

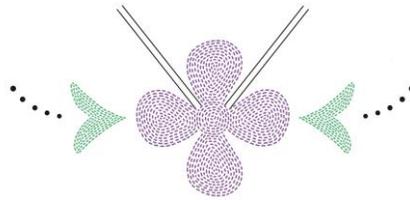
National Inquiry into  
Missing and Murdered  
Indigenous Women and Girls



Enquête nationale  
sur les femmes et les filles  
autochtones disparues et assassinées

**National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered  
Indigenous Women and Girls  
Truth-Gathering Process – Part 1 Public Hearings  
Siniktarvik Hotel & Conference Centre Salon A/B**

**Rankin Inlet, Nunavut**



**PUBLIC**

**Thursday February 22, 2018**

**Public Volume 48(a)**

**Janet Brewster, Danielle Cormier, David Ritchie  
& Jayko Lyall, In relation to Sylvia Lyall;**

**Susan Aglukark**

**Heard by Commissioner Qajaq Robinson**



III  
TABLE OF CONTENTS

PAGE

**Public Volume 48(a)**

**Hearing #1**

**Witnesses: Janet Brewster, Danielle Cormier, David Ritchie  
and Jayko Lyall, In relation to Sylvia Lyall**

Heard by Commissioner Qajaq Robinson

Commission Counsel: Lillian Lundrigan

Grandmothers, Elders and Knowledge-keepers: Bernie Poitras  
Williams, Louise Haulli, Audrey Siegl, Monica Ugjuk, Adele  
Angidlik and Helen Iguptak

Clerk: Trudy Mckinnon

Registrar: Bryan Zandberg..... 1

**Hearing #3**

**Witness: Susan Aglukark**

Heard by Commissioner Qajaq Robinson

Commission Counsel: Fanny Wylde

Grandmothers, Elders and Knowledge-keepers: Bernie..... 47  
Poitras Williams, Louise Haulli, Monica Ugjuk, Adele  
Angidlik and Helen Iguptak

Clerk: Trudy Mckinnon

Registrar: Bryan Zandberg..... **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

IV  
LIST OF EXHIBITS  
DESCRIPTION

NO.	DESCRIPTION	PAGE
<b>Hearing #1</b>		
<b>Exhibits (code: P01P11P0301)</b>		
	Exhibit 1: Folder of 13 digital images displayed during the public testimony of the witness.....	47
	Exhibit 2: <i>Reasons for Sentence</i> , R. v. Anablak, 2008 NUCJ 09 .....	47

1  
Janet Brewster, Danielle Cormier, David Ritchie and Jayko  
Lyall, In relation to Sylvia Lyall

1 Rankin Inlet, Nunavut  
2 --- Upon commencing on Thursday, February 22, 2018,  
3 at 9:26 a.m.

4 **Hearing #1**

5 **Witnesses: Janet Brewster, Danielle Cormier, David**  
6 **Ritchie and Jayko Lyall**

7 **In relation to Sylvia Lyall**

8 **Heard by Commissioner Qajaq Robinson**

9 **Commission Counsel: Lillian Lundrigan**

10

11 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Good  
12 morning to the final day of the community hearings  
13 here in Rankin Inlet, Nunavut.

14 Before we begin, before I  
15 introduce our family here, I will ask the registrar  
16 to affirm Janet and Danielle, David and Jayko.

17 AFFIRMED: JANET BREWSTER

18 AFFIRMED: DAVID RITCHIE

19 AFFIRMED: JAYKO LYALL

20 AFFIRMED: DANIELLE CORMIER

21 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:  
22 Qujannamiik. Commissioner Robinson, I introduced  
23 Janet Brewster, who will be sharing her story this  
24 morning about her aunt, Sylvia Lyall.

25 Janet, can you -- you want to

1 begin telling this about your aunt?

2 MS. JANET BREWSTER: I just want  
3 to start by saying thank you to my family for being  
4 here and to thank the commission and Lillian and  
5 Joseph, who is not here anymore. They took my  
6 personal statements this summer and were very --  
7 actually, the whole staff that reached out to me  
8 have been extremely kind and very helpful to help  
9 bring us here.

10 And I want to say to you, Qajaq,  
11 and all of the commissioners that I have deep love  
12 for you, and the work that you're doing is so  
13 important and means so much to so many people, and  
14 I think of you every day. And I wish you strength  
15 and courage and I value you and I'm really, really  
16 happy that you're here today, and I'm happy that  
17 you brought me here so that we could talk about  
18 Sylvia. Thank you.

19 So, we're here to talk about  
20 Sylvia Ann Lyall, who is the mother of these  
21 beautiful children sitting next to me and our  
22 auntie. She was the youngest in our family. She  
23 was actually the only child of Ernie and Nipisha  
24 Lyall, who didn't have an Inuktitut name and being  
25 the youngest in my family, Sylvia and I were always  
26 together. I guess I kind of got assigned to Sylvia

1 in the way that Inuit families assigned children to  
2 aunties and uncles and cousins who are older to  
3 guide and take care of.

4                   And so, throughout my childhood,  
5 Sylvia was the auntie that was always responsible  
6 for getting me ready when we were going out if we  
7 were going out fishing, going out to Middle Lake or  
8 if we were going out boating or if we were going  
9 out flying anywhere. Sylvia had to take care of me  
10 and she did a really good job.

11                   I came here today actually without  
12 prepared remarks. I do have -- I did prepare one  
13 kind of opening statement that I have saved on my  
14 phone that I plan to read, but I just wanted to say  
15 that Sylvia was loved and valued by many people,  
16 not just in our family, but in our entire community  
17 and in the community as a whole in terms of her  
18 entire life, you know.

19                   Coming here today, we've  
20 introduced her children to many of her friends who  
21 went to school with her in Akaitcho Hall and who  
22 grew in life with her, so it's actually really good  
23 for us to be here to be able to do that.

24                   When I was considering what I  
25 would say, I felt that it's very important to open  
26 with a statement about the work that you're doing,

1 and I feel that we must address the dehumanization  
2 of missing and murdered Indigenous people in Canada  
3 and globally.

4                                 Sylvia Ann Lyle was a woman but  
5 Indigenous. Beaten but Indigenous. A Canadian but  
6 Indigenous. Murdered but Indigenous. Gone but  
7 Indigenous. This "but" is the hidden murderer.  
8 This "but" is a serial killer.

9                                 I want everyone to think of  
10 missing and murdered Indigenous women as normal  
11 people who have their lives and lost them not  
12 because they wanted to run away and be lost or  
13 murdered, but because we can't fix the problem  
14 until we acknowledge it.

15                                 In this case, acknowledgement  
16 starts with those who are affected being heard,  
17 loud and clear and without distraction, without  
18 prejudice. Like all Canadians, we have dreams in  
19 our lives and we are entitled to live to see those  
20 dreams come true. We have families and  
21 communities. We are loved and valued for our deep  
22 and important contributions to the world around us.  
23         Those of us who have lost family friends and  
24 communities members, we live our losses each day as  
25 we are reminded of our own pain and fear as day  
26 after day, we hear of another woman lost or dead.

1                   Fourteen years have passed since  
2 we found Sylvia and buried her. Her killer moves  
3 freely in this world. I imagine that there are  
4 thousands of men, women, and children in this  
5 country at this moment, perhaps even watching now,  
6 thinking of their lost loved ones, be they murdered  
7 or vanished.

8                   I'm relieved and devastated that  
9 I'm not really so alone. It is really like looking  
10 at a star-filled sky trying to fathom how many  
11 families are moving through the world carrying  
12 their loss. It's a universal pain that spends all  
13 ethnicities and nationalities. I'm thinking of you  
14 now. You are not alone.

15                   On the day that we discovered that  
16 Sylvia was missing, that we hadn't -- my mom hadn't  
17 heard from her for days which was unusual because  
18 my mom, Betty Novalinga, was in daily contact with  
19 Sylvia, her little sister -- her littlest sister.

20                   We all lived in Iqaluit, the three  
21 of us. I brought my children there to raise them  
22 with my mom. And Sylvia and Mom had a very close  
23 relationship and were very loving and even fought  
24 sometimes, like some of these guys do. All  
25 siblings do and it's normal.

