

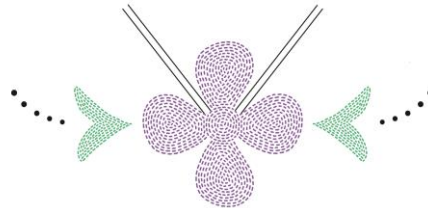
National Inquiry into
Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women and Girls



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
Hotel North Two, Conference Room**

Happy Valley-Goose Bay, Newfoundland-and-Labrador



PUBLIC

Wednesday March 7, 2018

Public Volume 50:

Gordon Obed & Silpa Obed, In relation to Katie Obed

Heard by Commissioner Brian Eyolfson

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APPEARANCES

Assembly of First Nations	Non-appearance
Eastern Door Indigenous Women's Association	Non-appearance
Government of Canada	Tania Tooke (Paralegal)
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador	Brian Harvey (Representative)
Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami	Elizabeth Zarpa (Legal counsel)
Naskapi Nation of Kawawachikamach	Non-appearance
Newfoundland Aboriginal Women's Network	Odelle Pike (Representative)
Newfoundland Native Women's Association	Non-appearance
Nunatsiavut Government	Kaila de Boer, Michelle Kinney, Tracey Evans Rice (Representatives)
Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada & AnânuKatiget Tumingit Regional Inuit Women's Association (ATRIWA)	Beth Symes (Legal counsel - Pauktuutit & ATRIWA), Anita Pokiak (Representative for Pauktuutit), Kim Campbell-McLean (Representative for ATRIWA)

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Clerk: Maryiam Khoury	
Registrar: Bryan Zandberg	

1 Happy Valley-Goose Bay, Newfoundland and Labrador
2 --- Upon commencing on Wednesday, March 7, 2018 at 1:09
3 p.m.

4 **MR. GORDON OBED:** (Speaking Inuktitut
5 language) I am Gordon Obed. I am from Nain -- Nain,
6 Labrador. First, I'd like to say thank you so much for
7 those who helped to prepare for my wife and I to be able to
8 come to this inquiry. I'm no good with names, but I'd like
9 to thank those who called us, people like Jade and others
10 who helped us to prepare us to come to this inquiry. Thank
11 you so much.

12 **MS. SILPA OBED:** My name is Silpa Obed, and
13 I'm also from Nain. I'm happy to be here too and to be
14 here in inquiry, and I'll do my best to speak, but I always
15 gets stuck, but I'll -- I'll press on. Thank you.

16 **MR. GORDON OBED:** (Speaking Inuktitut
17 language).

18 **MS. SILPA OBED:** Before I -- before I came
19 up here, me and my husband, my grandson, oldest one -- we
20 got four grandchildren, four grand boys, got no -- got no
21 parents. And the oldest one is living with us right now,
22 and he suggest that I wear this shirt, which his mom loved
23 the color. And I also got this heart, what she had left.

24 Now, it was hard after what all happened to
25 our granddaughter -- I mean, stepdaughter, after what

1 happened. I was -- I was - excuse me - I was the first one
2 to -- she lived in an apartment, and I was the first one
3 who had to go and pack everything that's there. It was so
4 hard, and -- but I had full help from Edna Winters. I'll
5 stop here right now.

6 **MR. GORDON OBED:** From -- from what we know
7 what happened was December 23rd, 2015, our grandson, the
8 oldest son who lives with us now that my wife said, he was
9 helping our daughter decorate the ceiling in the living
10 room for Christmas, like I said, December 23rd, the day
11 before Christmas Eve. Somewhere around 20 to 4, he left
12 our house, told my daughter that she (sic) was going to the
13 arena. Apparently, what happened was he had gone to his
14 mom's apartment and ...

15 **COMMISSIONER BRIAN EYOLFSON:** Do you want to
16 take a break?

17 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** Do you want to take a
18 break?

19 **MR. GORDON OBED:** Anyway, our grandson had
20 gone to his mom's apartment. That's when he went to check
21 on his mom in her bedroom. She was covered in a -- with a
22 blanket, and she opened the blanket thinking she was
23 sleeping. She opened the blanket. She had a knife in her
24 heart, and obviously he lost it. He lost his mind, I
25 guess. He was living with our daughter, who lived quite a

1 ways up. He had left the apartment and ran up to my
2 daughter's house. When he got there, he was bawling and
3 crying. He wasn't making any sense to my daughter and
4 whoever was in the house until by about 20 minutes or so.

