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



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Thursday February 22, 2018

Public Volume 48(b) Martha Ammaq Uttak & Bernadette Katorka, In relation to Tracy Uttak

Heard by Commissioner Qajaq Robinson

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Government of Nunavut

Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada, Saturviit Inuit Women's Association of Nunavik, AnânauKatiget Tumingit Regional Inuit Women's Association Inc., Ottawa Inuit Children's Centre, Manitoba Inuit Association Non-appearance

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## Witnesses: Martha Ammaq Uttak and Bernadette Katorka Exhibits (code: P01P11P0302)

1 Single digital image displayed during the public 17 testimony of Martha Ammaq Uttak and Bernadette Katorka

Hearing - Public 1 Martha Ammaq Uttak & Bernadette Katorka (Tracy Uttak) Rankin Inlet, Nunavut 1 --- Upon commencing on Thursday, February 22, 2018 at 11:45 2 3 a.m. MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: (Speaking 4 5 Inuktitut). 6 MR. LOUIS TAPARTI FOR MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: I'm sorry we're a little bit late. 7 8 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Again, my apologies for the delay. But we're ready to get going again. Before 9 we begin, (Speaking Native Language), Martha and 10 Bernadette, Lou --11 MR. LOUIS TAPARTI FOR MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: 12 Martha and Bernadette will be sworn in. 13 MR. BRYAN ZANDBERG: Good morning. Are --14 your name is Martha? Hey, good morning. So Martha, if you 15 could just take that Bible. 16 17 MARTHA AMMAQ UTTAK, Sworn: 18 MR. BRYAN ZANDBERG: Okay. Thank you. And 19 pass it to Bernadette. Good morning, Bernadette. UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: She said yes. 20 MR. BRYAN ZANDBERG: Sorry? 21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: She said, yes. 22 23 MR. BRYAN ZANDBERG: Okay. Yeah, sure. 24 He's got it. 25 MS. BERNADETTE KATORKA: (Speaking Native

1 Language).

MR. BRYAN ZANDBERG: Okay. Hi, Bernadette. 2 BERNADETTE KATORKA, Sworn: 3 MR. BRYAN ZANDBERG: Great. Thank you. 4 5 MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: (Speaking in Native 6 Language). MR. LOUIS TAPARTI FOR MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: 7 Thank you. We're going to speak in Inuktitut. We'll speak 8 9 in Inuktitut. Thank you, Martha and Bernadette, for being able to be here today -- your -- on behalf of your 10 daughter, Tracy. Can you explain about your daughter and 11 what her name was in Inuktitut? Can you talk about her? 12 MR. LOUIS TAPARTI FOR MS. MARTHA AMMAQ 13 Tracy Uttak was her name. I never called her Pa-14 UTTAK: 15 nick, I called her my son. MR. LOUIS TAPARTI FOR MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: 16 Even though she was a female, you called her son because 17 you had a male name? 18 MR. LOUIS TAPARTI FOR MS. MARTHA AMMAQ 19 UTTAK: Yes. I -- she -- she had my father's name. I was 20 very envious of children who grew up with a father because 21 I didn't have a father growing up. I just had a son. 22 MR. LOUIS TAPARTI FOR MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: 23 24 When was she born? 25 MR. LOUIS TAPARTI FOR MS. MARTHA AMMAQ

UTTAK: She was born in 1986. And when she was alive, I 1 named her after my father and I called her my son. 2 MR. LOUIS TAPARTI FOR MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: 3 Where was she living? 4 5 MR. LOUIS TAPARTI FOR MS. MARTHA AMMAQ 6 UTTAK: She would move back and forth to Igloolik and Naujaat. Since I was a child, I've been going back and 7 8 forth. And I was a real big boss as a child. I didn't even know what scared meant when I was a child. When my 9 father was just about to pass away, he tried to tell --10 talk to me about being scared of things, but I was confused 11 about that. 12 When my son got murdered in -- 1986 she was 13 born, 2012 she got murdered. And her children were 14 watching. And her spouse was out hunting. And when he was 15 out hunting, she got visited, and she tried to kill him --16

17 kill her. When my grandchildren were watching, they -18 some person tried to murder her. The younger child was
19 eight months old. The younger child, I got it right now -20 she -- he's 16 years-old now. And he's with me.

