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

Wednesday February 21, 2018
Public Volume 47(b)

Emilia Angalik & Arsene Angalik,
In relation to Edith Angalik

Heard by Commissioner Qajaq Robinson
Commission Counsel: Lillian Lundrigan

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Emilia & Arsene Angalik
(Edith Angalik)

--- Upon commencing on Wednesday, February 21, 2018 at 1:55 p.m.

**INTERPRETER FOR MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:**
(Speaking in Inuktitut). Thank you for being here this afternoon. We're going to start again. Before we start, Emilia and Arsene will be sworn in before we start.

**REGISTRAR:** Good afternoon. Emilia and Arsene? Okay good, we'll start with Arsene.

**ARSENE ANGALIK, Sworn:**

**REGISTRAR:** And Emilia?

**EMILIA ANGALIK, Sworn:**

**REGISTRAR:** Thank you.

**INTERPRETER FOR MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:**
Commissioner Robinson, the people that are here to testify to you, Emilia and Arsene, to talk about their daughter Edith. I'm going to ask her, Emilia, whether you can speak first about your daughter?

**INTERPRETER FOR MS. EMILIA ANGALIK:**
(Speaking in Inuktitut). Yeah, I will talk about her.

Emily Edith Koumanau (ph) Angalik was her name. June 27th, 1989 she was born in Winnipeg. She was our youngest daughter, my husband and myself. And when she was growing up she was a very nice person, very nice child. She would never act out, ...
Ms. Emilia Angalik:... she would always try to see the beauty in everything, in every person, a humble person.

Interpreter for Ms. Lillian Lundrigan: Arsene, would you like to speak about your daughter? You told me she always liked to hunt a lot.

Interpreter for Mr. Arsene Angalik: She used to want to be out on the land a lot. She really enjoyed being on the land and...

Mr. Arsene Angalik: ...she used to joke around a lot. Be funny to anybody who she's friend, she was -- she was a good daughter to me when we see the pictures.

Interpreter for Ms. Lillian Lundrigen: Emilia, can you tell your story, what happened?

Interpreter for Ms. Emilia Angalik: When she had a boyfriend they had two children, and he left her and her children. The younger child was six months and the older one was two years old, and she was left by her boyfriend. And he started drinking, and then she started drinking and wouldn't come home.

And she was with that person who is in jail now. She started going with him on the sly, we didn't find out for a long time that she was going out with this guy. And she fell in love with him and wanted to stay with him.
And we tried to get her away from that person but we couldn't do it. She started drinking pretty much every day and she would hardly come home to our place. Even when she came home just for about an hour, she would be at home, at our place, and then she would get a call, then she would leave.

I felt very much that she couldn't stay home anymore, even though I felt -- I know that she was being controlled. And then when they started arguing and she would get beat up, and she told her dad that she thought she was going to be killed. It took -- my husband didn't tell me very -- for a while. When he finally told me what my daughter said, he just said she's thinking she's going to get killed.

I wrote a statement to the R.C.M.P. to get help to see what's happening, whether there's an abuse in, in the place where she was. And the R.C.M.P. went there to go see them and they said they -- they were fine.

She didn't open up to me very easily, but my husband used to tell me what she would say. She would tell me her nose was broken, her wrist was broken, and she would hide her bruises to me. But whenever she was abused she would only tell her father.

When I started calling to the Social Services I wanted support for my daughter because I thought...
she was in danger. And I was told by Social Services she's an adult now, she can do things on her own. I asked for help again, and I wanted to find out where I could turn to. They said you have to go through R.C.M.P. before you get help. I tried to tell the R.C.M.P. and they -- the R.C.M.P. said they can't help her.

And then Social Services said she's an adult now, she has to come here and ask for her help herself. And I didn't know what else to do from there, nowhere to turn. My husband could probably expound on this, where she would be abused if he wants to.

**INTERPRETER FOR MR. ARSENE ANGALIK:** My daughter, I was outside with her, having a smoke outside. She told me the story -- she told me the story, what was happening to her, where she was hurting. She said she had sore legs and she would tell me where her pains were. She would whisper to me even though she didn't want to say, but she felt she had to say it to somebody so she told me.

Because we are here in a small community, we're not living in the city -- my wife used to ask for help, but there's too many red tape. They're using -- we're using the same rules and laws as down south, it shouldn't be like that.

**INTERPRETER FOR MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:**
Thank you Arsene, Emilia. I know her words to us were --
are helpful. Let me ask a question. As you just said,
even though you were asking for help, and there was no help
because they said she had to ask for help herself to the
R.C.M.P. for example. If she went there and asked for help
herself, and is that what they said to you?

INTERPRETER FOR MS. EMILIA ANGALIK: Yes,
she had to go ask for help for herself as they said she was
an adult now. But she was afraid and I -- she mentioned
one time that if she tells on him, that he would come after
us too, us family. So because she was afraid, then she
couldn't speak out. Yes, that's how it was. She was being
controlled and she was fearful. And we could have helped
her, like we could have sent her away to her sister or
something, but she was trapped.

INTERPRETER FOR MR. ARSENE ANGALIK: My
youngest daughter, she would speak -- tell me what was
happening to her because she was scared of her mom. They
probably would have been able to help and we probably
wouldn't have gone through this. They already knew, the
R.C.M.P., what was happening. But because of the laws and
they're using the laws, they couldn't do anything.

Maybe if they were separated and dealt with
it, it would have been alright. But because there are
rules and regulations -- they probably knew what was
happening in that situation. And I feel like because we're
from the north, this needs to be -- we're not white people, we're a small community and we know pretty much everybody in the community and what's happening around town. Because of the rules and the laws there's too much red tape.

