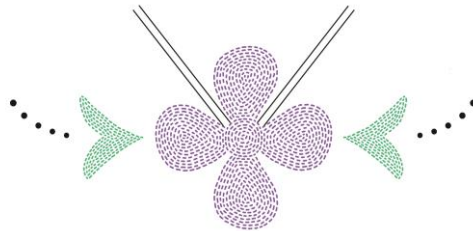


National Inquiry into
Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women and Girls



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 Hearing
Maliotenam/Uashat mak Mani-Utenam, Quebec
Teueikan Mani-Utenam Community Hall**



TRANSLATION

Monday, November 27, 2017

**Public Volume 32
Viviane Echaquan and Armand Echaquan,
In relation to Lauréanna Echaquan;**

Déborah Einish;

**Gilberte Vachon and Andrée Vachon,
In relation to Adèle Vachon;**

Lise Jourdain

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APPEARANCES

Assembly of First Nations	Non-appearance
Assembly of First Nations of Quebec and Labrador (AFNQL)	Non-appearance
Concertation des luttes contre l'exploitation sexuelle	Non-appearance
Conseil des Anicinabek de Kitcisakik	Non-appearance
Director of Public Prosecutions	Anny Bernier
Government of Canada	Marie-Ève Robillard, Anne McConville, Nancy Azzi
Government of Quebec	Non-appearance
Innu Takuaihan Uashat mak Mani-Utenam (ITUM)	Anne-Marie Gauthier Thomas Dougherty
Naskapi Nation of Kawawachikamach	Non-appearance
Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada, Saturviit Inuit Women's Association of Nunavik, Ottawa Inuit Children's Centre	Non-appearance
Quebec Native Women	Rainbow Miller
Regroupement Mamit Innuat	Anne-Marie Gauthier Thomas Dougherty
Les Résidences oblates du Québec	Marie-Pier Gagnon Nadeau (Observer)

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(No exhibits filed)

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Witness: Lise Jourdain

(No exhibits filed)

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NOTICE

The use of square brackets [] in this transcription indicates that changes have been made to the certified transcription to replace the information deemed inaudible or indecipherable by the original transcriber, who worked based on the interpretation of the public sessions. Given that technical problems occurred during the interpretation of some testimonies, the text was completed by listening to the original audiovisual recording of the case. These changes were made by Stéphane Canapé, who speaks Innu and works with the Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls as an assistant to Commissioner Michèle Audette. The corrections were made by Mr. Canapé on May 9, 2018, at Wendake, Quebec.

Maliotenam, Quebec

1 --- The hearing began on Monday, November 27, at 9:51 am.

2
3 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Kwe. Good
4 morning. So, if possible, I would like your attention for a
5 few seconds. This is the first time we have gone to a
6 territory where the second language is French. My
7 colleagues have put a great deal of effort into learning
8 French up until late last night, but they haven't done
9 Rosetta Stone yet. So I invite you to make use of the
10 simultaneous translation.

11 Mark, can you wave? Mark, at the back of the
12 room, will give you the tools because the Commissioners are
13 English-speaking. So they are going to speak to you in
14 English and you will get it translated right away, a break
15 for me for the first time.

16 We will be back shortly.

17 **(SHORT BREAK)**

18 **MR. LOUIS GEORGE FONTAINE:** (Speaking in
19 Innu) Hello, everyone. Bienvenue. Welcome.

20 **MS. JEANNETTE VOLLANT:** Hello, everyone. I
21 hope you are well. I would like to welcome you. We are
22 pleased that you are here.

23 We went to the sacred fire this morning with
24 the Elders. It was about 7 o'clock. It went well. The fire
25 was lit this morning and will continue to burn until Friday

1 and then there will be -- if anyone wants to take a rest,
2 you can go to the family's home. A teepee has been set up
3 in the back, which is where the sacred fire is burning. And
4 it went very well.

5 Now we feel revitalized, let's put it that
6 way. Because we are a team and many people are involved in
7 the work going into these days for the murdered women and
8 girls, what we're going to experience this week is
9 significant, and I'm happy that you are here.

10 **MR. LOUIS GEORGE FONTAINE:** Thank you.

11 (Speaking in Innu).

12 **MS. JEANNETTE VOLLANT:** The family's home --
13 if someone also wants to go and get a cup of coffee, a cup
14 of tea, or eat some bannock with red seed jam, because war
15 dishes were also talked about, cloudberry, and you can go
16 to the family's home.

17 And we also have the well-known trio, the
18 women to my left. Marie-Ève Bacon (ph), Nathalie Doucette,
19 Dina Bacon, who are going to help the families needing a
20 song before and after testifying. There they are. They are
21 available.

22 Your cellphones -- you can turn them off now
23 because, when evidence is being given, we mustn't hear any
24 noise from cellphones, please. Thank you.

25 **MR. LOUIS GEORGE FONTAINE:** (Speaking in

1 Innu)

2 **MS. JEANNETTE VOLLANT:** We are going to begin
3 with a prayer before doing anything else. I would like to
4 invite Lucien to come and lead the prayer with his
5 assistants, the three women.

6 **MR. LUCIEN ST-ONGE:** (Speaking in Innu)

7 **(PRAYER AND SONG)**

8 **MR. LUCIEN ST-ONGE:** Kwe. Songs are part of
9 prayers for our people. As you all know, we are a people of
10 words. We have no writings or anything. And all the
11 teachings we received were from our grandfathers, our
12 grandmothers -- They come from all -- from several
13 generations, all the spoken words, including teachings,
14 including the "prières [prayers]," as we call them in
15 French. But in our language, we call it praying. We say
16 "mios," "mias," which means to speak to, share with the
17 Creator. That's right. Because as I understand it, to pray,
18 which means to ask, pray, plead with someone, and to ask,
19 while for us, in our ceremonies, it's to share, to speak
20 to.

21 The Creator knows all. We don't need to ask.
22 He knows what we need. Sometimes we ask for things, but
23 that's not it. We receive other things. The Creator knows
24 what we need in our lives.

25 And in our sharing ceremonies, there is no

1 translation because it's each and every one of us. As for
2 me, I pray for myself because it's very individual, the
3 prayer, the "mios" which means "to speak to." I share. I
4 share my happiness. I share my hardships. I share all my
5 problems. I share everything with the Creator. It's not --
6 how can I put it -- it's different for each one of us. In
7 my prayer, there is no Innu translation. I must say my own
8 prayer and each and every one of you, think about yourself,
9 your prayers, we all have our own needs, for the families,
10 for our mothers, our grandmothers who lived through
11 difficult times.

12 But I would like to thank our ancestors who
13 shared with us, as was mentioned yesterday. We remain
14 strong today because our people love to laugh. We laugh
15 about our hardships. We laugh. We even take time to laugh
16 when there is death, in our affairs, during periods when
17 there are -- difficult times. It's part of the sharing,
18 sharing it all with the Creator. And we stayed happy
19 throughout our difficulties. We knew how to laugh in hard
20 times.

21 And I'm going to ask you all week long to
22 remember the happiness as you go through it, through all
23 our pain. And as I said to you, I am going to say a prayer
24 for all the families, the women, who faced hardship.

25 (PRAYER)

1 **MR. LOUIS GEORGE FONTAINE:** (Speaking in
2 Innu)

3 **MS. JEANNETTE VOLANT:** Now I am going to
4 invite Louisa Rock (ph) and Father Ali (ph) to come and say
5 a prayer as well.

6 **FATHER ALI:** You know, the prayer already
7 began yesterday, and even before we came here yesterday, we
8 had already started to pray. And again this morning, we
9 have started again with the sacred fire and with the prayer
10 that was just said.

11 And so what we'll pray for is to continue.
12 It's not separate from what has already been done, but we
13 will always continue, because a people on the move is one
14 that prays, walks. Being normal means being a pilgrim,
15 being on the move. And a person who walks must know how to
16 connect with the earth, with creation and with the Creator.

17 And so our prayer is just a continuation of
18 what has already been started. And we are going to ask for
19 the spirit of truth. We are going to ask for the spirit of
20 wisdom. We are going to ask for the spirit of
21 reconciliation so that this day or this week brings us joy.
22 It provides an opportunity to get to the truth, to
23 reconcile but in a deeper way to heal our wounds.

24 So we are going to begin our prayer.
25 (Speaking in Indigenous language)

1 MS. LOUISA ROCK: (Speaking in Innu)

2 (PRAYER)

3 MS. JEANNETTE VOLLANT: Thank you very much,
4 Father Ali and Louisa.

5 A few moments ago, I mentioned that there
6 was a health support team and then he said "mauve" but I'm
7 looking at the T-shirts and I'm noticing that they're not
8 really mauve. They're more a shade of purple, purple or
9 plum, if you will. The team is at the back. They're clearly
10 identified.

11 Hello, girls.

12 Now, I'm not sure if you've noticed the bags
13 on the chairs. Those are tears that we will have to shed
14 today, our tears, our own tears, because you may cry today
15 when you hear the stories of the families who have borne
16 their pain, their suffering, for a large part of their
17 lives. And today, they are going to be freed.

18 And a tear is a symbol of healing, too. You
19 are healing from what -- a bag of tears is there, here in
20 front, and a large basket and with a checkered cloth, and
21 then you will bring your bags of tears and later we will go
22 and burn those tears in the sacred fire. That will continue
23 the entire time. There are many ways to heal. As Lucien was
24 saying, there are many ways, so crying too. Crying is good
25 for you. It frees you from something.

1 So my co-facilitator is going to show them
2 to you, the basket and the bags. We bring the bags of
3 tears. When you've finished, you'll bring them here, and
4 then we're going to burn them in the sacred fire.

5 **MR. LOUIS GEORGE FONTAINE:** (Speaking in
6 Innu).

7 **MS. JEANNETTE VOLLANT:** I also want to tell
8 you that there will be a meal both at noon and at
9 suppertime. There's a lunch and supper.

10 Is it going to be here? Who here is in
11 charge of it? It's here. Where? In the room next to us, in
12 the same building. And the lunch and supper will be served
13 to everyone.

14 If there are families who would like the
15 drum played before and after their testimony, I will ask
16 them, and there are plenty of people who have drums. There
17 were some women available and I will ask them.

18 That's all I needed to announce for today.

19 **MR. LOUIS GEORGE FONTAINE:** (Speaking in
20 Innu).

21 **MS. JEANNETTE VOLLANT:** (Speaking in Innu) --
22 Michèle Audette.

23 What is your name, dear?

24 **COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON:** Qajaq.

25 **MS. JEANNETTE VOLLANT:** Qajaq?

1 **COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON:** Yes.

2 **MS. JEANNETTE VOLLANT:** Okay. Robinson.

3 Brian, stay there; we'll practise it later.

4 And we have some Elders. The Elders who are
5 here will be helping us. And I think there is a translation
6 system at the back as well. There are also people who will
7 translate as we go along, either in English or French. I
8 don't know if there are any Innu translators.

9 Pardon? Yes, also - - in French, English.
10 Okay. We will arrange that later if there is an Innu
11 interpreter.

12 I hope you have a wonderful day. You will
13 notice us up here frequently making announcements, as we
14 call them, brief announcements, because we will have to
15 readjust the time often. Everything that has been planned
16 can change. There may be changes, some unexpected things.
17 So you're going to see us often here at the front.

18 I wish you a wonderful day.

19 **MR. LOUIS GEORGE FONTAINE:** (Speaking in
20 Innu).

21 I think I will give the floor to the
22 Commissioners -- the way we proceed at the beginning. The
23 floor is yours.

24 **COMMISSIONER BRIAN EYOLFSON:** I want to start
25 by acknowledging the spirits of the missing and murdered

1 Indigenous women and girls. Let's remember that guides our
2 work here every day.

3 As a visitor here, I want to acknowledge
4 that we're gathered here on this beautiful territory, and I
5 would also like to acknowledge the sacred fire that was lit
6 this morning and thank the fire keepers for keeping that
7 fire here this week.

8 I'm also grateful for the welcome we
9 received yesterday, the opening ceremonies last evening.
10 I'd like to acknowledge the drums and the dancers and
11 singers and all those who spoke so thoughtfully last night,
12 as well as all those who helped with the wonderful feast
13 last night. Thank you.

14 I also want to acknowledge the many families
15 and survivors of violence who are here to share their
16 truths with us this week. So thank you for the trust that
17 you put into the National Inquiry. And as I said last
18 night, it's the truths that you share that inform the work
19 of the Inquiry and carry this process forward for positive
20 change.

21 On behalf of the National Inquiry and our
22 entire team, we remain committed to families, survivors and
23 loved ones, and during the truth-gathering process this
24 week, we'll be listening carefully to the truths that each
25 of you have to share. And that's why we're here this week.

1 This is for the community hearing; it's to hear from
2 families and survivors, and that's a very important part of
3 the work that we're doing.

4 And we've also heard the advice from
5 families and survivors and various organizations, including
6 grassroots organizations, so that families and survivors
7 have a choice in how they want to share with us. So whether
8 you share in a public hearing or in camera, or with a
9 statement gatherer, you have those various options of how
10 you want to share with us this week. We understand for many
11 it's not easy to share your truths, but it's important that
12 these truths be heard and that families and survivors are
13 able to share in the best way possible.

14 So I would also like to thank all of those
15 who are joining by watching the proceedings remotely this
16 week.

17 I would just like to say that together, with
18 all Canadians, we will hear how to make life better and
19 safer for Indigenous women and girls, and into spirited
20 people. And I look forward to the important work that we're
21 all going to do together here this week.

22 Thank you. Migwetch.

23 (SONG)

24

25 **First Hearing:**

1 **Witnesses: Viviane Echaquan and Armand Echaquan**
2 **In relation to Laureanna Echaquan**
3 **Heard by Commissioners Michèle Audette, Brian Eyolfson and**
4 **Qajaq Robinson**
5 **Commission Counsel: Fanny Wylde**

6
7 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** So, good morning. Hello,
8 dear Commissioners. I'm going to introduce the first family
9 that will be testifying today. We have here Armand
10 Echaquan, Viviane Echaquan and Pierre-Paul Niquay, who will
11 be serving as Mr. Echaquan's interpreter because
12 Mr. Echaquan will be speaking in Atikamekw.

13 First, before the family testifies, I am
14 going to ask the Registrar to swear the witnesses in. The
15 witnesses would like to be sworn in with the calimeteḥ
16 (ph).

17 **MR. BRYAN ZANDBERG:** So good day. So, Pierre-
18 Paul, I am going to start perhaps with you, or does
19 everyone want to swear in together, at the same time?

20 **MR. PIERRE-PAUL NIQUAY:** Okay.

21 **MR. BRYAN ZANDBERG:** All right.

22 So, do you solemnly swear to tell the truth,
23 the whole truth and nothing but the truth?

24 **MR. PIERRE-PAUL NIQUAY:** (Speaking in
25 Atikamekw)

1 **MR. ARMAND ECHAQUAN:** (Speaking in Atikamekw)

2 **MS. VIVIANE ECHAQUAN:** (Speaking in
3 Atikamekw)

4 **MR. BRYAN ZANDBERG:** Thanks very much.

5 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** Thank you to the registrar.

6 So, the family is here to share the story of
7 Laureanna Echaquan, who went missing or was murdered on
8 October 27, 1973.

9 First, before we begin, I am going to ask
10 everyone to introduce themselves by stating their name and
11 their relationship with Laureanna.

12 **MR. ARMAND ECHAQUAN:** (Speaking in Atikamekw)

13 **MR. PIERRE-PAUL NIQUAY:** Armand Echaquan told
14 us in Atikamekw, in his mother tongue, that his name is
15 Armand Echaquan and that he came here to share his story --
16 a part of his story concerning his daughter, Laureanna
17 Echaquan.

18 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** Now Viviane, introduce
19 yourself to the Commissioners and tell us how you were
20 related to Laureanna.

21 **MS. VIVIANE ECHAQUAN:** (Speaking in
22 Atikamekw)

23 **MR. PIERRE-PAUL NIQUAY:** Viviane says that
24 she is happy to come here to talk about her sister
25 Laureanna.

1 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** So, Viviane, I would like
2 us to start with you. If you could tell us a bit about your
3 family, where -- where you come from, and how many children
4 are in the family, and Laureanna's birth order in your
5 family.

6 **MS. VIVIANE ECHAQUAN:** My mother's name is
7 Madeleine Jibichakwan (ph) and the daughter of her father
8 Dubé. And I am the oldest in the family. There are 11
9 children in the family, my brothers and sisters, and
10 Laureanna is the second-youngest. She was born on July 20,
11 1973, Laureanna.

12 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** So, I understand that she
13 was born in 1973. Can you tell the Commissioners the
14 circumstances that led to her disappearance or death that
15 same year?

16 **MS. VIVIANE ECHAQUAN:** It's been five years
17 since my partner and I started looking into it. Pierre-
18 Paul, he's helped me a lot with it. For the first while, it
19 was my mother who often talked to me about it. She talked
20 about my sisters and talked about me as well. My partner,
21 he said to me, "You and I are going to do something about
22 it." Then we took steps so that my sister -- my father,
23 when he heard that my sister was dead, they just flew my
24 father out, took him straight to Joliette because my
25 mother, there wasn't enough room for her in the plane.

