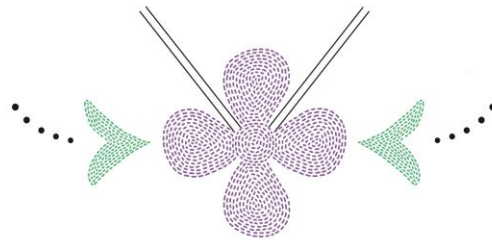


National Inquiry into
Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women and Girls



Enquête nationale
sur les femmes et les filles
autochtones disparues et assassinées

**National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women and Girls
Truth-Gathering Process - Part 1
Public Hearings
Teueikan Mani-Utenam Community Centre
Maliotenam/Uashat mak Mani-Utenam, Quebec**



Translation

Thursday, November 30, 2017

**Public Volume 35(a)
Anastasia Nollin, In Relation to Kimberly Nollin-
Napess;**

Sylvanne Bellefleur;

Yvette Bellefleur;

Jenny Régis

INTERNATIONAL REPORTING INC.

II

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 Anicinapek de Kitcisakik	Non-appearance
Directeur des poursuites criminelles et pénales	Menny Bernier (Legal Counsel)
Government of Canada	Marie-Eve Robillard, Anne McConville, Nancy Azzi (Legal Counsel)
Government du Quebec	Non-appearance
Innu Takuaiakan Uashat mak Mani-Utenam (ITUM)	Anne-Marie Gauthier Thomas Dougherty (Legal Counsel)
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 (Legal Counsel)
Regroupement Mamit Innuat	Anne-Marie Gauthier Thomas Dougherty (Legal Counsel)
Les Résidences Oblates du Québec	Non-appearance

IV

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
Public Hearings November 30 2017	
Opening Remarks	1
First Hearing	13
Witness: Anastasia Nollin In Relation to Kimberly Nolin-Napess heard by Commissioners Michèle Audette, Qajaq Robinson and Brian Eyolfson Commission Counsel: Fanny Wylde Grandmothers, Elders, Knowledge-keepers: Anne-Marie André, Pénélope Guay Clerk: Jean-Luc Dorion Registrar: Bryan Zandberg	
Second Hearing	
Witness: Sylvanne Bellefleur	67
Heard by Commissioners Michèle Audette, Qajaq Robinson and Brian Eyolfson Commission Counsel: Ken Rock Grandmothers, Elders, Knowledge-keepers: Anne-Marie André, Pénélope Guay Clerk: Jean-Luc Dorion Registrar: Bryan Zandberg	
Third Hearing	
Witness: Yvette Bellefleur	92
Heard by Commissioners Michèle Audette, Qajaq Robinson and Brian Eyolfson Commission Counsel: Fanny Wylde Grandmothers, Elders, Knowledge-keepers: Anne-Marie André, Pénélope Guay Clerk: Jean-Luc Dorion Registrar: Bryan Zandberg	

V

TABLE OF CONTENTS (Continued)

	PAGE
Fourth Hearing	
Witness: Jenny Régis	139

Heard by Commissioners Michèle Audette,
Qajaq Robinson and Brian Eyolfson

Commission Counsel: Fanny Wylde
Grandmothers, Elders, Knowledge-keepers: Anne-Marie André,
Pénélope Guay
Clerk: Jean-Luc Dorion
Registrar: Bryan Zandberg

VI
LIST OF EXHIBITS

NO.	DESCRIPTION	PAGE
	Witness: Anastasia Nollin	
	(No Exhibits)	
	Witness: Sylvanne Bellefleur	
	(No Exhibits)	
	Witness: Yvette Bellefleur	
	(No Exhibits)	
	Witness: Jenny Régis	
	(No Exhibits)	

Maliotenam, Quebec

1
2 --- Upon commencing on Thursday, November 30, 2017 at
3 09:07 a.m.

4
5 **MR. LOUIS GEORGE FONTAINE:** Kuei, kuei!

6 (Speaking in Innu). The National Inquiry into Missing and
7 Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (Speaking in Innu).
8 The President of Quebec Native Women, Ms. Viviane Michel.
9 (Speaking in Innu).

10 **MS. JEANETTE VOLLANT:** Good morning! Good

11 morning! How are you? I'm doing fine! I went to get
12 energy. Over the past several days there are always gifts
13 scattered along my path, and I thank the Creator. Today,
14 again we have families who'll be coming to share with us
15 their story and tell us what has happened in their life and
16 what they've been through. They're going to tell us that.

17 Now, I see the helpers. I'll call them
18 caregivers. They have purple vests. These are men and
19 women who'll be walking around here, and if you need any
20 help, they're there. There's also the Family House. If
21 you want to go there, to take a break, have a cup of
22 coffee, a cup of tea, there's always somebody there. And
23 also to say a prayer for the people who are in camera.
24 They'll be sharing their story in camera. And there's
25 always the sacred fire. There'll always be somebody there

1 to welcome you. You can also go there at any time.

2 **MR. LOUIS GEORGE FONTAINE:** (Speaking in
3 Innu) Cell phones, phones (Speaking in Innu) your cell
4 phones, if it's important, an emergency call, on vibrate,
5 for the cell phones. It's very important; it's at the
6 request of the people, out of respect.

7 **MS. JEANETTE VOLLANT:** There is also the
8 shuttle. You may have noticed there's always a bus that's
9 doing a shuttle between Maliotenam and Sept-Îles, going to
10 the Quality Inn and the Mingan hotel. And to come back to
11 Maliotenam, there's always a shuttle for the people from
12 Sept-Îles. It's really -- I'm happy that there is
13 transportation for the people from Uashat.

14 **MR. LOUIS GEORGE FONTAINE:** (Speaking in
15 Innu) the translation (Speaking in Innu) in English
16 (Speaking in Innu).

17 **MS. JEANETTE VOLLANT:** There's still French,
18 English and Innu translations. Headphones are at the back,
19 all you need to do is take them and connect them; you
20 connect your headphones to listen and understand what will
21 be said, because this can really get to you. And, as you
22 may have noticed there are bags of tears on some chairs,
23 the sacred tears. They're for everyone when you're
24 listening to someone sharing their story and it moves you -
25 - put your tears there. And then we'll collect the bags at

1 the end of the day -- the bags which are there, on the
2 chairs --. These will be burned over there at the sacred
3 fire.

4 **MR. LOUIS GEORGE FONTAINE:** (Speaking in
5 Innu) families, Commissioners, translators (Speaking in
6 Innu).

7 **MS. JEANETTE VOLLANT:** And, to my right
8 here, we have Counsel for the Commission, who are
9 representing the families coming to share their story.
10 Here it's the Commissioners. There are always two, three
11 Commissioners who will be listening and taking notes.
12 Depending on the people who did the sharing, there will be
13 some recommendations. We have the kokums (ph) who are
14 here, who are also here to give their support. Can we call
15 you registrar, you? Yes, okay, Aouinid (ph) is the person
16 who'll do the swearing in and taking the documents that the
17 families submit to the Commissioners. And over there, what
18 I call the long table, these are the institutional
19 representatives; this may be the Government of Quebec, the
20 Government of Canada. There are those who represent the
21 Oblats of Mary Immaculate, the priests, and also Indigenous
22 women, from what I can recall. At the very back, you could
23 say, coming in, there is a table. You can register there,
24 if you wish to tell your story. There is someone who'll
25 listen and transcribe your story. So this too is going to

1 be something very important, should you wish to do so. And
2 here, the basket here, that's for the people who want to
3 make an offering. People have started to give, probably --
4 I don't know when we'll be dropping that off? -- This
5 basket here, it's for the gifts that'll be going, kind of,
6 to the Commission who'll archive all of that. Who has
7 given this? What does it represent symbolically? It'll be
8 like the story of this National Inquiry on Missing and
9 Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

10 And the chair that is there, that's the
11 person. Where is this person? Today, we don't know. So
12 for the families who are still looking for their parent,
13 child, sister, it's this chair here. There's no one
14 sitting there. So we're asking the families who'll be
15 coming here if they wish to place an item there. It can be
16 a photo; it can be a song; it can be -- I don't know; it
17 depends. Also as part of the gifts, you can give or offer
18 a poem, a song, something that represents a gift which
19 means something. Everything we do is always symbolic.
20 It's already started; let's continue. That's all I have to
21 tell you for the moment.

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

24 **MS. JEANETTE VOLLANT:** Grégoire and his
25 wife.

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

3 **MS. JEANETTE VOLLANT:** Louisa and Alie.
4 Come, all three of you, together. Well, the four and the
5 six, with Pastor Denis Maisonneuve and his wife, Brigitte,
6 all three, to say a prayer in your own way.

7 **MR. GRÉGOIRE CANAPÉ:** Before we begin, I
8 want to tell you a story, a story, in fact, that everyone
9 has. It's the story of the human body. It's not a big
10 deal, but everyone has a body. And, if you look at the
11 body, how it's made, here, we have two eyes which are
12 pointed toward the front. We also have two ears which are
13 placed like this. And they, they don't budge. It's not
14 like the moose. We have two holes in our nostrils. Our
15 feet are made for moving forward. If I'm here and I move
16 backward toward the camera, at some point, he's going to
17 yell at me. So I'm going to use my ears. Our hands are
18 made for working forwards.

19 I have tried working from the back. At that
20 time, I used my intuition. I tried to visualize the thing
21 which was behind me with my touch, with my hands. I
22 managed, but when you work forward it's even better. We
23 also have a heart, but I think that have we've forgotten
24 something. There's an organ at the back. And what's that?
25 The ass!

