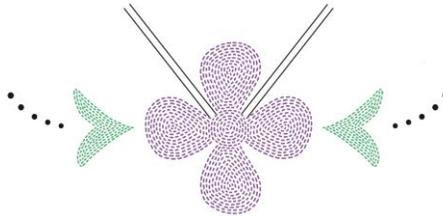


National Inquiry into  
Missing and Murdered  
Indigenous Women and Girls



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**

**Thursday March 8, 2018**

**Public Volume 58:**

**Benigna Anderson, In relation to Henrietta Millek**

**Heard by Commissioner Qajaq Robinson**

**Commission Counsel: Christa Big Canoe**

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## II

### APPEARANCES

Assembly of First Nations	Jeremy Kolodziej (Counsel)
Eastern Door Indigenous Women's Association	Non-appearance
Government of Canada	Donna Keats (Counsel)
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador	Brian Harvey (Representative)
Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami	Elizabeth Zarpa (Counsel)
Naskapi Nation of Kawawachi- kamach	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 - Pauktuutit) Kim Campbell-McLean (Representative - ATRIWA)

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Heard by Commissioner Qajaq Robinson	
Orders: None.	
Commission Counsel: Christa Big Canoe	
Grandmothers, Elders and Knowledge-keepers: Charlotte Wolfrey, Sarah Ponniuk, Odelle Pike, Amelia Reimer, Paul Pike, Kenneth Mesher, Louise Haulli, Audrey Siegl, Kathleen Nuna, Celeste Anderson, Tracy Denniston, Evelyn	
Clerk: Maryiam Khoury	
Registrar: Bryan Zandberg	

1 Happy Valley-Goose Bay, Newfoundland and Labrador  
2 --- Upon commencing on Wednesday, March 7, 2018, at 3:53  
3 p.m.

4 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Good afternoon,  
5 Commissioner Robinson. I know you know this, but I was  
6 reminded this morning that we should introduce ourselves.  
7 I'm Christa Big Canoe. I'm one of the lawyers with the  
8 Commission. My job is to help anyone participating --  
9 their story, present to you, and so I want to introduce you  
10 to Benigna Ittulak. She will be sharing and speaking about  
11 your experiences of physical abuse and -- and intimidation  
12 in the former intimate relationship.

13 Before we begin today I'd ask that the  
14 registrar, please, swear her in.

15 **MR. REGISTRAR:** Good afternoon, Benigna. I  
16 understand you wanted to swear with a Bible. Okay. Just  
17 take that in your hand. Yeah, you can hold it, that's  
18 great. Benigna, do you swear to tell the truth, the whole  
19 truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

20 **MS. BENIGNA ANDERSON:** I do.

21 **MR. REGISTRAR:** Okay, thank you.

22 **BENIGNA Anderson, Sworn:**

23 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Benigna, I -- I  
24 understand -- I see you have someone with you, did you just  
25 want to take the opportunity to introduce your support

1 person?

2 **MS. BENIGNA ANDERSON:** This is Justine Obed.  
3 She's my friend since -- I don't know, way back when.  
4 Maybe three or four years old.

5 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Excellent. So  
6 Benigna, can you tell us just a little bit about yourself  
7 and where you're from?

8 **MS. BENIGNA ANDERSON:** My name is Benigna  
9 Ittulak. I come from the awesome community called Nain,  
10 about 1200 people.

11 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** And I understand that  
12 that's up on the -- the coast, pretty far north on the  
13 coast.

14 **MS. BENIGNA ANDERSON:** Northerly community in  
15 Labrador.

16 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** M'hm, can you just  
17 tell me just a little bit about your community? Like, I  
18 know you said there's 1200, but I know is there a school  
19 there? Is there a medical centre?

20 **MS. BENIGNA ANDERSON:** There's two schools, a  
21 primary school and high school, there's a clinic. There's  
22 an arena, and a community centre.

23 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Nice. And so is  
24 there anything else that you just wanted to maybe share  
25 about your background or your family that -- that lives in

1 Nain?

2 **MS. BENIGNA ANDERSON:** All of my family live  
3 in Nain. We love it. Born and raised, and we all will  
4 never ever leave.