1 Then when my mother absolutely wanted to go
2 to Joliette to see my sister Laureanna, she, what she did
3 was to write a letter to the chief of - - the chief's
4 mother-in-law, then the mother-in-law went to see the
5 chief. At the time, François Corp (ph) was the chief there.
6 And they, they got ready to drive her, my mother, to
7 Joliette.

8 And my mother told me that when they got
9 there, "We arrived at the Salon funéraire Garceau (ph)
10 [Garceau funeral home]," that was the name of it. "When I
11 saw the coffin, it was big and the baby in it was nearly
12 nine months old," she said, whereas my sister was two and a
13 half months old. She said, "The coffin was big."

14 My father saw it too. He saw the coffin. My
15 mother said he asked one of his brothers-in-law, "Do you
16 know if it's really my baby in there?" The brother-in-law
17 went to check. They said, "Yes, it's your baby in there."
18 Because, my mother said, "The baby in the coffin was big,
19 but my baby was small."

20 He stayed, I think, one month at the home or
21 at the hospital. Later we took some steps to find the death
22 certificate. Pierre-Paul inquired at the church rectory.
23 Then we checked with the registrar at the band council, and
24 then in 2006, 2010 and 2014, she was still on the band
25 list. Her file was active. It was still on the band list.

1 Then Pierre-Paul called the Department of
2 Indian Affairs to check Laureanna's file, and it was
3 active, her file with the Department of Indian Affairs.

4 Recently, he called the Régie de
5 l'assurance-maladie [Quebec health insurance board]. And
6 when he gave Laureanna's name and date of birth, the lady
7 said, "Listen, Sir, she's 44 years old. She should be
8 calling us herself."

9 Because I remember, in '79, the last time
10 she received her health card, Laureanna.

11 Then my mother gave a man named Gilles
12 Ottawa -- asked him, "Can you do some research on my
13 daughter? Because we are still getting her health card."

14 Then we checked at the rectory. They never
15 received the death certificate. The parish priest said to
16 me, "After your sister died, two other children died. We
17 received their death certificates, but Laureanna, we never
18 received the certificate."

19 Then I called the hospital archives in
20 Joliette, and they told me the parents had to do it. So I
21 called -- my parents were outside, and I told them to go to
22 the hospital, to go and get the papers from the archives.
23 And the hospital had the date of death as October 31.

24 Then I went to see Sister Hélène, who works
25 at the rectory in Manawan, and I asked if they could do

1 what they could to find the death certificate, but he
2 didn't find it. But he wrote down a date, October 27. So
3 there are two dates of death, October 27 and 31.

4 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** Viviane, if I may, I would
5 like to back up a bit and I want you to explain -- I
6 understand that you explained that Laureanna, she was still
7 a tiny baby. How many months old was she when she was
8 evacuated? I understand that it was from Manawan to
9 Joliette?

10 **MS. VIVIANE ECHAQUAN:** She was about one
11 month -- two and a half months.

12 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** Okay. And why exactly was
13 she evacuated?

14 **MS. VIVIANE ECHAQUAN:** My mother told me that
15 she had pneumonia.

16 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** Okay. So when she was
17 evacuated from Manawan to Joliette, her parents were not
18 with her?

19 **MS. VIVIANE ECHAQUAN:** No. Back then, my
20 mother told me that when children were evacuated, they went
21 on the plane alone.

22 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** Okay. And how much longer
23 after, after her evacuation, were your parents finally able
24 to go to Joliette?

25 **MS. VIVIANE ECHAQUAN:** One month after.

1 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** Okay. And when they
2 arrived, did they see the baby?

3 **MS. VIVIANE ECHAQUAN:** They only saw her in
4 the coffin.

5 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** Okay. So, did someone on
6 the hospital staff inform the parents of the child's death?

7 **MS. VIVIANE ECHAQUAN:** They called them at
8 the clinic in Manawan.

9 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** You also mentioned that you
10 are still receiving Laureanna's health cards. Where exactly
11 were you getting them?

12 **MS. VIVIANE ECHAQUAN:** In Manawan. The last
13 one I received was in '79 because I remember I had a child
14 in '79 and my mother said to me, "Another health card came
15 for Laureanna."

16 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** And tell me what -- I
17 understand that you were very young at the time, but what
18 happened when your mother and father were in front of the
19 coffin? You said earlier that your mother said it didn't
20 look like the baby. What happened next? It didn't appear to
21 be her baby.

22 **MS. VIVIANE ECHAQUAN:** My mother, what she
23 told me, she said, "When we arrived at the funeral home, I
24 went to see the coffin right away, and I said, "Is this my
25 baby? Because my baby is tiny. She was tiny when she was

1 evacuated."

2 And then one of my uncles went to check, and
3 then they said, "Yes, it is your baby." And then my mother
4 said, "I want to bring her to Manawan." My father said the
5 same. He said he wanted to bring her to Manawan, but they
6 didn't want my mother to bring my sister to Manawan to bury
7 her.

8 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** Who didn't want the child
9 to be brought back to Manawan?

10 **MS. VIVIANE ECHAQUAN:** It was at the funeral
11 home. I don't know the man, but they were the ones who
12 said, "You can't bring her to Manawan."

13 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** What happened next? Did the
14 baby, the one in the coffin, was there a funeral, a burial?
15 What happened?

16 **MS. VIVIANE ECHAQUAN:** They brought her to
17 the cemetery right away. They didn't even bring her to a
18 church. They brought her right away to be buried. They
19 didn't bury her in the cemetery. They buried her outside
20 the cemetery. My father said, "It was practically a
21 kilometre from the cemetery. We saw the Saint-Pierre
22 cemetery, and they buried her outside of it." And my mother
23 and father asked if they could add a cross or plaque and
24 the man replied, "A cross is not necessary, not even a
25 plaque. This is where the Saint-Pierre cemetery is going to

1 continue."

2 And now there's nothing there. There are
3 buildings. At the time my father said, "There was a
4 cornfield just on the other side of the fence. That's where
5 she was buried."

6 And the man, my mother asked the man, "Why
7 is she being buried here?" He said, "This is where we put
8 the children who are not baptized." Then my mother said to
9 him, "But my child is baptized," because my sister was
10 baptized on August 4. I remember when I went to baptize my
11 sister. We passed someone who had just come out of his
12 house, a man named Donat. And he asked my mother, "What are
13 you going to call your baby? Is it a girl or boy?" "A
14 girl." Then my mother said, "I don't know." Then he said to
15 her, "Call her Laureanna." My mother said, "Okay, I'll call
16 her Laureanna." So that's what she called her. I was 12
17 years old when we went to baptize my sister.

18 Then, at my sister's burial, my mother said
19 to the man who was looking after the burial, "This is where
20 the cemetery is going to continue." "Why is she being put
21 here apart from the rest?" And the man said, "This is where
22 we put the children who are not baptized." And my mother
23 and my father said, "My child is baptized. That's why she's
24 called Laureanna."

25 Then, today -- this summer, we went to the

1 Saint-Pierre cemetery. They showed us a mass grave. And I
2 asked the man, I said, "This is not where my sister is
3 buried. It's over there." I showed him and he said to me,
4 "That can't be." And my mother and father had taken me
5 there three times -- they showed us exactly where she was
6 buried. Today, there are buildings where my sister was
7 buried. But we can see it, the cemetery. It's about one
8 kilometre away. Even the man said to my mother, "There is
9 not enough room to put her in the cemetery. There's no more
10 room there."

11 But later, there were two babies who died.
12 My mother went to see the two families to check where their
13 child was buried. Both families said, "In the cemetery."
14 And my mother said to me, "Why did I put my child in a
15 different place? Was it really my daughter that I put there
16 or was it really another child?"

17 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** Viviane, I would like to --
18 in preparing for today, for sharing your story, you told me
19 about a home, a social worker who went to a home. Can you
20 talk to me about that?

21 **MS. VIVIANE ECHAQUAN:** Yes. I talked -- it
22 was four years after that, I think -- a social worker who
23 was working in Joliette in '73, because he was looking for
24 my parents, Madeleine and Armand. And I managed to get his
25 phone number because he was staying in the United States.

1 Then I asked why he wanted to find my parents and he
2 explained why. He said to me, "I was at the home for Native
3 children the day before, and the woman who owned the home
4 said to me, 'Baby Echaquan was discharged.' And she was
5 doing well, your little sister," he said. "She was on the
6 table with a small chair. She had black wavy hair and brown
7 skin. So I asked the woman, 'Is the baby doing well?' She
8 said, 'Yes, yes, the baby's doing well. It was
9 discharged.' Then the next morning, at 5:30, I got a call.
10 He said, 'Baby Echaquan is dead.' I got ready to go to the
11 home right away and I went there to see. And Mr. Lasalle
12 was there, the one who was taking care of the patients at
13 the time, with a man. I didn't recognize the man. That was
14 the first time I saw him there and the last time I saw him
15 there. Then Mr. Lasalle made me leave and go into the
16 kitchen, then I went to the living room, and Mr. Lasalle
17 didn't want me there. They were talking among themselves
18 with the man." He said to me, "I never saw the man. I never
19 met the man."

20 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** I understand that you are
21 reporting what the social worker said; it wasn't you who
22 went to the home?

23 **MS. VIVIANE ECHAQUAN:** No.

24 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** Okay. What does your family
25 think happened to Laureanna Echaquan? What do you believe

1 happened to her?

2 **MR. ARMAND ECHAQUAN:** (Speaking in Atikamekw)

3 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** Perhaps we can listen to
4 what Mr. Echaquan has to say?

5 **MR. ARMAND ECHAQUAN:** (Speaking in Atikamekw)

6 **MR. PIERRE-PAUL NIQUAY:** It's a bit long to
7 translate but I will try to be accurate -- as accurate as
8 possible.

9 So Mr. Echaquan said that he believes his
10 daughter is still alive, that the babies were probably
11 switched and he is still waiting for his daughter to come
12 and find out about her father, mother and family.

13 His brother-in-law went with him in 1973
14 when he went to see the body of the deceased baby.

15 **MR. ARMAND ECHAQUAN (THROUGH AN**
16 **INTERPRETER):** I was surprised to see a baby who was bigger
17 than a two-month-old.

18 **MR. PIERRE-PAUL NIQUAY:** And it's been a
19 source of sadness for a long time, forever hoping to see a
20 living person in front of him someday. He is talking about
21 his daughter.

22 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** Mr. Echaquan, I would like
23 to ask you if you said that the baby in the coffin was much
24 bigger than your two-month-old baby. Were you able to tell
25 if the baby was the same sex as yours?

1 **MR. ARMAND ECHAQUAN:** (Speaking in Atikamekw)

2 **MR. PIERRE-PAUL NIQUAY:** He saw the baby. It
3 was big. He doesn't know if it was a boy or girl, but deep
4 inside he knew that it was not his -- it was not their
5 daughter.

6 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** Thank you.

7 So, Viviane, I understand that you want to
8 speak to us about -- there was apparently an autopsy done
9 on the child. Can you tell us about it?

10 **MS. VIVIANE ECHAQUAN:** For my sister's
11 autopsy, I called the hospital in Joliette to get some
12 papers because we had taken some steps to get the death
13 certificate at the Registrar of Civil Status, and they said
14 to us, "You need the papers." And we didn't have any
15 papers. Then I called the hospital, and the hospital, they
16 sent me -- they said, "The parents have to do it." Are your
17 parents still alive?" I said, "Yes." Then my mother went to
18 get the paper at the hospital archives, and she gave it to
19 me.

20 And we were surprised at what it said.

21 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** Commissioners, I'm going to
22 ask you for a five-minute break. Viviane would like -- it's
23 becoming too difficult emotionally. So a short five-minute
24 break would be appreciated.

25 Thank you. Five-minute adjournment.

1 --- Upon recessing at 10:21 am.

2 --- Upon resuming at 10:36 am.

3 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** So we're going
4 to take a few minutes. The families -- the Echaquan and
5 Niquay family are going to come back any minute now. They
6 are preparing some documents for the Commissioners and the
7 National Inquiry.

8 In the meantime, this morning, have you seen
9 that there is also Commissioner Qajaq Robinson and other
10 people involved in this wonderful inquiry, in this huge
11 inquiry, our inquiry.

12 As I was saying last evening, this story
13 starts and comes from far away, from members, from
14 survivors, from families, and so forth. And we've been told
15 often when pain or a truth has been shared at -- in some
16 places, we will say "We don't affect the person," others
17 will say, "You do affect them; you purify them," and so on.
18 So we receive a lot, we learn a lot and we receive many
19 gifts.

20 So the family is coming back and we will
21 share with you, after the family, the types of gifts from
22 other families and who is involved in this inquiry to
23 support the families.

24 And we have a Mohawk-Mi'kmaw woman with us
25 today as well as an Anishnabe woman from Kitigan Zibi who

1 came to support the families from other territories.

2 Thank you.

3 So each document has to be registered
4 through an official process.

5 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** So we can resume.

6 The Echaquan and Niquay family would like to
7 submit some documents to the Commission.

8 The first document is the confirmation from
9 the Atikamekw Council of Manawan, stipulating that
10 Laureanna Marie Echaquan's status in the Indian registry is
11 still active.

12 The second document to be submitted is the
13 confirmation from Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
14 confirming that Laureanna Marie Echaquan's status is still
15 active.

16 And the last document is the report on the
17 post-mortem examination of Lauréanne Echaquan, which has a
18 number of irregularities and contradictions with what the
19 family experienced. So to conclude, I'd like to invite the
20 family, if they would like to present any recommendations,
21 final comments to the Commissioners.

22 **MS. VIVIANE ECHAQUAN:** What I'm asking --
23 recommending from you, is to do some searches about my
24 sister Laureanna, because we're unable to ask for a death
25 certificate from the Registrar of Civil Status if my sister

1 is really dead. We're unable to ask for that. If she's not
2 dead, do some searches.

3 In 2005, we had one of my friends tell me
4 that there was a girl who had shown up at the Manawan Pow
5 Wow. We, in 2005 we weren't there at the Pow Wow. We were
6 away. Even my parents, they weren't there. There was a girl
7 who had shown up there who had long hair, brown skin, black
8 hair and she had said, "I'm looking for my father. My
9 father is from here. He's an Echaquan." Then she said, "His
10 name is, I think, Boniface." I have an uncle whose name was
11 Boniface Echaquan, but Boniface never had any kids, but
12 they had cared for some adopted kids. They never had any
13 kids.

14 That's what we want to have. We want to do -
15 - you help us a lot to do some searches -- if she's alive
16 or not.

17 We also want to know why they buried her
18 outside.

19 Even my father was saying earlier, "When we
20 went to the burial, we wanted to put -- " What we do when
21 we bury a person is, we take some sand and then we put it
22 in, but the man didn't want my parents to do that. They
23 said, "You can't do that." They didn't want my father and
24 mother to take sand to put in it. They said, "It's fine;
25 we're going to bury her here." They only said it.

1 Where they buried her, you can see the
2 cemetery, almost a kilometre away from the cemetery. Today,
3 there's a soccer field there. Also, there are some
4 buildings beside it.

5 A few years ago in Manawan, there was a
6 couple who came, and my mother said a couple -- they were
7 white -- there, who had arrived and said, "We've come to
8 see our goddaughter." And my sister was there. And my
9 sister has long wavy hair, and she said, "She's our
10 goddaughter." And my mother said, "No, it can't be. Alice
11 was baptized here. Her godparents are here, godmother. She
12 was never baptized away from here." And then there were
13 lots of gifts that they were bringing for their
14 goddaughter. And then she said, "No, she's the one with
15 black wavy hair." My mother said, "It can't be. She was
16 never baptized anywhere else, my daughter Alice." My mother
17 said, "I completely forgot to say what her name was and to
18 ask the couple for their names, then." She hadn't asked
19 that. She must have been what, seven or eight, my sister,
20 when they, the couple, came.

21 Last summer, we went to the Saint-Pierre
22 cemetery, and there was -- we were shown the common graves.
23 There are no crosses, not even plaques, in there. And there
24 were some people from Manawan who said, "Can we put crosses
25 in here?" "No." We don't have -- it's the cemetery rule

1 that bans putting crosses and plaques. The common grave is
2 inside the cemetery. It's not -- it's this big, there, but
3 not that much, the cemetery, the common grave there. I
4 don't know if you can put a cross there, but they said no,
5 you can't.

6 Pierre-Paul has done some searches in
7 parishes. No records of my sister in the Joliette region.
8 They sent us everywhere and Pierre-Paul did that. He did
9 those searches. He didn't find anything.

10 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** So is that it for your
11 recommendations, Viviane?

12 **MS. VIVIANE ECHAQUAN:** Yes.

13 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** Yes?

14 Does Mr. Echaquan have any recommendations
15 to make to the Commissioners?

16 **MR. ARMAND ECHAQUAN:** (speaking in Atikamekw)

17 **MR. PIERRE-PAUL NIQUAY:** Mr. Armand Echaquan
18 is asking that we help his family in the search for the
19 lost child. You, who are sitting before us, you can help
20 us. It's important for us to get some results because we've
21 been sad for a long time. He wants this sorrow to come to
22 an end, and the joy of finding someone to take its place.
23 It's important -- it's of great importance to him.

24 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** Thank you Viviane, thank
25 you Armand, for your trust and for your sharing this

1 morning.