1 From the ass, out comes the shit. These are
2 things that the body doesn't need. We eat something, the
3 body transforms them, and what we don't need, well, out it
4 goes.

5 For me, this is a great teaching. Why?
6 Because me, in life, I move forward. For a long time, I
7 was moving backward because I was afraid. At that time,
8 when I was moving backward, I was treading on my past, my
9 fear, my hatred, my anger, all the abuses that I had gone
10 through. Today, I'm moving forward, because this is how
11 the human body is made.

12 This is the message I have for all who'll be
13 coming here, all the workers, the Commissioners, everyone
14 here. You are important. You are important people. Well,
15 all the people who'll be right here, the spirits who are
16 here, they know, the spirits, that we need to move forward.
17 That's the message; that's the teaching. I received this
18 teaching a long time ago now. And the man, the Elder, who
19 gave it to me told me, "When it comes out, you'll smell
20 it." It's true. I'm going there once again because,
21 sometimes, when we experience things, when we start to stir
22 up our past, sometimes it comes out and it has a stink --
23 nauseating, you could say. For that, this is the message
24 that I, today, want to pass on to you: move forward, move
25 forward.

1 You know, I've taken part in ceremonies
2 where I had to step back. I stepped back for a whole day
3 in time. I was taught to get rid of my fears, my hatred,
4 my anger, and the abuse I had gone through. At the
5 beginning it was easy, because there was no one behind.
6 But over the course of the day, when you don't know who's
7 behind there until the middle of the afternoon, a great
8 master came to give me a hand to help me. He told me, "You
9 know, Grégoire, a human being is not made to walk alone."
10 He told me, "Look again at your body once more, how it's
11 made. You've only got two legs. Animals have four legs.
12 Those that fly have wings, and they have paws. They can
13 use them." But us, sometimes we say... someone who has
14 stopped drinking, let's say. We say that he slipped, that
15 he's had a slip, a relapse. He needs help. Then, there's
16 someone who comes to help him. Me, I have my wife, here,
17 who gives me a real helping hand. She doesn't say much,
18 but when she does, I'd better listen. Often, she puts me
19 in my place. Sometimes, all she needs to do is to give me
20 a look. It means "Grégoire, cut it out, will you." This
21 is the message that I wanted to convey, before, and I'm
22 going to start with a prayer which will be short, because
23 sometimes we say, we speak to the Creator and there we are,
24 and then damn it, we add all the animals, we add all the
25 plants, and we give thanks for everything. The Creator

1 knows what we want. He just likes to hear us say
2 "Miigwetch, thank you." How do you say in Innu? (Speaking
3 in Native language). (Speaking through the translator) So
4 let us help them, these people, who are going to meet us,
5 who are coming to see us. (End of translation)

6 We're going to sing a song for you. The
7 song says: you are heard everywhere, even in the spirit
8 world. Because all of those present -- yes, we have the
9 Commissioners who'll be listening, with their ears, but we
10 also have here the spirits who are listening, and the song,
11 this is what it means. (Praying and drumming by the Pastor
12 and other participants.)

13 After having sung this song, we can begin,
14 because we are heard, we are heard everywhere through the
15 magic of the web, and the spirits too can hear us. It's as
16 if we were opening a door. I thank you for your patience.
17 Miigwetch.

18 **FR. LOUIS MAISONNEUVE:** To continue the
19 prayer which has been started, I must say that I am happy
20 that we can be together. I was always a little uneasy
21 switching from one group to the next, to the next. Often,
22 this creates a bit of -- it's as if it's groups or like, if
23 we had different objectives.

24 And so, for my part, I truly wish that we
25 could get to the point where we are happy that we are here.

1 And so, let us continue, as I have often said, moving
2 forward, praying together.

3 Fittingly, this very morning, in coming
4 here, I went by the sacred fire. I went to the morning
5 prayer at the sacred fire, and when I looked at the fire
6 which was burning, I saw the logs going down and being
7 reduced, and the fire rising up, and the sparks. That's
8 when I thought: "How come the logs which go into the fire
9 suddenly turn red, and not without heat?" I thought that
10 it's because the fire has this ability to burn. It's this
11 power to transform and to give something that is stronger,
12 more interesting.

13 I thought that maybe this is also what we
14 should consider feeling these days. Surely, the logs must
15 be feeling pain by letting themselves be burned by the
16 fire. Surely, those who are testifying are experiencing
17 pain. They're going through powerful emotions, but as the
18 fire is able to give warmth, perhaps the truths will bring
19 warmth, bring healing, and bring reconciliation. And so,
20 me, I honestly think that it's beautiful to pray; it's
21 beautiful to see how nature speaks to us, how simple things
22 transform us.

23 And so, our prayer, this morning, since
24 we're a group together, is that we continue to follow this
25 healing path, this reconciliation path, this path which

1 makes us stronger and closer. This truly is my wish, and
2 that's my prayer. And so, as we are together, I will let
3 her speak, she will say a few words, and they will continue
4 as a group and as a whole, as a people.

5 **A LADY FROM THE GROUP:** (Speaking through the
6 translator) I've seen and felt a lot of things. This has
7 been very difficult, what has happened in the past. I
8 thank God for being here at this time. I thought, I'm
9 strong for having heard them. Thank you to the women who
10 came here. I know; it's very difficult. This will take
11 them far. There will be other ones. We will say a prayer
12 for them for it to go well.

13 **MR. DENIS MAISONNEUVE:** (Speaking through
14 the interpreter) It's a very beautiful day. My wife,
15 Brigitte. We are very happy to be among you. (End of
16 translation) I'll continue in French because my brain is
17 going to turn to mush. I'd dearly love to be able to speak
18 to you in Innu, an ancient language. The French language
19 has been around for about 1,000 years. The Innu language,
20 over 10,000 years. It's a wonderful language. Last night,
21 before going to bed, I leafed through my Bible. I put
22 together a few verses of the Word of God. There has been a
23 lot of suffering since Sunday night. Some people have
24 spoken and the suffering has returned. The hardships of
25 the past, the tears and probably, certainly again today,

1 tears will be shed. And I've put together a few verses
2 from the Psalms.

3 It is written:

4 I am worn out from my groaning. All night
5 long I flood my bed with weeping and drench
6 my couch with tears. Away from me, all you
7 who do evil, for the Lord has heard my
8 weeping.

9 In Psalm 39, it is written:

10 Hear my prayer, Lord, listen to my cry for
11 help. Do not be deaf to my weeping.

12 In Psalm 56:

13 Record my misery. List my tears on your
14 scroll. Are they not in your record?

15 And in the Prophet Isaiah, it is written:

16 This is what the Lord, the God of your father
17 David, says: I have heard your prayer and
18 seen your tears.

19 And, in his Letter to the Corinthians, the Apostle Paul
20 said:

21 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord
22 Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and
23 the God of all comfort, who comforts us in
24 all our troubles, so that we can comfort
25 those in any trouble with the comfort we

1 ourselves receive from God.

2 And may God comfort you, today, tomorrow, in your life, and
3 may others comfort those who need God's consolation. We
4 shall sing a short song, "Notawinan."

5 **MS. BRIGITTE LEVASSEUR-MAISONNEUVE:** I
6 brought the book just in case I couldn't remember the
7 words. Sometimes, in front of people it's not the same.
8 (Singing in Native language)

9 **MS. JEANETTE VOLLANT:** We've started nice
10 and easy. Now, I need to bring forward Counsel Fanny, with
11 -- a lady from Mingan who's coming to share her truth.

12 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** So, I would
13 like to also greet my colleagues, Commissioners Qajaq and
14 Brian. So proud that you're here and where I grew up. I
15 also want to say thank you to our Grandmothers who are
16 here, who will help us walk, and pick ourselves up when we
17 fall, and give us the love we need. I also want to say
18 thank you to the women who are, for me, the reason why we
19 get up in the morning. Our women, who have left their
20 communities, their comfort. Laurie and Mélanie, a Mohawk
21 Mi'kmaq woman, an Anishinaabe woman, who have unfairly lost
22 someone, their child or their sister. Today, these women
23 want to ensure that the Inquiry will do things the right
24 way.

25 And so, on each day we honour. And

1 sometimes it's difficult to hear the truth. Sometimes,
2 we're the other side of the curtain, and we receive this
3 truth or message. And yesterday, one of the beautiful
4 lessons learned was to accept what people tell us and to
5 welcome it. And I hope that, if I'm able to accept and
6 welcome, that society too will be able to accept and
7 welcome, and that our Indigenous governments, the
8 Governments of Canada and of Quebec will be able to accept
9 and welcome this truth.

10 So today, it's a beautiful day, an important
11 but also difficult day for our families, our survivors. So
12 we need to support them, we need to welcome them, and thank
13 them for being here.

14

15 **First Hearing**

16 **Witness: Anastasia Nollin**

17 **In Relation to: Kimberly Nollin-Napess**

18 **Heard by Commissioners Michèle Audette, Qajaq Robinson and**

19 **Brian Eyolfson**

20 **Commission Counsel: Fanny Wylde**

21 **Grandmothers, Elders, Knowledge-keepers: Anne-Marie André,**

22 **Pénélope Guay**

23 **Clerk: Jean-Luc Dorion**

24 **Registrar: Bryan Zandberg**

25 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** Good morning, dear

1 commissioners! I am pleased to introduce to you our first
2 witness today. I have here next to me Ms. Anastasia Nollin
3 who will testify about her own life as a survivor of
4 various forms of violence and she will be also sharing the
5 life of her daughter, Kimberly Nollin-Napess, who had
6 suddenly disappeared and was found, six weeks later, near
7 the Saint-Charles River in Quebec City, in 2011. Before
8 letting Ms. Nollin speak, I would ask the registrar to
9 swear in the witness please. She wishes to be sworn on the
10 Bible.