5 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** So I know that what  
6 you're sharing with us today is not easy to speak about.  
7 And so please, take your time and share what you're  
8 comfortable sharing.

9 Maybe what we can start with is in your  
10 relationship, where you experienced physical abuse, can you  
11 tell me how that started?

12 **MS. BENIGNA ANDERSON:** Is it all right if I  
13 just...

14 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Yeah, whatever you  
15 want to do.

16 **MS. BENIGNA ANDERSON:** Goes from beginning to  
17 end. When I was 15 years old I was at the top of my class,  
18 captain of the Huskys, and then I met a person who changed  
19 my life forever.

20 In December of 1992 I met Jacko (ph) Ittulak.  
21 By January I had the first of many black eyes. Teachers  
22 would ask me what happened to me. I would tell them, but  
23 they never believed me. I tried to end the relationship,  
24 but he would always threaten to kill me, or my parents, or  
25 my younger siblings, even my friends. I believed he was

1 capable of doing it. He would stalk me, even goes as far  
2 as to go on top of the school so that he can see me.  
3 Wherever I went he knew. I felt like he was always  
4 watching.

5 In the fall of 1993 I went to a dance at the  
6 hall with my friends, Jacko came in drunk. He found me and  
7 started to beat me. I didn't try to run away. I knew he  
8 was faster than me. If I ran it would be worse. No one  
9 tried to help me, or even call the police. He dragged me  
10 out of the hall and up the road by my hair and everyone  
11 just watched.

12 My cousin Michael (ph) came by, he tried to  
13 help me, but he ended up getting beaten too. And when he  
14 was done with Michael he came back -- me, at me even worse.  
15 Knocked me down and started to kick me in my face with his  
16 steel toe boots. Every time his boots made contact I would  
17 see flashes -- flashes of light. And I thought then he's  
18 going to kill me.

19 This happened not far from my house. I  
20 called out for my dad, but he couldn't hear me and so he  
21 never came.

22 I start -- and I thought, he's going to kill  
23 me in front of all these people watching and they won't  
24 even call the police. They're just going to watch me die.

25 So I started screaming, sobbing, and he

1 finally stopped. He picked me up and took me to his house.  
2 We passed people on the way. I didn't want to get them  
3 involved. I didn't want them to be hurt too, so I didn't  
4 -- I didn't ask them to help me. We got to his house. He  
5 continued hitting me 'til he passed out.

6 Finally around 5:30 in the morning I got out  
7 and I was going home, I passed an elderly man on the  
8 bridge. When he seen me he jumped back, he almost fell off  
9 the bridge. My face was like a big purple balloon, two  
10 black eyes and lips.

11 I went home and I went to bed. My mom was  
12 out of town. I stayed in bed until I had to go to school.  
13 I didn't want to hide what he did to me. So I went to  
14 school and finally one of the teachers took me to the cops.

15 They took him, and he was gone for a couple  
16 of years -- or not two years, like 18 months.

17 At the time he beat me I didn't know I was  
18 pregnant, but my baby survived. Me and my baby survived.  
19 He got out of jail when she was about eight or nine months  
20 old. I stayed away from him for a while. Then he -- I  
21 believed all the lies he told. He would stop drinking. He  
22 would change. Be a better person. That was the cycle of  
23 my life for 17 years. He's drinking, beating me, going to  
24 jail, and being sober for a while.

25 In 2000 we had four children. His drinking

1 was bad that year, so he kept getting in trouble with the  
2 law and he was on conditions not to drink, and I thought  
3 that was my way I could get him out because he came home  
4 and he had booze. I told him if he didn't leave I would  
5 tell the cops he had booze. So he left.

6 As soon as he walked out the door I knew he  
7 would be back. I knew he would back. He -- he would make  
8 good on his threats. He's always threats, "I'll kill you,  
9 if you leave me." So I called the cops and I told them,  
10 "He's out, but I know he's going to be back and when I call  
11 I need you to come right away because if you don't he's  
12 going to kill me." They told me they couldn't do nothing  
13 until he actually did something.