21 When my daughter got murdered, I was really 22 scared of people. I was scared of everybody. I didn't 23 want to be seen any more. I didn't want to see anybody. 24 In the summer, when the brother was -- he committed suicide 25 at 11 years-old. When he committed suicide, and then the

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older brother -- because he was going through hardship 1 because of his younger brother, he committed suicide too. 2 And I was told, why I'm the one killing my own kids? They 3 said I don't carry enough for them, like, and I killed them 4 myself. I asked that person, how -- how am I killing my 5 own children? I never get a put -- anything in their --6 around their necks. I never, ever said you should just 7 die. I never said that. And when I'm being accused that 8 way, I didn't know what was going on. I never wanted them 9 to die, but I'm somehow responsible. I don't know how. 10 I'm confused about that. 11

MR. LOUIS TAPARTI FOR MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:
When Tracy was murdered, did you get support from either
Social Services or nurses? Was there any resources for you
or your family?

17 UTTAK: I don't realize -- they use -- people used to come 18 visiting, but I don't know whether I was getting support or not. I just wanted to hide in the house. I didn't want to 19 go out of my house any more. My mom would come and see if 20 I'm okay. I didn't want to go out any more. During that 21 year, when people started considering me, and people 22 started talking to me, I'm still alive. I can go out again 23 24 after a year.

MR. LOUIS TAPARTI FOR MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:

MR. LOUIS TAPARTI FOR MS. MARTHA AMMAQ

And you can speak with people? 1 MR. LOUIS TAPARTI FOR MS. MARTHA AMMAQ 2 I'm able to open up more and not hide anymore. 3 UTTAK: MR. LOUIS TAPARTI FOR MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: 4 5 Was there people in your community that would advise you? 6 MR. LOUIS TAPARTI FOR MS. MARTHA AMMAQ UTTAK: My younger sister and my mom were the only ones 7 8 that I would be able to talk to. Other people would accuse me, so I wouldn't talk to them. 9 MR. LOUIS TAPARTI FOR MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: 10 And to -- up to today, are you feeling the same way? 11 MR. LOUIS TAPARTI FOR MS. MARTHA AMMAQ 12 No. I'm able to talk -- and talk about it more. 13 UTTAK: It's not as hard. 14 MR. LOUIS TAPARTI FOR MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: 15 Are your family members -- or do they feel the same way? 16 17 MR. LOUIS TAPARTI FOR MS. MARTHA AMMAQ 18 UTTAK: Right now, my brothers are very regretful to my -about my daughter because they loved her. When we first 19 moved to Iqloolik, whenever we go everywhere the first 20 time, you're always going through adversity. Then when I 21 moved Naujaat again, they didn't like me when I first --22 when I go back and forth, they wouldn't like me. But if 23 they find out who I am and what I'm about, they care for 24 25 me.

My son, or my daughter, she didn't know what 1 adversity would there -- people liked her all the time. 2 There was nobody that went against her. And then if she --3 when -- when someone would say something derogatory to her, 4 she would say, "But you are very lovely." Because she 5 loved everybody. 6 MR. LOUIS TAPARTI FOR MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: 7 Can you explain, if I asked the story, how she got 8 9 murdered? MR. LOUIS TAPARTI FOR MS. MARTHA AMMAQ 10 She was alone. Her -- the person who I thought was UTTAK: 11 my friend -- that she -- she took the person I was with and 12 I moved back to Naujaat. When I was in Naujaat, she got 13 murdered. When I was no longer in the community, she got 14 15 murdered. MR. LOUIS TAPARTI FOR MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: 16 As you mentioned she wanted to help her fellow in need, the 17 community members, in November, when they were planning for 18 a Christmas feast. You mentioned that to me when we talked 19 20 earlier. Can you tell that story? MR. LOUIS TAPARTI FOR MS. MARTHA AMMAQ 21 **UTTAK:** When -- it doesn't matter what it was, she always 22 wanted to help out people that were going through hardship, 23 that had hardly any food, she would try to feed them. 24 Ιf they didn't have -- ratty clothes, she would give her 25

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clothes away. That's how she was. And she was part of the
 church. They were going to have a community feast for
 Christmas, and she told her husband to go hunt for the
 community feast. Because he loved her, he said yes right
 away.