11 **MR. BRYAN ZANDBERG:** Good morning.

12 **MS. ANASTASIA NOLLIN:** Good morning.

13 **MR. BRYAN ZANDBERG:** Do you swear to tell
14 the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so
15 help you God?

16 **MS. ANASTASIA NOLLIN:** I swear to tell the
17 truth, nothing but the truth.

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

19 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** So, good morning,
20 Ms. Nollin. Before starting, I'd like you to introduce
21 yourself to the Commissioners by giving your name and also
22 where you are originally from.

23 **MS. ANASTASIA NOLLIN:** First, let me
24 introduce myself. My name, my real name since childhood,
25 is Nata, which starts with the first letters of Natashquan,

1 because I'm from Natashquan. My family name is Nuna. Nuna
2 means Nunavut, because my father came from Labrador, from
3 the tundra. So, that's the reason I have this name, but it
4 was francized by the missionaries, so my given name is now
5 Anastasia Nollin.

6 I've been living in Mingan since my
7 childhood. After my father passed away, my mother was
8 forced to stay in Mingan because we were supposed to return
9 to Natashquan, but we were never able to. In those days,
10 there weren't any means, logistics, for getting around, for
11 going back to our community.

12 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** So, thank you Ms. Nollin
13 for this introduction. Can you talk to me about your
14 childhood, the environment in which you grew up?

15 **MS. ANASTASIA NOLLIN:** The earliest memory I
16 have of my childhood is during -- I was 4-5 years old. I
17 remember, we were still living in tents. My mother was a
18 widow. I had never known my father. He died when I was
19 barely two-and-a-half years old. So it was my mother who
20 raised us, my two brothers and me. I had other sisters who
21 were married, like Agathe Nuna. She was born in Labrador.
22 She was married to Damien Mistukishuk (ph). She is here;
23 she was grandmother to Jean-Charles Pietacho (ph), our
24 current Chief. I also had my sister Marie-Élizabeth
25 Nollin, also, who was born around the Natashquan area as

1 well, in the woods, somewhere. I don't know exactly where.
2 And then, Hélène Nuna, who's well known. The lady is
3 always traveling. Hélène Nuna-Nollin. Currently, she is
4 in Montreal, unless she's on a plane. But that's it.

5 My childhood, I remember it as the most
6 beautiful time of my life. I was a very pampered child and
7 very much loved. I was surrounded by older people. I had
8 my mother. My mother was a person, a caregiver who was
9 looking after two people, two elders in their eighties.
10 And so she was the one who was taking care of them. And
11 me, I had responsibility to these two people, such as, for
12 example, to bring them outside when they needed to go and
13 do their business; there was a little tree, especially for
14 them. Every night, I had to get up, get dressed, put on my
15 small moccasins and help the elderly person go outside and
16 take them to do their business and so forth. I was taught
17 responsibility very young. I've always liked the way I was
18 raised. And, at least this has helped me to be a very
19 independent and responsible person throughout my life.

20 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** Did you go? I'm sorry,
21 did you go to the residential school, during your
22 childhood?

23 **MS. ANASTASIA NOLLIN:** Yes. I went to
24 residential school, but before going to residential school
25 I went to a sanatorium. They used to call them

1 sanatoriums. These were centres providing care for people
2 with tuberculosis.

3 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** Where was that?

4 **MS. ANASTASIA NOLLIN:** It was in Gaspé. It
5 was called the Gaspé Sanatorium. I had -- I had just
6 turned 8 years old when I was sent there. We took a boat
7 to get to Sept-Îles. After that, we took a plane from
8 Sept-Îles for us to get to Gaspé. I spent a year or more
9 there. There were Innus from the whole region there.
10 There were some from La Romaine; there were some from
11 Natashquan, Mingan and Sept-Îles. Indeed, I met Johanne
12 Pinet in Gaspé. We had lots of fun together. We didn't
13 look like sick children, anyhow. But I always thought that
14 we were there only to be guinea pigs, that we were studied.
15 I didn't feel sick at all. I was lively, I moved around, I
16 never stopped. I'm sure that they were using us as guinea
17 pigs. I don't know, to test some drugs and so forth. In
18 fact, there are some people who told us that they were in
19 the sanatorium -- some adults -- who said that "I've been
20 here more than a year. I'm never given any medication.
21 I'm not being cured. I'm not being treated. What I am I
22 doing here?" And then, an Indian from Betsiamites said to
23 him: "Come, we're going to go see the doctors, and I'm
24 going to tell him what you just told me." And so, he
25 translated. Well, they sent the Indian from Natashquan

1 back home, to his community. He was probably right.
2 That's what I thought, anyhow. Anyhow, I spent more than
3 13 months in a sanatorium.

4 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** Were you, during your
5 stay, subjected to any violence, abuse, during your stay in
6 that sanatorium there?

7 **MS. ANASTASIA NOLLIN:** Could you repeat,
8 please?

9 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** During your stay in the
10 sanatorium, did you suffer any violence or abuse?

11 **MS. ANASTASIA NOLLIN:** No.

12 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** Were you subjected to any
13 before going to the sanatorium?

14 **MS. ANASTASIA NOLLIN:** Yes. I experienced
15 something quite dramatic; I was barely seven-and-a-half
16 years old, it was some five months before I left for the
17 sanatorium. I experienced something really painful, very
18 difficult.

19 My mother, given that she was a widow, she
20 had to hunt, and play the role of mother and father at the
21 same time for us. My brothers had left for the residential
22 school. I was left all alone with her and our two elders.
23 And, she said to me, leaving in the morning -- she was
24 going to get wood for heating and hunt at the same time --
25 she told me, "Nata, if you're ever very hungry, and I don't

1 come back in time for lunch, go to such and such place to
2 eat." I said "Okay."

3 And so, I stayed with the two elders. I did
4 a few chores. I brought in the wood which I had to clean
5 off the snow, bring it in, and so forth, and take care of
6 the two elders. It was then, around lunchtime, that I was
7 starting to get peckish, and so I went to the place where I
8 had been told to go for lunch. And so then I went into the
9 tent -- they were all tents; there were no houses. I went
10 inside the tent, and there was a baby in the hammock. When
11 I saw him, I couldn't resist. The baby was smiling, and I
12 rocked him a bit.

13 That's when the Dad who was there -- the Mom
14 was away -- I was very focused on the baby when the guy
15 grabbed me from behind and squeezed me very hard, and I
16 could feel his physical strength. I felt like I was caught
17 in a vise. Then, he groped me and then some -- he molested
18 me. I was barely seven and a half. And so when, when I
19 was able to free myself, I ran home.

20 In those days, we didn't have any roads. It
21 was just no wider than -- in any case, five inches, small
22 tracks in the snow. I ran, as fast as I could. I fell
23 twice. I lost one of my mittens along the way. I went
24 back home. I got home. I was like hypnotized. I was like
25 -- I couldn't find the words. I didn't even want to talk

1 to the two elders who were there. Yet, they were very
2 loving people. I shut myself in, by myself. I stayed
3 sitting there for maybe an hour or two, thinking about --
4 what had just happened. It was horrible.

5 I couldn't wait for my mother to come back,
6 but at the same time, no. I thought, if I say something to
7 my mother, what will happen? If I let her know, if she's
8 going to confront the guy, no, I was too scared for my
9 mother. My mother was the most precious thing I had in the
10 world. I said to myself, "Never, I'd never let anyone
11 touch my mother." So I kept it, I buried my secret deep
12 inside me. I've kept it since that time.

13 And so, after that, I became fearful. I was
14 afraid of everything. Behind the -- anyway, something
15 behind a tree or behind -- later, when I was in residential
16 school, I was afraid of behind the doors, underneath beds.
17 I was scared of everything. I was seriously traumatised.
18 That's how I left -- despite this, when I saw that there
19 were children over there, also at the residential school --
20 not at the residential school, at the sanatorium -- at
21 least this helped me through, seeing that the others were
22 playing, having fun. I joined in and then this made me
23 forget a little what had happened. But when I was all
24 alone, that's when all my fears would return.

25 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** Did it happen many times

1 that this man assaulted you?

2 **MS. ANASTASIA NOLLIN:** It happened
3 afterwards. Because five, six months after that I left for
4 the sanatorium. I stayed there for a year and half.
5 Afterwards, he started to want, precisely, to grope me, but
6 this time he couldn't because I always slept with my
7 mother. It was during the night that he would try, when I
8 was sleeping. And so, I would stick close to my mother's
9 side. And then, my mother didn't like that and sometimes
10 would push me away because she was too hot when I would
11 stick too close to her. And then at times I would wrap
12 myself in blankets, and I would roll the blankets around me
13 to protect myself.

14 Then, much later, two years later, one of my
15 brothers noticed that someone was coming close to my bed,
16 because tents only had one room, one single room. So my
17 brother would sleep with my other brother on the other side
18 and me, I'd sleep with my mother. And then at a certain
19 point, I felt someone was trying to lift the blankets from
20 around my legs. I moved up a little closer to my mother,
21 to shake her, to wake her up. But she didn't wake up --
22 she was sound asleep -- It's then that I heard my brother,
23 the eldest, say "What're you looking for?" He said to the
24 man "What're you looking for there?" The man answered,
25 "I'm looking for a lighter." My brother told him, "There's

1 no lighter here; this is the bed, the foot of my mother's
2 and sister's bed. There's no lighter there." So then the
3 man went away and me, I pressed myself even closer to my
4 mother.