2 Dear Commissioners, this concludes the story
3 of the Echaquan family.

4 You know, during the 1960s there was a scoop
5 of Indigenous youth who were adopted by the thousands,
6 young Indigenous children, and the general public has
7 always believed that these things weren't happening in
8 Quebec. So this morning that's what we've shown you, and
9 throughout this week, you'll also hear other similar
10 stories, including from Pakuashipi families.

11 Therefore I invite you, Commissioners, if
12 you have any comments or questions for the family, now is
13 your opportunity.

14 Thank you.

15 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Commissioner
16 Robinson, while you put on your headphones, my colleague
17 here next to me would like to know, in your documents,
18 regarding the hospital -- the autopsy, sorry -- what were
19 the inconsistencies? What proves that there's something
20 suspicious or not right?

21 **MS. VIVIANE ECHAQUAN:** First of all, my
22 parents never had -- my mother and my father told me that
23 they never asked about an autopsy. My father told me that
24 he had signed a paper at the funeral home, but he asked
25 why. They said that it was because the funeral home needs

1 the parents' signatures. They didn't ask for an autopsy.

2 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** If I may help, Madame?

3 Are you okay, Viviane? You can answer and
4 then I'll fill in if we're missing certain elements.

5 **MS. VIVIANE ECHAQUAN:** The autopsy -- I
6 didn't quite understand what they're saying about the
7 autopsy. That was it.

8 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** I have other
9 questions, Ms. Wylde.

10 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** I just want to add
11 something.

12 In the family's sequence of events, the
13 child had been evacuated from Manawan because of pneumonia,
14 but in the autopsy -- and the child would have spent some
15 time in hospital.

16 However, in the autopsy report it's
17 mentioned that, upon arrival at the hospital, the child was
18 already dead. This is the main inconsistency that's in this
19 report, from what I understand.

20 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** A very
21 important point. Thank you very much.

22 At that time, your parents, when they got
23 the documents to sign, was there someone with them to help
24 them to understand, or explain to them the contents of the
25 document, the reason for that document?

1 **MR. ARMAND ECHAQUAN:** (Speaking in Atikamekw)

2 **MR. PIERRE-PAUL NIQUAY:** He says they made
3 him sign a paper which said that he was donating body parts
4 so they could be used -- he says, "They never explained it,
5 or informed me, but I do know that I signed a paper."
6 That's it. He wants to come back to that. Nobody translated
7 it for him, helped him understand the contents of the
8 document. He says, "One thing that surprised me was that
9 this was transferred to the cemetery. There was just a boy
10 with a shovel and us; it is our custom to take some earth
11 and then bid farewell to someone who's leaving and we were
12 not allowed to do it. And this is still outside of the
13 cemetery."

14 **COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON:** I just wanted
15 to confirm that I understand.

16 I'm just going to speak a little bit to test
17 to make sure that it's working. Okay. Thank you.

18 I just want to make sure I understood.
19 You've done a lot of research, and thank you for these
20 documents.

21 In terms of -- it's working?

22 I can tell you've done a lot of research,
23 and thank you for these documents. Is this autopsy the only
24 thing you found that says that Lauréanne passed away?

25 **MS. VIVIANE ECHAQUAN:** Yes.

1 **COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON:** And I
2 understand that you went to the funeral home to see what
3 records they had, and they didn't have any records either?

4 **MS. VIVIANE ECHAQUAN:** No. There weren't any.

5 **COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON:** Okay. Thank
6 you. That's -- those are all of my questions. I just wanted
7 to make sure I understood completely.

8 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Thank you very
9 much to the entire Echaquan and Niquay family and to your
10 Elder for coming here from so far away to share your truth
11 with us, to share it on Innu territory with other Nations,
12 but also with all Canadians who are watching live or on
13 broadcast. We have great respect for your courage. And
14 thanks to your courage, that makes it possible for us to
15 ask questions that are very difficult to ask.

16 And we have an incredible team trained both
17 in the heart and academically to ask these questions in the
18 institutional phase.

19 Ms. Wylde tells us that here we're going to
20 hear a truth that we haven't heard much about: deported
21 children or missing children and Quebec, federal and other
22 institutions that were around in those days, and by
23 listening to you, this allows us to ask these questions and
24 to ensure -- to shed light, heal, and find answers.

25 So, I know that we're all very connected and

1 the relationship that you have with the Commission Counsel,
2 and I'd like her to stay, with the Commission's support
3 people, I'd like her to stay. And personally too, we know
4 each other. Well, personally -- I mean we've already met at
5 cultural events before.

6 So, thank you very, very much and let's try
7 to find these answers together for the good of your family
8 but also for all families in Canada. Thank you.

9 We have, every place we go, we have gifts.
10 We call them gifts in our vocabulary. And these are items
11 given to us by Elders throughout our travels. And when we
12 were in Manitoba to listen to the families, there was a
13 woman who came with sweetgrass. Lisa Meeches, she does the
14 TV series *Taken* on APTN, about missing and murdered women
15 and girls, and she has a lot of respect for those men and
16 women who come here to share their truths, and today she is
17 offering you sweetgrass that the women from her region have
18 carefully picked for us.

19 So, my colleague Brian Eyolfson is going to
20 hand them out to you, and my colleague Qajaq Robinson will
21 also give you some Labrador tea. So that you can think of
22 all these families. We too, when we drink it, we'll think
23 of you. So these are our gifts that we're offering you
24 today.

25 Thank you very much.

1 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** So that concludes this
2 morning's first testimony.

3 I'd like to adjourn. Thank you.

4 **--- LIST OF EXHIBITS (Code: P01P07P0101)**

5 **Exhibit No. 1:** Registered Indian Record Sheet #0780076501
6 for Laureanna Marie Echaquan, Band: 078 -
7 Atikamekw de Manawan, birthdate 1973/07/20
8 (2 pages)

9 **Exhibit No. 2:** Letter dated March 26, 2010, from Gertrude
10 Ottawaw, Conseil des Atikamekw de Manawan
11 [Atikamekw Council of Manawan] to the
12 Directeur de l'état civil [Registrar of
13 Civil Status], 2535 boulevard Laurier, re:
14 Lauréanna Marie Echaquan (1 page)

15 **Exhibit No. 3:** Post-mortem report from Hôpital Saint-Eusèbe
16 [Saint-Eusèbe Hospital] re: Lauriane
17 Echaquan, file A-138-73, dated October 31,
18 1973 (2 pages)

19 **(SINGING AND DRUMMING)**

20 **MR. LOUIS GEORGE FONTAINE:** (Speaking in
21 Indigenous language).

22 Jeannette, maybe?

23 **MS. JEANNETTE VOLLANT:** We thank the Echaquan
24 family very much, and we're going to conclude with that.

25 Lunch is at noon here in the same building.

1 You go through the small corridor there and lunch will be
2 at noon. However, if you want to go the home of the family,
3 to go and drink a cup of tea or have some bannock with the
4 jam I mentioned earlier, either red berry or cloudberry,
5 and we'll start again, at 1:15? We'll come back and then
6 we'll pick up the hearings again.

7 Just a moment. We've found some keys, I
8 think with a remote starter, and they're at the back. The
9 young lady at reception has the keys.

10 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Just before we
11 leave the room, there is another hearing. I just found out
12 about it. So there is another hearing. In the meantime, our
13 lawyers are going to get the family.

14 I'd like to call to the front the people who
15 are guiding us on a daily basis, those who remind us of the
16 importance of the work we're doing and that we must honour.
17 And I'd also like to invite our Elders who are supporting
18 us. Each Commissioner has a kokum (ph).

19 So, I've spoken to you about a Mohawk woman,
20 and a Mi'kmaq and Anishnabe woman. So these are two mothers
21 who have lived a tragedy, a loss and so on. So I have the
22 chance to work with strong women, Laurie Odjick and Melanie
23 Morrison, who are going to talk to you a bit about
24 themselves.

25 Introduce yourselves.

1 **MS. LAURIE ODJICK:** Kwe. My name is Laurie
2 Odjick and I'm from Kitigan Zibi. I am here as a support to
3 our Commissioners but also to support the family members
4 who would like to have our support. We want everyone to
5 know that we're here for them.

6 My daughter went missing in 2008 and I have
7 been living with this nightmare as well, but I am here for
8 the families. So look for me. Migwetch.

9 **MS. MELANIE MORRISON:** Kwe. My name is
10 Melanie Morrison. I'm from Kahnawake, Quebec.

11 As Michèle said, I'm from two territories.
12 I'm Mohawk and Mi'kmaq. First and foremost, I'm a family
13 member. My sister went missing in 2006. Her remains were
14 found in 2010, and her murder is still -- her file is
15 active.

16 I'm here as a support for the Commissioners
17 and the families that are here. Any way that me and Laurie
18 can be of help, just let us know. We know what the families
19 are going through and we know that the best kind of support
20 there is is the understanding from another family member
21 that can relate.

22 Yawa.

23 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Thank you very
24 much, because it's true that we always feel better heard or
25 listened to or understood when it's someone who's

1 experienced the same situation. So thank you for being
2 here.

3 And as you can see, they understand my
4 French very well.

5 And I'd also like to introduce to you our
6 kokum who has organized a community healing project, which
7 are these quilts you see on the sides. It was done with the
8 local CÉGEP and university here in Sept-Îles, but it is
9 women, survivors, victims, warriors who decided to
10 collaborate to pay homage to the women by making a small
11 square.

12 It is often said in the Nations that when
13 they suffer or they cry, we need to wrap them. So that's
14 why we have such beautiful quilts.

15 **MS. PÉNÉLOPE GUAY:** Okay. Me, I'm Michèle
16 Audette's spiritual kokum. I'm very honoured to be here in
17 Maliotenam across the community. You know, this is the
18 first time that I've come to listen to the families. It's
19 very touching. It's shaken us a bit, but I think that this
20 is our strength, being here together to support these
21 families, and also to give them love.

22 Even from afar, for a year now I've always
23 been present with the Commissioners, whom I've known since
24 October of last year. I am very honoured to be with them.

25 And so there you have it, my name is

1 Pénélope and I come from Quebec City, but my community is
2 Pekwegamic (ph).

3 So I thank you very much.

4 **MS. JEANNETTE VOLLANT:** I would ask Ken Rock
5 to introduce his guest, his person, here in the front.
6 Let's continue.

7 **MR. LOUIS GEORGE FONTAINE:** (Speaking in
8 Indigenous language).

9 **(SINGING AND DRUMMING)**

10 **Second Hearing:**

11 **Witness: Déborah Einish**

12 **Testimony Heard by Commissioners Michèle Audette, Qajaq**
13 **Robinson and Brian Eyolfson**

14 **Commission Counsel: Ken Rock**

15

16 **MR. KEN ROCK** (SPEAKING THROUGH THE
17 INTERPRETER): "Kwe. Thank you very much for your time
18 dedicated to our testimony. So, then, I'll be speaking in
19 Innu. There will be simultaneous translation.

20 I'm happy to be here. It's very important. I
21 think it's better when we use our mother tongue to testify.

22 So now, Déborah, I'll let you speak."

23 **MS. DÉBORAH EINISH** (SPEAKING THROUGH THE
24 INTERPRETER): "My name is Déborah.

25 I'm going to start with -- I was listening

1 to the radio. I was listening to SOCAM, the radio. They
2 were talking about women, but also about accusations
3 against the police. I was all alone when I was listening to
4 the news. When I heard the radio, it really hit me. I was
5 all alone at home.

6 I picked up the phone. I spoke with
7 Murielle, the radio host. I had many, many, many years -- I
8 had kept something inside of me. I had many things in my
9 heart that I kept to myself about the police. I asked
10 Murielle, "Where do I get some help?" She sent me to the
11 community clinic to get help. I really suffered.

12 I said to myself, at home, this would be the
13 moment, the time to say this with my heart. I'm speaking
14 from my heart. I've never spoken about it to my parents.
15 I've always kept this to myself, inside of me. My children
16 didn't know what I had felt, what I had inside. It's
17 extremely hard, what I've experienced, what I've endured.

18 I've always thought that nobody would
19 listen, especially about police cases.

20 In Matimekush-Lac John, in Schefferville,
21 I'm going to recount for you what happened in
22 Schefferville, in Matimekush. I'm going to tell you.

23 It happened sometime in February. I was four
24 months pregnant, about four months into the pregnancy. I
25 was pregnant. For 10 days, I -- it was during -- I walked -

1 - I walked to the town of Schefferville. I went into a
2 nightclub. At the nightclub, I just looked to see what was
3 happening. I left the nightclub. There was a fight outside.
4 There were policemen there. There were white policemen
5 outside. There was a fight. It was the local police force
6 at the time we're talking about.

7 When I went outside, there was a policeman
8 who grabbed me. He arrested me. He handcuffed me behind my
9 back. The policeman handcuffed me behind my back, and they
10 put me in the back of the police car. I shouted. I said,
11 "Why -- why are you arresting me? What have I done?" I
12 shouted loudly in the car, "What have I done?" There were
13 two policemen there, white policemen. I knew those guys,
14 those policemen.

15 I was taken in -- they took me in. They put
16 me in jail. They put me in jail. There were cells in that
17 jail. There was also -- they brought me into a solitary
18 cell. There was cement all around and everything was in
19 leather around. Everything was closed. I said, "What I am I
20 doing here? What am I doing here?" I banged through the
21 door at the barriers, the bars. I said "What am I doing
22 here in a solitary cell?" It was dark.

23 There was a policeman who opened the door.
24 He had a cup with a pill. He had some pills. The policeman
25 had some pills. He brought me a cup.

1 When I woke up I had been raped by the
2 policemen because I had taken the pills before. My pants
3 were halfway down. I was still pregnant then. The policeman
4 came, and he got me out of the cell. After that, they took
5 me back to the village.

6 There's nobody who knows this. I've never
7 told the story to anyone.

8 Now -- so, that's all I had. One moment --
9 one moment. Thank you for the moment."

10 **MR. KEN ROCK** (SPEAKING THROUGH THE
11 INTERPRETER): "But why did they arrest you?"

12 **MS. DÉBORAH EINISH** (SPEAKING THROUGH THE
13 INTERPRETER): "I don't know. Because there was a fight
14 outside. There -- that's where they arrested me. That's why
15 I asked the policemen, 'What did I do? What did I do
16 wrong?' They grabbed me by the arms and then they
17 handcuffed me. I don't know why they arrested me. I didn't
18 do anything wrong. I wasn't there when the fight happened."

19 **MR. KEN ROCK** (SPEAKING THROUGH THE
20 INTERPRETER): "When you got out, did you go to court? Did
21 you go to court after -- "

22 **MS. DÉBORAH EINISH** (SPEAKING THROUGH THE
23 INTERPRETER): "I never went to court."

24 **MR. KEN ROCK** (SPEAKING THROUGH THE
25 INTERPRETER): "Did you know the policemen?"

1 **MS. DÉBORAH EINISH** (SPEAKING THROUGH THE
2 INTERPRETER): "Tiboduma Fortin (ph)."

3 **MR. KEN ROCK** (SPEAKING THROUGH THE
4 INTERPRETER): "Just a moment. I didn't get the name of the
5 policemen. I think that this is extremely important here."

6 **MS. DÉBORAH EINISH** (SPEAKING THROUGH THE
7 INTERPRETER): "After I got out of jail, I walked. I got
8 home. My mother said, 'Where've you been?' They opened the
9 door for me. I got out. I was home, at my mother's. I was
10 mad at the jail when I got out. I broke the windows of my
11 home, I was so mad. I broke the windows at home. You can
12 still see the scars on my hand. I often remember breaking
13 the windows at my mother's."

14 **MR. KEN ROCK** (SPEAKING THROUGH THE
15 INTERPRETER): "Once, you testified -- have you filed a
16 complaint against the policemen before?"

17 **MS. DÉBORAH EINISH** (SPEAKING THROUGH THE
18 INTERPRETER): "I filed a complaint. There were some
19 policemen who came from Montreal. I told the Council. They
20 recorded me. There was a woman from Bersimis who was the
21 interpreter. I've forgotten the name of the interpreter.
22 For a year, I'd been waiting for a year. For many years,
23 I'd been waiting. I just learned about it now. There was a
24 Crown prosecutor who came to see me in Schefferville, a
25 prosecutor. There was a woman who had encouraged me during

1 the visit from the prosecutor to speak to me in
2 Schefferville. There was Danielle Deschamps. So I told my
3 story to the prosecutor. I was told, 'We don't have any
4 proof because you were all alone during the incident.
5 There's nobody. There are no witnesses.' The prosecutor
6 told me, 'We believe you that that's what happened.' I was
7 furious at the time about what they told me, that there
8 wasn't any proof. I told them, the people I met, that I've
9 been suffering for years.

10 We women, we're not listened to.

11 Danielle helped me, she stopped me. Still, I
12 went looking again -- still looking. Danielle called my
13 husband. My husband came, but -- "

14 **MR. KEN ROCK** (SPEAKING THROUGH THE
15 INTERPRETER): "How do you feel when you see policemen?"

16 **MS. DÉBORAH EINISH** (SPEAKING THROUGH THE
17 INTERPRETER): "I'm furious. They've broken my life, my
18 children. I've never been able to tell my daughter what
19 happened.