**INTERPRETER FOR MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:**

Emilia, can you tell us after she had passed did you get the support you needed?

**INTERPRETER FOR MS. EMILIA ANGALIK:** The R.C.M.P. started coming to our place. The one R.C.M.P. officer called me and probably came to visit us, but myself, I didn't want to see them anymore. Even though there was one that was trying to help us, but I didn't -- I didn't want -- but I was too angry. They were -- it was too late.

We didn't want the R.C.M.P. to come around anymore because when we asked for their help they never came. But he would come to my office to give me support and find out how I was doing. And myself, ...

**MS. EMILIA ANGALIK** ...I accepted just to let him go, like so he can go faster away from me. Because the more he stayed around would make me more angry. Like where was the help when I needed it? Why wait so late -- like so late for it after?

And -- because if I tried to accept him, like his friendship, his support, and that would have made
me really angry towards other people too. Because I know
this one time, one person tried to come up to me and give
me, you know, their sympathy, and I was cold-hearted. I
pushed that person away. Like not really pushed him
physically, but with words and I said, "It's over, it's
done, I don't need this anymore". That is what I said
before. *(Speaks in Inuktitut).*

After the court hearing and that, then it
went -- we promised each other that we'll support each
other as a family. And the later, you know, the risk that
there are people after, can come after. Like will start
being more open to them and that. But right now we're
still going through that healing, like as a family.

**INTERPRETER FOR MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:**

Your daughter Edith had children?

**INTERPRETER FOR MS. EMILIA ANGALIK:** They
had -- she had three, three children. She had -- she had
kept two but the oldest one we adopted. And the two
younger children, we have custody of them right now, but
the middle child still remembers her, the mother, and
always ask how the mother died. And I don't know what to
say to my grandchild when they're so small...

**MS. EMILIA ANGALIK** ... He's still seven. How
do I make him understand that his mother was murdered?
That runs through my head all the time. When he asks again
how am I going to tell him? And I just tell him that he --

she died from, you know, a pop. And he thinks that all

pops are bad now, meaning alcohol, you know.

INTERPRETER FOR MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Do

you have any recommendations to the inquiry?

INTERPRETER FOR MS. EMILIA ANGALIK: There

are -- I'm sure there are a lot of people going to go

through the same thing in Nunavut. Even female and males,

they will be abused. It's involved -- it's even harder to

handle them, because that person who is drunk doesn't know

what he or she is doing. And with kids around it's harder

because they witness it, and they go through that anger,

and they start a cycle again of wanting to drink when

they're older. How can we stop it, I do not know. But we

can get our elders involved with it.

INTERPRETER FOR MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:

What about you Arsene, what would -- are your -- your

recommendations would be? Would you like to add onto what

your wife said?

INTERPRETER FOR MR. ARSENE ANGALIK: My

daughter and her boyfriend, when they would come over

feeling high, they'd go to their room and you could hear

them fighting in the room. Then my wife would call the

R.C.M.P., they'd come over. Many, many times they've heard

what they're doing in our community. They knew exactly
what type of person they were, but they didn't know what else to do because my daughter didn't ask for help because she was afraid for her parents' life.

So I know it's something that needs to be dealt with, even though they knew that there was domestic abuse. But only when it was too late they started trying to help. This needs to be dealt with in my opinion.

**INTERPRETER FOR MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:**
And thank you Arsene. Would you like to add on? I'm going to ask the Commissioner Robinson if she has any questions.

**INTERPRETER FOR COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON:**
I have a few questions. I know how hard it is, I know how hard it is for you so I won't ask that many questions.

When they were going through court, would you like to talk about that time, when they were -- when you were in court?

**INTERPRETER FOR MS. EMILIA ANGALIK:** Myself, I didn't listen, I really didn't want to listen in the courtroom but my husband was there.

**INTERPRETER FOR MR. ARSENE ANGALIK:** Yeah, when they were in court I was trying to be here. They had lawyers and I listened to what was happening. I understood exactly what happened.

**INTERPRETER FOR MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** The documents that you have are from the court system, so we'll be able to read that. I just wanted to hear from you and
how you felt. I would like to say thank you to you.

INTERPRETER FOR COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON:
I know -- can you, can you explain about the pictures
before we finish?

INTERPRETER FOR MS. EMILIA ANGALIK: That
was a picture taken here with her older, older sister. She
was her best friend. And she always like to wear blue.
Here she is smiling with her older sister.

MS. EMILIA ANGALIK: But no matter how much
she was in pain she was always happy. Not really, you
know, happy as she used to be, but she still tried to be
there for me. And she didn't want to show her, her pain,
hers fears to me. She didn't really talk to them about me.

INTERPRETER FOR INTERPRETER FOR MR. ARSENE
ANGALIK: She used to like fishing a lot and that was a
picture of her on the land. But I just remember that about
her, she really liked fishing and being out on the land.

INTERPRETER FOR MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Do
you have any other questions?

INTERPRETER FOR COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON:
No, no more questions.

INTERPRETER FOR MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: We
can finish this session and if you don't have anything else
to say? Would you like to add onto it?

INTERPRETER FOR MR. ARSENE ANGALIK: I'm --
the things that we're talking about, or the recommendations that we want to see, we need to see more. We have to let it out and we're going -- we want this to end and we want it to stop.

INTERPRETER FOR MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:

Thank you Arsene. We could end this portion, thank you.

--- Exhibits (code: P01P11P0202)

Exhibit 1: Folder of three digital images displayed during the public testimony of the witnesses.

--- Upon adjourning at 2:19 p.m.
LEGAL DICTA-TYPIST’S CERTIFICATE

I, Sherry Hobe, 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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Sherry Hobe

May 8, 2018