5 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** Was this man part of your
6 family? Who was this person?

7 **MS. ANASTASIA NOLLIN:** Yes, he was part of
8 my family. But it wasn't one of my brothers. It wasn't
9 one of my brothers. That's all I can answer you.

10 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** Perfect.

11 **MS. ANASTASIA NOLLIN:** This answered your
12 question?

13 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** Yes, this answered my
14 question. Thank you. So, later, can you talk to me about
15 -- I understand that you got married very young, Anastasia?

16 **MS. ANASTASIA NOLLIN:** Yes. Indeed, yes. I
17 got married young. I had been promised to someone, to be
18 married to somebody. But I -- after what I had been
19 through, I've always said to myself, "I want to be a
20 spinster; I'll never get married. I don't want to get
21 married." I was seeing my sisters with their children and
22 I'd think, "No. Me, I don't want this. I want to stay
23 single like --" I was seeing friends of my mother's who
24 had never been married and who had a good life, who were
25 happy. I'd say to myself, "Me too, I want this life."

1 Her best friend was Thérèse Ispatao (ph), a
2 sweet little lady, always happy, cheerful, a big smile. As
3 soon as you looked at her face, a big grin from ear to ear.
4 Ah, it was --- those are fond memories that I've kept and
5 which have helped me through life.

6 So, that's it. I was married off very
7 young. I didn't love the guy I married. But I said to
8 myself, "Given that we were still living in a remote,
9 isolated region, I asked myself: Why are they doing this?
10 Why are they marrying us off?" The answer that I came up
11 with, I said to myself, "Surely it must be for our safety.
12 It's for our survival." They'd find us a guy who we're
13 going to live with, who we're going to survive with, so
14 that he could hunt for us, and we could have food to eat,
15 and so forth. That was the answer, the most practical one,
16 at any rate, that I could find.

17 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** And, in your relationship,
18 can you talk about how it went? Was it a healthy
19 relationship?

20 **MS. ANASTASIA NOLLIN:** At the beginning yes.
21 It was a healthy relationship, because most of the time, we
22 were in the outdoors. Plus the environment was helping us
23 a lot to live in a healthy way. And there wasn't any
24 fighting between us, never any arguments, things like that.
25 There wasn't any jealousy there. But when we moved into

1 the community, that's when it started. He didn't like it
2 when men would talk to me, when they would say "hello," and
3 ask me how I was doing, things like that. He was a very
4 jealous and possessive man. So me, I tried to adapt to
5 this, from the start, trying to, yeah, make it so that this
6 wouldn't become too unbearable for me. That's how this, at
7 one point -- and I also had children very young as well.
8 So when I saw that he was starting to become jealous,
9 aggressive and violent toward me, that's when I said -- I
10 wondered, "What would keep him busy?" I myself love to do
11 crafts to keep busy. To keep busy, plus this makes me
12 forget that I have problems. I don't have the time to
13 think about them, I'm too focused on my creativity, on what
14 I'm doing. Why don't I find him something to keep him
15 busy? That's when I had -- an idea came to me. I said to
16 myself, "I've seen him play the accordion at the
17 residential school, at the Christmas party." That night, I
18 asked him the question. I said, "Joe, wouldn't you like to
19 have a musical instrument? I've seen you play the
20 accordion. If you like I could get it for you, the
21 accordion. You could play with it. It would help to pass
22 the time, if you'd like that. Or a guitar?" I said to
23 him, "Why don't you try it?" Well, he told me, "I'll go
24 see Uncle Joachim." Now, Joachim was left-handed. I said,
25 "Switch the chords around. You can put them back after.

1 And then, if you like that, I'll buy you a guitar." That's
2 what I did.

3 Thanks to my brilliant idea, if I may say so
4 -- I'm sorry, sometimes my life wasn't funny then, and --
5 so I was able then to have peace and quiet. After that, he
6 was really focused on the music. He loved to play the
7 guitar. He played all the instruments. It came naturally
8 to him. He had a natural talent for it. He could take a
9 violin, and he was able to play it all by himself. No
10 matter the instrument. Ah! For that, I still pat myself on
11 the back. Still today, I sometimes say to myself, "Well
12 done, Nata! You really had a brilliant idea!"

13 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** So, I understand,
14 Ms. Nollin, that after that purchase, the husband stopped
15 being violent toward you?

16 **MS. ANASTASIA NOLLIN:** Yes. It -- me -- in
17 any case, I was spared some blows and lots of other things.

18 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** How old were you when you
19 got married? I forgot to ask.

20 **MS. ANASTASIA NOLLIN:** Ah! I'm a bit
21 embarrassed about this. No, I was barely 16 years old, but
22 that was the age in those days. In the 1960s, that was the
23 age young people were married off. There were some even at
24 15 years old, even at 14 years old. I met someone who was
25 14. That was very young. You're still a kid.

1 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** And I understand in
2 preparation for your testimony this morning, that the
3 husband stopped being violent toward you. Did he, at any
4 point start again being violent toward you?

5 **MS. ANASTASIA NOLLIN:** Later on. Later on,
6 when he started, you know, with the music and then the
7 bars. When you start singing in a bar, there's alcohol
8 there and so he started to drink a bit. His friends
9 invited him. He drank. Given that we already had two
10 kids, one Sunday afternoon, it was during the holiday
11 season, he says to me: "I'm taking you to your mother's,
12 if you want to go see your mother. I'll bring the little
13 one and then, at the end of the afternoon, send your little
14 nephew to come and get me and I'll come to pick up the
15 little one and then we'll come back home."

16 Because at that time I wasn't living in my
17 mother's house. We didn't have a home yet. We were living
18 with my in-laws. So it's at the end of the afternoon when
19 I send my little nephew, Zachary, the Zachary that everyone
20 knows. He was so little. He was beautiful. I said to
21 him: "Go and get my husband, because he told me to send
22 you." Then Zachary comes back and says: "Mister can't come,
23 because I think that he drank beer." "Oh!" I said. "Never
24 mind then." It was winter then. You know, the roads
25 weren't open. It wasn't easy getting around, pregnant with

Hearing- Public
Anastasia Nollin
(Kimberly Nollin-Napess)

27

1 my big belly. I went to bring the little one's clothes
2 first, and then, after that, I went back to get -- that's
3 when he saw me. He stopped me on my way, in the middle of
4 the -- you can't really call that a street, it was just a
5 small path --. He stopped me and said to me, he said to
6 me: "What's going on here? Come here!" He made a sign
7 for me to get in the house where he was with his friends.
8 So that's when I said, "I don't want to bother you now.
9 Party with your friends. You'll come back when you'll
10 finish partying. I'll take care of the little one." And
11 that was that, and then he followed me. And one of his
12 friends said to him: "She's jealous, that's why." I told
13 him: "Tough too bad, Mister, I'm not jealous." "Tough too
14 bad," I said, "Just leave me alone, will you!" I went out.
15 He followed me and then, when I saw that he was following
16 me, I said, "Now what?" I turned. That's when, when I
17 turned, he pushed me like this against my collarbone here,
18 my shoulders. I almost fell on my back. And then, my
19 first reaction was to slug him good. My brothers, when I
20 was young, had taught me how to defend myself. They told
21 me: "One day you're going to need it." So this came in
22 handy. I gave him a good punch. He was bleeding. I
23 grabbed a handful of snow, of snow and then rolled it into
24 a ball. I told him: "Put this on your nose." Then I turn
25 my back and I left. And then he follows me. He didn't go

1 back to see his friends. He stopped, after. I'd busted
2 his nose. That's too bad, but that's it.

3 MS. FANNY WILD: How many years did you live
4 with your husband? How many years of living together?

5 MS. ANASTASIA NOLLIN: Well, I put up with
6 him for 34 years.

7 MS. FANNY WILDE: After that, I understand
8 that you left your husband?

9 MS. ANASTASIA NOLLIN: Yes. I left him
10 because I couldn't take it anymore. I couldn't do it. I
11 too have my limits.

12 MS. FANNY WILDE: And what brought on this
13 decision that it was over?

14 MS. ANASTASIA NOLLIN: Brought on this?

15 MS. FANNY WILDE: What made you to decide to
16 call it quits with this relationship? What pushed you to
17 make this decision for yourself? Was it an event that made
18 you do this? Some support, what brought on your decision?

19 MS. ANASTASIA NOLLIN: Of leaving him?

20 MS. FANNY WILDE: Yes.

21 MS. ANASTASIA NOLLIN: It's that -- before,
22 the other times, when there were some fights at home, I
23 stayed for the love of my kids. I didn't want to deprive
24 my children of their father's presence, even if he wasn't a
25 very loving man. Even if he wasn't terribly involved,

1 there all the time. So it was more me who was playing the
2 two roles. I practically played the roles of dad and mom,
3 as my mother had done. And so that's why I didn't want to
4 deprive my children of their father, of their father's
5 presence. That's why I put up with him for 34 years. And
6 once I had raised my children, I then thought, "I've raised
7 my kids. I have grandchildren. I'm independent enough to
8 be able to manage all on my own."

9 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** After that, your daughter,
10 Kimberly came into your life. Can you share with us her
11 arrival into your life?