5 He finally told my daughter that -- that he
6 found her mom stabbed to death in her apartment, and that's
7 when we had the call from our daughter, and that's when the
8 world -- our world turned upside down. And it's almost
9 hard to remember from there on what was really going on.

10 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** Do you want to take a 5-
11 minute break?

12 **MR. GORDON OBED:** If we could just take a
13 little break quick?

14 **COMMISSIONER BRIAN EYOLFSON:** Absolutely.
15 We'll take a 5-minute break. Thank you.

16 **MR. GORDON OBED:** What happened prior to our
17 daughter-in-law's death was her husband and our four
18 grandsons' dad passed away eight months just before our
19 daughter -- grand -- our daughter-in-law was killed. He
20 passed away in St. John's on April 4th.

21 And what happened there was he had some kind
22 of sickness which the doctors couldn't find out what was
23 wrong since -- since early to mid-February. They sent him
24 back and forth to Goose Bay, didn't know what was wrong
25 with him. His belly was bloated, and at the end of it,

1 they sent him to hospital in St. John's just late March,
2 early April, where he passed away on April 4th, like I
3 said.

4 I wasn't there. My wife and his wife then,
5 Katie, our daughter-in-law was there, and they tell me that
6 up to five doctors were taking care of him in St. John's,
7 but they could not figure out what was wrong with him. And
8 they tell me that before he died, he had had up to five IVs
9 on him. And -- and, again, before he passed away, one of
10 the doctors told my wife and my daughter-in-law that they
11 now have him on the strongest antibiotic they know, but he
12 passed away anyway.

13 And the sad thing was the doctors could not
14 figure out what was wrong with him. And after he passed,
15 they asked for consent from his wife and my wife to do an
16 autopsy, and after the consent, they opened -- they opened
17 him up, and they found out that he died of TB. His liver,
18 his kidneys were gone with TB, and that's how he died.

19 And at that time, our oldest grandson, like
20 we said, lives -- who is living with us now, was in Goose
21 Bay doing a program here at the college, and the others
22 were in foster care on the Island. So -- so after our
23 son's death, they sent them home for the funeral
24 preparations, and we did all that, and obviously hard as --
25 as it was, we had to go through with it, and we did.

1 And this is where I think about how I feel
2 Child, Youth, and Family Services failed us, failed my
3 grandsons and our -- our daughter-in-law. Here they were,
4 they just lost their father, our daughter-in-law just lost
5 her husband, and I felt -- we felt that Child, Youth, and
6 Family Services did not have no empathy on the family or
7 even the boys. They did not think about what they were
8 going through is what I was feeling, because not too long
9 after the funeral the boys were sent back out to their
10 foster homes.

11 There was no feeling or there was no
12 thought, I feel, of how vulnerable their mother was at the
13 time, and how I feel that they should have known or should
14 have thought about how they should have kept our grandsons
15 with their mother for a little while longer and not sent
16 them back right away, early, earlier, because their mom was
17 vulnerable and -- and the fact that the boys had to
18 leave -- left their mom in a vulnerable state and pretty
19 well all alone in her apartment.

20 And that situation escalated where we -- we
21 called -- we called her Katie; her name was Katie -- where
22 Katie was starting to isolate herself from us. She wasn't
23 visiting as much, and when family members visited her, she
24 was distancing her -- us too, distancing herself from us.
25 And the point I'm trying to make is she was -- she was

1 lost. The boys, her boys, was already gone back to foster
2 care, and she was pretty well alone and, like I said, not
3 visiting our home not as like -- like she used to and
4 isolating herself.

5 And that kept on till October where we -- we
6 had a big family -- where a close family member on Katie's
7 side, our daughter-in-law, was just released from prison in
8 October. Having a good heart as she did, knowing that this
9 person had no place to stay, she took him in and had him
10 stay with her from October onwards. And the isolation and
11 keeping away from our home and distancing herself from us
12 escalated pretty much.

13 We started to learn that the relationship
14 got abusive. My -- our older children used to visit her or
15 see her on the road with bruised eyes, black eyes, and --
16 and that kept on. And I and the family were in a very
17 complicated situation. Like I said, this person was a
18 total family member to our daughter-in-law. Their parents
19 -- their fathers were brothers. Our daughter-in-law's dad
20 and the man's dad were brothers. That put us in a real
21 awkward situation.