20 Every time the police pass by my house -- "

21 **MR. KEN ROCK** (SPEAKING THROUGH THE
22 INTERPRETER): "You kept this to yourself for all these --
23 you never said any of this to anyone?"

24 **MS. DÉBORAH EINISH** (SPEAKING THROUGH THE
25 INTERPRETER): "No, I never told anyone everything that had

1 happened. Even my sisters didn't know what had happened.
2 I'm the big sister. No-one knew what had happened. Since --
3 my daughter is 37 years old now. So, for 37 years I've kept
4 it to myself. I wasn't ready to talk about what had
5 happened."

6 **MR. KEN ROCK** (SPEAKING THROUGH THE
7 INTERPRETER): "Can you add what you want? Is there anything
8 you'd like to add, a comment?"

9 **MS. DÉBORAH EINISH** (SPEAKING THROUGH THE
10 INTERPRETER): "I'd like some help. I want help to continue
11 the investigation because I want to feel well later. I'm
12 mad at the police because they didn't listen to me. They
13 all -- they've broken my life. They also raped my daughter
14 when I was pregnant, inside my womb. That's why it hurts
15 me, there. They raped my little baby too. I wasn't drinking
16 in those days."

17 **MR. KEN ROCK** (SPEAKING THROUGH THE
18 INTERPRETER): "Do you want to add a comment in front of the
19 Commissioners who are here before us?"

20 **MS. DÉBORAH EINISH** (SPEAKING THROUGH THE
21 INTERPRETER): "Thank you. I thank everyone for my being
22 here in Maliotenam. I am not all alone in this situation,
23 here. There are many people who've experienced the same
24 thing as me, here.

25 I'd like -- we must not let go of this

1 Commission, this work, we mustn't let go. We must continue
2 our work. I think there must be many women who keep their
3 business, their secrets to themselves, especially in our
4 region about -- white police have not respected Innu
5 people, especially in bars. I've often seen this in bars
6 here. White policemen beating Innu people. Those are the
7 old white policemen here.

8 I'd especially like us to continue,
9 especially in our village, in Matimekush. I need help. I
10 need help.

11 Thank you very much, the people who are
12 here. Thank you for listening. It was tough. It was very
13 tough, here."

14 **MR. KEN ROCK** (SPEAKING THROUGH THE
15 INTERPRETER): "I've -- at the beginning of the lady's
16 testimony, I forgot to swear her in. We'll do it
17 retroactively. I'll do it in my language.

18 We have to -- do you want to use -- because
19 we were supposed to swear you in before starting. Do you
20 prefer that we take a paper, a document for the swearing
21 in? What would you prefer?

22 I'm going to take the -- so I'm going to do
23 the swearing in in Innu.

24 For everything you just said, did you tell
25 the truth?"

1 **MS. DÉBORAH EINISH** (SPEAKING THROUGH THE
2 INTERPRETER): "Yes. Yes, I told the truth."

3 **MR. KEN ROCK** (SPEAKING THROUGH THE
4 INTERPRETER): "Thank you very much, then.

5 So, for the lady here, who has given her
6 testimony, do you have any questions or comments for her?
7 Your comments?"

8 **COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON**: Thank you,
9 Déborah. I just thank you for sharing with us.

10 I wish I could ask the questions in your
11 language. Is English okay?

12 **MR. KEN ROCK**: She would rather respond in --

13 **COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON**: Through you?

14 **MR. KEN ROCK**: -- in her language.

15 **COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON**: Can I ask the -
16 - will you translate? Do we want translation for English?

17 **MR. KEN ROCK**: I could do that, yes.

18 **COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON**: Okay. I just
19 want to clarify when the investigation was done. When did
20 you file the complaint and when did the Montreal Police and
21 the prosecutor Danielle Deschamps come and speak with you?
22 What years were those?

23 **MR. KEN ROCK**: The question is when?

24 **COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON**: Yes.

25 **MS. DÉBORAH EINISH**: (Speaking in Innu).

1 **MR. KEN ROCK:** She met with the prosecutors
2 in November, a few weeks ago, and then she waited for a
3 year. She filed a complaint last year. It took a year, and
4 she was met not too long ago by the prosecutors.

5 **COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON:** And have the
6 prosecutors made a decision about whether or not they're
7 going to proceed with charges?

8 **MS. DÉBORAH EINISH:** (Speaking in Innu).

9 **MR. KEN ROCK:** Was it translated? She says
10 that there was no evidence that it happened. There was no
11 witness when it happened, and she met with the prosecutors
12 and there was 40 cases, 40 complaints, and only two of them
13 were -- there was only two -- I guess two people will be
14 prosecuted, only two out of 40.

15 **COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON:** And these are
16 part of the cases involving the Val-d'Or women as well, is
17 that correct?

18 **MS. DÉBORAH EINISH:** (Speaking in Innu).

19 **MR. KEN ROCK:** Yes, it is.

20 **COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON:** I understand if
21 some of this information you don't have, so if you don't
22 know, it's okay. Have there been other investigations or
23 internal investigations done in addition to the Montreal --
24 like disciplinary-type investigations?

25 **MS. DÉBORAH EINISH:** (Speaking in Innu).

1 **MR. KEN ROCK:** She doesn't know.

2 **COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON:** Have you been
3 given any other advice or legal advice about what your
4 other options are, like the civil system?

5 **MS. DÉBORAH EINISH:** (Speaking in Innu).

6 **MR. KEN ROCK:** She never filed a complaint.
7 The only people she met was the prosecutors and she filed
8 the complaint with SPVM. Other than that, she didn't do
9 nothing.

10 **COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON:** What kind of
11 health supports have been offered, either through that
12 investigative process or by the Province?

13 **MS. DÉBORAH EINISH:** (Speaking in Innu).

14 **MR. KEN ROCK:** She had support from Danielle
15 Deschamps, who is a psychologist, and then she had support
16 from her friend Délima.

17 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** If I may, in
18 French, pardon me. I'm mixing up my languages.

19 The support from Danielle and Délima was not
20 offered by the Province. These are people who are friends
21 or close relatives, if I understand correctly?

22 **MS. DÉBORAH EINISH:** No.

23 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Are you done?

24 **COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON:** Yes. Thank you
25 so much for answering my questions.

1 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** One question
2 from me. When she got the report, I would imagine that it
3 was from Ms. Lafontaine from the Val-d'Or area, did the
4 people explain to her that she had other options?

5 **MS. DÉBORAH EINISH:** (Speaking in Innu).

6 **MR. KEN ROCK** (SPEAKING THROUGH THE
7 INTERPRETER): "No, she did not get any other advice or
8 other recommendations. It was strictly related to the
9 complaints."

10 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** (Speaking in
11 Innu).

12 A great big thank you for coming here. Thank
13 you for having -- to the people of Schefferville,
14 Maliotenam, for walking alongside Déborah.

15 Would you like to translate?

16 **MR. KEN ROCK:** Okay.

17 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** And thank you
18 also for sharing this truth, which is little known, that
19 many other women, who may not be here today, have also
20 experienced the same thing as you.

21 So thank you for your courage and for your
22 testimony, which gives us the strength and the conviction
23 once again to put the right questions to institutions,
24 which will be in the second phase.

25 **COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON:** In English, to

1 express our gratitude for your courage and conviction and
2 for sharing with us and sharing your truth and your
3 knowledge with us and the country, we want to give you a
4 couple of small gifts from us. We have some Labrador tea,
5 which I've been drinking all morning to help my throat. And
6 then we also were gifted some sweetgrass from some Elders
7 in Manitoba to give to families in other areas.

8 The family of women who have experienced
9 violence and lost loved ones is too big of a family, and a
10 family that you're a part of not by your own choice but the
11 love that comes from families in other parts of the country
12 to you and to other families. We wanted to bring a little
13 bit of it. So thank you.

14 (OFFERING GIFTS)

15 MR. KEN ROCK: (Speaking in Innu).

16 (SINGING AND DRUMMING)

17 --- Upon recessing at 12:05.

18 --- Upon resuming at 13:34.

19 MS. JEANNETTE VOLLANT: Hello again. I hope
20 you had a good lunch. I enjoyed the macaroni salad, at any
21 rate.

22 The basket you see in front here is an
23 artistic healing basket. We can call it that. And I think
24 that it is, too. This basket is ready to receive, for the
25 people from around here, the people who'd like to put a

1 little something in it, it can even be a song. It can be a
2 poem, it can even be an object. You can place it in this
3 beautiful basket, which is here, and after it will be
4 archived, but we're going to ask people who are giving the
5 gift for their permission to archive it. So this basket is
6 for that.

7 **MR. LOUIS GEORGE FONTAINE:** (Speaking in
8 Indigenous language).

9 **MS. JEANNETTE VOLLANT:** Just another small
10 aside. He doesn't want me to say something.

11 Here, this is the Truth Commission.

12 **MR. LOUIS GEORGE FONTAINE:** (Speaking in
13 Indigenous language). These are great memories, Jeannette.

14 **MS. JEANNETTE VOLLANT:** These are great
15 memories because the first time there was a playing field
16 in Maliotenam, I was the facilitator; it was with
17 Sylvestra. The second year it was with Louis George, plus
18 they're also good friends of mine. Nothing has ever
19 happened, not even a little kiss.

20 **(LAUGHTER)**

21 **MR. LOUIS GEORGE FONTAINE:** We've been
22 leading events together in the community for 51 years now:
23 carnivals, pow-wows, those sorts of events. So it's a
24 pleasure and a privilege to be here today.

25 **MS. JEANNETTE VOLLANT:** Yes.

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MR. LOUIS GEORGE FONTAINE: It's very special for us too, and we're going to experience it together with you and with the witnesses.

MS. JEANNETTE VOLLANT: And now switching to more serious matters. We'll ask Ms. Vachon's counsel to come in and the hearing will begin.

MS. FANNY WYLDE: Thank you.

Third Hearing:

Witnesses: Gilberte Vachon and Andrée Vachon

In Relation to: Adèle Vachon Bellefleur

Testimony heard by Commissioners Michèle Audette,

Qajaq Robinson and Chief Commissioner Marion Buller

Commission Counsel: Fanny Wylde

MS. FANNY WYLDE: So, good afternoon. Bon après-midi, dear Commissioners.

I'd like to introduce the next family who will be testifying. We have here Gilberte Vachon as well as Andrée Vachon. As support, we have Denis Vachon, who's also Gilberte Vachon's brother. They are here to share the story of Adèle Patricia Vachon Bellefleur, who died on July 1, 2011.

Before giving the floor to them, I would ask the Registrar to proceed with the swearing in of the witnesses. They wish to swear on the Bible.

1 **MR. BRYAN ZANDBERG:** So hello, Gilberte. Do
2 you swear to tell -- sorry, I got the wrong person.
3 Gilberte, do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth
4 and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

5 **MS. GILBERTE VACHON:** Yes, I swear.

6 **MR. BRYAN ZANDBERG:** Okay, thank you.

7 So do you swear to tell the truth, the whole
8 truth and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

9 **MS. ANDRÉE VACHON:** Yes, I swear.

10 **MR. BRYAN ZANDBERG:** Thank you very much.

11 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** Thank you, Mr. Registrar.

12 So for your information, Commissioners and
13 the public, the witnesses may at times be speaking in
14 Montagnais, in Innu, and at times in French. So I invite
15 people to go and get their headphones.

16 So, thank you for being here this afternoon.

17 First I would ask you each of you to
18 introduce yourselves, say which community you're from, and
19 also what was your relation to Adèle?

20 **MS. GILBERTE VACHON:** My name is Gilberte
21 Vachon. I come from Pessamit. I am Adélous's mother. We
22 called her Adélous. It was her nickname.

23 **MS. ANDRÉE VACHON:** I'm Andrée Vachon. I come
24 from the community of Pessamit. I'm the sister of the late
25 Adélous.

1 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** Thank you.

2 So we'll start nice and slow. Gilberte,
3 maybe you could start by telling us about Adèle's birth,
4 what year she was born, and about her personality, about
5 the person she was?

6 **MS. GILBERTE VACHON:** Adélous was born on
7 October 12, 1993. We're a blended family. My boyfriend and
8 me, she was our only child. She was always clinging to me.
9 I'd call her my little stick of glue. We got along really
10 well. It was -- she'd confide in me about things. She was
11 always smiling, and mischievous too. She slept with us
12 until the age of 12. She had her own room but never slept
13 there. She slept with us.

14 It hurts.

15 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** Maybe now you, Andrée, can
16 you tell us about your sister's personality?

17 **MS. ANDRÉE VACHON:** I'm the eldest in the
18 family. My sister is a person who was sincere. She loved to
19 laugh. She loved life. She was full of plans and dreams.
20 She was a person who spoke to everyone, often a smile.

21 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** Take your time.

22 **MS. GILBERTE VACHON:** I'll tell you, she was
23 very outgoing. I remember once she came home; she was
24 coming back from a friend's and she said to me, "Mom, do
25 you eat cookies?" I said, "No, rarely." I said, "Why?" She

1 said, "I wanted to give them to my friend." She said, "The
2 children have nothing. They don't have any juice. They have
3 nothing to eat." Then she gathered all the stuff they
4 needed and then took it to them. She was helping her
5 friends all the time.

6 We often used to come here to Sept-Îles. She
7 really loved coming to Malio. She had many friends here.

8 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** Now, Adèle died on July 1,
9 2011. Can you share with us the events and circumstances
10 leading to her death?

11 **MS. GILBERTE VACHON:** Yes. Well, my sister-
12 in-law lived in La Malbaie. She had died on June 24. Then,
13 I have my aunt who died on June 26, then my daughter on
14 July 1st.

15 There are some girlfriends who had come from
16 Sept-Îles. There were two of them, and then they went out.
17 I said, "You have to be back home early because tomorrow
18 we're going to La Malbaie for your aunt's funeral." She
19 said, "Yes." She went out.

20 She came back after and told us "I love
21 you." That was the last time I heard her voice.

22 After that, we went to bed. I couldn't
23 sleep. It was midnight and she hadn't come home. I had told
24 her to come home early. I called her on her cell and told
25 her, "You need to come home. You know that we're leaving

1 early tomorrow morning." She said, "Yes, yes, I'm coming."

2 No, I lay down in the living room. I was
3 waiting. And then later I said, "I'm going to go get her,
4 but go get her where?" I didn't know where she was.

5 (Speaking in Innu.) Nadia was on the phone.
6 It was her half-sister who was calling me. (Speaking in
7 Innu.) [Later, the phone rang, her older sister is calling,
8 her half-sister was calling me. She says to me, "Gilberte,
9 they're resuscitating Adélous." And then she hung up. I
10 woke up my partner and told him, "Our child is being
11 resuscitated," and we left for the community hall. When we
12 arrived at the parking lot, I saw my daughter on the
13 ground. They were trying to resuscitate her, but I could
14 already see that she was gone.]

15 I was with my partner, Pat. [He was saying,
16 "They'll be able to resuscitate her." I replied, "No, our
17 child is gone." And then we didn't hear anything. We left
18 for the town, she was in the ambulance. We arrived at the
19 hospital. The doctor called us to meet him. I was surprised
20 when I saw her. Her hair was wet on one side of her head,
21 the left side. The other side wasn't. I also saw that her
22 nose had bled. She had bruises on her forehead. We didn't
23 know anything yet, but we knew that she was gone. So we
24 went back home. Her friends came, there were so many of us
25 in the house. We couldn't fall sleep. The Friday after, we

1 were in bed, I couldn't sleep, I woke up Pat and told him,
2 "Let's go to the cabin, I want us to go and express the
3 pain and scream very loudly." He said yes. I'll never
4 forget what he said to me. We were on the road and a
5 tractor-trailer was coming toward us. Pat asked me if it
6 would be okay with me to slam straight into the tractor-
7 trailer. I told him, "No -- nobody would take care of our
8 daughter." We were discouraged. We went to the cabin and
9 then we came back. They brought the body a week later, a
10 Saturday. When they came to see us, the casket was
11 arriving. It was closed. They wouldn't let us open it. The
12 funeral director told me that we could see her only for a
13 moment. I couldn't recognize my daughter, her face was
14 swollen. We kissed her on the forehead, and she was all
15 blue. That's normal; she had been dead for a while. Later a
16 policeman came and told me, "The investigators want to meet
17 with you." "Why?" I answered. He answered, "Some Innu are
18 not happy, they're angry. They want to meet with you." I
19 agreed. I was accompanied by my younger brother and sister
20 and Pat. But we were absent.] I was furious. [I didn't want
21 to leave my daughter. I'd be wasting the time I could have
22 spent with my daughter. Then the investigators told me that
23 my daughter was a drug user. I answered him, "No, I don't
24 believe you. She didn't do drugs. She drank, but she wasn't
25 into drugs." We stayed there a long time. The Chief of

1 Police put out a message on the radio to prevent reprisals
2 from people who were angry because of what had happened.]

3 [Based on what we heard, our daughter was
4 kicked, several people were on her. The girls from Sept-
5 îles had been the target, but she's the one who was beaten;
6 she must have wanted to protect her friends.]

7 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** Andrée, I don't know if you
8 could answer a few questions for me? Would it be possible
9 for you to describe for me in more detail the circumstances
10 of that night? What exactly happened?