And when he was out hunting, she had someone 6 visiting her. My daughter was visited and he was hiding. 7 8 As soon as the visitor went out, he locked the door because he had a -- he had a mask on. This is what my grandchild 9 saw and told me. We locked the door, and they were trapped 10 inside. They were yelling and my grandchildren, soon as 11 they started crying, he -- he told the children, "If you 12 cry, I'm going to kill you." That's why my grandchild 13 cannot cry up to today because he's going to get killed if 14 he does. Even though I tell him, "You should cry. You'll 15 heal and feel better." But my grandchild doesn't want to 16 cry because he scared of crying, he's going to get killed. 17

18 MR. LOUIS TAPARTI FOR MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:
19 How many children did she have?

21 UTTAK: She had four that she had to be taken care of. The 22 oldest one, my mother adopted. The one in the middle, is 23 mine. She had four of her children. But right now, I have 24 the youngest.

MR. LOUIS TAPARTI FOR MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:

MR. LOUIS TAPARTI FOR MS. MARTHA AMMAQ

How many of the children were there watching? 1 MR. LOUIS TAPARTI FOR MS. MARTHA AMMAQ 2 The four of them were there, but the youngest one 3 UTTAK: was only eight months. He was sleeping on the couch when 4 5 it happened. 6 MR. LOUIS TAPARTI FOR MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: 7 Are they in Igloolik or Naujaat? 8 MR. LOUIS TAPARTI FOR MS. MARTHA AMMAQ They're in Igloolik with their father. 9 UTTAK: MR. LOUIS TAPARTI FOR MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: 10 Do they get support for the -- the father or the children 11 in Iqloolik? 12 MR. LOUIS TAPARTI FOR MS. MARTHA AMMAQ 13 UTTAK: I don't think so. I asked my son-in-law, now 14 15 they -- he said there's no where to turn. And no one comes to help him. 16 17 MR. LOUIS TAPARTI FOR MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: 18 What are your thoughts about that and how can this be 19 addressed, or should it be? MR. LOUIS TAPARTI FOR MS. MARTHA AMMAQ 20 UTTAK: You know, men are a lot harder to open up. My 21 22 brothers are very angry. So if we can have someone counsel them, they'd probably feel a lot lighter. I know my oldest 23 brother, he's look -- envious of people that are passing 24 on. "Lucky people are passing away, and I'd like to do 25

that too." If they talk with the men as well, I -- I would 1 prefer that. I know we're all going to leave this Earth, 2 but when he wants to die himself, I don't know how --3 because his burden is too heavy. They definitely want 4 5 help. There's a lot of Inuit that feel the same way. 6 MR. LOUIS TAPARTI FOR MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: 7 Do you have any recommendations for Qajaq? 8 MR. LOUIS TAPARTI FOR MS. MARTHA AMMAQ **UTTAK:** I'm thinking, following their age, from this age to 9 that age, talk to them. And then the older ones, be the 10 ones advising the younger ones. I'm going to talk to you 11 in -- and I asked him, invite them. They won't come. If 12 you say, this age group to come here and you'll be advised. 13 I am really pushing for that. I've -- some of them are too 14 15 old. And some of them are too young. That's why a lot of our youth are not invited to get support. So if we break 16 it down by age group, it would be better. 17 MR. LOUIS TAPARTI FOR MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: 18 19 I'm going to ask your mother to tell us her version. Thank you for being here. About your -- your granddaughter, can 20 you explain about her? Yes. Briefly. Part -- partly. 21 MR. LOUIS TAPARTI FOR MS. BERNADETTE 22 KATORKA: When she was a child, we didn't think of her as a 23 girl. We just thought of her as a -- a young teenager. 24

25 Or -- it was like a tom-boy. She was my first grandchild.

And I -- we really loved her because she was our 1 grandchild. And we -- seeing us, even as a child, she 2 tried to help her friends. Even when she was a young 3 adolescent, she would notice me when I was stressed out. 4 5 And she would be able to talk to me, and all my worries -because they're our children, we were always afraid for 6 them. When they scold you, so it -- it made me pause --7 pause -- give a -- get a pause for thought when my 8 granddaughter was talking to me, and even practically 9 scolding me because she wanted to help. 10

11 She tried to help everyone in our family. 12 And her aunts, she would talk to them as well. I know they 13 would not be happy, but then she'd make them laugh. And as 14 a teenager, she always seemed to be in a good mood. 15 Sometimes there were times when she probably wasn't, but 16 she always seemed to have a good outlook.