12 **MS. ANASTASIA NOLLIN:** Well, right. As I
13 told you, I've raised my children. I raised my
14 granddaughter. I raised her, because she too, she had a --
15 the first granddaughter that I raised, she has had some
16 problems because of her stepfather. It wasn't her
17 biological father, but her stepfather. And so later on, I
18 found out that she had indeed been abused by her
19 stepfather. That's why I kept her. It was to shield her
20 from that. I kept her and then it's this girl, this
21 granddaughter who I kept, who later had a baby. So this
22 was my great-granddaughter. It was the first time that I
23 was great-granddaughter. So this was a big thing for me,
24 because my mother often used to say to me: "You love your
25 child. You'll love your first grandchild. And your great-

1 grandchild even more." So, Kimberly, when I found out that
2 her mother was pregnant, already in the womb of her mother,
3 I already loved this child. I already wanted her.

4 That's how, she was barely two years old and
5 I could see there wasn't any parental safety with her
6 mother, that she wasn't getting all the care she was
7 supposed to. That's when I decided. In the middle of the
8 night, she calls me at 1:30 in the morning, her mother, to
9 say to me: "Grandma." Right away I knew from her voice,
10 that she was heavily under the influence. And then I said
11 to her: "And the little one?" It was the first thing I
12 asked, about the little one. She said to me: "She's here.
13 -- 'She's not sleeping, yet?' -- No, she's not asleep, Ma.
14 She's playing with the other child."

15 But me, I could sense from her voice, and I
16 could hear other voices, there had been some drinking. I
17 get up, I get dressed, I warm up the car and I leave for
18 Sept-Îles. A two hour-drive. I'm going to see my
19 granddaughter, where she is. And indeed, I got to that
20 house at four o'clock in the morning. It was a nightmare,
21 it was reeking of pot. It was making me dizzy that's how
22 much there was. I said, my granddaughter can't possibly be
23 living in this house with all this smell here. And I said,
24 well, she's got to be high. My God! And she was still
25 walking around in her little diaper, and another baby was

1 walking around too. It was crazy! Beer bottles scattered
2 everywhere. And then I said to my granddaughter, I said,
3 "What kind of a life is this? You're in living here, and
4 the little one, in here, with --" I was livid. And she
5 said to me: "Ma, we sleep here. Don't worry, she'll be
6 safe, but I won't give her to you. If you take her away,
7 I'm going to call the police, and I'll report you. But me,
8 I wasn't happy. Lord! I had wanted to take that child and
9 leave with her. So, I went back home in Havre Saint-Pierre
10 where I was living.

11 Starting from that moment on, bit by bit, I
12 said to myself, one day I'll have her under my protection,
13 so I adopted her. She was barely two-and-a-half years old
14 when I adopted her. Because of her mother, I had some
15 problems when I got her. It was a traditional adoption.
16 Later on, after she was entrusted to me, I always had
17 problems at school, at hospitals. "Oh! You're not the
18 biological mother; you're not her mother, sign the papers.
19 The mother needs to sign." That sort of stuff. I figured
20 that I wouldn't have the same problem: I'll adopt her.
21 That's what I did. I adopted Kimberly. And so that's it,
22 I brought her up.

23 I was living in Havre Saint-Pierre and had
24 become a single parent. And I had the means to raise her
25 and raise her well, to give her a pretty good upbringing,

1 and things were going well. She was into skating. She was
2 into figure skating. She was into snowboarding. She was
3 very talented, that child. And then, at one point her
4 mother took her away from me. She had won in court because
5 she had perjured herself saying that I had beaten her
6 daughter. I've never laid a finger on that child. That
7 child, for me, she's precious to me. I would have never
8 beaten her; I would have never laid a finger on her. Now,
9 this child is 22 years old. And she's the one I'm talking
10 to you about...

11 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** So, do I understand that
12 the court reclaimed, gave back custody of the child to the
13 biological mother? Did you get Kimberly back later?

14 **MS. ANASTASIA NOLLIN:** Yes. But barely.
15 When the mother reclaimed her daughter through the courts,
16 she was taken away from me. That hurt me so much y'know,
17 that she was taken away from me. The social worker -- I
18 remember her face; I won't soon forget her -- plus, she had
19 a name that spoke volumes -- "Go forward," something like
20 that -- Ah! I said to myself, that day, I should have
21 slugged her one, just like I did to my husband.

22 I lost it, the custody. But two months
23 later, at her mother's house she had been beaten by her
24 mother. A woman calls me one night just before I'm about
25 to go to bed to tell me: "Kimberly was just beaten up by

1 her mother." And I then said, "I don't have custody
2 anymore; there's nothing I can do." She says, "I'll bring
3 her to you just the same." She brought her to me, and then
4 I opened, opened the door; I took my daughter in, and then
5 I said, "Sleep over here for the time being; in any case,
6 you don't have the right to come back here. The court has
7 decided that it's your mother who keeps you. There's
8 nothing I can do for you, love, but for tonight, sleep over
9 here because now, you shouldn't be alone. You need to be
10 surrounded by love. Come and sleep with me." That's how
11 it was. And so, she didn't want to go back with mother
12 anymore.

13 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** Later on, when Kimberly
14 had returned, I understand that you both moved to Quebec
15 City?

16 **MS. ANASTASIA NOLLIN:** When she returned, I
17 was getting ready, packing to move to Quebec City, just me.
18 Because I wanted to leave Mingan. Because I wanted a
19 change, to take my mind off things. I wanted other
20 experiences. That's why I'd decided to leave, even before
21 she came back home. And so then, when I saw that she
22 couldn't take it anymore then, that she didn't want to go
23 back. But, I had noticed that she had changed so much.
24 She wasn't the same anymore. My daughter was not the same
25 person at all. She had changed so much. Ah! She had

1 practically become a delinquent, I would say.

2 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** I'd like to clarify a few
3 things for the sake of a greater understanding for the
4 Commissioners. When you said that you had adopted your
5 daughter, did you go before the court?

6 **MS. ANASTASIA NOLLIN:** Yes, I went before
7 the court. Yes.

8 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** Okay. Later on, when the
9 custody was reclaimed by the biological mother, for how
10 long did the mother have custody of Kimberly?

11 **MS. ANASTASIA NOLLIN:** It was barely two,
12 three months, at most.

13 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** And, when Kimberly
14 returned to you, did you go back to court to get an order
15 granting you custody?

16 **MS. ANASTASIA NOLLIN:** But because Kimberly
17 herself had indicated that she was no longer happy at her
18 mother's house, that she wanted to come back with me. She
19 said, "I want to be back with my adoptive mother. It's
20 with her that I was happy, that I had everything I had at
21 my mother's. Well, when she was at her mother's place, of
22 course, she liked it at first. Aye! It was complete
23 freedom. No more discipline. No supervision either. Aye!
24 Life is good for her there; it was -- Aye! For a teenager
25 there, who had a strict upbringing by her grandmother. It

1 was a big change! And it was, I dunno, like winning a
2 small lottery, being allowed complete freedom, do whatever
3 you wanted.

4 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** And, how was your life in
5 Quebec City? What happened, the events surrounding
6 Kimberly's disappearance?

7 **MS. ANASTASIA NOLLIN:** In Quebec City, she
8 went to school -- near the Huron Village. It was going
9 well. Of course, like all teenagers, given that she'd now
10 tasted what it was like not to have discipline plus the
11 lack of supervision, it wasn't easy for me to go back to
12 the way I had brought her up. She probably felt okay with
13 this, but on the other hand, she also needed to follow my
14 orders and everything that I, I expected for her
15 well-being. She was doing fine. Her friends. Also, I
16 kept a close eye on everything. Every phone call she'd get
17 from a friend, I'd ask "Who are you? Let me have your
18 name." And I would take their information, and I'd note it
19 all down, in my bag here, here. I still have all her
20 friends' names, when I was in Quebec City, during that
21 time. I've got them all here. There are two pages. All
22 the names, phone numbers, addresses. I was careful. I was
23 watching her closely.

24 But, one afternoon, it was on August 19, she
25 tells me at lunchtime: "Ma, I've been invited to go

1 swimming in a backyard pool. My friends are inviting me.
2 Can I go?" "Yes," I said, "You're coming back here; you're
3 not sleeping there?" She said to me: "No. I'll be home."
4 Then I said, "I don't have any bus fare. Do you want me to
5 drive you?" She said to me: "Yes." "No," she said to me.
6 "No," she says. She says: "You know what? Give me the tick
7 -- I saw a bus ticket lying around --." For sure she must
8 have gone into my bag, no doubt --,but anyhow, she'd seen a
9 bus ticket. I give it to her, and then I give her two
10 bucks and fifty cents for the ride back, and then she left.
11 She told me: "I'll be back at eight."

12 And after that I spent the whole afternoon,
13 I was sewing, and then, at eight o'clock, I see the bus
14 passing by, passing by just by my living room window, and
15 then I see it go by, and I look out for my daughter, to see
16 if she's coming. No. No Kimberly. Maybe I'll wait, I
17 thought, for the next bus maybe. I wait and then the
18 second one passes. I'm watching; I wait a good five
19 minutes. Usually, she would have been home. No Kimberly.
20 I pick up the phone. I call the house where she went. And
21 the family tells me: "They left already, the group that
22 came for the swim; they're gone already."

23 So I call her boyfriend, the one she hung
24 out with the most. I call their home, no answer. A second
25 call, still no answer. The third call, someone answers.

1 The man was not in a good mood. So he says to me: "Ah! My
2 son is not home. He was supposed to have been back by
3 eight. He's not back yet." In any event, he wasn't in a
4 good mood, anyhow. I said, "Me too, I'm looking for my
5 daughter. It just so happens that she was with your son."
6 It's at that point that he says to me: "I'm going to call
7 all his friends." Then I said to him: "I'm going to do the
8 same thing on my end. I'm calling all the friends, and at
9 the same time, I'm still keeping an eye out for the bus,
10 from time to time." And then I kept waiting for the call.

