Inuit, but also in the Inuit  
13 sector. All this repercussions of a large number  
14 of interventions by Youth Protection, whether it's  
15 temporary or long-term placements, have been seen  
16 by Inuit or families of the region, it's been  
17 reminded of residential schools with the way it's  
18 been working.

19 So, after this report (*inaudible*)... after the  
20 report, there came this regional conference where  
21 Hilda will speak about the Crime Prevention and  
22 Empowerment that took place, and this is pretty  
23 much how... how Qarmaapik started to come about.

24 **Mme HILDA SNOWBALL:**

25 In two thousand twelve (2012), the Inuusitta

1 Makitjuumigiaqarniga Regional Conference on Crime  
2 Prevention and Empowerment revealed that everyone  
3 in Nunavik is part of the solution. So, this  
4 conference highlighted the actual situation of more  
5 than four hundred (400) foster children in the  
6 region at the time of the conference, and  
7 (*inaudible*) number of children... number of twenty-  
8 seven (27) children of Kangiqsualujjuaq, a  
9 population of a thousand (1,000), were reported to  
10 be under the care of Youth Protection services.

11 So, after that conference, as a community, we  
12 have discussed of where we should... where we want  
13 to go to. So, the thought of having a Family House  
14 in our community came up from that conference. And  
15 one (1) of the co-founders, Nancy Etok -- then she  
16 was the student councillor, and now she's vice-  
17 principal of Ulluriaq School -- gave an impression  
18 these numbers clearly mean we are facing an almost  
19 impossible mission. We must absolutely try  
20 something new. They also show that police services  
21 and the Youth Protection will not be able to solve  
22 these problems on their own. So, after that  
23 conference, we... we decided that we will step up  
24 as a community and as individuals in the community.  
25 Then, I was a wellness worker, so we decided that

1 we will take ownership of what the issues are in  
2 our community.

3 So, after that conference, there was a  
4 municipal election then. So, we... we all gave  
5 thought to become council members of our community.  
6 So, that is when I ran for the position of mayor  
7 and was elected, and it was my second term this  
8 past week or so. So, that is where we said that we  
9 will be responsible and take... be accountable and  
10 take ownership of that... of our children so that  
11 they can be proud of... in our ways and they can  
12 stay in our community.

13 And then, short after, there was a twenty...  
14 the two thousand thirteen (2013) Regional  
15 Parnasimautik Workshop, clearly demonstrated that  
16 fundamental issues that affect the daily lives of  
17 Kangiqsualujjuaq needs to be addressed. So, then  
18 after the Regional Parnasimautik consultations, the  
19 community was asked if we should continue  
20 discussing all the issues in our community to find  
21 solutions. So, this Regional Parnasimautik  
22 Workshop really helped us and gave us resources and  
23 tools so that we can talk with each other so that  
24 we can find solutions. And the mobilization gave  
25 us the opportunity and empowerment to find on many

1 complex issues we faced and to work on community  
2 development.

3 So, Qarmaapik Family House was one (1) of the  
4 topics that we were talking about at that local  
5 meeting so that we can find solutions, so that we  
6 can have our children in our community and provide  
7 services to the children and the families.

8 **Mme MAGGIE EMUDLUK:**

9 If I just may add to the... to the mobilization  
10 aspect. The region went through a mobilization  
11 tour to all the fourteen (14) municipalities. And  
12 the regional leaders at the time, met with the  
13 community for three (3) days at a time, and left...  
14 and encouraged the communities to continue their  
15 local mobilization. Whether they have issues on  
16 various fundamental issues, it's for the community  
17 to tackle to try to figure out what they want to  
18 do. And our community, under the leadership of  
19 Hilda, continued this mobilization, get gatherings  
20 about three (3) times a year, and these are heard  
21 live on the local radio. So, the whole community  
22 is listening to the discussions of their local  
23 leaders. So, this is basically how the idea of  
24 Qarmaapik came about.

25 Earlier, we mentioned that we had a lot... a

1 lot of our children placed in foster care. We  
2 wanted to take responsibility and be accountable so  
3 that we can raise our children the way... the way  
4 we want them to grow up because they are our  
5 future. So, we... the Family House idea, we came  
6 up with various ideas and these are one of the  
7 ideas that we came up with, and these are the  
8 objectives to the Qarmaapik House: So, prevent  
9 children being placed in foster homes and/or sent  
10 to another community by Youth Protection; to help  
11 families in need and strengthen connection between  
12 youth, adults, and adults and community with the  
13 assistance of our elders; to have traditional  
14 knowledge and Inuit values; be culturally  
15 appropriate relevant; represent our people in our  
16 own community; create bonds within families.

17 We wanted this... this Family House to be a  
18 community-based organization because we've heard so  
19 many stories of institutions that are under the  
20 hospital or under the Health Board, the Youth  
21 Protection, that they... they're not (*inaudible*) to  
22 our communities. They're... they're not really  
23 finding solutions to the issues that children and  
24 families are facing. So, we wanted this to be a  
25 community organization so that we can... we can...

1           so that we can have a culturally relevant solutions  
2           to the Family House in terms of our children;  
3           consulting our elders and asking them how the  
4           children were raised back then so that we can adapt  
5           a modernized (*inaudible*) and... because... because  
6           the Youth Protection Act is foreign to us, and we  
7           wanted to prevent our children being faced by the  
8           Youth Protection.