22 The hard part was not knowing what to do.
23 Here we knew that this relationship was getting very
24 abusive. On one hand -- I'll speak for myself anyway. On
25 one hand, I wanted to go up to that apartment, Hey, what's

1 going on here; get the hell out of there. That was one
2 approach I was thinking about. And on the other hand, I
3 thought about -- what was it? I thought about how, It's
4 her life, it's her life; shouldn't we just keep out of it?
5 So we were caught -- we were caught in two in that
6 situation, whether to intervene more or just leave her be
7 and because that's her life. And that, obviously,
8 escalated the abuse right to the point -- right to the
9 point of where she got killed.

10 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** Gordon, you were
11 mentioning earlier that this person that your daughter-in-
12 law was involved with had just gotten out of prison. Can
13 you tell the commissioner about his prison sentence and how
14 he ended up going to prison to begin with?

15 **MR. GORDON OBED:** I'm not aware of how long
16 the sentence really was. All is -- all I know is that she
17 (sic) was released sometime in October for having abused,
18 physical abused a previous relationship. That's -- that's
19 -- that is all I was told.

20 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** Maybe I have a question
21 for Silpa. Silpa, you said when you went into -- to their
22 apartment, you noticed that she was getting involved in --
23 in drugs. Can you tell us a little bit more about that?
24 Do you want to talk about that a bit more?

25 **MS. SILPA OBED:** Yeah. At the time, when I

1 -- when I had to go and pack up the belongings of my
2 daughter-in-law apartment, I noticed that there were some
3 beer cans and -- what was the other one?

4 **MR. GORDON OBED:** Evidence of drug use.

5 **MS. SILPA OBED:** Yeah. Evidence of drug
6 use, and so it was hard, really hard to go and pack her
7 belongings and -- but we pulled through.

8 But I'd like to -- my daughter gave me a
9 note just before I left Nain. This note is from our
10 daughter Gwen, who was Katie's best friend and sister-in-
11 law. Katie wasn't allowed no pictures hung on wall of my
12 brother, son, and her son and her boys.

13 She had this one room full of pictures,
14 souvenirs, family treasures of Junior and her boy's stuff.
15 That man didn't want to see her own in her apartment. When
16 our family went to visit Katie, she would be silent, and I
17 would go into the room -- I'll try again.

18 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** Okay.

19 **MS. SILPA OBED:** Okay. When our family went
20 to visit Katie, she would be silent, and that man would be
21 in the room mad until we leave. See her on -- see her on
22 the road with black eyes. She didn't want to visit us
23 family anymore after she met that man.

24 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** Gordon, I have another
25 question. I have a question for you, Gordon. Going back to

1 the foster care situation that you were talking about, and
2 would you like to talk about what you told me earlier of
3 the impacts of the child welfare system had on your
4 grandsons --

5 **MR. GORDON OBED:** Okay.

6 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** -- and how's it's affected
7 your family and your future?

8 **MR. GORDON OBED:** I should first start in
9 the beginning of our foster -- our grandsons, their boys,
10 being taken into care. I had wrote a letter just days
11 after it started to happen to the Minister of Health and
12 Social Development at Nunatsiavut's government. I forget
13 his name, but he -- he was a man -- he was a Minister of
14 Health and Social Development at Nunatsiavut's government.
15 It was a very detailed letter, I remember, of what happened
16 and how we tried to intervene as a family to -- I know --
17 knowing that my son and his wife had -- had problems at the
18 time.

19 But, listen, we didn't hear back from them.
20 There we sort of tried to ask for help to -- for them to
21 intervene and see if they can prevent -- help prevent from
22 our grandsons being taken out of town, but we did not hear
23 back from them. And eventually they were -- what do you
24 call? -- permanent care children, foster care children.

25 At the time of -- at the time before they

1 permanent -- permanent care, my son and his wife were
2 called to court, and we were there to listen to their
3 hearing. I remember us being there, their lawyer being
4 there, and the lawyer for Child, Youth, and Family Services
5 being there. I seen it, and I felt that -- that our son
6 and his wife -- we were asked to speak, and I did speak.
7 What we had to say or wanted to say did not seem to have an
8 impact whatsoever. The lawyer for the Child, Youth, and
9 Family Services was the only person who spoke with
10 authority.

11 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** Do you want to take a 5-
12 minute break?