11 **MS. ANDRÉE VACHON:** Me, I lived away. I had
12 arrived that evening and one of my cousins had texted me to
13 tell me that there was a party at the community hall, some
14 sort of Black Night, something like that. Then my sister
15 called me to ask me if I was going to go. I said, "No, I'm
16 not going to that place."

17 Then after that, during the evening, I went
18 for a car ride with another of my friends and at some point
19 I was in a bar with my girlfriend, and my little sister
20 Adélous came in. She came in and then she was with a
21 girlfriend and I asked her if I could go there with them.
22 But she said, "No, there's no room for you in the car."
23 That was the last time I saw her. She came and hugged me
24 and then she told me, "I love you." It was the last time I
25 saw her.

1 After that, I went back to my aunt's house
2 to sleep. I tried to fall asleep there. I couldn't fall
3 asleep and then it was starting to be daylight. It was 4:00
4 in the morning. So one of my cousins had come in. He
5 started screaming. My nickname is Andréos. He said,
6 "Andréos! Andréos! Your sister is dead. Your sister is
7 dead." I woke up in a panic. I was disoriented. Then he
8 said to me, "She's at the community hall. Come on, come
9 on."

10 I was at my aunt's and there was one of my
11 cousins who had her car. I tried to call my family
12 everywhere. No-one was answering the phone. So she decided
13 that we were going to go straight to the hospital in Baie-
14 Comeau because my sister had already been taken there by
15 ambulance.

16 When we got to the hospital in Baie-Comeau,
17 there were family members outside and it was there that
18 they told me they hadn't been able to resuscitate her.

19 So I went into the hospital. My mother was
20 there with her partner, Patrick. I knew then that my sister
21 was dead. The doctor -- we were sitting, like, in a waiting
22 room. The doctor came to see us and then told us to go and
23 confirm her death, and to identify her too. So I was there
24 with the two of them. I was between them. We were all in a
25 state of shock, an emotional shock.

1 When I got to Emergency, she was already
2 lying on a stretcher. She had one whole side of her hair
3 wet. She had a bit of blood under her nose and she had,
4 like, a cut on her forehead, somewhere around here. She had
5 bruises everywhere.

6 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** So had Adèle been assaulted
7 or beaten in the last hours or minutes before her death?

8 **MS. GILBERTE VACHON:** There are many people
9 who've said, "they fought together." There are people who
10 watched the fight. [They didn't help her.] That's what I
11 heard. That's what people have told me. It was her sister
12 she wanted to defend. [There were other girls who pulled
13 her away, and that prevented her from defending her
14 sister.] There were all sorts of rumours that were
15 circulating at the time, that she had taken drugs, that she
16 had drunk alcohol [and even that her food played a role.]
17 We didn't find out anything.

18 Even today, we still don't know what really
19 happened. The coroner told us cranial trauma. At the
20 hospital, the doctor said it was due to cardiac arrhythmia.
21 I didn't understand. [Our family doctor came to our house,
22 and I said to him, "They're saying that she died of a
23 cardiac arrhythmia." He answered, "No, my patient didn't
24 have heart disease." I asked him, "What causes cardiac
25 arrhythmia?" He answered, "Stress, adrenalin and fear,

1 people who were from the Uashat Mani-Utenam community. Then
2 after that, the other girls started to run after them to
3 catch them because they wanted to fight them. I'd say the
4 group, the other group, there were several of them, and
5 that's when everything started to spiral out of control.
6 There were people who have -- her half-sister, who she
7 wanted to defend, she was beaten up too. The other girls
8 were also beaten up, and her too.

9 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** So would several people
10 have knocked Adèle out by kicking her or only one person?

11 **MS. ANDRÉE VACHON:** No, several people.

12 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** Has there been -- I believe
13 you were talking earlier about investigators -- was there
14 an investigation?

15 **MS. ANDRÉE VACHON:** Yes.

16 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** Were there any individuals
17 who were prosecuted?

18 **MS. ANDRÉE VACHON:** No, nothing. No, no
19 individual was charged, despite the facts they had. But I
20 was interviewed by the investigators. They wanted to know
21 what kind of girl my sister was. They did the rounds of the
22 closest relatives, the immediate family.

23 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** We're going to correct some
24 information, Commissioners, so I'm going to re-ask the
25 question.

1 Were there any individuals who were charged
2 following the investigation?

3 **MS. ANDRÉE VACHON:** Yes. There's a girl who
4 was arrested for the offence -- the assault. They appeared
5 in court. We went to court to watch with my cousins and my
6 other sister. And we attended the trial. After that, they
7 put her in jail -- they put her in jail for about a month.
8 They had sent her to stay at a halfway house. But after
9 that, that individual was released.

10 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** So was there a verdict,
11 guilty or not guilty?

12 **MS. GILBERTE VACHON:** They said that it was
13 without any doubt, given that there were several of them
14 who kicked her. That's all we heard.

15 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** I simply want to state to
16 the Commissioners that the individual was charged and then
17 was acquitted by the court.

18 **MS. ANDRÉE VACHON:** Because there were, like,
19 several people who had been there as well. And so they
20 acquitted her without --

21 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** Do you have any comments on
22 the investigation, the way the investigation was conducted?
23 Do you have any comments on that?

24 **MS. GILBERTE VACHON:** I no longer really
25 believe in this, the police and all of that. That's all

1 they told us -- not much. Even when we wanted to attend the
2 trial when the girl appeared, they told us, "No, no, you
3 don't need to be there." In the end we didn't go, not once.

4 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** And your journey through
5 the justice system, when you went to the trial, how did you
6 feel? Were you supported? How was it? What was your
7 experience?

8 **MS. GILBERTE VACHON:** We didn't go to the
9 court at all. All the time they -- there was one who came,
10 a policeman, we said, "Ah, we're supposed to go." "Ah, you
11 can't go there. It's been postponed." It was always the
12 same thing. I don't know how --

13 **MS. ANDRÉE VACHON:** But I, given that the
14 Chief of Police at the station who was involved, his
15 girlfriend, it was friends of hers who had beaten up my
16 sister.

17 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** The Chief of Police of
18 which place, exactly?

19 **MS. ANDRÉE VACHON:** Pessamit. It was him who
20 was the Chief of Police, and his girlfriend was friends
21 with the ones who had beaten up my sister.

22 And there are also friends of my sister who
23 told me that they went to give their statements and were
24 never called back to be witnesses in court. One of them had
25 even taken photos. When he gave her back her cellphone,

1 there was nothing in her cellphone anymore.

2 It's because of -- after the tragedy --
3 that's what I'd call it -- what had happened, I would often
4 see friends of my sister's, or people who had been there
5 when the incident took place, and there was a young man who
6 told me that he was on the front line, that they were going
7 there, because they were, like -- I'm going to say his
8 title, kind of firefighters who are on the reserve who are
9 on the front line. So they said not to say anything, that
10 this stays there. What happened, the events -- that stays
11 confidential.

12 I've heard several stories like that from
13 people who were there.

14 I just want to say that for a long time I
15 was mad at myself for not being there, for not being there
16 to defend her.

17 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** Your own family, what do
18 you believe happened to Adèle? Do you believe the theory
19 that was presented in the coroner's report? What are your
20 theories?

21 **MS. GILBERTE VACHON:** As I said, what the
22 doctor told us, the medical term was cardiac arrhythmia,
23 but they never spoke about what it really was. Was it the
24 kicks she received? We don't know. We don't know. They told
25 us nothing.

1 Even the police, when they came to our home
2 -- they didn't come, but at the place -- they were at the
3 place. Me, I was looking from a distance. I saw a girl. She
4 was one of the ones who had beaten her up. I don't know
5 how, but I saw her right away. She was there and she was
6 crying. I didn't know anything. I didn't know that my
7 daughter had been beaten up by her. It was only afterwards
8 that I remembered, I said, "Ah, how come I noticed her
9 right away?"

10 **MS. ANDRÉE VACHON:** I believe she died
11 because she had been beaten up.

12 Just to give you an example, I know or I've
13 known people on drugs. There are times when they sleep for
14 two or three days, but they never died because of it. But I
15 don't mean to say -- it's just an example I can give you.

16 And then the events, I, when I went to see,
17 because of all the marks on her face, I didn't see the
18 body, but it was all the marks on her face. She had a cut
19 on her forehead, and there were the bruises. There was some
20 hair that had been torn out, and there was a small patch
21 missing somewhere. I still have that image -- I always have
22 that image in my head when I think of her. That's the image
23 that stays with me, the last time I saw her like that.

24 And I believe that there's been a lot of
25 transparency in terms of the police, the community, our

1 community in Pessamit. How can I put it -- there are things
2 -- as if things might have been hidden, that the people who
3 gave statements that never appeared in court --

4 MS. FANNY WYLDE: I'm sorry, so you mean that
5 it lacked transparency, that's what you mean?

6 MS. ANDRÉE VACHON: Yes.

7 MS. FANNY WYLDE: Okay.

8 MS. ANDRÉE VACHON: With the emotions -- it
9 lacked transparency, yes.

10 MS. FANNY WYLDE: What impact did Adélous's
11 passing under these circumstances have on your life?

12 MS. GILBERTE VACHON: I'm still being seen by
13 a psychologist. I'm having trouble. We experienced --
14 Adélous, when she died, we were faced with other tragedies.
15 Her ex-boyfriend took his life over her on July 16. Then on
16 August 4, her best friend also took her life over her. And
17 after that, on December 11 we had a fire. [I was sad, I
18 couldn't take it anymore, I was finished, I wanted to kill
19 myself, I wasn't here anymore, I'd shut myself in my room.
20 I was sick of it. When we had the fire, we went to stay
21 with my cousin and friends of Adélous, they came from Sept-
22 îles, a guy and a girl from Pessamit, they came to see us.
23 "Gilberte, we'd like to ask you something." They often came
24 to our house. And I said, "What is it?" She answered, "I'm
25 pregnant, would you like to be godmother and godfather to

1 my child, you and Pat?" I said yes. "What name am I going
2 to give her?" she asked me. And I told her, "Adélous." She
3 replied, "I knew it."]

4
5 [The child is now 5 years old. She was small and I babysit
6 her from time to time. Her parents often bring her to our
7 house. That's what saved me, it helped me a lot. Good thing
8 that she was there. The child often said, "It's me,
9 Adélous." She still says it. It's very hard. It's the worst
10 tragedy when you lose your child. A piece of you goes with
11 her. A piece of your heart dies, that's how hard it is. I
12 was proud of my daughter, I was old when I had her, I was
13 40 years old, and that played a part in my sorrow. When we
14 went away, she'd say, "Mom, do you trust me? I'm going to
15 finish my Secondary V, I promise you." I replied, "Yes, I
16 believe you, my daughter, you'll finish and we'll be so
17 happy when you finish." That will never happen; we'll never
18 see her finish her Secondary V, or get married or have
19 children. Now there are two of us at home, our children are
20 older and are living in Quebec City and Uashat. We very
21 rarely see them, it's just the two of us, me and Pat.
22 Lately, we had problems in December. My friend was sick,
23 very sick. I thought she was going to leave us. I thought
24 that I was going to go too.]

25

1 **MS. ANDRÉE VACHON:** Can you just rephrase the
2 question, please?

3 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** Yes. How did Adélous's
4 passing under the circumstances she experienced impact your
5 life?

6 **MS. ANDRÉE VACHON:** After my sister's death,
7 I got into alcohol and drugs. I had one of my sisters who
8 lives in Maliotenam. I was there with her. And I also have
9 two children, two girls. I was no longer taking care of
10 them. I wanted to forget, and so I would drink -- I would
11 drink alcohol and take drugs every day.

12 But at one point, I was feeling so much pain
13 inside of me that I was thinking of suicide. It took a long
14 time. I did some therapy to free myself from the pain I
15 had. And also, the family was no longer the same. My
16 mother, when I'd call her, she was no longer there. She was
17 there in body, but in spirit she was no longer there. Her
18 partner too. Every time I'd go to see them, she'd be
19 crying, she'd lock herself in her room, her boyfriend too.
20 I tried sometimes to help them or to be with them, but it
21 really wasn't easy.

22 But even my -- one of my brothers, he
23 suffered too, but he never spoke about it to anybody. He's
24 still in it. He's still using and still drinking almost
25 every day. He talks with me about it -- sometimes he says

1 something to me, but he doesn't want to open up too much.
2 It's like he wants to close the wound.

3 Even my daughter -- I have a daughter who's
4 22 years old. She's also suffered a lot. She still talks to
5 me about it today. She would have liked to be here, but
6 she's in school.

7 So it's had a big impact, even on my
8 stepfather, my mother's partner. It's had a lot of -- on
9 his children too, it's impacted them too.

10 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** An event like that must
11 have impacted the whole community. I understand that the
12 individuals who were involved in that night still live in
13 Pessamit. Do you see them? How are things in the community?

14 **MS. GILBERTE VACHON:** They're still in
15 Pessamit. They go to events in the community hall as if
16 nothing ever happened. [I go with Pat to put gas in the
17 car, their house is on the same street as the station. I
18 couldn't go with him anymore, I couldn't see them. I'd
19 close my eyes when I ran into them. I didn't want to see
20 them at all; my whole body would shake. I was in a lot of
21 pain. I saw a psychologist, and I told him about my
22 problems. I was no longer leaving my house, I just shut
23 myself in. I wasn't visiting my younger brothers, sisters.
24 I told him, that's what I feel when I run into them, I
25 can't look at them, I hide. The psychologist replied, "Why

1 are you doing that? Was it you who did the bad things?" I
2 replied, "No." He told me that I shouldn't do that. He told
3 me, "Look at them. You'll see that they won't be able to
4 look at you." His advice seems to have worked, they no
5 longer look at me. But I still feel the same thing when I
6 run into them, I shake inside. And nothing can be done
7 about it.]

8 **MS. ANDRÉE VACHON:** I live in Quebec City,
9 and one time I went to a cabin with a bunch of people, and
10 one of those girls was there. And she wanted to talk to me
11 and she said to me, "I'm sorry." I said, "I just don't want
12 to talk to you." I said, "Why are you saying you're sorry?"
13 And things stayed like that.

14 And then, at times when I see them, you'd
15 think they're avoiding me. They're avoiding me. Let's say I
16 see them in a public place, instead of passing in front of
17 me or by me, they step aside. They go --

18 Once in a restaurant in Baie-Comeau, there
19 was one of them who was there. And when I went into a stall
20 in the washroom she was looking at herself in the mirror. I
21 was going in. She left right away.

22 Then another time at a convenience store in
23 Wendake, I saw one of them coming out of Wendake. I was in
24 my car. As soon as I got out of my car, she left, walking
25 away very fast.

1 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** Has your community offered
2 you assistance and support through all of this, or was it
3 you who knocked on their door for support?

4 **MS. ANDRÉE VACHON:** No. I didn't get anyone
5 coming to me to get help or to offer me help. I looked for
6 help myself. Even when I was being seen by -- I also asked
7 for the help of a psychologist. I was being seen by a
8 psychologist two years ago and I'm going back to see a
9 psychologist again in January. I've requested it and I'm
10 going to start my sessions in January.

11 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** I understand that the
12 family has done a few small things in Adélous's memory. She
13 died at the age of 17. I understand that there are some
14 things that you have done. Can you tell us about the small
15 things you are doing to remember Adélous?

16 **MS. GILBERTE VACHON** (SPEAKING THROUGH THE
17 INTERPRETER): "Since she's been gone, our daughter, [I pray
18 a lot, in the morning when I get up and before going to
19 sleep, praying helps me a lot and helps me regain my
20 confidence. There are times when it's harder, especially
21 around the holidays. She used to help me a lot; it was her
22 who decorated. 'Come on, Mom, let's go decorate.' Since
23 she's been gone, I don't decorate anymore, I'm sad. I still
24 find it very hard.]"

25 **MS. ANDRÉE VACHON:** Since her death, there's

1 been a community walk in her memory.

2 There was also another event that they put
3 on in her memory. They placed her photo in the community
4 hall where the incident happened in the parking lot. They
5 put flowers there and they made the -- what's it called --
6 lanterns that make -- there have been events in her memory
7 that they put on.

8 Often I still meet one of her friends. Some
9 of her friends have become my friends. They also created a
10 Facebook page in her memory. And then there are still
11 people who sometimes post on her Facebook page. There was
12 even a thing once that was posted, it was written "Justice
13 for Adélous." I believe it's still on the page, but I go on
14 it less often because I am trying to -- grief is a long
15 process. It really is a long process, grief, especially
16 when an event like this occurs and you don't know that --
17 she wasn't sick. She was in good health. An event like this
18 that happens, it -- it's too much. It really hurts.

19 Thank you.

20 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** To conclude, do you have
21 any recommendations or final comments to make to the
22 Commissioners today?

23 **MS. GILBERTE VACHON:** I, what I wanted, it
24 was never given -- when we had -- well, as I said, my
25 daughter Adélous would come here all the time. She really

1 loved it here at Malio.

2 When we had the fire, there were a lot of
3 people from Malio and Sept-Îles who helped us financially.
4 And I never had the courage to tell them thank you because
5 I couldn't, but today I thank them very much for helping
6 us.