9           We... the Family House is providing services  
10          to the families and to the community in their  
11          mother tongue. We wanted this to have Inuit  
12          employees and the Board of Director are also Inuit,  
13          so that it will be fit to our community. With the  
14          help of our elders or with the help of the  
15          community members, so that we can... when we go  
16          along, we will improve things that need to be...  
17          need to be improved. So, this is why we came up  
18          with idea of Qarmaapik.

19          And the mission statement of the Family House  
20          is Qarmaapik is a place where parents or guardians  
21          are supported to meet their children's needs...  
22          needs better; to improve the bond within their  
23          family and to instill traditional Inuit, that  
24          family values in the community. And the mandate of  
25          Qarmaapik House is to provide a safe and secure

1 place for children ages zero (0) to seventeen (17),  
2 offer counselling and training programs to parents  
3 or guardians collaborating with elders whenever  
4 possible, and to help parents or guardians feel  
5 confident and competent in raising their children  
6 in a healthy and supportive family environment.

7 We wanted to have a safehouse component to  
8 this because a lot of our children are placed in  
9 foster care and the parents are not receiving  
10 much... much counselling or support from the Youth  
11 Protection system. Even though the Youth  
12 Protection is saying they will provide services to  
13 the parents, but because of the overwhelming  
14 cases... of overwhelming cases, it's impossible for  
15 them to provide services, even though it's in the  
16 Act that they have to provide that.

17 So, with the Family House project, we wanted  
18 to have children stay overnight a couple of days,  
19 three (3) days, so that they can be in a safe place  
20 and counsel the families if they need it.

21 Just very briefly on how Qarmaapik came about  
22 in terms of infrastructure. Back in twenty  
23 fourteen (2014), twenty fifteen (2015), they got  
24 funding from various regional organizations. So,  
25 this is just to show you the contributions that

1 organizations made. And for operations, for twenty  
2 sixteen (2016), twenty seventeen (2017), the  
3 regional... Nunavik Regional Health Board provided  
4 funding for three hundred four thousand (304,000)  
5 per year. And at the same time, that year, the  
6 Qarmaapik House won a prestigious award from an  
7 Arctic Inspiration prize: seven hundred thousand  
8 dollars (\$ 700,000.00), that we think that it won  
9 because of the safehouse component. Because in the  
10 province, Youth Protection, it's a law. So, it's  
11 only the Youth Protection that can work on... with  
12 children under the age of eighteen (18), but the  
13 mandate or the goals of Qarmaapik is to really  
14 to... for us to really try to prevent children from  
15 being taken away from their families or out of the  
16 communities and be sent out of... outside of the  
17 communities.

18 And I think that's pretty much why we... we  
19 got the prize. So, it really helped out with the  
20 operations of projects, the extra funding that we  
21 got. At the same time, we came out with a  
22 collaboration agreement between three (3) parties:  
23 the Qarmaapik House, the Ungava Tulattavik Health  
24 Centre -- which represents the CLSC -- the Regional  
25 Health Board... sorry, the Tulattavik is also the

1 Youth Protection, and the Regional Health Center  
2 Services. In this collaboration agreement, which  
3 is a pilot project at the time, has two (2)  
4 components: prevention and safe... safehouse.

5 Discussions started to... back in March twenty  
6 sixteen (2016). There was a lot of hesitations on  
7 the part of the Youth Protection. It was not an  
8 easy process. We... we got very good collaboration  
9 from the Health Board, but with the Youth  
10 Protection, we... we had to continue to try to  
11 convince them that we would like to work on these  
12 projects, but because of legalities, it was... it  
13 was not easy for them to collaborate with us  
14 (*inaudible*). So, it took over a year... took  
15 almost one (1) year to negotiate this collaboration  
16 pilot project agreement.

17 So, under the prevention component, these are  
18 just some very few things that the Qarmaapik House  
19 is doing, but they offer counselling, there's  
20 training programs to parents or the guardians.  
21 There's also elders that are involved whenever  
22 there's projects. There's projects... sometimes,  
23 it... when it's the prevention project, it's not so  
24 bad because we can work with... with the health  
25 sector, for example, youth at risk activities.

1           There's community kitchen, elders gathering.

2           There's one very good project that he was working  
3           on with family strengthening. We're hoping to get  
4           more of this one because it really... they really  
5           work on the child with the parents and the family.

6           So, these... these are some of the ideas that  
7           we're showing you under the prevention component.

8           During the summertime, they also go for... on the  
9           land... on the land (*inaudible*) so we're hoping to  
10          continue this winter, to provide families and  
11          children to go out on the land because it's a very  
12          different atmosphere. It's a very different milieu  
13          when you're on the land.

14          The safehouse component of the agreement, it's  
15          to provide safe and secure place for children.  
16          There are ten (10) beds. It's a building... it's a  
17          very old building that we have that was renovated.  
18          One side, it's the prevention... it's a big room  
19          with a kitchen and dining room for prevention  
20          activities. On the other side, there's... there's  
21          the ten (10) beds... ten (10) beds and a counsellor  
22          office. Because of the... the legalities of the  
23          Youth Protection, we have... we had issues with  
24          confidentiality. So, whenever Qarmaapik has  
25          clients, we have to close the prevention activities

1           because they can... it's the same building. These  
2           are the areas, I hope, in the future that will be  
3           corrected because this is really not according to  
4           our culture. Like, we know everyone. Everybody  
5           knows everybody.