26                   And Sylvia had not been answering

1 my mother's calls, and so, she was concerned and  
2 she called me at work and asked me to try to find  
3 Sylvia, so I called her workplace and was told that  
4 she hadn't come in and it was the second day that  
5 she hadn't come in, and so, I decided to phone the  
6 police.

7                   And so, I phoned the police and I  
8 asked them to do a "well person check," and I was  
9 very diplomatic in the words that I used. I said  
10 that she was in a difficult relationship. And one  
11 of the things that nobody tells you that we don't  
12 know is that everything that you say to the police  
13 is recorded and is of importance when somebody  
14 dies. They take everything that you say and they  
15 put a value on it.

16                   And I thought so many times that I  
17 should have -- that the words -- had I known that  
18 she had died, and had I known that I would learn  
19 about the court system, that I would have chosen  
20 different words. I would have called the police  
21 and said, "I think that my aunt has been murdered  
22 by Pat Anablak," because that would have  
23 established that he had threatened her and that it  
24 was a real possibility and that would have ensured  
25 that a first-degree murder charge would stick. If  
26 you can demonstrate that there's knowledge and

1 history or threats, then it is an automatic first-  
2 degree charge.

3                                   And so, I didn't use those words  
4 because I wanted to respect my auntie and in my  
5 heart, I really felt like, you know, I really hope  
6 that she was okay, that I was just phoning the  
7 police and they'd check up and find her at home and  
8 she'd send them away. But it turned out they went  
9 to her apartment and discovered that she was dead.

10                                   And that was in the morning. And  
11 I went home at lunchtime -- as we do in Iqaluit and  
12 every community in Nunavut, people go home for  
13 lunch -- and I made lunch for Sabrina, Ashevak, and  
14 Jayko, who had been living with me for just over a  
15 year, Sylvia had dropped him off at school one day  
16 and called social services and told them that she  
17 didn't feel that she had a safe enough environment  
18 for him. And so, Jayko was put into the foster  
19 care system and that's how he came to live with me.  
20 A day after he turned 8.

21                                   And I went home, made lunch for  
22 the children, and then -- it was like an incredibly  
23 beautiful day in June, it was June 24th and it was  
24 sunny and beautiful and we ate and -- we lived  
25 right across from Joanie's school, but it had burnt  
26 down the summer before. And so, the kids were

1 going to Nakasuk School, which was down the hill,  
2 and so, they asked me if we could walk and -- so we  
3 walked.

4 I walked them to school and went  
5 back to work and eventually got a phone call from  
6 the police who then came to me and pulled up  
7 outside of my office building and asked me to enter  
8 a minivan. And when I got in, the driver and his  
9 companion turned and faced me and said that they  
10 were going to show me a picture and that I couldn't  
11 tell anybody what I saw in the picture, but they  
12 would like to know if I knew the person in the  
13 photograph. And so, this was right in front of my  
14 office, where I continued to work for 15 years.

15 I would often find myself walking  
16 through that space, where that car sat, and I would  
17 be hit by a well of emotion, and it took me a  
18 really long time to realize that I was being  
19 triggered, that it was the trauma of seeing Sylvia  
20 right there in front of my workplace. And I think  
21 that can be done better. That's something that can  
22 be done better -- that when a person dies, that the  
23 police should take a family member or somebody away  
24 from a place that you have to occupy on a daily  
25 basis to move through life and to be productive in  
26 life, that it should be, you know, even the police

1 station, you know. I can have me say that I don't  
2 often go into police stations, and I'd rather have  
3 had gone there to identify Sylvia than to go  
4 somewhere that I had to be every day.

5 There is no handbook. There's  
6 nothing that tells families how to be and what to  
7 say, what to do when somebody is murdered. And so,  
8 we move through this process like we're toddlers  
9 learning how to walk, and we fall down and we make  
10 mistakes, and the thing is is that those mistakes  
11 have lasting impacts on how the crime is addressed.

12 So I identified Sylvia. And then  
13 I asked the police to take me to my mom because I  
14 didn't want to tell my mom. And then I went  
15 straight from there to social services to speak to  
16 the manager of social services to get advice on how  
17 to tell Jayko because I didn't know how to tell a  
18 9-year-old child that his mother was dead. And I  
19 looked to social services for advice because I  
20 assume that they would be experts in, you know,  
21 mental support and in crisis support, and the  
22 answer that I got was that they didn't know. They  
23 didn't have any advice for me.

24 And, you know, the same social  
25 worker that was assigned to Sylvia -- when you put  
26 your child into the social services system, you

1 have to work with a social worker to get them back  
2 or to work on, you know, safety plans and that sort  
3 of thing. And the same social worker that was  
4 assigned to help Sylvia was also assigned to help  
5 Jayko and help him move through his life in the  
6 foster care system and to support him.

7                   And Sylvia wanted Jayko back and  
8 she wanted to make changes in her life and have an  
9 opportunity to raise him. And so, there was a  
10 conflict because that social worker -- for Sylvia  
11 to tell that social worker exactly what was going  
12 on in her life and to seek the support and help  
13 that she needed to get out of the abusive  
14 relationship, she had to disclose that she was in  
15 danger.

16                   And so, by disclosing that she was  
17 in danger, she was creating barriers to bringing  
18 Jayko back into her home. And so, it wasn't in her  
19 motherly best interest to be 100 per cent honest,  
20 right, because she just wanted her kids back.

21                   And so, that was a huge barrier to  
22 Sylvia and to Jayko. Following that, we had a  
23 funeral. We sent Sylvia home to Talurjuaq from  
24 Edmonton where an autopsy had been performed and --  
25 I actually got billed for a number of years  
26 beginning just a couple of days before Christmas



1 don't come to this process fully equipped to know  
2 all the ins and outs of how to deal with these  
3 issues, so policies should be reflected of that  
4 reality and should be human enough that they don't  
5 actually inflict more trauma or trigger trauma.

6                   And when we got back to Iqaluit, I  
7 was notified that there was a hearing. They didn't  
8 tell me where it was or even the exact time, but  
9 there was a hearing to decide what would happen  
10 with Jayko, and you know, our family was still  
11 processing our grief and processing the discovery  
12 that while we were gone, Sylvia was in GN Housing  
13 and GN Housing had sent people in to clean out her  
14 apartment and box up all of her belongings and move  
15 them out, and thus began a number of rumours in the  
16 community that included things like there was blood  
17 everywhere and, you know, children were hearing  
18 this and people were, you know, saying this to our  
19 kids.

20                   And there were a lot of untruths  
21 in those rumours, you know, cleaning up a crime  
22 scene where the deceased person has had to be held  
23 for a number of days in order for the investigation  
24 to occur in the summer means that there's  
25 decomposition.

26                   And so, the crime scene then is

1 obviously a crime scene to whoever enters it for  
2 whatever reason afterwards and to send, you know, a  
3 bunch of, you know, movers in to deal with that  
4 isn't fair to them, and it definitely isn't fair to  
5 the family who is breathing and now has to sort  
6 through the boxes to separate Sylvia's belongings  
7 from her murderer's belongings.

8                   In fact, a number of her  
9 belongings were stolen. And months later, I  
10 received a call from the women's shelter that they  
11 have received a donation of clothing and that  
12 Sylvia's ID was in that clothing, and I would often  
13 see a woman walking down the street wearing  
14 Sylvia's very distinctive jacket. She actually had  
15 a jacket that was made here in Rankin Inlet. It  
16 was a black jacket with a woman on the back of it,  
17 a white silhouette of a woman, and she was wearing  
18 that jacket the last time I saw her actually.

19                   So this hearing took place without  
20 the -- very quickly after Sylvia died and Jayko was  
21 made a ward of the state, though he was in foster  
22 care in a safe place with me, Sabrina,

23                   Ashevak, my children, we weren't  
24 given the opportunity to decide as a family what  
25 was best for Jayko and where he should be and how  
26 that should happen.





1 I think we need to look at that  
2 system and address, you know, just to address that  
3 misguided governmental organizational idea that  
4 somehow that we can't parent our children and that  
5 children not being with family and extended family  
6 is right for them. We should be able to --  
7 especially in that situation that our family found  
8 ourself in that we should have been able to just  
9 fold our arms around these kids and not have to  
10 send e-mails and make phone calls and call MLAs  
11 and, you know, call people for help. We should  
12 just be able to help our kids.