14 Sure enough, he came -- he came in the night,  
15 banging on the door. I called the cops. I wouldn't open  
16 the door. And he kept kicking it, hitting it. He even got  
17 a big old log of wood to try break the door in, but it  
18 wouldn't open. So he broke the porch window. He got in.  
19 He dragged me out of bed and started beating me. He got me  
20 down on the floor, and sat on my chest, and he started  
21 choking me. And I knew this time he's going to kill me. I  
22 didn't fight back. I -- I gave up. I was ready to die.

23 Right then the cops came. He heard the  
24 skidoos. He stopped and he opened the door, tried to  
25 pretend nothing was going on, but when he figured that I

1 called them he came at me again with the cops in there.  
2 They had to pepper spray him to subdue him. While they  
3 were doing that it came in my face too.

4 We had a furnace -- in a small house the vent  
5 was in the wall and the blower was blowing and the pepper  
6 spray came to my face, so like, being choked and pepper  
7 sprayed I -- I lost my breath.

8 He went to jail I think, for three months.

9 A few years later I seen one of the police  
10 officers that saved my life and I -- and I had a flashback.  
11 We were at hockey arena and I seen him and I was  
12 immediately choking again, just from his face -- to see his  
13 face.

14 Finally, in 2010 he left me. He left me  
15 alone. We had six kids. I didn't cry. I was happy he was  
16 gone. Even after he still threatened me.

17 He came by my house on my son's birthday and  
18 tried to attack me. I was lucky that my now husband was  
19 there to protect me because he was on a mission. He came  
20 to my house to attack me.

21 I want to share this story because I  
22 survived. My mother is not here talking about me in the  
23 past tense. He tried to kill me twice. He abused me all  
24 those years, but he tried to kill me twice, but I survived  
25 and my baby survived.

1 I want to speak for all those women who did  
2 not survive. It's easy for people to say that they choose  
3 to stay in abusive relationships. I didn't feel like I had  
4 a choice, and I know they don't either. When you're told  
5 over and over again, "I will kill you." You believe it.  
6 There's nothing anyone could have said to convince me  
7 otherwise. So when you're dealing with victims of domestic  
8 violence the only way to keep them safe is keep the abuser  
9 away.

10 Whenever Jacko went to jail, his sentence was  
11 reduced because he was Aboriginal. I believe this a number  
12 one reason violence is so prevalent in Aboriginal  
13 communities. People literally get away with murder,  
14 especially in my community.

15 The Gladue clause made me feel our -- made me  
16 feel like it was all right to use me as a punching bag  
17 because I'm Inuit.

18 The phone system that we used for the police  
19 goes directly to St. John's. It takes away critical  
20 minutes in life or death situations.

21 I thank God that that door that was kicked in  
22 so many times before didn't open that night. I wouldn't be  
23 here. It gave me the time I needed to call the cops.

24 I believe in my heart God saved me that night  
25 for a reason. And now I think that reason is to be here to

1 tell you what it's like to be abused.

2 I don't have no ill will towards Jacko. I  
3 don't forgive him either. He was a victim of abuse too at  
4 the hands of his father and the group home he was sent to.  
5 That doesn't excuse what he did to me, and what he  
6 continues to do to hurt others. But it shines a light on  
7 the lack of services, mental health services that are  
8 provided to Aboriginal people.

9 Just about every woman I know has been abused  
10 in some way; physically or mentally or sexually. The need  
11 is very great, and the resources are few.

12 Money needs to be invested in our own people  
13 to provide training to promote healing. The revolving door  
14 of outside counsellors and therapists is not effective.  
15 They cannot comprehend what our people have suffered. All  
16 the hurts we have on such a large scale.

17 I'm also here today to speak about my  
18 husband's mother, Henrietta Millek, she's been missing for  
19 over 30 years. I -- I don't know about how they felt all  
20 those years ago. I know how my husband aches to know what  
21 it's like to have a mother, and I know how his grandmother,  
22 Vernona (ph), ached to know what happened to her daughter  
23 and where she was.