11 After, around nine-thirty, when I saw that
12 she hadn't come back, I grab my jacket and head out for the
13 terminus of the line, the terminus where she was supposed
14 to make a transfer to get home. Then I go and I park at
15 the terminus. There I wait. I watch people getting off
16 and others getting on the bus. I don't see her. I was
17 starting to get worried.

18 A police car passes by; they come to see me
19 and say to me: "What are you doing here, lady?" -- "I'm
20 waiting for my daughter. She was supposed to transfer here
21 at this terminus. I'm waiting for her and I'm worried.
22 She's two hours late." He said to me: "Two hours late,
23 lady? That's nothing." I said, "But me, I'm worried." She
24 was a teenager, I said. "I'm worried, it's normal that I
25 should worry. I'm a mother." And they kept on -- they

1 said to me: "Show some ID -- everything, c'mon -- you've
2 got no business hanging around here, loitering here. You
3 should go back home." I said, "What is your problem?"
4 Then I hand them my ID. And I tell them: "I'll wait for
5 the other bus and after that I'll go home."

6 They ended up writing me a ticket for my
7 waiting there. I said to him "Because I'm an Innu? Is
8 that why you're doing this?" I -- you know, I never hold
9 my tongue. Maybe I might have said one thing too many. He
10 wrote me a ticket. It cost me dearly!

11 Anyhow, that was that and then I went home.
12 I didn't sleep the whole night. I called a friend who at
13 least reassured me, and then she told me to "Try to get
14 some sleep, and then tomorrow, you'll go to the police
15 station." I said, "I've already spoken with the policemen
16 and they've told me 'Lady, you need to wait 48 hours --'
17 That's what they told me. -- 'Before reporting the
18 disappearance of your daughter.' -- That's what they told
19 me." So I waited, which is what they had told me to do. I
20 waited, but the same time, I kept on making my phone calls,
21 calling.

22 And later on, I went driving around in my
23 car. I went by the places where she would go, where I'd
24 sometimes drop her. And, I saw nothing, I found nothing,
25 and I went back home. I had a little something to eat,

1 just enough to say that I'd eaten. Later on, one of my
2 friends, she's a good friend of mine who's 85 years old,
3 suggested that I do this thing. A very good friend. For
4 the record, my best friends are not Indigenous. They're
5 non-Indigenous. Among the Innus, I have one, Élisabeth
6 Bellefleur. Actually, she, a few days after the -- when I
7 started to file a missing report for my daughter, I brought
8 a photo; I brought all the information that I needed to
9 provide. I went to the police station, and I spent many
10 hours, anyhow, informing them. And after that, I'd call
11 them, every day. I think they must have thought I was a
12 pest, calling them so often.

13 I was worried. As for me, I was digging
14 around. I kept on calling her friends. Nobody had seen
15 her. The girls she used to hang around with, the guys she
16 hung around with the most and I was never able to get -- I
17 was all on my own, stuck in this situation, and so then I
18 began calling the Missing Children organization. I
19 thought: "Maybe I should -- they, maybe they could help
20 me," plus I had the feeling that the police were -- they
21 weren't helping me. They weren't always very nice to me
22 when I'd go to find out if they had anything new in my
23 daughter's case.

24 It's then when they, that lady there. She
25 was very nice to me. She gave me a lot of support, moral

1 support. And some advice too. We started -- I started
2 sending out files. I had her photo released so that -- on
3 TV, that it'd be shown on TVA. So I was taking all the
4 steps all on my own. I was really on my own. The only
5 person who really helped me was an old friend, Lisane
6 Coupal, and Élisabeth Bellefleur de Neufchâtel.

7 She, one afternoon, we went together, in any
8 case, to the river, the river by the Huron Village. We
9 went down along the Huron Village river. We went all along
10 the riverbank on one side. We checked the water,
11 everywhere. The small paths, we did those, just in case
12 we'd find a piece of her clothes, a piece of her jewellery,
13 a piece of something she had her bag. Élisabeth and me, we
14 did this the whole afternoon. We had parked near a road,
15 an avenue; it's Parent. Parent Street, anyhow. And then
16 that's it. We searched.

17 A few times, I went back there. I'd walk
18 around. I'd look for her. I thought: "For sure she's --
19 something must have happened to her." But deep in my heart
20 I knew that she was, that she was alive. I'd tell myself:
21 "I'd sense it if she were gone, if she were dead, I'm
22 sure." Because when I lost my mother I'd had a dream which
23 had revealed to me that my mother was about to die. The
24 same thing when I lost my five-year-old grandson, I had a
25 dream. I had dreamt of a fetus, of a baby as he was about

1 to be born. It was his departure. He had left again for
2 another life. That's the way I found out about my five-
3 year-old grandson's death. So that's why, I have -- deep
4 down, I knew that she was alive.

5 I continued looking. One evening I get a
6 call, also, from -- but I mustn't forget the Missing
7 Children lady. She was calling practically every morning
8 to comfort me and to tell me that they were doing
9 everything they could to help me, that they were calling
10 police stations around the Quebec City area to try and get
11 them motivated instead of just telling me all the time:
12 "Your daughter has run away." That's all they were telling
13 me. Even those social workers whom I went to see -- I was
14 asking for help, that's what they would tell me: "Your
15 daughter, she's run away." They were telling me that all
16 the time, but me, I knew she hadn't run away.

17 So, that's it. Then one evening I got a
18 phone call from a woman in Natashquan who tells me: "I saw
19 your daughter in Sept-Îles just where the Walmart parking
20 is." She said, "She was asleep. I don't know if she was
21 asleep, but her head was like that on the side as if she
22 was asleep, and I'm sure it was her. And also, there was a
23 man with her in the car. And then the guy went in for just
24 a few minutes -- a store -- well, in the mall, the shopping
25 centre. He got back into the car, and they left. I

1 couldn't go up close to see if it was really her." But she
2 seemed quite sure that it was Kimberly.

3 The first thing I do, I tell myself I'm
4 going to have a good herbal tea. I drink herbal teas to
5 calm me down, to sleep, to -- so in the morning, nice and
6 early, I take my car. I leave for Sept-Îles. I drive all
7 the way to Sept-Îles. I went to see her friends that she
8 hung around with in Sept-Îles to see if they hadn't seen
9 her. I called a few of them. I called Mingan, if there
10 were people who knew, might have seen her, who used to hang
11 around with her too. No one, no one had seen her. So I
12 thought she must have made a mistake; it wasn't her, for
13 sure. It wasn't her, given that the friends she hung
14 around with hadn't seen her. Because, otherwise she would
15 have gone to see them.

16 That's when I notified the team from -- that
17 people who weren't certain that it was her, not to call me
18 to spare me from going back and forth. And so then I
19 briefly stopped by Mingan just to see my children, and then
20 I went back to Quebec City. I made at least four round
21 trips in the space of six weeks for my daughter, searching
22 for my daughter. I was all on my own. At least when I was
23 in Quebec City, I had Élisabeth Bellefleur, my good friend
24 who was helping me, who was supporting me.

25 As for Mingan, the community where I had

1 lived, where I had resided, I never got a single phone call
2 from the support workers, nor from the Chief. Nothing at
3 all. Because I've always felt like a bit of an outsider to
4 the Mingan community, if I may say so. I'm not afraid to
5 say it.

6 So I went back to Quebec City. I kept on
7 with my search. The lady from Montreal was calling me all
8 the time -- Missing Children -- and she told me: "We've
9 plastered Kimberly's photo on poles, public places." I was
10 pleased, and also the plea I had made had been shown on
11 TVA, plus I kept on going to the police, even if they
12 thought I was a pest. I never stopped pestering them and
13 asking them if they didn't have any news.

14 One night, just before going bed, I get a
15 phone call from Ville-Marie, telling me, a policeman there.
16 He told me: "Miss, I have a girl here who really looks like
17 your daughter." And then he started to describe to me the
18 person and all that. And I said, "I have other things to
19 add. She's got a piercing and a birthmark in such and such
20 place, can you check it out?" And so he did. No the
21 person wasn't there. There were two people. Birth marks.
22 No, it wasn't her.

23 So, a few days after, also, seeing that the
24 lady from Montreal, she kept on intervening. Then I
25 received another call from another place. My Goodness! I

1 forgot the name, but I'm not going to start rummaging
2 through my brain now. Anyhow, they called me to tell me:
3 "We've found your daughter. It's for sure, from the
4 likeness you've provided us, the photo and everything, it's
5 her." And then, that's it, and I start to, not to repeat
6 what I'd told the other policeman, that the two piercings,
7 that at such a place, and the birthmarks and all of that.
8 They checked it out. No she didn't have the two birthmarks
9 that I said, nor the two piercings. Again it wasn't her.
10 That's when -- I searched, and I never stopped searching.
11 I was all on my own; I was sleeping badly; I was -- plus I
12 was experiencing things that were bringing back my own
13 past, when I was a little girl, when I had been abused,
14 because I was sure that she had been abused, or in any
15 case, that's what I thought.

16 Then one day, it was precisely at the start
17 of -- end of the fifth week, I -- decided to go to Mingan
18 again because people were telling me: "She's got to be in
19 Sept-Îles. She knows a lot of people there. Her
20 girlfriends must be hiding her." I went back to Sept-Îles.
21 It was around September 26, I believe. I'm not sure, but
22 I'm almost certain. So I go back there. And I go to
23 Mingan to get a few things I needed and returned to Sept-
24 Îles the following day. And then I started checking
25 around. When I see a friend that she knew, I would ask her

1 if she hadn't seen her anywhere. And then the lady was
2 coming to join me, still, to reassure me, again the one
3 from Montreal. Anyhow, let me tell you that if ever
4 something like this where to happen to you, you should ask
5 for help from this organization here. Really, it's really
6 them who helped me, not the police.