13 And so, you know, I'm trying to  
14 move through our experience sort of as it unfolded.

15 And, you know, the next big difficulty after  
16 trying to sort out the kids was having to go  
17 through the court system. And Qajaq, I know that  
18 you have so much experience with that having worked  
19 in the court system in Nunavut and the experience  
20 of people who -- I don't want to use the word  
21 victim, the people who are on the good side, I  
22 guess. I don't know.

23 You know, our experience is that  
24 we don't know how to move through the system. You  
25 know, like I said, there is no handbook. I think  
26 it's astounding to me that in a territory where

1 there is such a high level of violence that there  
2 isn't a more organized approach supporting families  
3 that are moving through that system though the  
4 people that did work with us were really kind, they  
5 weren't necessarily -- they were there on the days  
6 that there were court proceedings, but there was  
7 nobody there to give us, like, advice about how to  
8 talk to the police, about how to talk to crown  
9 attorneys.

10                   You know, I was chosen by our  
11 family as the spokesperson -- I guess is the only  
12 word I can think of right now -- as a point of  
13 contact, I guess, regarding the trial and regarding  
14 Sylvia. And so, I actually -- and it was mainly  
15 because I was in Iqaluit and all the proceedings  
16 were taking place in Iqaluit -- it wasn't because I  
17 was, like, a real pro at this kind of stuff. And  
18 actually, that really changed the relationship that  
19 I had with my family.

20                   I kind of always been -- I'm  
21 bigger than Danielle now, but I was always like the  
22 littlest, you know, that kind of got teased a lot,  
23 you know, in our family. Teasing is a -- being  
24 tested can be really frustration, but it's also a  
25 mark of great love. I don't need explain that  
26 here.

1                   And so, I went from being little  
2 Johnny Oscarfret (ph), that's what my family calls  
3 me, to being the person whose voice on the other  
4 end of the phone signalled a difficult conversation  
5 because I had to keep everybody up to date about  
6 what was going on and had to essentially pull my  
7 mom and my aunts and uncles about decisions that  
8 needed to be made.

9                   And so, that process, as I said,  
10 didn't come with any teachings but how to intact  
11 with the Crown and how to advocate for Sylvia  
12 because through the process, you know, I discovered  
13 a lot of information about what the police had and  
14 what they found and why they initially went with  
15 the first-degree murder charge.

16                   I think I want to just make a  
17 really, really important point here. You know,  
18 I've talked about that, I've talked about but not  
19 knowing the words to use and not knowing how to  
20 make that first-degree murder charge stick because  
21 we all knew. You know, he had been charged so many  
22 times for beating Sylvia nearly to death. He had  
23 choked her. He had -- she told me one time about  
24 feeling her life leaving her and that she was  
25 giving up to that in that moment. That was on  
26 September 12th, 2003.

1                   And what we knew was that he had  
2 beat her and beat her and beat her so many times  
3 for so many years, and I think it's really -- you  
4 know, one thing that this inquiry can do, a  
5 recommendation that this inquiry can make, a law  
6 that I think is not just impactful for Indigenous  
7 women, who we are here to talk about, but to impact  
8 any Canadian who is suffering from abuse and who  
9 loses their life because of ongoing abuse.

10                   When somebody kills their spouse  
11 or ex-spouse or partner or anybody that they're  
12 involved with in their life, if they have ever been  
13 convicted of abusing them or harming them in any  
14 way, that if they kill that person, it should be an  
15 automatic first-degree murder charge. I feel -- we  
16 all felt that there was intent behind what Pat  
17 Anablak did to Sylvia Ann Lyall.

18                   And if there's a past history of  
19 that abuse, it should be first-degree murder charge  
20 and there should -- families should not have to go  
21 through trying to convince the Crown, the  
22 prosecutors, to keep that charge up because what  
23 happened with Sylvia is they just kept dropping the  
24 level of the charges from first degree to second  
25 degree, eventually pleaded for manslaughter, but  
26 that was after he made us wait and wait and wait

1 after delays in the court system.

2 And I think that any Canadian who  
3 has lost a loved one to murder, especially to  
4 spousal abuse, would probably agree with me that  
5 that should be the law.

6 QUESTIONS BY MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:

7 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: If we go a  
8 little bit back into -- what led Sylvia into that  
9 relationship, into that abusive relationship?

10 MS. JANET BREWSTER: Sylvia and I  
11 and other members of our family were shared a  
12 common experience of sexual abuse, childhood sexual  
13 abuse by the same person. And the impact of that  
14 childhood sexual abuse changes the way a child  
15 moves through the world and grows through the world  
16 and actually creates that little child in  
17 everything that you do and say, you know, that  
18 sexually abused child has the experience of  
19 carrying that abuse into every relationship that we  
20 have.

21 I used to be really ashamed of  
22 that little child until I explained that I didn't  
23 invite that. That shame isn't mine. That's the  
24 abuser's shame. And what we know about and what  
25 you've heard this week is that so many Inuit --  
26 that's a common experience for so many Inuit, and

1 knowing that, we have an opportunity to address  
2 that by creating an education system that guides  
3 children through that experience that assumes that  
4 -- actually, not assumes -- that is informed that  
5 our children are experiencing these high rates of  
6 sexual abuse and trauma and -- not just by  
7 sexualized violence, but also, you know, violence  
8 in the home in general.

9                   And when we consider our education  
10 system, helping -- the education system is an  
11 opportunity to help children move through that and  
12 grow and flourish despite that experience because,  
13 you know, we're okay, we can do it. We can grow  
14 into loving and forgiving human beings that are  
15 effective and the earlier that we intervene in that  
16 common experience, that is a result of colonization  
17 and, you know, generations of children going  
18 through residential school.

19                   You know, Danielle is making a  
20 very strong statement today. I'm just so happy for  
21 her, you know, with her t-shirt, "Every Child Does  
22 Matter," and as we grow through the world, we are  
23 talking about this more and more, and we are giving  
24 people the opportunity to address those traumas and  
25 an education system that envelopes children in that  
26 right to move through and be supported through

1 their very real lived lives and experience, I think  
2 can have an incredible impact on breaking the cycle  
3 of violence and abuse.

4 Another way that we should be  
5 having an impact through this inquiry is by  
6 involving Inuit men, and I'm talking about  
7 specifically the experience of Inuit women that for  
8 the majority, especially in the North of those who  
9 have lost their lives, they were killed by Inuit  
10 men. Inuit men are killing Inuit women.

11 And I know a lot of people  
12 probably might be uncomfortable with me saying that  
13 out loud, but I'm going to say it again. Inuit men  
14 are killing Inuit women. And the reason that is  
15 happening is because we're not supporting these  
16 Inuit men. We're not learning from these Inuit  
17 men, and I feel that we should be talking to you.  
18 You should be talking to and hearing from those men  
19 who are up on charges, who have been convicted, who  
20 have served their time. Ask them to participate  
21 and make an effort to find out from them and their  
22 families what trauma led them to that abuse.

23 You know, it's like I said earlier  
24 that we can't solve a problem until we fully  
25 acknowledge it, and we have to acknowledge  
26 everybody who has a role in that, and, you know, we

1 also have to acknowledge that when these abuses  
2 happen and these murders happen, what happens is  
3 people became isolated, families become isolated,  
4 we become isolated from each other as family  
5 members because our grief is such that it creates  
6 barriers to love and to acceptance and  
7 understanding because we're not fully supported  
8 through that grief, so that creates more cycles for  
9 our families where people who grew up in childhood  
10 experiencing that abuse, you know, become angry and  
11 triggered. And the cycle continues and involving  
12 those people who are abusive in the solution is, I  
13 think, a key to success.

14                   You know, I'm here to talk about  
15 Sylvia and our family's experiences that the man  
16 who killed Sylvia had a brother who also killed one  
17 of my uncle's sister-in-laws. So, two members of  
18 this family murdered women in this family, for some  
19 of our family members, and understanding those men  
20 and their relationships and their communities, I  
21 think, is really important to making changes.