6           Anyway, the safehouse component, community  
7           members who... who have problems, for example, if  
8           they come in during the night, we have twenty-four  
9           (24) hour security, local security guards. So, we  
10          have three (3), eight-hour shifts. So, whenever a  
11          family... a young family or a mother or a child or  
12          father, when they have to come in, they come into  
13          the safehouse. And again, the Qarmaapik's goal is  
14          to work with the child, the family, as well as the  
15          local social services who are quite... they're  
16          really helping out, the social services. We also  
17          have a... we also have a... under the hospital, an  
18          employee... a non-Inuk employee with someone from  
19          the community, where they work on... it's called a  
20          "sit program." It's for zero (0) to five-year old,  
21          where they work with children.

22          So, that part is working pretty good. So far,  
23          we've gone up to five (5) counsellors, but more  
24          recently... it's a very difficult position to be a  
25          counsellor. I think the weakness that we have

1 right now at the Qarmaapik House is its training...  
2 lack of training for our counsellors. We're in  
3 touch with the Health Sector, with the Collège  
4 Marie-Victorin, but at the same time, because  
5 they're already... we cannot just get in because we  
6 have to kind of wait. So, these are areas that we  
7 are trying to work on.

8 We've requested for a position called  
9 "External Educator," that is under the Youth  
10 Protection. We wanted to know if they could loan  
11 us that position till we can maybe have in-house  
12 training for our counsellors, and also help them  
13 out. It's been almost a year and a half we tried  
14 to get that from the Youth Protection, but there's  
15 no positive feedback. But more recently, the  
16 director of the Youth Protection in Ungava side,  
17 met us in Puvirnitug a couple of weeks ago and he  
18 said, "We're going to provide you with that  
19 position." It was like, "Wow, what happened here?"  
20 After trying to get to work with them, so maybe  
21 it's slowly... the machine is slowly turning.

22 And their position, it's like a drop... a  
23 coordinator who's on site, to provide these  
24 services. And of course, there's snacks and drinks  
25 for those... for these activities. We have elders

1           that come in whenever they have to do community  
2           kitchen, for example; traditional sewing. So,  
3           it's... we try to create that atmosphere where it's  
4           not like a hospital or... it's a home. It's a safe  
5           home. It's a health... healthy home. And I think  
6           the community is getting used to that.

7           When an example where maybe one of the  
8           challenges is that... that we've... that Qarmaapik  
9           House faced was, whenever there's a call at night,  
10          the police receive the call. And when there's a  
11          child or children involved, they call the Youth  
12          Protection. We want Qarmaapik to be part of that  
13          intervention. And it... it was an issue, so we  
14          contacted the Health Board, and this is where they  
15          really gave us the assistance. We kind of found a  
16          way... because they say, "Nobody else besides the  
17          Youth Protection can go into a house, unless the  
18          family signs a consent form." But two (2), three  
19          o'clock (3:00) in the morning, if... if family  
20          members are under intoxication, they're not just  
21          going to sign a form. And it's really not our way.  
22          We know who's... who these people are and we... we  
23          would want our Qarmaapik counsellor to come in with  
24          the Youth Protection, at least at the same time,  
25          and maybe they can bring them to... to the

1 Qarmaapik House.

2 So, we've... we found a way. We said  
3 verbally, the Youth Protection would say, "Okay,  
4 I'm coming in with Qarmaapik person here." And  
5 right away, the families are more open, they speak  
6 the language, they're... they're less intimidated.  
7 Because of high turnover of Youth Protection  
8 workers that come to the community, you don't  
9 get... you don't get a chance to know these people.  
10 So, the families are very intimidated. They don't  
11 speak the language, some of them. It's that  
12 feeling of you're being invaded by someone you  
13 don't know, but when it's someone from Qarmaapik,  
14 then that pressure really goes down, and then  
15 they... they can start to collaborate. Yeah.

16 So, we have... there's a 24-hour call... a  
17 telephone where people can call. There's an  
18 emergency line, and then there's also work hours.  
19 The kind of calls that we respond... or the  
20 Qarmaapik responds to... I think more and more  
21 people are starting to voluntarily come on their  
22 end because they realise it's a service that's  
23 right there in Inuktitut. You know, they know it's  
24 safe, it's... we get referral cases from the police  
25 and social services now. Sometimes, they also help

1 with translation for statements. Whenever there's  
2 a family crisis because there's violence due to  
3 alcohol or intoxication, they have a place to go  
4 to. There's suicide intervention. This one,  
5 when... when it's children, it's open to that and  
6 the overnight stays; there's ten (10) beds.