13 **MR. GORDON OBED:** Anyway, the point I'm
14 trying to make is that -- that pretty well continued and
15 still is -- we feel still goes on today.

16 Our -- like I say, our oldest grandson lives
17 with us while he is in Goose Bay doing a program with the
18 college, and the other two are still in care on the Island.
19 The point I'm trying to make is what we ask for, like,
20 visitations, we'd like to have visitations to us at Nain.
21 We don't have a say how long they can stay. They have so
22 much authority, as most -- as some people might -- in here
23 might know, that it -- it can be overwhelming.

24 I'm not -- on one hand, I feel they failed
25 at their -- their job and going by the book. Us indigenous

1 people, when we get into situations like this with our
2 grandchildren and children, we never -- well, we don't seem
3 to have much say in what Child, Youth, and Family Services
4 does with our children, our grandchildren.

5 This is one of the big -- biggest points I
6 wanted to make in this inquiry, and this really affected
7 our daughter-in-law more so than before after our son died.
8 Like I said earlier, she was lonely. She missed her boys.
9 She missed her husband, and she was in a heavy state of --
10 she was very, very vulnerable. And like I said earlier, we
11 tried to reach out to her, but in a way she wasn't reaching
12 back like she used to before.

13 Anyway, I guess what I'm trying to say is if
14 it comes to that at the end of this -- our session here,
15 what I'd like to say is that this commission take note that
16 in a situation like my son, our daughter-in-law, and our
17 grandkids were in, needs to be -- what's the word -- needs
18 to be assessed properly, check out their situation in the
19 event of a death in the family death, family, whether it's
20 the father or mother, that careful consideration be given
21 by Child, Youth, and Family Services or that department
22 whether if it's a good idea to keep the children away from
23 the mother or the father, who -- whoever is left behind, or
24 whether it's better -- I think it would be better that they
25 start to be reconnected with the surviving parent.

1 If it came to that -- this is one thing I
2 would like to -- I would like to -- maybe like to -- for
3 the commission to consider to bring to someone who has
4 (indiscernible) too, maybe make changes in that cause it's
5 hard. A lot of us care (indiscernible).

6 **MS. SILPA OBED:** I just want to share too,
7 like, I can't remember what year it was. It goes way back
8 years, and my brother was stabbed at and in heart too. I'm
9 sorry to say, from the same family, it's so hard that me
10 and my husband is, like, in between. But we do -- I do
11 love my family, I do, and my oldest son, Martin, is married
12 to Justine, and we're still a family. We will be. We all
13 will be family together and just slow, just keep on a
14 little bit. After this, I hope I do feel better. Thank
15 you.

16 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** Is there anything else
17 you'd like to add? Anything else you would like to add?

18 **MR. GORDON OBED:** (Speaking Inuktitut
19 language). One of the hardest things for me and the family
20 as a whole is -- which I in some way is trying to deny,
21 deep down I'm trying -- I'm trying to deny, but deep down I
22 know it's true, and I don't like to say it. I don't even
23 like to think about it.

24 Our four grandsons there in the bottom
25 picture, which is the last Christmas they had together in

1 2014, the four boys, the ones there, we're hoping
2 eventually authorities in Child, Youth, and Family Services
3 will come to senses that children taken away from home and
4 placed in foster care we all know will grow up much better
5 at home.

6 In the years our grandsons here have been in
7 foster care, we've noticed a big change in them. They're
8 allowed to visit one week at a time, sometimes two weeks at
9 a time, and we notice that they're not themselves anymore,
10 right to the point where it's almost like they don't know
11 us anymore. It's almost like they can't stay a week, two
12 weeks. We feel and see that they're more or less pulled to
13 the foster home nowadays. This has to stop. It has to be
14 stopped. We must let the Department of Child, Youth, and
15 Family Services know that. This don't help. We must let
16 the Department of Child, Youth, and Family Services know
17 that children, grandparents, grandchildren, it's best when
18 they grow up at home. It's so hard.

19 And I -- I want to point out again that this
20 situation with my son and our daughter-in-law with their
21 boys played a big factor into what led to -- what happened
22 to my -- to our daughter-in-law. Like I said earlier,
23 missing a partner, missing children because they can't come
24 home is not good. Everyone knows that. And going back to
25 what I tried to say earlier, which I know deep down is true

1 -- I tried to deny -- my poor grandsons inside the picture
2 are orphans. They don't have a mom and a daddy.