24 In June of 2016 I was on my way to St.  
25 John's. My husband called me when I was in Goose Bay. He

1 said he seen a Facebook post, a CBC Facebook post, saying  
2 that they were -- they had a lead they were searching for  
3 Henrietta Millek. I made several attempts to the RNC to  
4 find out what was going on. No one would answer my  
5 questions. One of the RCM -- RNC officers even said, "I  
6 don't know what you're talking about, and if I did I  
7 wouldn't tell you anyway."

8 The attitude didn't change from over 30 years  
9 ago. When Henrietta first went missing the family didn't  
10 know for weeks.

11 When I got to St. John's I went to the RC --  
12 RNC and I spoke to the inspector. Told him who I was. And  
13 why nobody bothered to contact my husband or his  
14 grandmother to let them know that they were searching. He  
15 said he didn't know about them. Made me wonder what kind  
16 of investigation they conducted that they didn't even who  
17 her family was.

18 The attitude of the police force needs to  
19 change. The systematic disrespect for Aboriginal people --  
20 they need cultural sensitivity training. Needs to be made  
21 mandatory for all of them. Especially the ones who want to  
22 work in Aboriginal communities.

23 I want to thank you for the opportunity to  
24 speak today. I hope there are women out there who will  
25 hear my story and know there is hope. I know how it feels

1 to live in fear. To be abused and defeated. I even know  
2 how it feels to give up. But I got out. I might be  
3 damaged, but I'm alive and in control of my own life now.  
4 No one can take that away from me anymore. I know it's  
5 scary but you can be free too. I hope you get out. I pray  
6 for women to live free of violence and fear. To live in  
7 peace. To know how it is to be independent and stand on  
8 your own feet. And know you're going to be all right and  
9 know you don't need a man. Thank you.

10 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Is it okay, I have a  
11 couple of questions (indiscernible).

12 **COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON:** Yes.

13 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Thank you so much for  
14 sharing your story in such an eloquent and inspiring way  
15 for women who may also be experiencing violence.

16 Is it okay if I ask you just a couple of  
17 clarification questions? Thank you.

18 When you first with Jacko you were quite  
19 young. You were -- how old were you when were first  
20 together?

21 **MS. BENIGNA ANDERSON:** Fifteen.

22 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** And what was the age  
23 difference between the two of you?

24 **MS. BENIGNA ANDERSON:** He was seven years  
25 older than me.

1                   **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** M'hm. I understand  
2 he was also like a very large, strong man?

3                   **MS. BENIGNA ANDERSON:** Yeah.

4                   **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** And was that part of  
5 the way he was able to control and threaten you as well?

6                   **MS. BENIGNA ANDERSON:** Yes.

7                   **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Now, you talked about  
8 your husband -- your husband, Jesslie (ph).

9                   **MS. BENIGNA ANDERSON:** M'hm.

10                  **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Can you tell me a  
11 little bit about your relationship with Jesslie? Like,  
12 when you guys -- you -- because I can tell -- it's obvious  
13 you referenced him as being your protector in one  
14 circumstance, so I was wondering if you could share a  
15 little bit about what a healthier relationship looks like.

16                  **MS. BENIGNA ANDERSON:** I never knew how it  
17 felt to be loved. To know that someone would be there for  
18 me. To stand by me. Even when I'm hard. It's not easy  
19 living with all the stuff I lived through, but he stands by  
20 me.

21                  **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** M'hm. Coming into a  
22 newer relationship after one as horrific as you  
23 experienced, were there things you had to change or things  
24 you had to learn in order to grow and to create the  
25 relationship you have now?

1                   **MS. BENIGNA ANDERSON:** When we first got  
2 together we both came from abuse. So our relationship was  
3 rocky in the beginning, but we knew we could be good  
4 together if we just work through it and put the past in the  
5 past and move on together.

6                   **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** M'hm. How -- how  
7 difficult it was -- was it to learn how to trust someone  
8 though, given everything that you had been through with  
9 Jacko?

10                   **MS. BENIGNA ANDERSON:** It was hard for me. I  
11 had to tell myself that he's not Jacko. He's not going to  
12 get mad at you if you burn his eggs, or things like that.  
13 I had to re-train my brain to live life without being  
14 afraid.