7 **MS. ANDRÉE VACHON:** I, the recommendations I
8 could tell you are that I would love for this thing to be
9 made clearer, that we'd know more, so that we could start
10 with our grieving. How can I say it?

11 **MS. ANDRÉE VACHON** (SPEAKING THROUGH THE
12 INTERPRETER): "What has happened, we don't know what. There
13 are a lot of questions. There are a lot of things we don't
14 know. It wasn't expanded. It's almost as if they're lies.
15 That's what I feel today."

16 **MS. GILBERTE VACHON** (SPEAKING THROUGH THE
17 INTERPRETER): "I remember, I was with my cousin [at the
18 Sûreté to go get the reports they'd made. I wanted to have
19 them.] We read some reports. We went to see the Chief of
20 Police. We asked for the report. [He was friends with the
21 accused, the girl who was accused. But he said to me,
22 'You're suffering, right? Me too, I'm suffering. I lost my
23 [big brother] -- '"

24 [He suggested I read this book.] -- I
25 couldn't look at him, I was in so much pain. I hadn't gone

1 to see the Chief of Police for moral support. In a way, I
2 was really surprised. Why? This had nothing to at all with
3 what he told me.

4 When the girl was acquitted -- when the girl
5 was acquitted, I was coming from Haute-Rive. We met the
6 whole family. The Chief of Police [was not far behind] the
7 families of the accused. [I almost turned around to follow
8 them. I'm sure that they were going to celebrate the girl's
9 acquittal at the store.]

10 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** Thank you. Thank you for --
11 entrusting us with your story.

12 I would now invite the Commissioners if they
13 have any final questions or comments to make. Thank you.

14 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Thank you very
15 much. Thank you, Denis, for being here in support and thank
16 you, Ms. Wylde, for guiding us, everyone, throughout their
17 testimony.

18 This is a story we have heard across Quebec.
19 It has touched us for several reasons across Quebec, many
20 people, in English and in French in the media.

21 And especially when we come from the
22 community, especially when there are connections with
23 people we know, or our friends know the people. And we also
24 know that when this happens in a place which is our home,
25 our community, there is a justice system. There is a

1 criminal system, but there's also social justice. And I
2 always include this in my thinking. We ask for justice in a
3 system, but in a community or in a place -- we're together
4 often or all the time, this social justice, sometimes it's
5 not easy.

6 This is what I keep in mind when I listen to
7 you. I believe my question -- or my questions -- could be:
8 have you made any formal requests to people for the
9 investigation reports?

10 Go ahead.

11 **MS. ANDRÉE VACHON:** Just to tell you, my
12 mother, they went to see a lawyer to ask for an appeal. Can
13 you say that, an appeal? Then the lawyer -- well, he was a
14 lawyer from Quebec City who was very well known, even in
15 the media. Then the lawyer that they went to see, they had
16 some meetings. They spent some money. They spent some
17 money, my mother and her partner. At some point, they came
18 to Quebec City and they went to meet the lawyer. They came
19 to my house and they told me, "The lawyer in question is no
20 longer able to take us as clients because he has a conflict
21 of interest." He was working for the band council. So they
22 lost money in that too, a sum of money.

23 I don't know too much about it, but I said
24 that normally a lawyer -- when a lawyer has a conflict of
25 interest with other clients, they tell you right away, "I

1 can't take you as a client and this is going to create a
2 conflict of interest." And the lawyer in question, he took
3 them on as clients anyway, until the time when -- and they
4 never got a refund. All the money they've -- I'm going to
5 say invested in this, for nothing.

6 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** And you were
7 talking about investigations conducted by the police. Were
8 there several police forces, just the Aboriginal police or
9 just the Sûreté du Québec [Quebec provincial police]?

10 **MS. GILBERTE VACHON:** The Sûreté du Québec in
11 Baie-Comeau was overseeing the police in Pessamit.

12 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Was it them
13 who did the investigation? Just repeat to be sure.

14 **MS. GILBERTE VACHON:** It's -- (Speaking in
15 Indigenous language).

16 **MS. ANDRÉE VACHON:** I, from what I remember,
17 the only time I was ever questioned by the SQ investigators
18 was once after my sister's death. After that, nobody ever
19 approached us to really ask us about the event that had
20 happened.

21 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** You mentioned
22 that there were several people who had information or who
23 had certain --

24 **MS. ANDRÉE VACHON:** Or things that they had
25 also seen.

1 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Then who did
2 not call them, when you were saying "They had not been
3 called to be interviewed or questioned?" Who are these
4 people?

5 **MS. ANDRÉE VACHON:** It's because when they
6 went to give their statements, they gave their statements -
7 -

8 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Indigenous or
9 --

10 **MS. ANDRÉE VACHON:** Not by the Indigenous
11 police. They gave their statements, but in the court case,
12 the girl in question, when she went to court, there was
13 nobody who came to testify, to my knowledge. There are
14 witnesses who could have been called on behalf of the Crown
15 or the other party.

16 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** What you lived
17 through -- and I think you have really used the right term
18 -- this tragedy, this tragic event, was the system there to
19 support you, to make sure you understood the process, to
20 make sure you understood the steps and options?

21 **MS. ANDRÉE VACHON:** No. And my mother also --
22 I'm not a doctor, but my mother had suffered a shock, an
23 emotional trauma. She was depressed.

24 But I, I might have fallen into a depression
25 without knowing it, but I started drinking and using drugs.

1 I no longer had -- I no longer had -- how can I put it -- I
2 had no reason -- That was my whole life. I had no interest
3 in anything, in going to school or work. There was nothing
4 I wanted to do anymore.

5 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** It's --

6 **MS. ANDRÉE VACHON:** It was -- even me, maybe
7 without knowing it, I had experienced a shock, an emotional
8 trauma too, without knowing it.

9 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** And you seem
10 to be saying that that's still the case today. So who's
11 there for you today?

12 **MS. ANDRÉE VACHON:** I have my partner who's
13 here, who's supporting me a lot in this, who's giving me a
14 lot of support. And that's it. I also talk about it. I
15 often talk about it when I -- receive some -- but not all
16 the time, but it happens sometimes that the event of that
17 night, what happened, that my friends talk about it and
18 want to know what really happened. So, it's like a
19 roundtable, and people often tell me, "Justice hasn't been
20 done." I don't know if I can say that, but that's how I
21 feel too. I'll say it. Justice has not been done.

22 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** That's
23 important. It's your moment. It's your space. You, your
24 sister, and your mother, this is your moment.

25 **MS. ANDRÉE VACHON:** Mm-hm.

1 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** And you're
2 helping us in our work, that's for sure.

3 **MS. ANDRÉE VACHON:** And also after that --
4 also what was happening, they're triggers. My mother got
5 cancer. Her boyfriend is in remission from cancer too. I
6 don't know if I can make any links like that, they've
7 experienced a lot of impacts, a lot of stress too, and a
8 lot of emotions.

9 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Gilberte, as a
10 mother, did -- we're in a community, so it's two
11 governments. We're talking here about the non-Indigenous
12 people. The Government of Quebec, the federal government,
13 did they tell you that there are some organizations
14 attached to the government that support victims of crime?

15 **MS. GILBERTE VACHON:** Well, there was a girl
16 who came. She worked for Quebec and she prepared our case.
17 Then after that, later, she told us that she couldn't help
18 us. It's as if they're saying, "Who killed her? She -- "
19 That's what I don't understand. She's dead, my daughter.
20 She was murdered. I don't know why they turned us down.

21 **MS. ANDRÉE VACHON:** Throughout the course of
22 events that took place, nobody had really approached us
23 with an offer of help, not from CAVAC or from our
24 community, except for people who -- except our family, our
25 immediate family, aunts, cousins, friends -- but support

1 workers never came to see us.

2 But even I, I still have difficulty going
3 back to the reserve. So -- when I do go back, the event
4 always comes to mind again. When I go there, I spend two
5 days, two or three days, and then I leave. I really can't
6 stay there for a long time because I think -- when I went
7 there -- when I used to go to Pessamit, I'd go to my
8 mother's, I was always with my little sister. I'd sleep
9 with her. I'd sleep with her in her room. We'd chat. We'd
10 talk.

11 And now, she's not there anymore, and when I
12 go there it stirs up a lot of emotions. This still acts up
13 a lot inside of me. I'm not really ready yet. My grief
14 isn't -- my grief is still there.

15 **MS. GILBERTE VACHON:** I can't go to the
16 community centre now, since the incident with my daughter.
17 The place where my daughter -- the tragic place, it still
18 hurts. I still have problems. I'm lucky to have my
19 boyfriend who helps me. Otherwise, I would still be having
20 a hard time today.

21 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** If you were to
22 tell us one or more qualities so that we can continue to
23 honour your sister and your daughter throughout our
24 mandate, what would they be, a quality or qualities that we
25 could take with us as a beautiful memory of Adélous?

1 **MS. ANDRÉE VACHON:** Adélous has a never-
2 ending smile. Every time you would see her, she'd be
3 laughing. Even in all her photos she's smiling. We'd see it
4 all the time. And her eyes sparkled. As I said, she loved
5 life. She often talked to me about it. She had dreams. She
6 told me, "When I move to Quebec City -- " it's been several
7 years now that I've been living in Quebec City -- "I'm
8 going to come and stay with you. I'm going to go to CÉGEP."
9 She would often tell me about what she wanted to become.

10 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Beautiful
11 smile. Thank you.

12 **MS. GILBERTE VACHON (SPEAKING THROUGH THE**
13 **INTERPRETER):** "Me, I still miss her terribly. She had often
14 told me, "I love you lots, Mom. I love you lots, Dad." Now
15 those words no longer exist. Those words don't exist now.
16 She was always supportive, always outgoing. She was always
17 helping people. She was very outgoing. She was always
18 helping her friends. That's how I see my daughter."

19 **MS. ANDRÉE VACHON (SPEAKING THROUGH THE**
20 **INTERPRETER):** "One more thing I'd like to add, she had
21 friends, friends everywhere."

22 **MS. ANDRÉE VACHON (SPEAKING THROUGH THE**
23 **INTERPRETER):** "I still realize this today; I didn't even
24 know, but when I say my name, then, 'Ah, you're Adélous's
25 sister. She was your sister.'"

1 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Adélous, is
2 she in the mauve, pink T-shirt? Are those the children in
3 the background?

4 **MS. ANDRÉE VACHON:** She's in the front where
5 there's blue.

6 **MS. GILBERTE VACHON:** She's got a big smile
7 here, yes.

8 **MS. ANDRÉE VACHON:** The first to your left,
9 I'd say. That, those are her friends.

10 **MS. GILBERTE VACHON:** Yes, her girlfriends.

11 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Here, they're
12 about to get into mischief.

13 **MS. ANDRÉE VACHON:** This image is also the
14 way I often remember her.

15 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Thank you.

16 We have welcomed our grandmothers from
17 British Columbia. They arrived this morning with the Chief
18 Commissioner, who has freshly arrived from B.C., as they
19 say, and they are warriors, the women out there, the Haida
20 women, and it's also one of our grandmothers who's guiding
21 us in the work, and she's also a woman -- her mother was
22 murdered. Her sister was murdered, her other sister and her
23 other sister and then her other sister and people -- men
24 too, just in her family alone.

25 I don't know where she is. She might be in

1 the middle of preparing the eagle feathers, but in the
2 system of government there, women have incredible power.
3 They are hereditary chiefs or they are clan mothers. That's
4 not how it's said, but in my own words, I'd say that.

5 And when they heard that we were doing a
6 big, big, big tour across Canada to listen to the families'
7 truths as we have just done with you, for them, the women
8 of Haida Gwaii, the community, the eagle feather is highly,
9 highly, highly symbolic. He's the one who is the closest to
10 God, to the creator, and they sent some eagle feathers to
11 the National Inquiry, so we can give them as a gift as a
12 thank you for the testimony. And also, the families from
13 this morning, they'll be receiving their feathers, but they
14 were flying in a metal bird, the airplane. But now, they're
15 here, they've arrived, so we can give them to you.

16 It's really -- it's personal. You can do
17 what you like with this beautiful feather, but for us this
18 is a symbolic gift of support and healing with you.

19 Thank you.

20 And Qajaq, she's from -- Commissioner Qajaq
21 here, she's from the North. I've always said at home, the
22 North Shore, in the North, and she laughs at me. She says
23 it's not the North here. But they do have some vegetation,
24 including Labrador tea. So she's very proud to share the
25 Labrador tea with you so that she'll go home with you.

1 Thank you.

2 --- Exhibits (Code: P01P07P0102)

3 **Exhibit 1:** Electronic file including seven pictures
4 shown during the public hearing

5 (GIVING OF GIFTS)

6 (SINGING)

7 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** The community
8 is always welcome if you want to come and give your love to
9 the families.

10 **MS. JEANNETTE VOLLANT:** We'll have a short
11 adjournment and we'll resume at 3:15. (Speaking in
12 Indigenous language).

13 --- Upon recessing at 14:55.

14 --- Upon resuming at 15:23.

15 **MS. JEANNETTE VOLLANT:** At the back of the
16 table there is some bannock and some red berry jam and
17 cloudberry jam, wild berries from our North Shore region.
18 Also, there is also some herbal tea, Labrador tea. These
19 are small gifts we are offering you at the back. I, for
20 example, I wouldn't mind having a bit of cloudberry jam
21 myself.

22 **MR. LOUIS GEORGE FONTAINE:** (Speaking in
23 Indigenous language).

24 **MS. JEANNETTE VOLLANT:** Okay. I'm going to
25 translate that.

1 Here, the left side is for the family, the
2 family who just told us their story, and here is for the
3 support team. When families ask someone to support them,
4 this is their place.

5 The little table over there to the right,
6 those are the lawyers who represent all the families.

7 And the little table in the corner, that's
8 for the Registrar for the swearing in and to record the
9 documents, and perhaps other things. I don't know.

10 The long table over there, they represent
11 the big institutions, the Government of Quebec, the
12 Government of Canada. They also represent the Oblates and
13 the Indigenous women.

14 There is also translation at the back and we
15 have our technicians here. Like Big Jack who's here in
16 front of me, he's working for all of this. There are some
17 gentlemen -- it's the first time I've seen them.

18
19 That's all I had. Ah, I mustn't forget the
20 most beautiful thing that was explained to me. The chair
21 that you see there, there's nothing on it. Nobody sits
22 there. It's for the beloved, the families' loved one, and
23 it represents -- it's a symbol. If they want to place
24 something of the departed, they can place it there. They
25 can also place a photo, an item that the beloved dearly

1 cherished, and that's what that chair is for. It is very
2 symbolic for the families who have lost a loved one.

3 **MR. LOUIS GEORGE FONTAINE:** (Speaking in
4 Indigenous language).

5 **MS. JEANNETTE VOLLANT:** I would call on Mr.
6 Arsenault. Do you represent the lady next to you? So could
7 you please come forward for the hearing?

8 **(SINGING AND DRUMMING)**

9 **Fourth hearing:**

10 **Witness: Lise Jourdain**

11 **Testimony heard by Commissioners Michèle Audette,**

12 **Brian Eyolfson and Chief Commissioner Marion Buller**

13 **Commission Counsel: Alain Arsenault**

14

15 **MR. ALAIN ARSENAULT:** Hello. Hello, everyone.
16 You have before you Ms. Lise Jourdain. We're going to
17 proceed with her swearing in by Mr. Zandberg.

18 **MR. BRYAN ZANDBERG:** Hello, Lise.

19 **MS. LISE JOURDAIN:** Hello.

20 **MR. BRYAN ZANDBERG:** Do you solemnly swear to
21 tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth?

22 **MS. LISE JOURDAIN:** I swear.

23 **MR. BRYAN ZANDBERG:** Thank you.

24 **MS. LISE JOURDAIN:** Kwe. (Speaking in
25 Indigenous language). Hello. My name is Lise and I've just

1 said my spiritual name. That's how I introduce myself. I'm
2 going to talk about myself first. I'm the youngest in a
3 family of 10 children.

4 My mother, she's a wife, a widow. She had 10
5 children. My mother didn't speak French.

6 I, so that our family could eat, I was sent
7 to my neighbour's house at the age of four, and that's
8 where I experienced sexual touching and sexual assault. I
9 couldn't tell my mother.

10 Because something had happened. I had one of
11 my brothers who came home. He was attending residential
12 school. He came home and told my mother that he didn't want
13 to go back to the residential school because he had been
14 assaulted by a priest. I don't know, but in my little
15 child's head, I, like, saw the priest immediately show up
16 at our house. He told my mother that he was leaving with my
17 brother. He was going back to the residential school with
18 my brother. My mother told him no. Right away I saw my
19 mother leaving with policemen. They were coming out of our
20 house.

21 And as I told you, my mother didn't speak
22 French.

23 I still cry about it today. Sometimes I'm
24 all alone in my house. I still hear what my mother was
25 saying when the policemen took her away. Right away I had,

1 like, a block. When I was assaulted, I couldn't tell my
2 mother, because I was afraid she would be punished.

3 The man who assaulted me had beaten up his
4 wife. He would often beat his wife in front of me. He would
5 walk around the house naked, and his wife would tell him,
6 "Hey, go get dressed. There are children here." He would
7 beat her. He would hit her. I remember this happened many
8 times.