22                   I think I only got as far as the  
23 trial and that sort of stuff but, you know, I  
24 really feel that it's important to talk about the  
25 impact on the families and the impact of what  
26 occurs when we lose somebody. There's a lot of

1 anger and isolation that happens, right. And so,  
2 we see that in communities where people get  
3 targeted and accused of sleeping around or sleeping  
4 with family members or friends or cousins, and that  
5 lateral violence has a very deep effect on the  
6 person that's targeted.

7                   And especially in a smaller  
8 community, you can become labelled at a young age  
9 and then you have to go through your entire life  
10 carrying that label, and often, it comes from  
11 people who are hurt themselves and the impact of  
12 that bullying is that people are anger -- they're  
13 leading with anger and fear in their lives, and  
14 that's a very difficult thing to live through to be  
15 accused, you know. To carry that is really  
16 difficult and can often then carry onto the  
17 children that people have.

18                   I think I made some of that main  
19 points that I was considering making and, you know,  
20 I just want to, I guess, give the opportunity to  
21 talk and discuss and, you know, I just want to  
22 explain that my cousins all decided that they  
23 wanted to have private sessions, and when we got  
24 here and we spent time together, we agreed that  
25 they would come with me and that if they felt  
26 moved, that they would also contribute. And so, I

1 just want to give --

2 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: At this  
3 time would you like to share anything Danielle,  
4 David, or Jayko? Impact of losing your mother?

5 MR. JAYKO LYALL: Yeah. I hope  
6 you guys don't mind, but I'm a very slouchy, very  
7 kind of down-low person, so I'd much rather stand  
8 to say this.

9 I spent over half my life without  
10 my birth mother and moving around with many  
11 different families and many different mother  
12 figures, and I guess the main thing that I want to  
13 say is: No matter who you are or what you're  
14 doing, this type of thing always has a negative  
15 impact on everybody surrounded by it.

16 This is a big thing for me to come  
17 out to say is something that I've been hiding for  
18 quite a little while, but what Patrick Anablak has  
19 did to my mother has, in fact, impacted me in the  
20 worst way because for a little while, I became that  
21 type of person. I was not full-on physically  
22 abusive, but every time we got into a fight, there  
23 were times where I ended up leaving a mark and  
24 leaving her hurt, and it was -- I actually do have  
25 a charge.

26 I've been charged for assault

1 towards my ex-fiancé, and I sat in that cell for 23  
2 hours thinking everything that has happened and  
3 everything that's running through my mind. No  
4 matter who you are or what you're doing, where you  
5 come from, these type of things have the worst  
6 impact on people.

7 I thought about it for days and  
8 months -- this is a very hard thing for me to do,  
9 but I feel like it's something that I need to say.  
10 Not a day goes by where I -- every day goes by  
11 when I'm missing my mother. Every day goes by, I  
12 think about the things I have done.

13 I guess, all I really have to say  
14 is -- this is for all the women out there going  
15 through hardship and hard times and abuse -- the  
16 worst thing that you can do is to stay quiet. The  
17 best thing to do is have absolutely no shame in  
18 what's going on. Speak out, reach out, and all in  
19 all, just don't ever be afraid. Thank you.

20 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Thank you,  
21 Jayko. I would just like to ask just a quick  
22 question, Sylvia. You mentioned that your Aunt  
23 Sylvia -- your aunt -- did I just call you Sylvia?

24 MS. JANET BREWSTER: Thank you for  
25 calling me Sylvia. Lots of people say that. It's  
26 nice, actually.

1 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Janet.

2 I'm sorry.

3 MS. JANET BREWSTER: Don't be  
4 sorry. There was a girl who worked Arctic Ventures  
5 in Iqaluit who would see me with Jayko and I guess  
6 knew Sylvia when she was little, so for years, she  
7 would say, "Hi, Sylvia," every time she saw me, and  
8 I never got upset because when people say her name,  
9 it just makes me feel so good to remember her and  
10 to think that when somebody says her name  
11 accidentally, calling me Sylvia, it's like saying  
12 she's still alive.

13 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Janet, you  
14 mentioned that your Aunt Sylvia was in a difficult  
15 relationship with Pat and that she made a decision  
16 to bring Jayko to a different home and be in a  
17 safer environment. Were any resources available to  
18 Sylvia to leave that abusive relationship?

19 MS. JANET BREWSTER: So one of the  
20 things that -- so, a coordinated effort to help  
21 Sylvia was made kind of through her workplace in  
22 that they knew that she was living with Pat in his  
23 apartment, and so, she was working at the  
24 legislative assembly at the time, and basically,  
25 she got fast tracked for GN Housing, so that was a  
26 really important resource for her to get her own



1 Janet. Qujannamiik. I'm going to ask Qajaq,  
2 Commissioner Robinson, if she has any questions for  
3 you.

4 QUESTIONS BY COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON:

5 COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON:

6 Thank you. Danielle, David, and Jayko, I just want  
7 to -- tusaniktup (ph). Qujannamiik.

8 I do have some questions and a lot  
9 of -- I write questions and then you answer them,  
10 so I go back and put a little checkmark.

11 We haven't gotten into the court  
12 process or the sentencing, but I understand that  
13 Lillian has polled at least what was publicly  
14 available on the decision, and I'm familiar from my  
15 all knowledge of the process. I wasn't involved in  
16 that prosecution, but I'm very familiar with the  
17 case, so I don't know if you want to talk about  
18 those details or if you're just content with us  
19 reading what's available publicly.

20 MS. JANET BREWSTER: I think  
21 what's most important about the final outcome is  
22 that -- going back to that, you know, lack of  
23 knowledge of how to manoeuvre through the court  
24 system meant that advocating for Sylvia was very  
25 difficult, and you know, I know the autopsy  
26 results. I know that the investigation actually

1 had -- there was evidence of things done to her  
2 body postmortem that the Crown prosecutors  
3 unilaterally decided not to pursue in terms of  
4 additional charges and what they said to me when I  
5 questioned them about was that they didn't want to  
6 put the family through anything embarrassing or  
7 uncomfortable. We were dealing our murdered aunt  
8 and there really wasn't much more that could have  
9 harmed us, and that choice was taken away from us,  
10 not given to us, was very difficult and wrong, and  
11 it could have impacted the sentencing. It could  
12 have been a longer term sentence.

13 I know now with, you know, truth  
14 and sentencing with the introduction of that bill  
15 which came after our experience, I can say that my  
16 feeling is that I don't believe that people should  
17 be given so much time served yet -- and they  
18 shouldn't get time knocked off, so much time  
19 knocked off, especially if they're part of the  
20 delay process, right?

21 Though at the same time, I feel --  
22 you know, I had a great deal of respect for all of  
23 the lawyers that defended him because -- you know,  
24 at first, I kind of wanted to really dislike them  
25 and hate them for being defence attorneys until a  
26 family member told me about -- he first came to

1 Nunavut and was a defence lawyer and he explained  
2 to me that when you have a good defence lawyer,  
3 then you have a good process, and that ensuring  
4 that that legal process is not untouchable but that  
5 mistakes aren't made is really important to  
6 ensuring that somebody gets a conviction.

7                   And so, I have so much respect for  
8 the work that these people do even though sometimes  
9 I really want to not like them. They're very  
10 important people as well and should be included in  
11 this process as well.

12                   COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: Can  
13 you talk about the delays, the cause of the delays,  
14 the impacts of the delays?

15                   MS. JANET BREWSTER: Yup.

16                   So, often, I found myself going to  
17 those hearings on my own. I remember, you know,  
18 the first time I went was at the old courthouse and  
19 Pat claimed that he couldn't hear what was going  
20 on, so the court proceedings started and it had to  
21 stop. And for me, that was -- I felt that that was  
22 very manipulative because from when I knew in my  
23 life of being around him, he could always hear what  
24 we were saying, right, and actually, in fact, could  
25 hear when we were whispering to Sylvia.

26                   So that began a series of delays

1 where he would, you know, get so far into the  
2 trial, we got through all the way through up until  
3 the defence was to give their side, and he fired  
4 his lawyer. So then, we had to wait for him -- we  
5 had a couple more appearances which are spaced,  
6 long, far apart because the Nunavut Court of  
7 Justice is so backed up, and there isn't a specific  
8 court for abuse or for murders, you know.