17 Me and myself, I like -- I always scolded my children so I would continue that, and I would scold her 18 too. And she never, ever got scared of me. She would talk 19 to me the same way, even though she was a teenager. 20 When she was in Igloolik, or when she would come and visit for a 21 while, whenever she wanted something, she would ask me. 22 And then she would talk to me about a better lifestyle to 23 ensure that we had a -- a good life. Even though she was 24 my grandchild, I would try to listen to her. When I was a 25

child, no one ever treated me that way because I wasn't loved like she was. When a teenager, I was just on the side -- sidelines growing up. I didn't want her, or my children, or my grandchildren to be like that, to be on the sidelines. It's no fun living that life, when you don't have a place to stay, or to live.

She was always a hap (phonetic) -- when she 7 8 got her first child, I adopted her child because I loved her. She has 14 year -- she's 14 years-old now. And her 9 other brothers, I -- her other siblings, I didn't think 10 about them anymore, but my daughter adopted one of them. 11 I know my sons would visit a lot of time because she --12 that -- that was her foundation. When she was a child, she 13 was given the strength. As a child, they brought her up 14 15 that way. She could always talk back.

And because of that, she -- I said to her, maybe she didn't try to defend herself. Maybe she was surprised. And I mentioned that before because she could always fight back. Maybe she didn't fight back this time. Because she always, even to her uncles and maybe she got surprised. She didn't -- then she got stabbed.

22 But when we were in the court, we were shown 23 where she got stabbed. Very many times, she got stabbed. 24 We were shown on the video where she got stabbed. I know I 25 wasn't with my daughter, but I didn't want to watch when

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they showed where she got stabbed. I didn't -- I -- I 1 didn't want to see. When they -- she got stabbed on her 2 liver. It's from the nun (phonetic). I remember. 3 And my daughter committed suicide as well 4 5 before that happened. People -- when I hear people commit 6 suicide, I cannot sleep at all. I'd be up all night. And my grandchild did not commit suicide, however she got 7 8 murdered. I remember that as well. And my grandchildren, and my daughter that committed suicide, I forgot about 9 them, but when I hear about suicide, then I remember my 10 11 granddaughter.

People that have suicide awareness walks, 12 and they're suicide counsellors, they're not going to find 13 out. I don't think they're useful at all. While I'm at 14 home in my house, when I hear about suicide, my daughter 15 and grandchild, maybe if we were together, we -- we're not 16 going to be able to stop someone who wants to commit 17 suicide. Even though we see it, we can't stop them. 18 Thev have to be advised as young children and get together and 19 air out their burdens. And they -- if they are advised and 20 talk to about how to live a better lifestyle, better 21 relationships, and -- it would be helpful. These are my 22 thoughts. There's a lot more, but I have nothing left to 23 24 say.

MR. LOUIS TAPARTI FOR MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:

Can I ask you a question? When -- during -- when you said 1 you were in the court and you were shown a video, were you 2 told that that's what you were going to see? 3 MR. LOUIS TAPARTI FOR MS. BERNADETTE 4 5 KATORKA: Yes. Yes. I was prepared for it. I didn't --I knew the house, how big it was. When I started 6 watching -- when they asked me if I wanted to see, I said, 7 yes, I wanted to see what happened. And they showed me, I 8 watched it. Thank you. I was told beforehand, they asked 9 me if I would be prepared to watch it. 10 MR. LOUIS TAPARTI FOR MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: 11 You have any other come -- comments to recommendations to 12 Qajaq -- Commissioner Qama [sic] -- Qajaq? 13 MR. LOUIS TAPARTI FOR MS. BERNADETTE 14 KATORKA: To enhance Inuit lifestyle. That's the -- the 15 one I just mentioned. The people that are on boards, or if 16 there are suicide prevention councils, and suicide 17 prevention walks, they -- I don't think they are useful at 18 all. But if you go to the person who you're worried about 19 and talk to the youth, and then -- and teach them about a 20 better lifestyle, and to be a healthy and safe, it would be 21 more useful to them, in my opinion. And thank you. 22 MR. LOUIS TAPARTI FOR MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: 23 24 Martha, what about you? You want to add onto that? I'm going to ask the Commissioner if she has any questions for 25

1 you.