15                   **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** M'hm. And is --  
16 that's ongoing, right? Like, you still find yourself  
17 having to -- to work through that because you had mentioned  
18 to the Commissioner you had some -- you have flashbacks  
19 from time to time. There's lasting impacts even past --  
20 you know, being free from that violence and being with  
21 someone who you can respect. Can you tell us a little bit  
22 more about the impacts that continue, or what you have to  
23 be aware of?

24                   **MS. BENIGNA ANDERSON:** I have nightmares  
25 always running away from him. Thinking he's trying to kill

1 me all the time.

2 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** And given that you  
3 lived through that circumstance you have some legitimate  
4 reasons to be afraid; is that fair?

5 **MS. BENIGNA ANDERSON:** Yeah. I'm still  
6 afraid.

7 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** M'hm.

8 **MS. BENIGNA ANDERSON:** I -- I can't stop it.  
9 I think I will be afraid of him for the rest of my life.

10 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** And so in your --  
11 your support, I know you've got a good friend here  
12 supporting you too, and -- and your husband's here as well.  
13 What are some of the things that you draw on for strength?  
14 So within community or within your friendships that can  
15 help other. You've already given some great advice in  
16 terms of women experiencing violence, but what are some of  
17 the other ways to heal that maybe you can share with us?

18 **MS. BENIGNA ANDERSON:** For myself, it was  
19 always my kids keep me going, whatever I can do for them.  
20 Justine's my friend since, like I said, I don't even  
21 remember. We were small. And that's part of the reason  
22 why I stay where I am because I have friends who I've been  
23 friends with since forever.

24 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** M'hm. Yeah, and you  
25 seem quite determined that -- and then proud of your

1 community where you come from when you said, I'm there for  
2 -- we're there for always. So you do draw on strength from  
3 community and family, and that's obviously an important  
4 thing for you.

5 I just want to clarify the -- what is the  
6 police service in Nain, because I know when you were  
7 talking about your mother-in-law you referred to the RCMP,  
8 but is also the RCMP in Nain?

9 **MS. BENIGNA ANDERSON:** In St. John's they  
10 have the RNC. In Nain we have RCMP.

11 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** And when you were  
12 telling your story you were talking about that cycle --  
13 that 17-year cycle where abuse would occur, he would go to  
14 custody, but you at one point said it seems like he was  
15 getting less and less time even though the abuse was  
16 getting worse. At any point did you ever seek any type of  
17 orders? Protection orders? Any -- and what did that  
18 process look like in Nain?

19 **MS. BENIGNA ANDERSON:** He was on restraining  
20 orders to stay away from me, but it didn't mean nothing.  
21 It was just a piece of paper.

22 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** M'hm. How would you  
23 get a piece of paper, or an order put into place?

24 **MS. BENIGNA ANDERSON:** I would tell the  
25 police that I was afraid. They would call the judge and

1 the judge would issue a restraining order.

2 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** And you -- you said  
3 it didn't matter. Does that mean that they wouldn't  
4 enforce it if you called?

5 **MS. BENIGNA ANDERSON:** There was nothing they  
6 could do to stop him when he came.

7 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** And so would it --  
8 would one of your recommendations, or -- or something you  
9 can think about to help us here -- how can you make that  
10 process better to make the -- if you're really afraid of  
11 someone how -- how can you get either a police to react, or  
12 what are the protections that women might actually need?

13 **MS. BENIGNA ANDERSON:** I don't know. Like I  
14 said, I think the only way is for them to get out of town  
15 or something. I don't know.

16 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** M'hm. That's all  
17 (indiscernible). I know we didn't touch on it much, and I  
18 know that -- but you did talk about -- in the first  
19 instance, when you were 15, and -- and you were really  
20 harm, and the first time he tried to kill you, you kept  
21 referring to the fact that people just kind of watched, and  
22 that you were also afraid that he would drag people into it  
23 and hurt people after your one cousin tried to help. Can  
24 you say anything about when we're in communities -- like,  
25 what do we need to do in terms of speaking out or stepping

1 in, and is there ways we can do that to help someone that  
2 we're seeing in that experience?