7 The statistics that we showed, they're not  
8 very... the latest ones, but the ones that we're  
9 providing now is from March twenty seventeen (2017)  
10 to May twenty eighteen (2018). We wanted to  
11 demonstrate how it has been in terms of, let's say,  
12 locals coming into the house. There's been about  
13 twenty-four (24) that would come into the house.  
14 Referrals, there's eleven (11). So, and sixty  
15 percent (60%) of these cases are active. But then  
16 again, when they're placed, you cannot go more than  
17 seven (7) days in the house. It's not like a Youth  
18 Protection style. It's... they know they can leave  
19 when they... they want to, but they can stay up to  
20 a maximum of seven (7) days. But at the... during  
21 that same time, the counsellors have to work with  
22 the family... with that family, to try to intervene  
23 and see where they can get help with the social  
24 services, but knowing also at the end of the day,  
25 if the family is not serious in trying to get help,

1 we also have the Youth Protection at the end of the  
2 day, but that's a last resort.

3 We also know that social services, the sit  
4 program, the police, they're also starting to  
5 realize that it's a very good resource in... in the  
6 community. We just wanted also to tell you some of  
7 the... what some of our partners, like social  
8 services, mentioned. Like, this example that we're  
9 giving, it's a suicide case... suicidal case. This  
10 person... the social services, she said... she  
11 always asks if the client wants an Inuk... an Inuk  
12 counsellor from Qarmaapik, and most of the time  
13 they agree. So, as soon as their counsellor  
14 arrives, ninety percent (90%) of the time, by that  
15 time, the person would calm down; would cry and  
16 talk about what's troubling them. But when it's a  
17 non-Inuk that's intervening, they don't talk.  
18 People don't talk because it's not in their first  
19 language, they cannot express their feeling in a...  
20 in a second language when you're in distress.

21 So, at the time, the social worker, she said  
22 in her opinion that they probably have less  
23 Medevac, due to suicidal ideation since we have  
24 Qarmaapik. When there were only non-Inuit workers  
25 in the crisis intervention, it's really

1           intimidating for people, and they panic. They're  
2           in a panic mode. And you know, there's the police,  
3           there's a nurse, there's a social worker. Like,  
4           it's... it's like, it's not in their environment.  
5           They... they... but when there's an Inuk beside  
6           them, it's... somehow, it's easier.

7           When... when we have... also, parents say...  
8           the parents say when they can talk in their  
9           language to the counsellor, they're more open.  
10          It's easier to talk about, to share their conflict.  
11          I think I'm kind of repeating this again, but this  
12          is what Qarmaapik is about. It's in Inuktitut.  
13          People... we know the people working there, and...  
14          and I think the social services sector is really  
15          starting to understand it's a resource for them  
16          too. So, I think it's helping them in their work.  
17          You know, a lot of the concerns about Youth  
18          Protection that we fought for is for Qarmaapik to  
19          intervene at the same time as them, to go in the  
20          house with them.

21          And... anyway, there's... we still have these  
22          issues and it's because of the law, I think it's...  
23          it's very pertinent that they really try to follow  
24          their law, and... but Qarmaapik... that's why I say  
25          Qarmaapik is walking, like, on fine or grey zone or

1           like on eggs sometimes. But if only... hopefully,  
2           in the future, we are also aware that there's a  
3           project under the Health... Health Board for the  
4           adaptation culturally of the Youth Protection  
5           application, and we can really hardly wait to... to  
6           get that for Qarmaapik because 37.5 under Youth  
7           Protection Act provides for an adaptation  
8           culturally to the application. It's not that we  
9           don't want Youth Protection law, we... we know that  
10          the children still have to be protected. It's the  
11          application that's so foreign to us.

12                 We also have the regional police force in each  
13          of our communities. So, in our community, we  
14          have... we have three (3) police officers, one who  
15          is more stable in terms of living in the community,  
16          but then there's a lot of turnovers as well. So,  
17          naturally, the police, they have to follow the law.  
18          So, they... they just follow the Youth Protection  
19          law, but again, these comments that we got from one  
20          police officer who lives there, he has an Inuk  
21          family, he... he says he works directly with  
22          Qarmaapik, and he has found that Qarmaapik has been  
23          a great success for the frontline workers. He can  
24          see the difference.

25                 He's given some examples of when a female

1           needed help because her boyfriend beat... beat her  
2           up and he ran off, the police couldn't find him.  
3           What would the victim and her children do if not  
4           for Qarmaapik? They would stay at the residence  
5           where the suspect could come back. Or option two,  
6           they would go to the family member's place and  
7           maybe not be welcomed. At Qarmaapik, it's a great  
8           place for the victims to go to and relax and have  
9           with them, their children. They also have security  
10          there, so the victim and her children, they feel  
11          safe. They are safe, and they feel safe.

12                 So, this is a comment that we got from one of  
13          our police officers. Qarmaapik, as well, has been  
14          involved in... because some... some clients are not  
15          comfortable in a second language, whenever they  
16          would have to make a statement to the police,  
17          sometimes they are interpreting for the family.  
18          So, again, the police... this particular police  
19          officer found that this resource is really helping  
20          the police.