MS. SUZIE NAPAYOK FOR COMMISSIONER QAJAQ 2 Hey. I don't have many questions, but I have a 3 ROBINSON: few here. I need clarification so that the audience here 4 can have further understanding. The person who murdered 5 6 your daughter was sentenced. And how was the outcome? MS. SUZIE NAPAYOK FOR MS. MARTHA AMMAQ 7 UTTAK: Yes. I can answer. They initially -- initially 8 9 said that he -- the murderer was underage, so -- because he was convicted using his age category, because he was 10 legally underage, but they made exceptions and modified the 11 just -- judicial system to accommodate him. But we were 12 told that it was a life sentence, and he would be receiving 13 programs and services. And it -- it helped us a bit, in 14 15 terms of -- with our burdens and gave us a bit of hope. MS. SUZIE NAPAYOK FOR COMMISSIONER QAJAQ 16 **ROBINSON:** It -- again, I -- we need more clarification 17 18 on -- I have two questions I would like to raise. I don't want to concentrate on -- we'd like to concentrate on the 19 people that are living, how we can be more accommodating. 20 Were they strangers to one another? The murderer and the 21 22 person murdered? MS. SUZIE NAPAYOK FOR MS. MARTHA AMMAQ 23 24 UTTAK: Well, they knew one another. The person that murdered my daughter, was very spoiled by their 25

grandparents. And was -- because he was so spoiled, that 1 they were giving him whatever he desired. And because he 2 had an addiction, therefore the clothes that he wore during 3 this incident, he wash -- he was washing his clothes and 4 his grandmother asked him, why he was washing his clothes. 5 6 That was unusual. And noticed that he was washing his own clothes that were soaked with blood. And because he has --7 of sound mind, he was able to -- able to clean the bloody 8 garments, in my view. 9 10 COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: (indiscernible). 11

MS. SUZIE NAPAYOK FOR MS. MARTHA AMMAQ 12 UTTAK: His husband was out caribou hunting, and when her 13 visitor left, and she was alone with her child -- children, 14 and that's when the murderer went into her home. I wonder 15 if there was a purpose why he did this to Tracy. It -- he 16 asked for money. He asked for money. He -- she was trying 17 18 to give, and she was going -- she was tranding (phonetic) 19 them out -- money, and also the weed. And he -- he didn't want those, he wanted to kill her first before she can 20 compensate what she had on her hand. They were bullied. 21 He was a bully and he was also spoiled. 22

23 MS. SUZIE NAPAYOK FOR COMMISSIONER QAJAQ
 24 ROBINSON: The pictures -- your son's pictures, or that
 25 were visible, or perhaps you can elaborate? And who's in

1 amote (phonetic)?

MS. SUZIE NAPAYOK FOR MS. MARTHA AMMAO 2 UTTAK: On her back. This is not -- this is not the 3 youngest of her children, but she's still my grandchild, 4 second youngest. 5 6 MS. SUZIE NAPAYOK FOR COMMISSIONER QAJAQ **ROBINSON:** This was taken in Igloolik? 7 8 MS. SUZIE NAPAYOK FOR MS. MARTHA AMMAO 9 UTTAK: Yes. We moved to Iqloolik when she was still an adolescent. And I went back and left them in Igloolik. I 10 went to Repulse Bay to -- I returned to Repulse Bay. 11 MS. SUZIE NAPAYOK FOR COMMISSIONER QAJAQ 12 **ROBINSON:** How would you like her remembered? because the 13 whole wide world -- the Canadians are aware of her 14 15 existence. How would you like her remembered? MS. SUZIE NAPAYOK FOR MS. MARTHA AMMAQ 16 17 UTTAK: I would like her -- her character to be emulated 18 because she was able to help other people that needed clothing or in need of food to fill their stomachs. I 19 think Canadians, you would learn of her character, that how 20 we should live as Canadians. 21 22 MS. SUZIE NAPAYOK FOR COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON: Thank you so much. 23 MS. SUZIE NAPAYOK FOR MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: 24 25 Thank you Martha and Bernadette for having the courage to

1	give us your testimonies. And I would like Martha and
2	Bernadette testimonies has have concluded. Perhaps it's
3	almost lunchtime, perhaps, when do we resume resume? We
4	will return at 1:30. Thank you.
5	Exhibits (code: P01P11P0302)
6	<b>Exhibit 1:</b> Single digital image displayed during the
7	public testimony of Martha Ammaq Uttak and
8	Bernadette Katorka
9	Upon adjourning at 12:19 p.m.

I, Amanda Muscoby, 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.

work

Amanda Muscoby

May 5, 2018