3 **MS. BENIGNA ANDERSON:** In small communities  
4 we all know who abusers are. We all know the women who are  
5 going through it. They need help. You need to support  
6 them. Even if it means you have to call the police.

7 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** M'hm. I know that a  
8 number or like in a -- a generation of your community  
9 actually attended Indian residential school, did you have  
10 anyone in your family that also went through those  
11 experiences?

12 **MS. BENIGNA ANDERSON:** Both my parents  
13 attended residential school.

14 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** And -- and I'm kind  
15 of contextualize this in -- in you know, a community where  
16 everyone is aware, but they don't talk, is it fair to say  
17 some of that ties back to the other harm that the  
18 communities experienced through things like Indian  
19 residential school?

20 **MS. BENIGNA ANDERSON:** In my family we didn't  
21 talk about anything like that. I didn't even know what  
22 happened to my parents in residential school. They didn't  
23 speak of it.

24 They knew what was happening with me, but we  
25 didn't speak of it. I didn't tell them details. They

1 would just see the black eyes, or they would know if he was  
2 in jail.

3 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** And so I think the --  
4 the one point that you raised so eloquently too, was that  
5 you're here today and that it's not your mom, that you're  
6 speaking on behalf of others, so that speaking out, it's --  
7 it's really important and really valuable. I want to thank  
8 you for -- for doing that, and I only have a couple more  
9 questions -- clarification questions, around your mother-  
10 in-law, if that's okay. Okay.

11 **MS. BENIGNA ANDERSON:** I'll try.

12 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Yeah. No, and that's  
13 fair. I know that you're speaking as a wife, and that --  
14 that your experiences, that of what you share with your  
15 partner now, and seeing the pain he goes through. But you  
16 had mentioned you had concern that if they didn't even know  
17 who the family members were what -- how -- what are they  
18 doing in the investigation. So you've done the follow up  
19 with them; is that fair to say? No one's reached out to  
20 you?

21 **MS. BENIGNA ANDERSON:** I never heard from  
22 them again.

23 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** So even after you  
24 followed up and then no one's touched base back to you or  
25 your husband?

1                   **MS. BENIGNA ANDERSON:** No. When I was there  
2 I gave them our phone number and I told them about Verona  
3 and we never heard from them again.

4                   **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** M'hm. Have you heard  
5 from victim services or anyone else about ways that you can  
6 learn more or get more information?

7                   **MS. BENIGNA ANDERSON:** Pertaining to  
8 Henrietta?

9                   **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Yeah, or the --

10                   **MS. BENIGNA ANDERSON:** No.

11                   **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** -- investigation.  
12 Okay. But that's something that your family is interested  
13 in pursuing I understand, right?

14                   **MS. BENIGNA ANDERSON:** We'd like to know,  
15 like if they're -- it's not nice finding out Facebook that  
16 they're conducting a search for your mother who has been  
17 missing for over 30 years. Like, have the decency to at  
18 least warn us, instead of getting shocked like that.

19                   **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** M'hm, before I  
20 actually ask Commissioner Robinson if she has any questions  
21 or comments I just want to make sure if there's anything  
22 else that you want to share or discuss, that we don't miss  
23 that.

24                   **MS. BENIGNA ANDERSON:** No.

25                   **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** So Commissioner

1 Robinson, do you have any questions or comments that you'd  
2 like to ask?

3 **COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON:** Okay. Thank  
4 you for coming and speaking about yourself, but also for  
5 talking for Henrietta as well. We've met before, and I  
6 want to acknowledge that. And Westley (ph) and I have met  
7 before, and I want to acknowledge that, and just it's --  
8 it's good to see you again.

9 I want to talk a little bit about the court  
10 process, if that's all right. And Jacko was going in and  
11 out of court, in and out of jail, what -- what did jail do?  
12 Did it -- did it ever -- did he get programs? Did it ever  
13 change the -- the violence? Him?

14 **MS. BENIGNA ANDERSON:** It never changed him.  
15 He's in jail right now for abusing someone else. So if he  
16 did receive programs, I -- I don't know, it didn't work.

17 **COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON:** And did you  
18 ever have to go through trial or the court process -- what  
19 was that like for you?