21                 Again, without collaboration agreement, our  
22          challenges has been that the Youth Protection have  
23          not been too open to talk with us, until two (2)  
24          weeks ago. We... we understand that there's  
25          another Aboriginal group in the province, where

1           they... they have an understanding or an agreement  
2           with Québec, the Atikamekw First Nations, and me...  
3           myself and Hilda, we're fortunate to listen in to  
4           their... their presentation on how they're doing  
5           now. And we saw that Qarmaapik, I think we're on  
6           the right track. We're about maybe halfway of what  
7           Atikamekw is doing, but because of the law, we're  
8           kind of just... like, we need the region's help  
9           now. We will need the big help of the region, but  
10          again, it's really the local... the locals that  
11          need to initiate this type of work because the  
12          Youth Protection from the outside is coming in,  
13          and... and the locals is not... it's not... it  
14          doesn't work that way. It has to come from the  
15          community, and when we need help, then  
16          professionals -- like under the Youth Protection --  
17          these people are trained. They're social workers,  
18          they... they have training, you know, maybe we  
19          could collaborate with them, we can work with them.  
20          But because of the laws, it looks like they say  
21          they should be the only ones to do this kind of  
22          work, which we don't agree.

23          **Mme HILDA SNOWBALL:**

24                 And to add to that, in term of communications,  
25                 that's one of the challenges that we face with the

1 Youth Protection in... in our community. One  
2 example is, even though we have... we have the  
3 Qarmaapik House, and the collaboration agreement  
4 was signed, even though we've briefed one of the  
5 case workers, a situation we had is even though we  
6 briefed the agreement to the case worker, he went  
7 behind our backs and asked the family to sign  
8 whatever documents there is and not giving them the  
9 proper information to what the parents are signing.  
10 Because there's... the parents were intimidated by  
11 the case worker, so the Qarmaapik House... the  
12 Qarmaapik employee started investigating in that...  
13 I mean, asking the... the family, the parents that  
14 said they signed a document. And the parents were  
15 saying that the only information they... they got  
16 from the case worker is, "If you don't sign this,  
17 we're going to have your child taken away for  
18 thirty (30) days."

19 So, that's one of the examples I can give you  
20 in terms of little communication and little  
21 collaboration we... we've had with one of the Youth  
22 Protection workers in our community. And yet, with  
23 the Family House... the Qarmaapik Family House,  
24 we're trying to prevent that and provide services  
25 to the parents.

1       **Mme MAGGIE EMUDLUK:**

2           We do get operations funding from the Health Board,  
3           like I said earlier, and with the Arctic  
4           Inspiration Prize grant, which will be depleting or  
5           finishing... ending March of twenty nineteen  
6           (2019), we've requested funding from the Regional  
7           Crime Prevention, Ungaluk, for twenty nineteen  
8           (2019), and at the same time, we were invited by  
9           the founder of the Arctic Inspiration Prize, where  
10          he had the (*inaudible*) meeting in Ottawa earlier  
11          this year. We couldn't go down because we had no  
12          funding for travelling, but finally we ended up  
13          going down using our Aeroplan points to meet with  
14          some foundations. And very luckily, one... one (1)  
15          foundation, called The (*inaudible*) Family  
16          Foundation from Montreal, is very interested in...  
17          in the Family House. So, I think we're looking at  
18          a possibility of three (3) years of more funding  
19          from this foundation.

20                So, this is where we are at, and very  
21                recently, like we said, the director of the Youth  
22                Protection from the Ungava side approached us. So,  
23                I think it's a signal that maybe they will be more  
24                open for this kind of resource in our community. I  
25                don't see how else we can go and... so, this is

1           pretty much... we also have, in the region... I  
2           guess it's still very much in the works in the  
3           region. There's a new family house coordinator.  
4           There's also... we... we absolutely want training  
5           for our counsellors because they're not counsellors  
6           professionally, in terms of, they haven't gone  
7           to... to schooling. But this is... this is another  
8           area that we're communicating with the health  
9           sector, and I hope... we hope one day that our old  
10          building will... I don't know, maybe separate the  
11          prevention and the safehouse so both can continue.  
12          I think they can... I guess it's good for both of  
13          them, but whenever we have cases... otherwise, the  
14          Youth Protection, they're not going to collaborate  
15          with us. It's a give and take situation right now.  
16          So, hopefully down the road, we will... we would  
17          have a building that would suit better the... the  
18          safehouse component.

19                 So, I think this... I'm not sure... this is  
20                 pretty much what we have to say. I hope we were  
21                 clear. Nakurmiik.

22           **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

23                 Nakurmiik. Me Elassal, you have questions?

24           **Me ÉDITH-FARAH ELASSAL:**

25                 Yes. I would have a few questions. Nakurmiik.

1           You said Youth Protection Act is foreign to Inuit,  
2           especially when it comes to application. I would  
3           ask you, how do you define the interest of the  
4           child for the Inuit?

5           **Mme MAGGIE EMUDLUK:**

6           How?

7           **Me ÉDITH-FARAH ELASSAL:**

8           How would you describe a principle that we find in  
9           the Act, which is the interest of the child, that  
10          decisions are taken in its interest? How is it for  
11          the Inuit, the notion of interest of the child.