3 **MS. SILPA OBED:** And I just want to say this
4 is for my four grandsons, who is now -- the oldest son is
5 20, Phillip is 18, Ames is 16, and Kyle is 14 now. And
6 Kyle is the youngest, and he's been Facebooking me he's
7 starting to miss his mom. He -- he -- and me and my
8 husband are not there to hold him and say, We love you,
9 Kyle. And they're -- they're so far away from us, and they
10 need hugging and loving and -- from -- from their family
11 who's home.

12 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** We'll take a break.
13 Taking a break?

14 **COMMISSIONER BRIAN EYOLFSON:** We'll take a
15 five-minute break, please. Thank you. We'll get started.
16 Ready?

17 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** So we'll get started
18 again. Gordon, we would just like to ask you a couple more
19 questions.

20 **MR. GORDON OBED:** M-hm.

21 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** The first question is:
22 Regarding the prison of the abuser, prison -- when he came
23 out of prison, was there any police investigation - do you
24 know - regarding that abuse with the other person before he
25 abused your --

1 **MR. GORDON OBED:** Previously?

2 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** Yeah. Do you know about
3 any -- about any police involvement?

4 **MR. GORDON OBED:** No, not -- not fully.
5 Just that, like I said earlier, that he was released from
6 prison in October, and, like I said, I -- we didn't know
7 what the length of the sentence at -- for that part of it,
8 but we did know that it was abuse assault on a previous
9 relationship.

10 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** The second question is
11 sort of related to the first. Do you know the extent of
12 the police investigation regarding the incident with your
13 daughter-in-law? How -- how involved was the RCMP in the
14 investigation of her death?

15 **MR. GORDON OBED:** I -- I was quite pleased
16 with the police involvement, and the head person, the head
17 officer, Sergeant Jonathan Kenney, I believe headed the
18 investigation, and he did a good job, I believe, in -- in
19 keeping us updated as to what was going on.

20 I don't know if I said it earlier, before
21 the investigation started when -- it was quite windy, and
22 it took a couple of days for the investigators to come in,
23 to enter the house, into the apartment, but during that
24 time and afterwards, the sergeant did a really good job, I
25 must say. He kept us updated as to what was going on, and

1 he -- he kept us updated. For example, like, it's too
2 windy today for the RCMP plane to come in. He -- he kept
3 us updated as to after the investigators got into Nain and
4 left with the body that they had sent it to St John's and
5 an autopsy was going to be performed.

6 He did that during work hours. I must say
7 that the RCMP building and the residence is just two houses
8 up from my house, and he -- he visited us during work hours
9 and after work and always keeping us updated as to what was
10 going on until the coroner told him that the cause of death
11 was a stabbing to the heart, severing a main artery, and
12 right up to the point where we were done with the funeral
13 preparations and the funeral.

14 He -- he did -- he did, I must say, he did a
15 good job keeping us updated. Even though -- me anyway, I
16 didn't really bother finding out what investigation at the
17 apartment, how it was going, I didn't really mind knowing
18 about that, but the good thing was he kept us updated as to
19 what was going on. To the extent of the autopsy report and
20 all that, I was quite satisfied with that.

21 **MS. VIOLET FORD:** Those pictures you've seen
22 on the screens that you brought, do you want to talk a
23 little about her life, what kind of a person she was, what
24 were her contributions, what type of a person she was?
25 Good memories, what -- do you want to talk anything about

1 that?

2 **MS. SILPA OBED:** She was a mother. She was
3 a daughter-in-law and sister-in-law. She was so kind and
4 loving and caring. She was everything. She was everything
5 to my grand -- grandkids after my son died, and it -- and I
6 start realizing, like, she -- after my grandsons left, they
7 -- she -- she was all alone and she kept -- like, she kept
8 coming to the house, like, every day and -- and it slacked
9 off. And she couldn't -- like, she used to ask if we were
10 all right coming to the house and then she -- we missed her
11 cause she was around Nain, but we missed her and she
12 wouldn't come to the house anymore, and it's ...

13 Before this, everything happened or what
14 happened and -- we do have a disabled daughter, who she
15 really loved. My daughter, us, miss her now, and she used
16 to take her out. They used to take her out and let her
17 sleep over, and now she's shutting, like, just been missing
18 Katie and that, and I don't know what I'm saying here, but
19 it's true. We really miss her, especially her boys, our
20 grandsons. I just wish we was together. I just wish we
21 were together like family instead of them being in foster
22 care.