9 One time, he had taken me into the bedroom.
10 His wife, like, decided that "No." He beat her. I could see
11 him beating her. I could hear it. I couldn't move. I
12 couldn't leave the house.

13 And then one time I saw him: he had put her
14 in the -- he had put her in the attic in their house. Then,
15 I don't know -- I don't know how it happened, but I have,
16 like, an impression of leaving -- right after leaving the
17 house, there was a crowd of people from the community. The
18 police were there too. They were saying that they were
19 looking for the lady, that she'd been beaten and that she'd
20 run away into the woods. I didn't understand. I understood
21 what was happening and how -- I look at it today, how come
22 there was a crowd of people outside so quickly?

23 I went and hid. I was scared. I felt guilty
24 over what had happened. It was because of me. She had been
25 beaten up because she wanted to defend me. I went to hide.

1 And I had a sister older than me. The eldest
2 of my sisters, her name was Thérèse. She was always taking
3 care of me. I was her little princess, her little chick,
4 I'll put it that way. She came. She saw that I was hiding.
5 She came to see me. She said to me, "I know that you know
6 something and you're hiding it." She said, "I want you to
7 tell me. If you tell me, it'll be over after. It won't
8 happen again." I told her that the lady was hidden in the
9 attic and that she had been beaten. She asked me why she
10 had been beaten and I told her "because her husband often
11 sexually assaults me." Then she, like, decided to take my
12 side.

13 Then she asked me to go with her and then we
14 went into the house and I showed them where the lady was
15 and they got her out. And honestly, I had -- for many years
16 I had the image of the lady's face. She was all black and
17 blue, her face all swollen. For many years, I saw that
18 image when I closed my eyes. I felt guilty, for sure. It
19 was my fault, what had happened to her.

20 The lady became an alcoholic. That was my
21 fault too. I felt like it was because of me that she had
22 lost everything.

23 I left Sept-Îles after that. I was about 14,
24 13-14 years old. I wasn't even 15 when I left Sept-Îles. I
25 was being bullied a lot. I also had the feeling that

1 everyone knew what I had gone through. I had the feeling
2 that everybody knew what I had gone through. I was a person
3 who didn't talk at all. I was alone all the time, in my
4 corner. I didn't speak. I left for Schefferville.

5 There, it was a whole different life. Wow, I
6 was loved. I saw that people liked me. I had -- I was
7 seeing everyone. I met people. It was like, "Hello, Lise."
8 I was welcomed. It was completely different from what I had
9 experienced in Sept-Îles. And so I stayed there. I stayed
10 in Schefferville until the time I was raped by a policeman.

11 You could say that the life I had wanted to
12 leave behind in Sept-Îles had caught up with me.

13 I promised myself I wouldn't cry.

14 You could say that my life had caught up
15 with me. I won't tell you how the rape happened. I'd just
16 like to say that after that, everything -- today, I see,
17 when I look, after the rape I experienced, today I
18 understand that when you've been sexually assaulted or when
19 you've been raped you walk -- you live, you walk, you have
20 no net. I felt like I had no net beneath me, and with every
21 ordeal, every time something would happen to me, I would
22 sink a little deeper. And I would sink a little deeper.
23 That's how it was. But I hadn't understood yet what it was.

24 Then I started to use. I had, like, found a
25 magic remedy. I started drinking. I started using drugs,

1 for several years. And then I started singing. I started
2 dancing. I started to laugh. I started to -- I had lots,
3 lots of friends because I was drinking, I was having fun. I
4 was singing. I kept up that kind of life for a number of
5 years.

6 I made three suicide attempts while I was
7 using. I made three suicide attempts. In my last suicide
8 attempt, I was in a coma for two days.

9 It's at that point, you could say -- when I
10 got out of the hospital, my sister had set up everything in
11 advance. She set up a place for me in therapy. My driver
12 was at the hospital entrance. She decided that she was
13 sending me to therapy. It was a good thing. I stayed in
14 therapy over there for 30 days.

15 But when I returned I left for three months
16 in the woods with Amiot and Ms. Louisa. She doesn't know
17 it, Ms. Louisa, but she saved me. Her husband, too.

18 I never had a father. I found a father in
19 Amiot. Sometimes, just the fact that he would touch me,
20 that he would do it during the day, then, it was like a
21 sign of love for me. For the first time I felt the love of
22 a man who was pure in his touch and his words, how he spoke
23 to me and when he showed me things, there.

24 When I returned to town after my three
25 months in the woods, I used again, but only for one night.

1 I went to see who I was with drugs. I took -- I went to buy
2 some coke and then I holed myself up in a hotel all alone.
3 I went to see what I still wanted in my life. I don't know.
4 We call this (Speaking in Indigenous language). But for me
5 it, like, showed me that I had other things to do in life
6 than that.

7 I felt like I had just received a message,
8 that I had other things in my life than to be wasted all
9 the time.

10 I didn't -- when -- it might get a little
11 disjointed here, but I'm going to continue following my
12 feelings.

13 Over several years, at some point, I
14 experienced -- after I came back from the woods, at some
15 point I found spirituality. There's a man who came into my
16 life and who then took me to Kokowen's (ph); I wasn't
17 familiar with it, spirituality. He took me to Kokowen's. He
18 said to me, "Come, there's a couple. I'll introduce you.
19 Your life will be better after that." I saw that he was
20 lighting some sage. After that, he was gone and he left me
21 there. Me, I was in love with him. I thought I was going to
22 walk down the path with him, but he took me there. And
23 thank you today.

24 Him, he left. He went back to using, and me,
25 I stayed. I never went back to using. It's been 23 years

1 now, 23 years that I haven't touched drugs or alcohol.

2 But during all that time, I got to know the
3 red path and I healed. I walked in the way of the spiritual
4 life, and I was seeing the pain I had experienced. I saw it
5 and then I knew that -- (Speaking in Indigenous language).

6 But the rape by the policeman -- that, I had
7 locked away somewhere. It was in a drawer somewhere. I knew
8 that it had happened to me, but I had never looked at it. I
9 would see the bad things that had happened in my life, I
10 would see them and I would talk about them and I would cry.
11 I was experiencing what I had to experience. But that, I
12 had never spoken about that until the day I saw the program
13 *Enquête* on TV. It was the women from Val-d'Or. I was
14 sleeping with my little girl. She was three years old --
15 two and a half. And she, my little girl, she often slept
16 with me and as soon as I'd stir a little she'd wake up and
17 walk around the house with me when I couldn't sleep. But
18 that night, I woke up. It was the TV that woke me up, and I
19 heard those women talking. And then a drawer opened inside
20 of me. I saw the rape. I relived it for a second time,
21 being raped, and the shame, too. I was in my kitchen. I lit
22 a candle. I lit some sage and I prayed and I started to cry
23 and scream. I was crying, screaming. I think that I spent
24 the whole night screaming and crying. I never woke up my
25 little girl.

1 That's what had moved me the most because
2 the Creator had just shown me again that he was with me.
3 "It's today, the time that you heal. I'm giving you my
4 chance for you to heal." That's the message that I heard. I
5 understood, I must say.

6 So that was the moment when I decided to
7 speak out. That was when I stood up and told myself, "No,
8 I'm raising girls." There's one who's 8, another 16, plus
9 my little girl who's 4 and the other is 2. I said to
10 myself, "No, I can't -- I can't keep quiet. I can't shut my
11 eyes. I can't close my ears to what is happening, not just
12 what we're experiencing in town, but in our community."

13 I posted on Facebook. I wrote that "Today
14 I'm speaking out against sexual abuse. My door is open
15 24/7. Anyone, anyone who wants to speak out, who wants me
16 to accompany them, or who wants to be heard." That's what I
17 posted on Facebook.

18 I was surprised. It wouldn't stop. The phone
19 didn't stop ringing. My doorbell didn't stop ringing. I
20 even had a little 8-year-old girl who came to tell me what
21 was happening to her.

22 It was at that moment that I decided to make
23 -- I wanted to file a complaint against the policeman, but
24 then I decided to put it aside and try to support the women
25 the most I could, and the children. As usual, I'm always

1 last.

2 And then, everyone knows what's happening
3 here in our community. Everyone knows that our Chief had
4 been -- an accusation of sexual assault has been made
5 against him. It's not a secret.

6 When I started posting on Facebook, I
7 started to receive negative comments attacking me because
8 to some people, if I was helping the victims, I was
9 accusing the Chief. That's what I was getting.

10 And then I had a heart attack just during --
11 just about the same time. I had a heart attack and I was in
12 Quebec City. They transferred me to Quebec City, and that
13 worried me when I was in Quebec City. The woman who filed
14 the complaint, I don't know her. I didn't know her. She's
15 not someone I worked with or a friend. I didn't know her,
16 but I was very worried in Quebec City because I know what
17 it's like when you don't have any support, when you're
18 experiencing a -- when that drawer opens, when it opens and
19 you've got no-one to help you, I know what it's like.
20 That's when suicidal thoughts or suicide occurs.

21 The suicides we've had -- the many suicides
22 we've had in the community -- most were people who had been
23 sexually assaulted. It's been proven. And that's what I was
24 thinking about, me, the lady, but I couldn't call her. I
25 didn't know her.

1 So once I got to Sept-Îles, I told my niece,
2 "Go and see her. Go check if she has someone who can help
3 her, if she has the help she needs."

4 But during that time, there was a lady who
5 called me on the phone, and I was in the middle of -- she
6 wanted to know how I was doing with my heart. I said, "I'm
7 not there at all. I'm worrying about another person." I
8 said, "Try to find me a lawyer who can explain to the lady
9 how she's going to function and the fears she might have. I
10 don't know exactly what, but try to find someone who's
11 going to help her." And so I said, "I'm going to go and see
12 her, the lady." I went to her house. I knocked on the door.
13 She opened the door. She practically pounced on me, there.
14 She was already having suicidal thoughts. She'd already
15 gone too far in her -- she already had a plan.

16 Mr. Arsenault wasn't part of the Commission
17 yet. I complained to him this morning. I told him, "Since
18 you've been on the Commission, you're no longer staying in
19 touch with me." I used to call him often.

20 He called me and he explained how it worked,
21 what steps to take. It was then that she, the lady, started
22 standing up. But from that moment on, it didn't stop. It
23 never stopped, the women coming to see me. I lacked
24 resources and I was angry too. I was very angry, I'll tell
25 you, because we're divided in our community. There are two

1 camps. And I had the feeling that the victims couldn't go
2 get help because the support workers -- that was the
3 impression I had. I had the impression that the support
4 workers were afraid of being told that they were taking
5 sides.

6 Every time I tried to send one of the
7 victims to front-line workers they would tell me, "No, I
8 don't feel like going there. They don't listen." That
9 really made me angry, because already I knew then that
10 sexual assault equals a suicide attempt or a suicide. That,
11 already I -- you know, there are people who think that I'm
12 a negative person or that I'm -- I did all of this to try
13 and help the women.

14 You've often seen me on TV, heard me on the
15 radio. I certainly didn't do it for fun. I have a life. I'm
16 a mother. I'm a grandmother. I had a job that I lost
17 because of this. I no longer have a life. So I haven't done
18 it for fun, what I've done. Everything I've spoken out
19 about, the people I've denounced, the people I've
20 confronted, the protests I've done, I did it for our
21 children. I did it for the little girls I'm raising, for my
22 grandchildren, for your children too. I did it for the
23 whole community, without any exceptions, for all children.

24 There are people who tell me, "Damn, you're
25 strong. Nothing seems to get to you." Here, yes. Once I get

1 home, though -- at home, it's a different story. I crawl
2 into bed and I bawl. I bawl, I bawl, I bawl for what I
3 heard and what I felt for the people in my community.

4 When we went to Val-d'Or, there were two of
5 us from the Uashat community who had been sexually
6 assaulted by a policeman. We had gone to Val-d'Or for a
7 meeting with the victims. That was painful. I saw the other
8 victims with their band council, their chief, their
9 advisors. They were all sitting there. They were being
10 treated like that. And us, there were just the two of us.
11 No-one had come. That hurt. That really hurt. How much
12 would it have taken to have one person come and say they
13 supported us? No, we didn't have any support.

14 We arrived in Sept-Îles. My friend, she had
15 filed a sexual assault complaint against a policeman. A few
16 days later, a prosecutor came to see her and told her, "We
17 went to see the policeman. You got the wrong person." Her
18 complaint was also rejected. She had the wrong person. And
19 it seems that they had known this policeman for years, they
20 even knew the policeman's wife. "No, you've got the wrong
21 person." They chose to go see the policeman and ask.

22 I -- the Montreal police, they called me
23 practically every week. They even sent the Uashat Police
24 Chief to my house. They wanted to know the name of my
25 assailant. I said, "I haven't signed my complaint yet. Why

1 would I give out the name of my assailant? It's not done
2 yet. I know that he's in a high position now." They know
3 who I'm talking about.

4 I was once at an ATM and there was a
5 policeman behind me. And me, I worked for seven years here
6 at the Sept-Îles courthouse and I knew a lot of policemen.
7 I had even done suicide intervention. Sometimes I helped
8 with suicide prevention. The policeman who was behind me
9 says to me, "Well, there's one who killed himself. Who are
10 we going to kill next week?" This policeman who had just
11 taken his life, the one who had been accused of sexual
12 assault. The guilt.

13 Good thing that that he was there, him,
14 sometimes. That's my spiritual father.

15 There are people -- Carmen. Carmen, she's
16 never abandoned me. She's always been by my side. Day or
17 night, I could call her on the phone. She helped me all the
18 time. When I met the women too, she would help me. I see
19 faces I love, Anne-Marie too. I just want to say, "I love
20 you." That's how I feel.

21 There was also a situation that happened.
22 One time my niece called me. She lives in Quebec City. She
23 called me in the middle of the night and told me, "I lost
24 my daughter. I don't know what to do. I've called the
25 police. I don't know what to do. I don't know where to go."

1 And I'm there in Sept-Îles, and she's in Quebec City. I
2 said, "I'm coming tomorrow morning. If you haven't found
3 her, I'll come tomorrow morning. I'm coming to see you."
4 Anyway, the whole night, we kept in touch and around 6:00
5 in the morning, I left with my sister and one of my nieces.
6 We left for Quebec City. She had been kidnapped. She had
7 been talking with someone on Facebook, and at one point he
8 came to get her in the parking area of her home. They put
9 her in the car. There were two of them. They put her in the
10 car and they took her I don't know where, but she said,
11 "they took me someplace in the middle of nowhere." It was
12 in the woods. It was some kind of shack, or cabin. They
13 took her there and she spent the night there.

14 That was the fright of my life, when I found
15 out she'd gotten into a car with people she didn't know.

16 I, all my sister's children -- she's dead
17 now -- all my sister's children are like my own children.
18 And for them I'm like their mother and their grandmother.
19 Plus, the girl told me, "They raped me. I couldn't tell
20 Mom." I didn't know what to do with that. I really didn't
21 know what to do. It took me some time before being able to
22 talk about it with her mother. I cried the whole time.

23 **MR. ALAIN ARSENAULT:** We're going to take a
24 10-minute break.

25 --- Upon recessing at 16:10.

1 --- Upon resuming at 16:24.

2 **MR. ALAIN ARSENAULT:** We're going to begin.

3 And so, Ms. Jourdain, after this short
4 break, shall we continue?

5 **MS. LISE JOURDAIN:** Yes.

6 **MR. ALAIN ARSENAULT:** Go ahead.

7 **MS. LISE JOURDAIN:** It's because when earlier
8 I was saying that when the policeman told me, "There's one
9 who has already killed himself; who's next? Who will be the
10 next to kill himself?" I told you that the guilt -- my
11 guilt about what had happened when I was young had come
12 back.

13 This has a lot to do, I think, with the
14 complaint that I didn't want to sign, because I know that
15 the policeman who raped me is someone who's in a high
16 position now.

17 There's also someone in the council who at
18 one time said to me, "Aren't you afraid that the Chief will
19 commit suicide?" I, like, flinched. I had just gotten a
20 slap in the face.

21 I wonder -- today, I look at this and I
22 wonder, are we not going to believe our girls when they say
23 they've been sexually assaulted because we're afraid of
24 suicides? That's the question I'm asking myself today.

25 Me, if my daughter comes to tell me, "I was

1 sexually assaulted," am I going to think right away that
2 that person is going to commit suicide? Of course it's
3 something very hard when it's someone in your own family,
4 very, very hard when it's someone in your own family, but
5 knowing the cause of it, that shatters a life. And it
6 doesn't just shatter one life, it shatters an entire
7 family.

8 I, what I've experienced, I've given. I've
9 raised children. I've raised five children. I've given the
10 aggression, the anger, the violence that I had inside of
11 me, I've passed it on to them too. Today I know that they
12 still have a lot of problems. I have two daughters who
13 still have a lot of problems, and I know that a lot of it
14 is due to this, how I raised them and what I myself had.

15 That's it. What am I going to do? Am I going
16 to let the policeman off because I'm afraid he's going to
17 kill himself? Yes, I was scared that he'd kill himself.
18 Yes, I didn't want to sign the complaint because I was
19 afraid. But today I look at this; I turn the question
20 around. I say to myself, "It was me he did it to, but if he
21 would have done it to my daughter, would I be doing the
22 same thing? Would I also not react?" This is what hurts me
23 the most, when I think about it: what if it were my
24 daughter who'd come and told me. You could say that me,
25 it's not important. I'm not important. I'm not important

1 enough to be able to take action.