12          **Mme HILDA SNOWBALL:**

13          As Inuit, the parents... when a child has a mother  
14          and father, and the child also has grandparents,  
15          the child also has aunts and uncles, there's...  
16          it's a big family mentality in the Inuit... and we  
17          find that the Youth Protection would move too fast  
18          to take... to remove the child without... this is  
19          where Qarmaapik comes in. Qarmaapik would have the  
20          close... the closest families to get them involved  
21          to that child, to try to make them understand if  
22          there are no improvements in the home of that child  
23          with the parents, who... who can we work with? Is  
24          it with their... the grandparents? Is it with the  
25          sister that, you know... so the best interest of

1           the child, Qarmaapik has to... they try to find the  
2           best situation for that child and try to make the  
3           family understand, "Look, if you don't improve your  
4           lifestyle or... your child... the Youth Protection  
5           has the right to... to make some moves that you  
6           will not appreciate." Like, we try... we try to  
7           make them understand what the consequences could  
8           be, but then again, we also have the school. Our  
9           colleague, Nancy Etok, is heavily involved in the  
10          school. She's the vice-principal. She's very much  
11          in touch with the Qarmaapik. She's also a board  
12          member, but also with the Youth Protection.

13                 So, there's the school component. If the  
14          child... if the child is at school, there's the  
15          family... extended family. I'm not sure if I'm  
16          answering your question, but it's... it's not just  
17          *(inaudible)*, okay, *(inaudible)* let's do this. No,  
18          there's more human aspect to try to figure out how  
19          best the child can be helped.

20          **Me ÉDITH-FARAH ELASSAL:**

21                 And more involvement of the grandparents?

22          **Mme HILDA SNOWBALL:**

23                 Yeah, the grandparents or the close family, like  
24          relatives. Yeah.

25          **Mme MAGGIE EMUDLUK:**

1 I'm sure you've heard about traditional adoption  
2 too? There's... maybe there's less of that now, but  
3 these are very... traditional adoption is maybe not  
4 as active today, but these are maybe options that  
5 are still very much referred to by our elders.

6 **Me ÉDITH-FARAH ELASSAL:**

7 And since your establishment, did you see a  
8 decrease in the number of children being placed in  
9 foster homes or sent outside of the community?

10 **Mme MAGGIE EMUDLUK:**

11 We asked that question not long ago, and that's...  
12 they couldn't really say exactly how many because,  
13 again, confidentiality. But, yes, they... they  
14 say, in terms of getting help for the families,  
15 they say, "Yes, it has decreased." But I cannot  
16 say by how much right now.

17 **Mme HILDA SNOWBALL:**

18 But then we've heard a few situations where...  
19 where the families are saying that there's children  
20 they've seen taken away by Youth Protection without  
21 the knowledge of Qarmaapik. So, there has been  
22 some, like, sneaky activities behind Qarmaapik,  
23 even though we have the collaboration agreement.  
24 So, one time, the Qarmaapik employees stopped a  
25 child going away to another community when the

1 child was already at the airport. So, because the  
2 families contacted Qarmaapik, and Qarmaapik was not  
3 advised that the Youth Protection is looking and  
4 investigating at one of the families; they're  
5 removing the child and they're... the child is  
6 leaving already. That was one of the situations  
7 that Qarmaapik stopped because they wanted to work  
8 on the family before the last... last resort.

9 So, I'm not too sure about where the situation  
10 is at now because of confidentiality. That's one  
11 of the examples that they gave us because as board  
12 members -- and I voluntarily help in... at the  
13 Family House as a support to the employee -- that's  
14 one of the things that they were struggling with.  
15 So, as much as possible, we're trying to support  
16 the employees at the Family House, and that's one  
17 of the things that they... they've mentioned as  
18 well. So, it's... it's still a challenge for the  
19 Family House in... in those kinds of situations.

20 **Me ÉDITH-FARAH ELASSAL:**

21 I hear you're having a maybe difficult  
22 collaboration with the DYP, well, except since two  
23 (2) weeks. Could you speak more on the  
24 collaboration you wish to have with Youth  
25 Protection services in the future?

1 **Mme MAGGIE EMUDLUK:**

2 I... I think... I think the Family House, it's a  
3 very good resource because the people working there  
4 are from the community, they speak the language,  
5 they know the people. If we have these  
6 professionals that are from the outside working in  
7 the community, they should... they should be more  
8 than happy to have this kind of resource. It would  
9 really help because they're professionally  
10 trained... let's say... let's say, an external  
11 educator working with the family with children. We  
12 need these types of resources. Why not, instead of  
13 trying to be the authority, why not work with us?

14 The Social Services sector is... it's really  
15 collaborating with us. But if the Youth  
16 Protection... I guess it depends who you are too,  
17 but because of turnover of staff, when they come  
18 in, they're brand new. They don't know them,  
19 families don't know them. It's almost like a  
20 police-style... so, I think it's... if there could  
21 be more openness, less stringent on the rules,  
22 regulations, why not work together?

23 **Me ÉDITH-FARAH ELASSAL:**

24 I understand the turnover... the turnover at the  
25 DYP with the social workers or other people working

1           there, is a challenge for you as an organization.

2       **Mme HILDA SNOWBALL:**

3           Maybe there's not enough staff too. I don't know,  
4           but I'm not in the Health sector, but apparently,  
5           it's overwhelming. That we know that in the law  
6           that they've... they have to provide support to  
7           parents, for example. They don't even get to do  
8           that from what we understood before. But because  
9           of Qarmaapik, they should have a place like  
10          Qarmaapik to do these interventions together with  
11          the Inuit, the ones that understand the language,  
12          the one that knows the families. Because at the  
13          end of the day, they're going to be back home, but  
14          there's always someone at Qarmaapik.