9 I think in Ontario there's a  
10 specific court that deals with family violence and  
11 though they're supposed to be, you know, a  
12 concentration on traditional justice, and using a  
13 different court system for certain things, I don't  
14 think that that's working in Nunavut. And so, what  
15 happened was he delayed by firing his lawyer and  
16 then we had months and months where it was -- where  
17 he would show up, there would be an appearance, but  
18 he wouldn't have hired a lawyer yet.

19 So basically, he just kind of used  
20 that system sort of just to the point of, you know,  
21 when you're walking on really thin ice and you can  
22 kind of hear it cracking and so, you kind of just  
23 change direction a little bit until you hear it  
24 crack some more, and he just basically, you know,  
25 weaved his way through the justice system just to  
26 the edge of falling and crashing through where he

1 could be seen to be causing those delays, right,  
2 and being an impediment, and he just seemed to know  
3 what he was doing.

4                   And so, through that process what  
5 happened was -- because of all of those delays,  
6 when it actually came down to the last kind of --  
7 last ditch effort, the Crown kind of got together  
8 with defence and they agreed to drop the charge  
9 from second-degree murder to manslaughter and that  
10 he would plea. And so, then he would get that  
11 reduced sentence and also get time served.

12                   And it was actually at that point  
13 where some more family members became involved and  
14 though I had been the lead for all those years,  
15 there was one person who said, "I just want to get  
16 this over with for my parent," and so, that person  
17 though they hadn't been involved that whole time  
18 because that's the one thing the Crown needed to  
19 hear, they just needed to hear that from one person  
20 then they went with that plea whereas when I talked  
21 to -- you know, the kids were older at that time,  
22 and when he discussed it, we agreed that we wanted  
23 to stick to the highest charge possible.

24                   And basically, the wants of the  
25 children were put below the statement that this one  
26 family member made. And so then, he got quite a

1 light sentence, you know. It was -- he's out now.

2 Sorry, my mind -- I'm imagining him walking down  
3 the street in Ottawa and getting hit by a bus right  
4 now -- not that I would want that to happen to him  
5 -- but he is free and we actually got a letter from  
6 Corrections Canada, and I think February 27th is  
7 the date.

8 As of February 27th, he will no  
9 longer even be on parole or anything like that. He  
10 will be free and clear of the charges. He will  
11 have to give a DNA sample, not own firearms for ten  
12 years, anything like that, but -- yeah. He's done.

13  
14 So if he rejoins the court system  
15 in anything that gives him a conviction, they would  
16 then advise those of us who registered with  
17 Corrections Canada.

18 COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: And  
19 those delays of him firing his lawyers, did he have  
20 to hire his own lawyers or were those legal aid  
21 lawyers?

22 MS. JANET BREWSTER: He got legal  
23 aid through the whole process, and I believe he  
24 used legal aid every time that he was charged. And  
25 he wasn't just charged for abusing Sylvia, like  
26 this was a lifetime of abuse that he inflicted on

1 people.

2                   You know, one of my uncles was an  
3 RCMP officer. And on the night of Pat's wedding to  
4 somebody else, he beat her so badly that when my  
5 uncle went to respond to the call, he couldn't even  
6 recognize the woman and that was her wedding night.

7 And so, he has kind of sucked on, you know, the  
8 public system for a number -- for decades and  
9 decades, and, you know, I just want to --

10                   We brought some photos and there  
11 are a lot of photos of Sylvia really as a young  
12 girl. There's a photo of her standing in the  
13 doorway of the bathroom at Akaitcho Hall, where she  
14 was staying in Yellowknife, and that is when Sylvia  
15 met Pat.

16                   Sylvia, on a hot day, went to go  
17 and get ice cream, and he was literally the monster  
18 that offered the child ice cream, and that was  
19 actually the same summer that my friend Andrea and  
20 I were hitchhiking to Long Lake on a regular basis  
21 and, you know, we would take off and sometimes -- I  
22 remember one time her mom, Hilda's friend picked us  
23 up and drove us back to Hilda's, and I think we  
24 were 8 and 9, and it was the seventies, and kids  
25 got in cars with strangers in Yellowknife. They  
26 went for rides on a hot day and they were okay, you

1 know, we were okay. We were not harmed, and he  
2 targeted Sylvia and took her, you know, for a ride  
3 and why wouldn't she say yes, you know? Everybody  
4 wants to go for swim on a hot day in Yellowknife.

5                   And so, that began, years and  
6 years of stalking and of manipulating Sylvia, and  
7 she would -- you know, she got away long enough to  
8 have other relationships and to have these  
9 beautiful children and a marriage to, you know, a  
10 really incredible guy, Dave, and he would always  
11 find his way back into her life. And part of the  
12 reason is it goes back to what I was talking about  
13 earlier about childhood sexual abuse, you know,  
14 when children are abused, what happens is you set  
15 up a lifetime of being targeted.

16                   I remember when I was 16 walking  
17 home during rush hour from a summer job that I had,  
18 and over 120 people honked, rolled down their  
19 windows, yelled obscenities at me. I was a 16-  
20 year-old child walking home from my summer job and  
21 these men saw me as a potential target. That  
22 summer, I went door-to-door for a company and so  
23 many times, I would hear a whistle and I would turn  
24 and look, and there would be a man exposing himself  
25 to me or I would hear a whistle and there would be  
26 a man who would be following me.

1                   That happens to -- my friends, all  
2 of my Indigenous friends, have that common  
3 experience as well in that, you know, in that  
4 setting down south. We were prey. And Sylvia's  
5 experience was that she fell into this cycle with  
6 Pat, who murdered her, and though we had her --  
7 sometimes it kind of shocks me to think that I'm  
8 older than Sylvia.

9                   She never got a chance to, you  
10 know, grow into her forties and get chubby as women  
11 in their forties do often. And it was because he  
12 saw her on that -- he saw that beautiful child on  
13 that day, and, you know, what if the universe had  
14 put somebody else in his vision? I wouldn't even  
15 want that because there would be another family  
16 sitting here.

17                   COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: I  
18 have one more question about the court process. I  
19 just wanted to understand and make sure this was  
20 clearly understood. The Crown proceeded with a  
21 trial and called evidence for a second-degree  
22 murder charge ultimately; is that correct?

23                   MS. JANET BREWSTER: Yes.

24                   COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: And  
25 it was after the Crown called all their evidence  
26 and he fired his lawyer and it was before the

1 defence called any evidence that the guilty plea  
2 for manslaughter was accepted?

3 MS. JANET BREWSTER: So, he never  
4 had to testify. He never had to answer any  
5 questions about what he did to Sylvia for, you  
6 know, close to 30 years. 25 years -- 26 years, I  
7 guess. So he never had to be accountable, and in  
8 fact, what he did was -- you know, when we made our  
9 victim impact statements, they went away and came  
10 back and basically, he used our victim impact  
11 statements to kind of paint like a, you know, this  
12 lifelong love affair between them that was, you  
13 know, like a complete lie, and that was -- his  
14 lawyer read that out. I think he may have had  
15 minored in English. He wrote it pretty well.

16 And so, we never had that  
17 opportunity of having a dialogue with him, of  
18 holding him accountable, and that's a really --  
19 that's an intrinsic part of our Inukness, right, is  
20 being able to talk to somebody who has done  
21 something wrong and being able to share how that  
22 impacts the people around them and having them  
23 respond to that, you know, giving an opportunity to  
24 reconcile.

25 We all, for a really, really long  
26 time and some still do, carry a very deep and

1 unresolved anger towards him. I just commanded him  
2 being hit by a bus which is totally out of the  
3 realm of who I am. And that -- you can taste that,  
4 you know. When you think about it, you can taste  
5 what that anger does, and what that trauma does is  
6 it changes the way you think and move through the  
7 world and through relationships.

8                   And it goes onto other  
9 relationships or other perceived hurts or a small  
10 statement or argument suddenly blows up into  
11 something huge because you have this unresolved  
12 hurt and anger towards something that somebody --  
13 that he did.