23 Yeah, daughter-in-law was loving and kind,
24 caring. I missed her every day. And especially hard for
25 my grandson who's staying with us that -- I can't ...

1 **MR. GORDON OBED:** I -- I can't add much more
2 what -- to what my wife said. Her boys was her heart after
3 her husband died. I remember them before Child, Youth, and
4 Family Services stepped in. They were a loving family big
5 time. And mentioning -- like, my wife mentioned, our
6 disabled daughter who is 30 years old, has cerebral palsy,
7 and can't walk. She was Katie's heart. She loved her very
8 much.

9 And from a while back, from way back even
10 when they would visit, my son, the boys, and our daughter-
11 in-law, she had a saying. For example, my daughter Geena
12 (phonetic), who is disabled, would say when they would
13 leave, Bye. She would point up to her saying, Not bye,
14 sister; see you again. She always said that to her, Not
15 bye; see you again.

16 I know what happened here today is, you guys
17 and us, going to be memorable to us for some time and can't
18 appreciate how much help it's -- it's been or it is to us.
19 Thank you all again to -- to those who helped prepare for
20 us to come here. You know who you are. It -- we thank you
21 from the bottom of our hearts.

22 If I can just point out again what I said
23 earlier that this inquiry would think about looking into --
24 I mean, pointing it -- pointing the points out -- points I
25 made out like -- like, how I said in situations like this

1 where a couple and family, a family of six -- and it may
2 happen again too, a situation like this -- that in the
3 situation of our grandkids and my son and his wife that the
4 people who have authority to intervene for families who
5 have been ripped apart to maybe come together again, the
6 sooner the better, should be pointed out to the proper
7 authorities. So maybe that in this situation where a
8 couple and four boys are separated to the point of death,
9 either way, that whoever has the authority to try and
10 prevent this, to try to keep families together is the best
11 -- to me would be the best outcome.

12 It's sad. Everybody knows it's sad that
13 this had to happen. Like I said earlier, maybe if my son
14 and his wife and their boys were together and not kept
15 apart, there might have been a better outcome. That's my
16 feeling.

17 And in situations where offenders are
18 released into a community, they should be better monitored
19 as to who they are with and how their life, his or her
20 life, might be affecting the family they're with, and the
21 proper authorities should be able to intervene and -- and
22 check it out, take action if they have to.

23 Like I said earlier, I'll say it again here.
24 Here was our daughter-in-law having lost her husband and
25 her boys not being able to be with her, in a very

1 vulnerable state, was a target to an offender, which I
2 believe proper authorities should have kept a better eye
3 on. So I'm not -- I don't know if I'm putting it right,
4 but it's something I -- I wanted to say to this inquiry,
5 and it's something to think about that I believe.

6 **MS. SILPA OBED:** I just want to say that for
7 justice -- for justice system, for those men who are
8 abusers, they should be in lock -- lockup longer so they
9 won't do it again, like they did with my daughter-in-law.
10 Thank you.

11 **MR. GORDON OBED:** I just -- I just want to
12 mention one more thing before -- maybe I should just ask if
13 anyone else has questions maybe.

14 In the previous gathering we had here in --
15 in the same building here in Goose Bay I believe a year
16 ago, maybe two years ago, when we had -- a few of us, a
17 bunch of us were able to -- we were being -- talk in
18 circles and share our stories. That was in -- I don't know
19 what was -- I was going to say. That was an -- that was a
20 big help. And I remember one -- one person who was with us
21 really described what I had thought about our -- about our
22 daughter-in-law.

23 One person noted that we -- we knew, as a
24 family knew that, as you can see in the picture, how -- how
25 do you describe that -- how -- how healthy she was. And

1 during the process of her abusive relationship to the end
2 where she was killed, it was pointed out that she lost
3 weight, a lot of weight, compared to what she was like
4 before her husband died and before she got into this
5 relationship, and that was really true. We seen it, and we
6 heard it. Thank you.

7 **COMMISSIONER BRIAN EYOLFSON:** Thank you very
8 much. If you don't mind, I just have a couple of questions
9 just to follow up, just to make sure I'm clear about what
10 you have said to me, if that's okay.

11 **MR. GORDON OBED:** Okay.