20 **MS. BENIGNA ANDERSON:** He always pled guilty  
21 so I never had to testify.

22 **COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON:** But you'd have  
23 to wait. How often would court get to Nain?

24 **MS. BENIGNA ANDERSON:** When I called the  
25 cops, they would pick him up. They'd hold him for a couple

1 of days and let him go. Probably wouldn't finish 'til  
2 probably a year later.

3 **COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON:** So sometimes he  
4 was free in the community waiting for court?

5 **MS. BENIGNA ANDERSON:** Yes. Most of the  
6 time.

7 **COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON:** Yeah. And  
8 where would he stay? Would they put him back in the house  
9 with you?

10 **MS. BENIGNA ANDERSON:** Sometimes he would go  
11 to his dad's, but he always made his way back home.

12 **COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON:** And he'd have  
13 conditions and stuff?

14 **MS. BENIGNA ANDERSON:** Yeah.

15 **COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON:** But it was up  
16 to you to report him?

17 **MS. BENIGNA ANDERSON:** Yes.

18 **COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON:** It was always  
19 up to you? You talked about how people just watched and  
20 just like -- people all knew but did nothing. What -- and  
21 that we need to support -- provide more support even if  
22 it's just calling the police when we see things or know  
23 things. Are there are kind of supports that you could  
24 think that are needed in Nain that aren't there now that  
25 could help like, either break that silence or give you some

1 place to go?

2 **MS. BENIGNA ANDERSON:** In Nain, I have to say  
3 that there are services -- like you know, there's never  
4 enough, but we do have a shelter, but the counsellors and  
5 stuff -- like I said, they're always outsiders. They come  
6 to Nain, they stay maybe six months and then they're gone  
7 again. And then by that time the people who have been  
8 seeing them are opening their wounds -- I always call them  
9 worms. Opening their can of worms, and then they're open,  
10 and then nobody's there to help them after they've already  
11 opened up their wounds. They're left hanging till the next  
12 counsellor comes maybe a year later.

13 **COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON:** And then they  
14 have to get to know that new person?

15 **MS. BENIGNA ANDERSON:** Yes.

16 **COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON:** So really have  
17 to invest in making sure that people within the community  
18 can give those services.

19 **MS. BENIGNA ANDERSON:** I think that's the  
20 only way.

21 **COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON:** Yeah.

22 **MS. BENIGNA ANDERSON:** People who already  
23 live there, who love the community, who love their people,  
24 who want to help.

25 **COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON:** M'hm. I'm

1 going to -- I don't have any more questions. Well, no, I  
2 do. You said the only way is to get them away. And right  
3 now that doesn't -- that doesn't happen.

4 **MS. BENIGNA ANDERSON:** No. In my community  
5 -- like we -- we all know who the abused women are. There  
6 was a woman who lived across the road from me who was  
7 abused way worse and way longer than me. I even -- I even  
8 called the police myself and asked, "Why don't he be  
9 declared a dangerous offender?" He's been beating her for  
10 30, 40 years. Go to jail, get out, beat her, go to jail,  
11 get out. Why?

12 **COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON:** M'hm.

13 **MS. BENIGNA ANDERSON:** Why does the system  
14 allow it?

15 **COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON:** Would that be a  
16 recommendation for you? That with patterns of domestic  
17 violence they should look at dangerous offender status?

18 **MS. BENIGNA ANDERSON:** Yes. I really believe  
19 in it.

20 **COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON:** I don't have  
21 any more questions, but thank you for coming and sharing  
22 with us. Do any of my questions raise questions for you?  
23 Okay. Thank you.

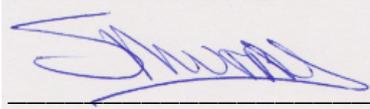
24 **MS. BENIGNA ANDERSON:** Thank you.

25 **COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON:** I have some...

1 --- Upon adjourning at 4.51 p.m

LEGAL DICTA-TYPIST'S CERTIFICATE

I, Shannon Munro, 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.



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Shannon Munro

March 3, 2018