14                   That comes out and, you know,  
15 Jayko was -- I'm really proud that Jayko stood up  
16 today and talked about how he has become abusive  
17 and how he has been charged because what he's  
18 demonstrating to me is that he's taking  
19 responsibility for his actions and trying to  
20 understand and having a good understanding, a  
21 better understanding, of where those actions come  
22 from, and that tells me that he can move through  
23 this, and he has my support; he has our support.

24                   And I think today, he gained the  
25 support of our community, and that is what we are  
26 raised to do. He's an Inuk man who stood up like

1 an Inuk man should.

2 COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON:

3 You've actually -- another question. Was that ever  
4 explained to you? I mean, the Crown proceeded with  
5 second-degree murder charges so I can conclude that  
6 there was a belief that there was enough evidence  
7 to show that he intended to kill her. What was the  
8 change and why -- was it ever explained to you why  
9 then, a manslaughter was accepted because a  
10 manslaughter legally means that there wasn't an  
11 intent to kill, but death occurred whereas second-  
12 degree murder wasn't planned or premeditated, but  
13 there was an intent to kill or recklessness there.

14 Was that ever explained to you how that was  
15 legally justified or how the evidence supported  
16 that?

17 MS. JANET BREWSTER: Okay, so what  
18 we know is that Pat applied a long and sustained  
19 pressure on Sylvia's neck, possibly from behind,  
20 and the reason that they knew it was long and  
21 sustained is because there was a number of  
22 fractures that occurred, and the bruising that was  
23 on her neck showed that he had switched positions.

24 And the way that the coroner  
25 explained is that when somebody is squeezing and --  
26 if we all do that right now, like if you squeeze

1 your fist as hard as you can, that you're exerting  
2 that pressure and your muscles become feeding  
3 fatigued and pressure points on your hands become  
4 fatigued, so to release -- to relieve that fatigue,  
5 you will change positions and squeeze again, right?

6                   And so, that's how it was  
7 explained that he took Sylvia's life, that it was  
8 not -- that it didn't just take 30 seconds, and I  
9 feel like it was like seven minutes or something  
10 like that, but the amount of time -- it might have  
11 been three, actually -- but the amount of time kind  
12 of escapes me right now.

13                   And so, we know that there was  
14 intent, right? Pat's claim was that he doesn't  
15 recall, so what he said was that -- so he didn't  
16 make any admission of guilt. What he said was that  
17 as far as he knew, they were the only people there,  
18 that he was blacked out drunk, and that he doesn't  
19 recall Sylvia dying, but because they were the only  
20 people there, that he was probably the one who did  
21 it.

22                   And so, I think that that's how  
23 the prosecutors were able to, like, shift down to  
24 manslaughter from second-degree murder even though  
25 it showed, that the evidence showed, that he made a  
26 long and, you know, very strong effort to take



1 MS. JANET BREWSTER: Yeah, it was  
2 where the children in Kitikmeot, Kivalliq, and some  
3 Western Arctic would go to school in Yellowknife,  
4 and they stay in Akaitcho Hall. And yeah. That's  
5 her there.

6 This is Jayko crouched down and  
7 Ashevak. I included these photos because I just  
8 wanted to show you this child, these children, who  
9 had to hear about Sylvia dying, and maybe why my  
10 milk let down that day that -- you know, these  
11 beautiful children who should be outside playing  
12 and having fun were -- this was, I think, a week  
13 after we got back from Sylvia's funeral, so these  
14 are children who are now carrying the trauma of  
15 losing Sylvia.

16 They're having qunguliits there.  
17 Those are really sour leaves that you pick on the  
18 land, and I think that's in July, so they're like  
19 at the peak of sour there. So, I always use to  
20 make them try them and take pictures. Jayko and  
21 Ashevak.

22 So, Ashevak is my -- I call him  
23 middle son now. He was my baby then. Now we have  
24 Miles, who is 12, older than these boys are now,  
25 but also, my youngest son is actually named  
26 Angutti, after Aya's (ph) brother.

1                   And you know, our names are so  
2 important to us in our relationships in our lives,  
3 our Inuktitut names, and they're an important way  
4 to create lifelong connections and life experiences  
5 and expectations. Above all, we are always  
6 expected to be of good behaviour so that we can  
7 honour the name that we are carrying.

8                   That's Sylvia. That was at -- and  
9 my grandmother, Nipisha, is cut out of that picture  
10 unfortunately, but that was a picture of my little  
11 auntie Sylvia with my grandmother at her cabin at  
12 Middle Lake in Taloyoak. And there's Sylvia in  
13 probably at Akaitcho Hall. I took this from --  
14 Bernadette is looking at me going, I know where  
15 that came from -- I got this from Bernadette's  
16 Facebook page, actually.

17                   The day after Sylvia passed away,  
18 I woke up having dreamt of my grandfather, Ernie,  
19 known as Tusaaji. My grandparents, Ernie and  
20 Nipisha, in my dream were walking over a hill, and  
21 it was a hill on the way to Middle Lake, and as  
22 they got -- they were walking away from me and as  
23 they got to the top, Sylvia came up the hill from  
24 the other direction and they each took her by the  
25 hand and continued walking over the hill.

26                   And so, that's my grandfather with



1 miles.

2                                 This is Sylvia, David, Amanda.  
3 Yeah, the baby is Danielle, and Amanda, who -- we  
4 love you Amanda. Amanda couldn't come. She really  
5 wanted to. And, you know, we've all been in  
6 constant contact for the last couple of weeks  
7 leading up to coming here, and Amanda is at home  
8 with -- she's taking care of -- actually, Dave's  
9 son, Grey, and her own son and daughter right now.

10                               MR. DAVID RITCHIE: Funny story,  
11 my dad still has that cooler.

12                               MS. JANET BREWSTER: David just  
13 said his dad still has that cooler. So this Jayko  
14 and Danielle and Sylvia at Anaanak's place, at our  
15 -- so, some of our family really grew up closely  
16 with our grandparents who are -- as most people  
17 know, grandparents are "anaanatsiaq" and  
18 "ataatasiaq," but we're -- some of us are lucky  
19 enough that we grew so closely with them that we  
20 call them anaanak and ataatak.

21                               That's it. We love Sylvia very  
22 much, and we love her every day, and we just want  
23 to thank you for loving her enough to have us here.

24 Thank you.

25                               MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Thank you,  
26 Janet, Danielle, David, Jayko. Qujannamiik. This

1 concludes Janet's story of her Aunt Sylvia.

2 Qujannamiik.

3 COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: I  
4 just want to thank you guys all so much. I'm going  
5 to adjourn for 15 minutes, and I have some gifts  
6 for you guys. I'm going to put down the mic.

7 --- Recess at 11:16 a.m.

8 --- Upon resuming at 1:34 p.m.

9 --- Exhibits (code: P01P11P0301)

10 Exhibit 1: Folder of 13  
11 digital images displayed  
12 during the public testimony  
13 of the witness

14 Exhibit 2: *Reasons for*  
15 *Sentence, R. v. Anablak, 2008*  
16 NUCJ 09

17 **Hearing #3**

18 **Witness: Susan Aglukark**

19 **Heard by Commissioner Qajaq Robinson**

20 **Commission Counsel: Fanny Wylde**

22 MS. FANNY WYLDE: Good afternoon,  
23 Commissioner Robinson, I would like to introduce  
24 you to our next witness, Susan Aglukark, who is  
25 here to share her story as a survivor of violence.  
26 Before I do let her share her story, I would like  
27 to ask Mr. Registrar to proceed to the swearing of

1 the witness. She would like to give oath with a  
2 Bible.

3 SWORN: SUSAN AGLUKARK

4 MS. SUSAN AGLUKARK: Thank you.  
5 Mr. Zandberg.

6 MS. FANNY WYLDE: So Susan, maybe  
7 we could introduce your support system, so I will  
8 give the mic to each and every one of them so they  
9 can introduce themselves.

10 MS. ESTHER POWELL: Esther Powell.

11 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Lillian  
12 Lundrigan.

13 MS. BARBARA TUKTUK: Barbara  
14 Tuktuk (ph).

15 MS. MONICA UGJUK: Monica Ugjuk.

16 MS. HANNAH BINO: Hannah Bino  
17 (ph).

18 MS. FANNY WYLDE: Thank you to all  
19 of you. So, Susan, you can introduce yourself to  
20 Commissioner Robinson and just share what you have  
21 to share today with the commissioner.