15       **Me ÉDITH-FARAH ELASSAL:**

16          And do you feel, when you have new DYP workers  
17          coming in the community, that your Family House is  
18          well-known by the new workers?

19       **Mme HILDA SNOWBALL:**

20          No. Well, I don't know now, but that's... again,  
21          when we met with the partners, we said, "If... when  
22          you get new staff coming to our community, if you  
23          could just explain what there is in George River,  
24          there's a Family House there, you know." But a lot  
25          of the times, they have no clue that Qarmaapik

1 exists, with the new ones that are just replacing.  
2 But we do have one that's been there for a while,  
3 and we're not sure, but I think he's starting to  
4 realize. But then because of the law, maybe they  
5 have no choice. I don't know.

6 **Me ÉDITH-FARAH ELASSAL:**

7 As a community-based organization, what is your  
8 thought regarding community-based organization for  
9 the future, for the empowerment of communities in  
10 Nunavik?

11 **Mme MAGGIE EMUDLUK:**

12 I think that's very important that community take  
13 ownership of what they... of what they want to do,  
14 not be... not having to be told what to do.  
15 Because we know... we know what our problems are in  
16 our communities. We have to take the initiative to  
17 try to want to get help. If it's the other way  
18 around, look, the Youth Protection, it didn't work  
19 so much in the last many years. It's like... it's  
20 like residential schools, for example, they took  
21 children. A lot of the older generation remind...  
22 remembers that when the child is taken from the  
23 family. It... it goes back to the residential  
24 days.

25 We... I think it's really for the community

1 to identify that they need help, that what they  
2 want to work on, and... and there's many  
3 organizations out there that are there, that can  
4 provide funding. If we want help, we can ask for  
5 that, but if it's from the outside telling them,  
6 "Okay. You have to do this." If the people don't  
7 move, it's very hard to try to get something going.  
8 So, locally, for the last few years, under the  
9 leadership of Hilda, we've had these mobilization  
10 meetings or gatherings where the local leaders,  
11 whether it's under education committees or health  
12 committees, the mayor, the land-holding... you  
13 know, we would hold two (2) or three (3) day  
14 workshops live on the local radio in Inuktitut, and  
15 we would invite, I don't know, some... maybe KRPF -  
16 - it doesn't have to be necessarily all Inuit --  
17 when they explain about how the court system works  
18 or... we would... we would hold these workshops and  
19 we would ask, at the end of the day, do they want  
20 to continue these gatherings and they're used to...  
21 people are used to that now. So, hopefully, even  
22 without Hilda's leadership -- we have a new mayor -  
23 - hopefully we'll continue that, and that this how  
24 Qarmaapik was born, under that notion of gatherings  
25 and mobilizations.

1           So, our next goal is in January, with our new  
2           mayor, and I know he wants to target alcohol. That  
3           one is very... that's a tough one. We did, but we  
4           have to continue to try. We will never eliminate  
5           alcohol, I don't think, but people have to learn  
6           that it can be destructive to your life if you  
7           don't take care. That's an example.

8           So, yes, communities have to take ownership.

9           **Mme HILDA SNOWBALL:**

10          And to add to that, we... we don't build a house  
11          from the top to bottom. We build a house from  
12          bottom to top. So, that's the kind of metaphor or  
13          something that we... we try and encourage other  
14          communities to do. Because, like, Maggie  
15          mentioned, the communities know their situation.  
16          The communities know what they need as a community  
17          to... to find solutions. So, it is... I mean,  
18          there's... we encourage a lot of the communities to  
19          empower each other, and to get to where they want  
20          to be by mobilizing their community. Even though  
21          there's support different organizations, we try and  
22          ask organizations to respect what the community  
23          needs because they know what they need, and to  
24          support them instead of (*inaudible*) to tell them  
25          what to do. And that's one of the things that

1 we... we, as the community, tell our people, and  
2 try and empower other communities to do what we are  
3 doing as a community. Not in terms of how we do  
4 it, but in terms of how they can do it.

5 So, as much as possible, we're trying to talk  
6 to the other communities, leaders, to step up as  
7 well. And we know... we understand that they are  
8 trying as a community as well, but if they need  
9 support, we should support them. And to empower  
10 them as well because it's very difficult as a  
11 leader to mobilize a community because I have... I  
12 had great support, but we've done so much as a  
13 community for them for the last, what, six (6)  
14 years or so.

15 So, to add to your question, I wanted to also  
16 mention that we should support them, even though  
17 we're not from the community, even though if we're  
18 from the major organization, we should support what  
19 they are asking, in terms of getting better as a  
20 community.