12 **COMMISSIONER BRIAN EYOLFSON:** Okay. So you
13 -- at one point you said the man who got out of prison and
14 moved in with Katie, that happened in October.

15 **MR. GORDON OBED:** Yeah.

16 **COMMISSIONER BRIAN EYOLFSON:** And then -- and
17 -- and she was found on December 23rd. So was it just two
18 months later? It's the same year?

19 **MR. GORDON OBED:** Yeah, the same year, in
20 2015, just about two months.

21 **COMMISSIONER BRIAN EYOLFSON:** Okay. Thank
22 you. And -- and you just made a comment a few minutes ago
23 that when someone's released from custody, they should be
24 better monitored and the proper authorities should be able
25 to intervene, so in that approximately two-month period

1 when they were living together, do you know if there were
2 any incidents where any authorities intervened? Was there
3 any police involvement leading up to December 23rd, 2015?
4 Are you aware of anything?

5 **MR. GORDON OBED:** With that situation with
6 our grand -- daughter-in-law, I -- I wasn't aware that
7 there was police involvement in, as we said earlier, in
8 this abusive relationship. It was escalating. No, we
9 weren't aware of police involvement, just that it was
10 happening. Like we said earlier, our daughter -- daughter-
11 in-law was in a physical abusive relationship, like someone
12 -- like someone says, she was getting black-eyed. No, we
13 weren't aware if the police got involved, just -- in any of
14 that at all.

15 **COMMISSIONER BRIAN EYOLFSON:** Thank you very
16 much for answering my questions and appreciate your
17 comments and your recommendations about Child and Family
18 Services and keeping families together. I just want to
19 make sure before we close, are there any other
20 recommendations you might want to share with the inquiry,
21 or have you covered everything off?

22 **MR. GORDON OBED:** I don't think I do, but
23 before I finish off, I will see if my wife wants to say a
24 few last words. (Speaking Inuktitut language).

25 **MS. SILPA OBED:** I just want to say thank

1 you. Nakumiik.

2 **MR. GORDON OBED:** And once again to add to
3 my wife's gratitude, thank you so much for introducing
4 inquiry. Thank you so much to help us to prepare to come
5 here. Like I said, I'm no good with names, you know who
6 you are. The people who call me to make flight
7 arrangements and accommodations, we appreciate you so much,
8 and we appreciate how we've been given a chance once again
9 to be able to say what we've been through, what we're
10 feeling, and that, as everyone might know, it takes a very
11 big load off.

12 **MS. SILPA OBED:** We're forgetting someone.
13 Violet.

14 **MR. GORDON OBED:** Well, I'm -- I'm not.
15 Violet too. Violet too. I'm -- I'm lost for words with --
16 with the gratefulness we have. Thank you so much.

17 **COMMISSIONER BRIAN EYOLFSON:** So if I may,
18 before we close, Gordon and Silpa, I just want to thank you
19 very much, both of you, for coming and sharing with us and
20 telling us about Katie and providing your recommendations
21 to the inquiry and for participating. Obviously, it's a
22 difficult thing, but I really want to acknowledge your --
23 your strength and resilience in coming here and sharing
24 your story, your truths with us, so I appreciate that very
25 much. And before you -- before we close, I have a couple

1 of small gifts for you of appreciation for -- for coming
2 and sharing that the inquiry has. And we also have some
3 gifts from -- that some organizations have provided to
4 share with people who are participating here today.

5 So we have some -- some gifts from Hautootid
6 (phonetic) and also from the Newfoundland Aboriginal
7 Women's Network that they have provided to be shared with
8 you today. So before we close, we're just going to take
9 care of that, so thank you very much.

10 MR. GORDON OBED: Thank you.

11 MS. SILPA OBED: Thank you.

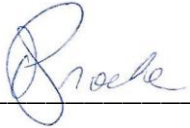
12 --- Exhibits (code: P01P12P0102)

13 **Exhibit 1:** Folder of three digital images displayed
14 during Gordon Obed and Silpa Obed's public
15 testimony.

16 --- Upon adjourning at 2:33 p.m.

LEGAL DICTA-TYPIST'S CERTIFICATE

I, Karin Proulx, Court Transcriber, hereby certify that I have transcribed the foregoing and it is a true and accurate transcript of the digital audio provided in this matter.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Karin Proulx", is written above a horizontal line.

Karin Proulx

March 24, 2018