22 MS. SUSAN AGLUKARK: I'm going to  
23 share in English, but acknowledge my Inuktitut.  
24 (Speaking in Inuktitut).

25 STATEMENT BY MS. SUSAN AGLUKARK:

26 MS. SUSAN AGLUKARK: This is the

1 first time since the last time, and the last time  
2 was the only time that I shared. I thought in  
3 detail that when you put it away, you put it away  
4 and you move on with your life. And you do.

5 I believe in the work you are  
6 doing, Commissioner Qajaq Robinson, and all of you.

7 (Speaking in Inuktitut) because  
8 child sex abuse is an island, and I want to share  
9 the story from the very beginning, and I'm going to  
10 share it as a narrative because I don't want to  
11 miss any details, the details I don't want to  
12 remember. I will admit the ones that have long-  
13 term effects forever. I will share.

14 The greatest irony, he should be  
15 here. I don't cry for myself. I cry because I  
16 found out on Tuesday that he's been charged again.

17 After 25 years in this community, how many more --  
18 nothing's changed. And my guilt is, I did what I  
19 could. I did what I could 25 years ago, and he's  
20 been charged again. His own family member.

21 I wasn't going to do this this  
22 week. I have other work to do, but (Speaking in  
23 Inuktitut) when I heard. It is not just a  
24 violation of the body, it's an ongoing violation  
25 forever of the mind and the heart and your life.  
26 (Speaking in Inuktitut). The irony of irony is

1 that he took pictures, and here we are on camera.  
2 And I can't even ask that he not watch. No one can  
3 guarantee that he's not watching right now taking  
4 morbid pleasure in watching this. But you didn't  
5 win. Norman Ford, you didn't win. Not now. Not  
6 ever. (Speaking in Inuktitut), and no excuse  
7 forgives your actions. (Speaking in Inuktitut).  
8 Now the community knows (Speaking in Inuktitut) and  
9 what you've done. This room could be filled by  
10 your victims alone. So many innocent children in  
11 this community alone. Norman Ford. (Speaking in  
12 Inuktitut).

13 I am a survivor. And I know that  
14 many cases of violence in general, especially  
15 against women and children, young girls, are acted  
16 on by perpetrators who were themselves victims of  
17 violence and child sex abuse. We've learned that  
18 through the Truth and Reconciliation Commission,  
19 many, many generations.

20 I say this not to defend  
21 behaviours or these people so that as part of this  
22 process, we trace all the steps that lead up to  
23 behaviours like this. We need to trace the  
24 generational traumas. One program is not going to  
25 fix one set of victims. Many, many programs over  
26 many, many years.

1 I'm a survivor of child sex abuse.

2 I was 8 or 9 years old when a grown man, friend of  
3 a family, called the house. We lived across the  
4 road from each other, and we were home. My sister  
5 and I were babysitting. Innocent children playing.

6 And the phone rang and he said at the other end,  
7 "There's a gift here for your mom and dad. Why  
8 don't you come and get it? Maybe they'd like to  
9 come home to a gift." And as a child, that sounds  
10 nice. Go get a gift for your parents, a surprise.

11 So I went across to his place. I  
12 walked in. When I was inside, he reached around  
13 and he locked the door. And I need to trace all  
14 the events as they occurred because it traces the  
15 process of a mental health breakdown. That's the  
16 trigger, the click of a lock, because I knew in  
17 that moment that I was in trouble, but I had no  
18 control. There's nothing I could do. He put his  
19 hand and started pushing me slowly away from the  
20 door. He walked me and said the gift is in the  
21 bedroom. Walked me down the short hallway and into  
22 the bedroom, and he did what he did. I don't need  
23 to go into those details.

24 From that click of that and since  
25 that moment, over 30 years I have lived in a  
26 heightened state. (Speaking in Inuktitut). We

1 develop habits. My hands clinch, fidget all the  
2 time since then. My feet fidget all the time. My  
3 legs fidget all the time. I have migraines from  
4 clenched jaw, and I don't know that I do it until  
5 my jaw gets tired. My shoulders, my neck, my  
6 teeth, always tense. 30 years. I have a constant  
7 sense of being watched. I hate walking in front of  
8 people because I think somebody's watching all the  
9 time.

10                   Eight years old and that was just  
11 one part. As part of the sex assault, he took  
12 pictures. He took three pictures with a Polaroid  
13 camera. I hate Polaroid cameras. You can  
14 photograph me with anything else not with a  
15 Polaroid camera. I hate entertaining. I will sing  
16 for you. I will not entertain you. Entertainment,  
17 I liken it to him posing me to take his pictures.  
18 I was entertaining him and his sick needs, exposed.

19                   As a result of those pictures and  
20 over 30 years, I have night sweats. I jump up in  
21 the middle of the night when I sense something or  
22 someone watching me, and I start to wrap blankets  
23 tightly around me. Even if it's hot, I will wrap a  
24 blanket around me and curl up. I don't want to  
25 feel that somebody's watching me. Over 30 years, I  
26 lived with that.

1                   When I got very busy with the  
2 career, and we spent a lot of time in hotel rooms,  
3 I made a habit of including in my travel kit, a big  
4 safety pin, and every hotel room, I pinned the  
5 curtains to make sure there was no light coming in  
6 because if there's light coming in, he can see me.

7                   And for the first little while, I put a towel on  
8 the bottom of the door. If there's light coming  
9 in, he could see me. I still close every closet  
10 door before I go to bed, in case he can see me  
11 because of those pictures.

12                   Shortly after this happened, we  
13 moved to Arviat, so I put it in the back of my  
14 mind. As a child, you move on with your life.  
15 About 12 or 13 years later, I moved back here to  
16 Rankin. I got a job, Ilinniarvik High School,  
17 1990. And I was living here for a little while  
18 when I got a request for my testimony against him,  
19 and I felt that -- I didn't think about it until  
20 that moment, and I realized then that after 12, 13  
21 years that he had continued this. I knew nothing  
22 about pedophiles and predators after what had  
23 happened to me.

24                   So 12, 13 years later, I'm living  
25 here in Rankin, and I get this request to give my  
26 statement because he had been charged. And I did.

1 And while the very methodical method of the RCMP  
2 was then and is an effect one, I was a fortunate  
3 one. I had a really good RCMP member who took my  
4 statement, and my sister --

5 It's after -- up to this point, I  
6 think we have hope for I believe that something can  
7 change, that something will change. It was only  
8 after I gave my statement that I felt a daunting  
9 sense of isolation. My family could only do so  
10 much for me, but there was no support then. 1990,  
11 there was no place to go. Who do I talk to? I  
12 couldn't go to the church because he was going to  
13 the same church, and there was betrayal there.  
14 They picked him as well as me. But my mind said  
15 you can't have both. And there was guilt that I  
16 was asking the church to choose.

17 So after giving my statement,  
18 complete isolation. Complete. I would quickly do  
19 groceries in case he's down the aisle. I didn't go  
20 to public events in case he attends as well. I  
21 stopped going to church, so there as nothing to do  
22 here. Nothing left here in Rankin. I don't know  
23 if we still are, at the time, it was the circuit  
24 court system and it was delayed twice. So every  
25 four to six months, the circuit court came around  
26 in 1990/1991, and he delayed it twice, so it took

1 almost a year from the point of giving my statement  
2 to that first court hearing. It took almost a year  
3 to finally have some movement, and in that year,  
4 we're living in the same community.

5                   This is when all of the mental  
6 health issues that I believe could be managed got  
7 worse up to that point, beside the isolation. I've  
8 always had amazing family support. This is when,  
9 in that year, waiting four months, "Oh no, he  
10 didn't get a lawyer. Next time." Another four  
11 months. Something else happened. Now we have to  
12 wait some more. This is when it's easy to get into  
13 the drinking and the drugs. This is when that  
14 stuff calls to you, so I felt stuck. Isolated.