7 That's when I went to the Caisse. I went to
8 the Caisse, to the ATM since I had some banking to do and
9 then I -- I get a call. It was a policemen and then he
10 tells me: "Miss, we've found your daughter." It was
11 September 28, in the afternoon. I drop everything, I grab
12 my card out of the machine, pack, get into my car right
13 away, and head straight for Quebec City. I went to Quebec
14 City. Again, I'm still travelling by myself. And I get
15 there and sure enough she had been found. She was found on
16 August 28. But I'd never wish what had happened to my
17 daughter on anyone. She had been struck by the guy. She
18 had suffered some trauma, had blackouts. She had been
19 abused. She had been burned with cigarettes by that
20 animal. She had -- he did everything to her, I think.
21 There's nothing that he didn't do to her. She says, she
22 remembers bits and pieces, vaguely that one afternoon, she
23 was tied to the wall of -- sorry, I can't -- she was tied
24 like that to the wall with her arms crossed like this, and
25 the guy was throwing knives at her. She says: "Mom, every

1 time he threw a knife, I'd closed my eyes. I thought 'This
2 time, it might be it.'" She says: "The knife would land
3 here. The knife would land here. The knife would land here.
4 Knives were stuck all around my body, one after another."
5 That's what she told me. He did everything to her. I'm
6 not going to recount everything to you because it's not
7 mine, it's not -- it's her life. This child, I love her,
8 but I don't want to tell you everything, but he did
9 everything to her.

10 My daughter she's still suffering from the
11 after effects of the trauma from the blow to the head. She
12 still has some. After, when I got her back, she was taken
13 to the hospital. She had been found naked, completely
14 naked because the guy had hidden her clothes at the bottom
15 of a freezer along with all her personal belongings so that
16 she couldn't escape. That's what he had done, and he also
17 locked the house real good whenever he went out to get, to
18 do his groceries.

19 Eventually, at some point, it was some kids
20 who, who had noticed that she was being held in this
21 building, which was in the Huron Village, near the Huron
22 Village. But in any case, he did everything to her.

23 But at the trial, when she went, she gave a
24 statement, a complaint. The guy got just four months. My
25 daughter said to me: "Mom, that can't be! That can't be!

1 Only four months for everything he did to me! That can't
2 be!" I said, I said, "You know Kimberly, I've always told
3 you that me, the justice system, I don't trust it. I don't
4 trust the justice system. I've always said it to you, and
5 I always will. Pedophiles, evil people, all the -- are too
6 protected by justice because that's what gets money
7 rolling, the system." That's what I've said to them and
8 that's what I always will."

9 And then after that, she told me, "I want
10 him to be in there for longer." But I said, "You'll need
11 to take some steps for that. You need to file for an
12 application. It's going to be very traumatic, very painful
13 for you and for me too," I said. I said, "If you really
14 want to go ahead, I encourage you to go ahead. But,
15 please, don't ask me to be your psychologist, or your
16 psychopath. I've said that I don't have the tools for
17 that." I said, "In exchange I'm going to ask you one
18 thing: you accept to go to a centre, a youth home to get
19 the help you'll get there. You'll have all the
20 professionals that you need." I said, "That's what you
21 need. Me, you need my love. I can't give what
22 psychologists, what shrinks -- the other professionals will
23 be able to give you. I couldn't offer you that. You need
24 to accept that." I said, "Think it over and then let me
25 know if you accept to go there." That's what she did. I

1 convinced my daughter to go into a home, and afterwards I
2 got her in there.

3 It's starting from that point she was able
4 to be seen by psychologists, psychiatrists, and also later
5 on, she often had blackouts. One night, I get a call from
6 the youth home she was in, and they tell me: "Your daughter
7 just -- we found her completely naked outside the shower."
8 She had passed out. Because of the blow to her head, she
9 had received from that guy, even after she regained
10 consciousness after the blow, she remembers practically
11 nothing. It was because she has lost her memory there.

12 Aye! It's serious what that man has done to
13 my child! It's very serious! Still, my daughter accepted
14 to go through with the application. Yes, it has been
15 painful. Every time she met with the investigators, she'd
16 call me: "Mom! Mom!" She was crying. I'd hear her cry at
17 the end of the line, and I'd encourage her. I -- anyhow,
18 that took a lot of strength on my part too to help her
19 through this. It wasn't easy.

20 It's not because I hadn't brought her up
21 well. I brought her up well. Every time she went out of
22 our house, the rental where we lived in Québec City, I'd
23 tell her: "Never forget Kimberly, that there's a psycho, a
24 nut at every street corner." That's what I'd tell every
25 time. And I was right. At one point, she did meet the

1 psycho.

2 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** When Kimberly took steps
3 to obtain a stiffer sentence, what came out of that
4 application?

5 **MS. ANASTASIA NOLLIN:** So, she had to meet
6 with three different investigators. Because they had to
7 make sure that she really was telling the truth and not
8 making the whole thing up. She went through three
9 investigators and it was long, the investigations, the
10 questions and all of that. It was very long. She found it
11 very difficult, but I said, "The only advice I have for
12 you, is, please always stick to the same version and tell
13 the truth. That's what counts. You tell the truth. Don't
14 add anything. Just say what you have to say about what you
15 remember. That's very important."

16 Then, at a certain point, they say: "It's
17 good. You'll be going to court. It's going to last five
18 days." So we were ready. Me, I was ready.
19 Psychologically, I was ready. So was she. I was helping
20 her a lot, comforting her, coddling her. I gave her all
21 the love that I could to get her ready, and then we went to
22 court.

23 Just before it was about to start, we were
24 told that the nut, the psycho, had confessed. He pleaded
25 guilty.

1 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** Was the sentence changed?

2 **MS. ANASTASIA NOLLIN:** He got five years.
3 Five years. But for me that still wasn't enough.

4 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** If you allow me
5 Ms. Nollin, I have a few questions. The police force you
6 were dealing with, we know them, but the Commissioners
7 might not know them. Exactly which police force was it?

8 **MS. ANASTASIA NOLLIN:** It was the Sureté du
9 Québec (Quebec provincial police) in Trois Rivières, that
10 we called, in St. Charles.

11 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** Okay. At the time of the
12 events, how old was Kimberly?

13 **MS. ANASTASIA NOLLIN:** It's in 2011 that
14 this happened. She was born in 1995. You do the math.
15 (Laughter) I'm really sorry, but --

16 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** That's alright. And, if
17 you allow me, Ms. Nollin, you have said that prior to these
18 events, Kimberly had confided something in you. She had
19 seen someone in the schoolyard where she was attending, is
20 that right?

21 **MS. ANASTASIA NOLLIN:** Yes, this did happen.
22 It was well before. It was in the spring. This, it
23 happened in August. It had happened in the month of April,
24 because I was the one who was taking her to school every
25 morning, and I'd even go and eat lunch with her in places,

1 lunch counters and what she liked. I'd treat her to what
2 she wanted. And I would also go and pick her up. She told
3 me: "Mom, wait here. Don't let me off right away. Go around
4 a few times. You'll see a guy who scares me. He's always
5 -- He's always walking in the schoolyard. He's always
6 there. He's always around. He scares me." That's what
7 she told me.

8 I went to the principal's office and told
9 the school principal. I said, "My daughter is scared of
10 this man." -- "Ah!" the principal told me, "Ah! Madam, it's
11 been years that this man walks -- paces back and forth in
12 front of the school. There's no danger. Everyone knows
13 him. He's been doing this for years. But this was the
14 guy.

15 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** So, this is the man who
16 was the perpetrator in the events involving Kimberly?

17 **MS. ANASTASIA NOLLIN:** Yes. Oops! Pardon
18 me! Yes.

19 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** Ms. Nollin, through
20 everything you've lived through, what makes you keep going?

21 **MS. ANASTASIA NOLLIN:** Me? My doctor,
22 barely five months ago, told me that I already had one foot
23 in the grave. I told him: "I'm going to wait before
24 putting the other one in." (Laughter) I love life, because
25 I love life, I love life. My mother had always respected

1 life; she always taught us to respect others, life,
2 animals, trees, everything. So I have a lot of respect for
3 life. Life is what's most precious. And besides, death
4 doesn't scare me, because I've already had some out-of-body
5 experiences. I've had five heart attacks in my life. I
6 started very young. Even when I was at residential school,
7 I had blackouts, so I'm ready. I live one day at the time.
8 I'm ready for whatever might happen, but I still love life
9 very much. I'm not the sort of person who would take her
10 life. No.

11 My mother has always said to me "Live and
12 let live." That's what she always told us. Even though --
13 my sister, one of my sisters, was already in -- in the 80s
14 almost then -- and my mother, no, 75, my mother would still
15 say to her "Let others live and you live your life" when
16 she'd start talking about someone, gossiping, and all that.
17 My mother would remind her: "Let live. That's how I live."
18 I let others live their lives, and I live mine.

19 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** Perhaps one last small
20 question. Oh well, darn! It slipped my mind.

21 **MS. ANASTASIA NOLLIN:** (Whispering) I made
22 you forget your question? Right?

23 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** Okay. At the time of
24 Kimberly's disappearance, did her friends come back the
25 same night or the following day?