2 But today, no. Today I have the right to be
3 important.

4 When I was told -- a journalist on Friday
5 said to me, "What are you doing here, Lise, at the
6 Commission? You're always hearing negative things. There's
7 always bickering. Why are you going to testify?" I said --
8 at the beginning when we spoke, I said this to the lady:
9 "At the beginning when we spoke, I told you that when
10 someone is sexually assaulted, there's no net where they
11 walk." I said, "For me, the Commission of Inquiry is like a
12 lifeline and I'm falling into the water. I grab on to it."
13 So if the Commission of Inquiry can save me and save my
14 children, wonderful. My God, I'll take it, that's for sure.
15 But if, at the end of the day, they can't help me, I'm
16 going to start shouting again. I'm going to start
17 protesting again because I need help.

18 This -- I know I've given my community an
19 earful over the past two-and-a-half years with this. I need
20 help. Women need help. Children need help, because today I
21 decided I was breaking the silence. I decided that I'd say,
22 "I hate injustice." Today, I decided that when I see
23 injustice -- people think I'm harsh, the way I speak,
24 because I go straight to the person and tell them, "No, I
25 don't like that." Michèle, she knows me. Michèle knows that

1 when I have something to say I go to see her.

2 I've always had a lot of respect for you,
3 Michèle, you know that, but when I had something to say to
4 Michèle, I'd go see her and I'd tell her.

5 I'm not a person who talks behind people's
6 backs. I'm able to go see the person and say, "That hurts
7 me, the way you're acting, what you're doing." And that
8 upsets people a lot. It upsets people a lot, I know. I'm
9 sorry. I apologize to the people I've upset, but again, I'm
10 trying to save my children and I'm trying to save your
11 children.

12 And that's why I'm always shouting, "Help!
13 Help!" I'm sorry, but that's how it is. And it's not to
14 cause any harm. It's not to hurt anybody.

15 One time we found -- we were talking among
16 women. We were talking. What could we do to go -- to help
17 victims or to go get help? How could we do it? Well, the
18 first thing we came up with was that anyone who's going to
19 be part of the band council shouldn't have a criminal
20 record. That's what we came up with. So we went from door
21 to door. Anyway, there was a person who went to homes to
22 collect -- that, it wasn't done to harm anybody. It was to
23 protect the victims, so that anyone with a criminal record
24 couldn't be part of the band council.

25 When I saw those against -- the people who

1 were against this -- how can I put it -- against a list for
2 an electoral code, against this, the Chief of Police had
3 signed against it. He was in favour of crime. I said,
4 "Where are we going to go? Where am I going to go with the
5 victims?"

6 I don't mean to hurt anyone here by saying
7 this, but again I -- I fell into a void. I was practically
8 hiding from the victims when they'd call me and when I
9 wasn't there. I left for a short while for Quebec City and
10 I left -- I had other things to do because I didn't know
11 what to do anymore. I went to protest again in front of the
12 office. I filed an ethics complaint. Again I was cast as
13 the villain.

14 All I wanted -- at the beginning, all I
15 wanted was to help the victims, to find a solution that
16 could reassure or help them gain trust in the community,
17 the police, all of that. We were looking for a solution to
18 get them to open up. It's really not easy.

19 I know -- I'd like to send a message to my
20 community, Uashat and Maliotenam. I'm going to reach out to
21 the men, to the men of the Uashat and Maliotenam community.
22 Every year, please look at your child, your daughter, your
23 sister, your mother. Look at them, and if they came to see
24 you to ask for your help because they'd been sexually
25 assaulted, or if you see your families falling apart, with

1 alcohol, drugs, my God, do something! Stand up with us.
2 There are no men at our meetings -- when the women meet and
3 we're trying do some healing, we don't have any men there.
4 Your children need you. You can help them in a positive
5 way.

6 That's the message I want to give, to get
7 across. I think I'm finished.

8 **MR. ALAIN ARSENAULT:** Would you like to speak
9 about your job?

10 **MS. LISE JOURDAIN:** Oh, yes, that's right. I
11 was saying earlier, the -- what do you call it, collateral
12 damage? I was telling you earlier that I don't have a life
13 now. I had a job. I used to be a youth worker in a group
14 home, integration groups. I was there for 17 years. I lost
15 my job because I had protested against Hydro-Québec.

16 A year earlier, I had received a plaque. It
17 was inscribed "Thank you, Ms. Jourdain. You do so much for
18 our youth in the Uashat-Maliotenam community." I even
19 received two pens with "Lise Jourdain" engraved on them. A
20 year later, I lost my job. They told me I was incompetent.
21 I didn't understand it. Seventeen years of work.

22 Paying the price for speaking out -- I just
23 asserted myself. I don't pay. And I wasn't the only one who
24 paid for it. I raised children and they paid for it. There
25 are a lot of things that shattered in my life. Anger took

1 root, fear. The fear of where I'm headed. I no longer have
2 a job. I'm 60 years old now and I don't have a job anymore.
3 I had -- I still have the impression that I'm now useless
4 here in my community.

5 That's it. That's all, eh?

6 **MR. ALAIN ARSENAULT:** Let's turn to the
7 matter of solutions and recommendations that you have. What
8 would you like to see happen, to see change? How can it be
9 done?

10 **MS. LISE JOURDAIN:** Well, from what I've seen
11 -- from what I've seen, I -- why the Commission was
12 important for me, to go and testify, look, I had -- when
13 the sexual assault -- when I was asked to help with a
14 sexual assault, I had no lawyer here in Sept-Îles. I had to
15 call Montreal to get a lawyer. There's no legal help here
16 for us, for Indigenous women.

17 There was -- I was just thinking -- I was
18 talking with my daughter -- she's 8 years old -- this
19 morning. She told me -- I said, "I won't be home the whole
20 day. I'm going to a place where I'm going to talk." "You're
21 going to say that the police come to our house and that
22 you're afraid of them." She's 8 years old. She must see me,
23 the way I act.

24 I don't know how to say this, but I'd need
25 help here. We're all related here in this community, the

1 Chief of Police, the police. His whole family is here.

2 Oh, that reminds of something. I'll be
3 talking all evening. My niece, her boy was abused. Today,
4 his assailant still comes to park at their house. She has
5 filed several complaints but nothing is moving forward
6 because we recently found out that the woman who had raised
7 the assailant -- it was the nephew -- anyway, her nephew
8 was a policeman, anyway. That's what we found out recently.
9 We were wondering why it wasn't moving forward. Nothing is
10 moving.

11 And what's happening now, the little boy is
12 10 years old. He was 5 the first time he was assaulted. It
13 never stopped. Now he's 10 years old. He's now in a ward.
14 He's the one who's being punished. His mother didn't want
15 to let him go, but the DPJ [Youth Protection] decided that
16 his mother couldn't prevent him from having suicidal
17 thoughts, and so they sent him to the ward. The ward is a
18 locked ward for offenders. It's more that. What I'm saying
19 is that we don't get any help from the police, because
20 we're all part of -- somebody's cousin or we're all
21 related. We can't get the help we want.

22 Now this is where I'm going to stop.

23 **MR. ALAIN ARSENAULT:** I don't know if the
24 Commissioners have any questions.

25 **MS. LISE JOURDAIN:** Okay.

1 **MR. ALAIN ARSENAULT:** They're writing down a
2 lot, though.

3 All four, we can see you. We don't want to
4 interrupt you. You're writing a lot.

5 Seriously, do you have any questions?

6 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** While Qajaq
7 translates "in her head," several things.

8 I'm going to start, Lise, by saying thank
9 you. It's a big thank you, of course. Thank you also to
10 Carmen for being there and supporting her 24/7, as she said
11 in her testimony, and you too for being here. It's
12 important for the families and the survivors.

13 This is the first time I've heard you tell
14 your whole truth. I've heard about certain moments of your
15 life. And I whispered in your ear earlier, "You've opened a
16 door." And when I was younger, my mother told me, "You
17 know, you're going to upset people, and if you don't upset
18 them, it's not normal." But it hurts, hmm?

19 **MS. LISE JOURDAIN:** Mm-hm.

20 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** And when you
21 spoke about that, about upsetting people, I immediately
22 thought of my mother. And the door that you are opening,
23 the change that needs to take place in our communities
24 everywhere across Canada -- Maliotenam is part of it,
25 Uashat too, and all the Innu communities -- where this

1 change has been resisted for a very long time, and the fear
2 of disclosing because of collateral damage. You've
3 mentioned this in your testimony. It's something we don't
4 hear a lot about across Canada, "I'm speaking out about it,
5 and I'm paying for speaking out." You've shown this to us,
6 so it's important for the notes we took and the collective
7 thinking we need to do.

8 What's also important for us is to add your
9 testimony. Earlier you said that you had a petition going,
10 a resolution, a recommendation. I don't know, which is it?

11 **MS. LISE JOURDAIN:** A petition.

12 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** A petition.

13 Is it possible for us to get access to it?

14 **MS. LISE JOURDAIN:** Yes.

15 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Mr. Arsenault,
16 please.

17 **MR. ALAIN ARSENAULT:** Yes.

18 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** And we will
19 translate it for our colleagues.

20 Carmen, you can speak if you like.

21 This, it's important that we have access to
22 it this week or in the coming weeks. I need to first
23 understand and then make the recommendations. This is going
24 to help us. The recommendations are not just meant for the
25 federal government, the provinces and the territories, but

1 they are also meant -- and I never stop saying this -- for
2 our Indigenous governments too. We can recommend things.
3 After that, it's up to our Nations. That's the power of
4 this Commission, to propose changes.

5 Can you explain to me, "We don't get help.
6 We don't have support." Is it because of a lack of services
7 in the community?

8 **MS. LISE JOURDAIN:** No, it's more out of
9 fear, I'd say. I know that there are also a lot of people
10 who are afraid to lose their jobs. There's a lot of -- I
11 don't know how to put it. Carmen said an abuse of power,
12 but I was looking for another word. There are people who
13 are afraid of losing their jobs if they take sides. "I
14 can't talk. I work for the band council. It's my boss." We
15 hear a lot of these responses. Or they're going to, like,
16 step aside: "Me, I'm not saying anything." It's often those
17 responses that victims get, from what I've heard.

18 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** What would be
19 the solution?

20 **MS. LISE JOURDAIN:** It's like I was saying,
21 maybe if there were -- lawyers, what do you call it -- a
22 justice system -- maybe if there was a justice system they,
23 the support workers, wouldn't have, like, the choice to
24 work with them. Who am I to tell them, "You're going to
25 help"? But a lawyer, maybe that would help.

1 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** My comment in
2 closing, I'd say, I made like a -- "You have decided to
3 break the silence. There are repercussions." So there is a
4 need for a large-scale collective debate, but within the
5 scope of this inquiry here, when we tell women, "Stand up
6 and speak out," what is there to receive these disclosures,
7 to provide support and then bring about this justice? So I,
8 we scratch -- well, we scratch our -- we need to hear that.

9 **MS. LISE JOURDAIN:** That's what I expect you
10 to offer me.

11 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Yes. You know,
12 the Inquiry, Mr. Arsenault can explain to you in greater
13 detail what it can do.

14 **MS. LISE JOURDAIN:** Well, that's it, to
15 receive. It's still just that. I'm going to go back to the
16 same thing, a justice system that could help women and at
17 the same time they'd be able to -- there's CAVAC, of
18 course, but CAVAC, they don't have much either.

19 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Okay. Explain.

20 **MS. LISE JOURDAIN:** I've accompanied women
21 who have filed complaints, who have spoken to a prosecutor.
22 They've filed a complaint and then I found a prosecutor, he
23 had no respect for these women. "How do I know that you
24 didn't consent? No, no, I'll talk and you listen." It's
25 things like that where I would say to myself, wow. The

1 woman stands up and tries and then -- she tries to tell
2 what had happened, the truth. And she's being spoken to
3 like that. I was furious with him. I told him, "Listen,
4 have you ever been abused yourself?" I said, "You seem to
5 know what you're talking about." I said, "Damn, you're
6 aggressive." He said to me, "It's not you I'm talking to,
7 Ms. Jourdain." Many times, not just once, many times when I
8 was there I saw that he didn't have any respect for the
9 victims. The victims are going to be scared to sign the
10 complaints, for sure.

11 **MR. ALAIN ARSENAULT:** And do you believe that
12 if this woman had been accompanied by a lawyer, she would
13 have had better representation?

14 **MS. LISE JOURDAIN:** Well, that's what I
15 thought. I said to myself -- I was looking at the victims
16 who had spoken out, the stars there, how they were, how
17 they were talking about them on TV. Someone who touches
18 your private parts, that's sexual assault. Then, here, the
19 prosecutor said, "The woman ran away from there. She was
20 completely naked. She went back home, she was completely
21 naked. What proof do I have that it wasn't consensual?" I
22 think that if you were consenting you wouldn't be running
23 completely naked outdoors in winter. It's things like that
24 where I get the impression that an Indigenous woman who
25 signs a complaint or speaks out, right away she'll be

1 judged. She's seen as an alcoholic, a drug addict, a bit of
2 a nobody.

3 I look forward to the day when they'll treat
4 us like human beings. I look forward to having the same
5 services as another human being.

6 And once they tell you that there's nothing
7 they can do, CAVAC is gone. There's nothing else they can
8 do after that, once the prosecutor has decided he's not
9 going to do anything. That's that.

10 **COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON:** Thank you.

11 I just have a couple of questions. Michèle
12 asked some of the questions I had.

13 You spoke about a few different police
14 forces. You spoke about a number of different polices. You
15 talked about police, but I just want to make sure I
16 understand, because I understand that in Quebec there's a
17 number of different ---

18 **MR. ALAIN ARSENAULT:** We have a problem with
19 the translation.

20 **COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON:** Maybe my
21 translator will help. I have a good trans --

22 Is it working now?

23 **MS. LISE JOURDAIN:** Mm-hm. Yes.

24 **COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON:** Yes? Éveline
25 said "Go." Okay, I can go.

1 You talked about experiences with police and
2 your observations with police here, in Schefferville. Is it
3 all from the same police force or is it different police
4 forces?

5 **MS. LISE JOURDAIN:** When I was raped, that
6 was in Schefferville. I'm talking about police here in
7 Sept-Îles. Now I'm living in Sept-Îles. Schefferville, it
8 was the town police that we would call; today it's the SQ,
9 the Aboriginal police force.

10 **COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON:** Aboriginal
11 policing?

12 **MS. LISE JOURDAIN:** The SPUM.

13 **COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON:** Okay. And do
14 you know who governs the Aboriginal policing? Is it a
15 branch of SQ? Is it connected to the Band, is my question?

16 **Me ALAIN ARSENAULT:** Oui. [Translating self]
17 Yes.

18 **MS. LISE JOURDAIN:** Yes.

19 **COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON:** Those are all
20 my questions.

21 Do you have any?

22 **CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER:** I want to
23 thank you very much for helping us today by telling your
24 truths. What you've said to us today is very important and
25 will be very helpful in the work that we do as we go

1 forward.

2 Before we started this -- or when we started
3 this National Inquiry, the matriarchs, the clan mothers on
4 Haida Gwaii, which is on the West Coast of Canada, wanted
5 to be able to help families and survivors as they told
6 their truths all across Canada because they knew how
7 difficult it would be, how emotional, how very difficult.
8 So they wanted to be able to show their support for you and
9 for family members. They wanted to give strength to you and
10 to family members.

11 On the West Coast, eagles are highly
12 regarded. They're very special animals, birds. They are the
13 biggest birds. They fly the closest to the Creator of all
14 the birds, and they're the strongest as well.

15 So the matriarchs said, "We want to give
16 strength and we want to lift people at the Inquiry." So
17 they asked that eagle feathers be harvested and given to
18 people who tell their truths at the National Inquiry to
19 help support you, to help strengthen you, to hold you up
20 and bring your prayers closer to the Creator.

21 So we have an eagle feather for you today
22 from the clan mothers on the West Coast, all the way from
23 the West Coast for you.

24 And we want to thank you as well. Your truth
25 is very important to us and very helpful to us. So thank

1 Also, let's not forget that there was an
2 activity scheduled for 7:00 tonight, around 7:00 or 8:00,
3 but it has been postponed until tomorrow. It's the launch
4 of the lanterns by the Pakuashipi community. So that's been
5 postponed until tomorrow.

6 A cellphone has been found here. If you've
7 lost your cellphone, it's here in the front.

8 **(SINGING AND DRUMMING)**

9 **MR. LOUIS GEORGE FONTAINE:** (Speaking in
10 Indigenous language).

11
12 For the supper tonight, everyone is invited.
13 The bus is at 6:45. (Speaking in Indigenous language).

14 Tomorrow we will pass on the message in
15 greater detail. Thank you.

16 (Speaking in Indigenous language).

17 --- Upon recessing at 17:10.

LEGAL DICTA-TYPIST'S CERTIFICATE*

I, Nadia Rainville, 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.

Nadia Rainville

Nadia Rainville

January 22, 2018

* This certificate refers to the original transcript in French.