21 **Me ÉDITH-FARAH ELASSAL:**

22 And would ask calls for action or recommendations  
23 for the Commission for the future?

24 **Mme MAGGIE EMUDLUK:**

25 Maybe before, I would just like to add a little bit

1           what Hilda was saying. Another interesting  
2           mobilization or gathering we did last year, was on  
3           education. Education, I believe, is a key... it's  
4           one of the bigger keys to our social fabric of our  
5           communities. Because of very high rate of dropouts  
6           or low-level of graduation... just even secondary,  
7           like... it's... it's a big key, and we have high-  
8           level of unemployment. So, we... we help locally,  
9           two (2) days, just with local school. We planned  
10          the two (2) days and it's... it's awareness of just  
11          the relationship with the school and the community,  
12          just that. Many people didn't used to go to the  
13          school because they know what the... the kind of  
14          school there was before, like, residential school  
15          or the Federal school. But we're very fortunate in  
16          our schools, we don't have a big turnover of  
17          teachers. Most of our Inuit staff are now  
18          graduates of the Inuit Teacher Training Program,  
19          and... and the non-teaching... non-Inuit teachers,  
20          they stay many years. So, it's... there's a good  
21          stability. So, I really believe that there has to  
22          be a lot more emphasis on trying to get more  
23          kids... more children to continue their education.

24                   But then again, because we work in... as  
25          Inuit, we have three (3) languages, and a lot of

1 kids are trilingual today. My children, my adult  
2 kids are trilingual. So, Inuit are also still very  
3 close to the land: hunting, fishing. So, we live  
4 in a very unique... can we say, we have a distinct  
5 society, pretty much? Like, we hear the French can  
6 say that too or any society. So, I think we have a  
7 beautiful region, but we have a lot of work to do,  
8 yes. Socially speaking, we do have a lot of  
9 problems, but there's also some very nice stuff  
10 happening too that we didn't really talk about or  
11 have a chance to say, but I... majority of our  
12 people are youth, so we have hopes. You know,  
13 hopefully things will start to move.

14 **Me ÉDITH-FARAH ELASSAL:**

15 Nakurmiik.

16 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

17 Nakurmiik. I will ask other counsel if they have  
18 questions. They (*inaudible*) not, but it happens.

19 **Me MARIE-PAULE BOUCHER:**

20 I don't have any questions. Thank you for your  
21 presentation.

22 **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

23 Okay. So...

24 **Me DENISE ROBILLARD:**

25 I don't have questions. Thank you.

1       **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

2           So, now it's time for me to thank you for sharing  
3           with us. You... you're telling hope. I was told  
4           that hope should be added to the list of what's  
5           written on the post at the end, and somebody today  
6           told me, "It should be at the beginning." Yes.

7       **Mme MAGGIE EMUDLUK:**

8           It's true. It's not there, eh?

9       **LE COMMISSAIRE:**

10          Yes, it's not there, but in my mind it's there.  
11          And I heard this word many times during the last  
12          two (2) weeks. And your project, what you're doing  
13          with the Family House, is great. It's done by  
14          Inuit for Inuit. And you're telling that it helps  
15          because of the language of the people involved in  
16          this Family House. It shows me (*inaudible*), people  
17          coming from outside should be happy to have this  
18          resource in the community... in your community.  
19          It's great. They should work with you. And I  
20          understand that two (2) weeks ago, you had contact  
21          by DYP. I hope it will continue. I hope they will  
22          have the idea of working with you because when you  
23          were asked about the interest of children, you told  
24          the first step is father and mother, father, close  
25          family, grandparents, the community, they have to

1           stay there. The children need these persons. So,  
2           everything should be done to keep children near,  
3           and the parents should have help. If they need  
4           help, they should get help, not to lose their  
5           children. And too often, to majority, they should  
6           have the help, the needed help.

7           So, I hope it will develop with DYP. And I  
8           understand that you wish that this kind of house,  
9           Family House, be... be developed in other  
10          communities in Nunavik. And I understand that  
11          you're willing to help to... to do that, people who  
12          will wish to do it in their community. It's great.  
13          It's great to share, to help, and I think it's... I  
14          have the feeling it's very useful and it should be  
15          developed all over the place. And I wish you will  
16          get the necessary fund... funding to improve your  
17          structure. I understand you need a building...  
18          developed building to... to be able to work in a  
19          better manner. So, it will help. So, I wish it's  
20          going to be possible.

21          I understand that many, many things have to be  
22          done in Nunavik, and much funding is necessary for  
23          what I heard to be done in the last two (2) weeks,  
24          but it's not that... because much has to be done  
25          that -- and it will need much funding -- that it

1           should not be done. I hope government will listen  
2           to you and to other people of Nunavik, to supply  
3           the necessary funding, to (*inaudible*) up, what was  
4           not done before should be done now. It's  
5           necessary.

6           So, I wish you the best. I wish you can  
7           continue to develop your Family House and that  
8           others will follow the example and may benefit from  
9           your help. So, *nakurmiik*, and I wish you the best.

10          We'll suspend now. You're the last witnesses  
11          of our hearing in Nunavik, yes. And we'll have a  
12          closing ceremony later. You're invited to stay,  
13          and it won't be too long, but it's a way to close  
14          these hearings.

15          -----

16          **FIN DE L'AUDIENCE**

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I, the undersigned **NADIA SZANISZLO and KARINE LAPERRIÈRE** Official Court Reporters, hereby certify under their Oath of Office that the preceding pages are a true and faithful transcript of the recordings supplied, done totally out of our control, to the best of our ability and knowledge, and in accordance with the quality of said recordings. The whole in accordance with the law,

AND WE HAVE SIGNED,



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**NADIA SZANISZLO, o.c.r.**  
Official Court Reporter 334323



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**KARINE LAPERRIÈRE o.c.r.**