15                   In that year, the following mental  
16 health conditions developed. Small ticks, the  
17 twitching got worse. Hyperawareness of my  
18 surroundings. Are you a threat? Are you a threat?  
19 Do you hate me? What are you going to say to me?  
20 It's no longer your community. You don't belong  
21 here anymore. Anxiety attacks. And the biggest  
22 one for me was trust. Who do you trust in your  
23 community? Who do you talk to? Everybody knows  
24 everybody. The isolation makes you socially inept.  
25 You feel socially inadequate because you are  
26 socially inept. All relationships struggle. Thank

1 God for sisters and parents.

2                               After a couple of tries and the  
3 court process finally began, he was convicted. He  
4 got 18 months and served a third. Less time than  
5 it took to get the conviction. And because we  
6 didn't have the registry yet, he was not on the  
7 register. But I think -- and I'm going to come  
8 back to it in the recommendations -- in these  
9 communities especially, those deterrents have to be  
10 stronger. The convictions and the time they're  
11 given has to be stronger. I don't know if it's  
12 more, more time, but something has to change.

13                              I stayed on here in Rankin trying  
14 to get back to my life until he showed up in church  
15 after serving his time, and he wanted to shake my  
16 hand, and I knew then that I had lost the  
17 community. Not because the people chose, but the  
18 system makes us choose. It protects him more than  
19 it protects the victim. And I had to leave. I was  
20 lucky. I was offered a job in Ottawa, a one-year  
21 contract. And I thought, one year, I just need one  
22 year to get away for a bit, then I'm going to come  
23 back home. How many don't?

24                              Missing. Many leave, maybe with  
25 the intention when they're better they'll come back  
26 and they go missing because there was nothing there

1 in place for them to make them feel safe. The  
2 communities force us to choose because the systems  
3 are set up that way.

4 I'm a grown woman. It took me a  
5 long time to be comfortable to say I'm a woman. I  
6 was stuck as a child. Even in my career. But I am  
7 a grown woman. I'm a successful one in every way.  
8 I have a great career. I have a great marriage.  
9 I have a beautiful family. I built my life. I've  
10 taken it back. But still, when I come back home,  
11 tabunak (ph) here to Rankin, I'll be at the store,  
12 Northern or the Co-op, and I'll be cautious walking  
13 down a aisle. Take a quick look in case he's  
14 there. Always looking behind me in case he's  
15 there. Over 30 years later, he has served a third  
16 of 18 months, and I still live with the fear of  
17 going down the aisle in a Northern store.

18 You learn to build a life around  
19 that stuff, but we shouldn't have to. He shouldn't  
20 be here. And it hurts to say that about another  
21 human being, even now, knowing that he has been  
22 charged again 25 years later. How many more live  
23 here and don't have a place to go and live with  
24 that? Always looking over their shoulder. And  
25 that was one incident in my life. Many of these  
26 are many times. I think we can fill the room with

1 his victims. And they live here. He needs to not  
2 be living here.

3                               So, as I said, we leave.  
4 Searching out anything, something better, whatever  
5 that is. I happened to land with an incredible  
6 opportunity. I've lived, as I said, an incredible  
7 20 plus years. I lived a life that also has  
8 happened to heal me enough to know absolutely that  
9 we can heal enough, but I have a couple of  
10 recommendations.

11                              The first is a culture specific or  
12 relevant support system for victims. We have a  
13 beautiful healing facility here, and it's doing  
14 amazing work with its inmates. Nothing for  
15 victims. Where do they go for supports? Programs?  
16 For every abuser, there's at least five victims.  
17 We need to invest in these equal facility  
18 programming, help, professional help facilities for  
19 victims. We need more healing centres. Every  
20 region should have one. But we need them for the  
21 victims too.

22                              I say culture specific or culture  
23 relevant, but our culture is changing. So what is  
24 that culture? We need to invest in finding that  
25 story, finding that culture, and working from  
26 there.



1                   Having said that, pedophiles don't  
2 heal. They can't change. Predators will always be  
3 predators. There has to be a clear line between  
4 those with a willingness to heal and those we know  
5 will not. I can name four people right now that  
6 should be charged but get away because they are in  
7 positions of power. And they're predators. They  
8 get away with it. There has to be a clear line  
9 until our communities are healed enough. And it's  
10 going to be a period of time, I don't know what  
11 that period of time is, but a forgiveness period  
12 avail of understanding, whatever we call it.  
13 That's the unique position our communities are in.  
14 There's so many. Probably every day.

15                   Why? How can predators get away  
16 with serving a third of their time? Why are  
17 victims and acts of violence against children okay?  
18 I don't understand that part of the law. I really  
19 don't. I think we need to look at it, especially  
20 as it relates to Indigenous children. Make it  
21 stronger somehow. Our children -- (Speaking in  
22 Inuktitut).

23 QUESTIONS BY MS. FANNY WYLDE:

24                   MS. FANNY WYLDE: Susan, if I may,  
25 I have a few questions. When you said that you  
26 were requested to provide a statement, was it the

1 authorities that contacted you or another person?

2 MS. SUSAN AGLUKARK: It was  
3 another person.

4 MS. FANNY WYLDE: And when the man  
5 was convicted, you mentioned he was sentenced to 18  
6 months. Were you the only victim on that case or  
7 there was other victims?

8 MS. SUSAN AGLUKARK: There were  
9 other victims.

10 MS. FANNY WYLDE: And I guess my  
11 last question would be: What kept you going all  
12 these years, as a child to today?

13 MS. SUSAN AGLUKARK: I couldn't  
14 find the picture I wanted to share with you. It  
15 was a picture that was taken in the same building  
16 where he lived, and it was just before the abuse.  
17 And I saw myself in this picture before that click.  
18 And the journey has been we can go back to that  
19 place. The innocent child, we're never going to  
20 get it back. Once it's gone, it's gone.

21 But that look is the one I kept  
22 trying to return to. There's an innocence there  
23 going back to that. I borrowed from my sisters'  
24 innocence from them. My parents always believe in  
25 something better for us, so they pushed us. I'm  
26 always lucky, I think. I was very fortunate that

1 there was always something to work towards.  
2 There's always something in front of me to work  
3 towards, to stay focused on. I think that's what  
4 kept me going from that child to when everything  
5 else -- 1998 is when it came to him.

6 MS. FANNY WYLDE: Thank you. I  
7 will now leave Commissioner Robinson if she has  
8 questions or comments.

9 QUESTIONS BY COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON:

10 COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: I  
11 love you, your music, your voice, Arctic Rose, your  
12 message to Nunavut of hope and strength and faith  
13 that you could reach what you strive for.  
14 (Speaking in Inuktitut).

15 COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: --  
16 through your music, through your foundation, I'm  
17 really humbled that you've chosen this space to  
18 continue that. (Speaking in Inuktitut).

19 I just want to say believe the  
20 children. Don't choose. You're right, it's making  
21 sure they have that space too (Speaking in  
22 Inuktitut).

23 COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON:  
24 Before we adjourn, this is the last public hearing  
25 of our inquiry in Nunavut, and I want to thank you  
26 for being, continuing, and closing our work here.

1 I really see it as a beginning in a big way. A  
2 continuation and a beginning of more. This isn't  
3 about choosing sides. It's about making a  
4 community safe for everybody.

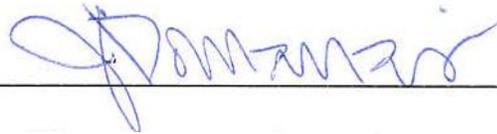
5                   There was an academic who talked  
6 about when the Qallunaat laws came into the  
7 communities -- non-Indigenous laws came into the  
8 communities, it stripped the power away from  
9 Elders, the real legal systems that were here, and  
10 that created a state of lawlessness that you have  
11 to choose one over the other, and a lot of what  
12 you've shared and what I've heard from others, that  
13 resonates with me. (Speaking in Inuktitut).

14                   MS. MONICA UGJUK: Before we  
15 finish, I'd like to close with a prayer.

16 --- PRAYER

17                   MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: This  
18 hearing is adjourned, and we will take a break  
19 until 3:30 for the closing ceremony. Thank you.  
20 --- Whereupon adjourning at 2:23 p.m.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT I have, to the best  
of my skill and ability,  
accurately transcribed from a pre-existing  
recording  
the foregoing proceeding.



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Jovelle Domanais, Court Reporter