1 **MS. ANASTASIA NOLLIN:** Sorry. I'm having a
2 bit of a problem with my --

3 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** Okay, look at me. At the
4 time of Kimberly's disappearance, when you were searching
5 among her friends, had her friends returned to their homes?

6 **MS. ANASTASIA NOLLIN:** Her friends, yes.
7 She didn't see them again.

8 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** Okay.

9 **MS. ANASTASIA NOLLIN:** Yes, pardon me. She
10 didn't see them again. And there were even times that I --
11 you know when you're going through something; you start
12 thinking of every possible scenario: "Ah! This is what
13 could have happened. Maybe it happened like this." I
14 often thought, not just once, but often, those friends of
15 hers, there was one who was very jealous of her, who had,
16 who had pulled her hair on the top here, once for no
17 reason, at the back, just out of jealousy. Anyhow, I've
18 even said to myself: "Maybe they were the ones who told
19 that guy there from the school, to, to go and kidnap her,
20 abduct my daughter. You know, this did come to mind. But
21 these are things you do when you're going through
22 something. There, where I've been, you imagine all sorts
23 of things. You think of everything: "Maybe she's in a
24 river, maybe she's here." Ah! It's crazy! It never stops,
25 it keeps on churning and churning inside.

1 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** I remembered the question
2 I wanted to ask. When you contacted the school principal
3 to say that Kimberly was scared of a man who was hanging
4 around the schoolyard, why do you think that they didn't
5 take your concern seriously?

6 **MS. ANASTASIA NOLLIN:** Well, this is what
7 she told me: "It's a guy who's always walking; we see him
8 all the time, and nothing has ever happened." That's what
9 she told me. Twice, I've -- because, after that, the
10 principal was transferred, a new one came in, and she took
11 over that lady's place there; and then I even informed the
12 other one too. I did what I was supposed to do, but I'm
13 sure -- when I think about it -- that for sure he must have
14 abused other girls from that school.

15 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** That's all the questions I
16 have, Ms. Nollin. Thank you very much. I would like to
17 now invite -- Ah yes! Do you have any final comments or
18 recommendations?

19 **MS. ANASTASIA NOLLIN:** Okay. Right. I
20 would first like to speak to parents. Take care of your
21 children. It's horrible, what I went through. I wouldn't
22 want this to happen to you. Even if it means having to go
23 get them. Me, at times, I've gotten up in the middle of
24 the night, just to go from Havre St-Pierre, two hours away,
25 to see if a child was safe. I've done it. Don't be shy to

1 go check on your kids to see that they're safe. And also,
2 with everything that's coming, with the legalization, drugs
3 and whatnot, but anyhow.

4 I fear for the future of my great-
5 grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren. I'm really
6 scared for the communities. And not just the communities,
7 for everyone, regardless of the Nation, I worry for them.
8 Because every child is very important in life. Because
9 I've had a very happy childhood until the age of seven and
10 half. So I know what it's like. Love your children,
11 cherish them, and give them your love. Don't be shy, go
12 on. There's nothing to be shy about loving a child.

13 And then also, with -- as I've said, I don't
14 trust the justice system at all. That's true. I don't
15 trust it. No. Human beings have no value in the context
16 of the justice system. There's a lot of injustice in it.
17 I know that because I've seen it. I witnessed it. I
18 worked as a translator at hearings. I used to be social
19 worker, coordinator of social services. I've seen courts,
20 and I've always noticed that what it has doesn't reflect
21 our own Innu values, anyhow, the justice system.

22 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** Anything else?

23 **MS. ANASTASIA NOLLIN:** I did have another
24 very important thing, but it just slipped my mind. It's
25 gone. It was very important.

1 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** Maybe it will come back to
2 you because the Commissioners are going to ask you
3 questions.

4 **MS. ANASTASIA NOLLIN:** Ah! Okay, maybe, I
5 hope. Hey there! Wake up!

6 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** I'm going to now leave the
7 floor to the Commissioners to ask their questions or to
8 comment, and I hope, Anastasia, that like for me earlier,
9 it will come back to you.

10 **MS. ANASTASIA NOLLIN:** I hope.

11 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** Your last comments. So,
12 Commissioners, thank you.

13 **COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON:** Thank you. I
14 don't speak French very well. I'll speak English.

15 **MS. ANASTASIA NOLLIN:** I just got it!
16 (Laughter)

17 **COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON:** Can you hear
18 me? *Madame, oui?* (Madam, yes?)

19 **MS. ANASTASIA NOLLIN:** Right, I'm listening.

20 **COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON:** Okay. I just
21 have a couple of questions. When you went to the police.

22 **MS. ANASTASIA NOLLIN:** I can't hear the
23 translation. (Adjusting of the audio system)

24 **COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON:** Okay, we are
25 ready. When you went to the police to tell Kimberly, to

1 tell the police that Kimberly was missing and that you were
2 looking for her, did they know about the man around the
3 schoolyard? Did you share this with the police?

4 **MS. ANASTASIA NOLLIN:** No. This part, I
5 didn't share it with the police. Because I -- with all I
6 was going through, I had so many things going through my
7 mind. I completely forgot about the guy. I wouldn't have
8 thought that it could have been him.

9 **COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON:** I can
10 understand that. I think, you know, making sure she had
11 the help she needed after was so important. Has that help
12 continued with the psychologist and the treatment? Have
13 you had --. Has she had any challenges accessing that help
14 and it continuing, help through the court process and then
15 help after, for her well-being?

16 **MS. ANASTASIA NOLLIN:** But once she left the
17 home where I had placed her, she had received all the help
18 she needed because I was there to make sure that she'd get
19 it, and I was frequently asking questions. But once out of
20 the home, there weren't any follow-ups. No psychologist,
21 or psychiatrist, nor doctor treating her. But I had her
22 seen. She was at the CHUL, at the hospital, to check out
23 the blow she had received to her head. There was some
24 trauma -- she had suffered a trauma. And there were some
25 after effects too. There must be a file at the CHUL

1 hospital about this.

2 But, afterwards, once -- because the Band
3 Council asked me to go back home, to the community to give
4 some craft classes. I went back over there, but I regret
5 going back because they weren't full-time classes, just
6 two-hour classes, four hours per week; that's it. I feel
7 that they made me move for nothing. And so I regret my
8 decision, and of having taken her over too. Because here,
9 if I would have stayed here, I would have continued to have
10 her seen by psychologists and other professionals too.
11 Does this answer your question?

12 **COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON:** Yes. Are you
13 -- you guys now live -- you don't live in Quebec City
14 anymore?

15 **MS. ANASTASIA NOLLIN:** No. Now, I live in
16 Mingan. My daughter lives in Sept-Îles with --. Because
17 she wants to be with her friends, but me -- Sept-Îles is
18 not a town I'd live in. I'm sorry but that's how it is.
19 So she hasn't been followed with because of that. There
20 hasn't been any follow-up, no treatment for -- but she
21 still has, she still has some -- she still needs treatment.

22 **COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON:** And she's not
23 receiving --

24 **MS. ANASTASIA NOLLIN:** And also, when -- you
25 just made me think about -- there's also another

1 organization which is supposed to provide funding
2 specifically for these sorts of things.

3 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** IVAC?

4 **MS. ANASTASIA NOLLIN:** Yes, that's it. We
5 applied for it from Quebec City. I started the application
6 in Quebec City. I continued with it here, and eventually
7 they told us: "Your daughter will be getting a bit of money
8 as compensation for what she's been through," all of that.
9 We never saw a red cent. They pulled it.

10 **COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON:** *Merci.* (Thank
11 you) Those are my questions.

12 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Thank you
13 very much. It will be in French, Anastasia. Thank you
14 very much. *Merci beaucoup* (Thank you very much).

15 **MS. ANASTASIA NOLLIN:** (Speaking in Native
16 language)

17 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** I don't know
18 where you find that strength of yours, in --. You love,
19 and I thank you for teaching us this value in such a tragic
20 testimony, as tragic and difficult, because it's quite
21 something. In Quebec -- we saw in the *Journal de Québec* a
22 short piece on a young Innu woman who had been held captive
23 over several weeks. You wonder when it says "woman" and
24 then "Innu woman," and you wonder who could have lived
25 through such a tragedy, and what we can do to help or

1 support them. And for that, you have all my admiration as
2 a great-grandmother, as a grandmother and as mother.

3 **MS. ANASTASIA NOLLIN:** Great-great-great-
4 grandmother. (Laughter)

5 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** We're going
6 to attach some railway cars behind you.

7 **MS. ANASTASIA NOLLIN:** Five generations.

8 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Five railway
9 cars.

10 **MS. ANASTASIA NOLLIN:** Aye! (Applause)

11 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** But seriously
12 now -- and -- I know that your message has resonated and
13 will continue to resonate. So the question I have for you
14 is Missing Children is a non-profit organization, is that
15 right?

16 **MS. ANASTASIA NOLLIN:** Yes.

17 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** It responded
18 to your cry for help, right away?

19 **MS. ANASTASIA NOLLIN:** Yes.

20 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** When the
21 police -- you took steps to say: "My daughter is missing or
22 my daughter is not here," how long did it take before the
23 police said: "Right, we consider her to be a person who's
24 missing, a missing person?"

25 **MS. ANASTASIA NOLLIN:** Well, practically

1 until the end. They kept telling me all the time that she
2 had run away. They never really believed me.

3 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** So, did the
4 police --.

5 **MS. ANASTASIA NOLLIN:** Because, the times
6 the police -- the two times the police called to tell me
7 that they had found a girl who looked like my daughter, it
8 wasn't the Quebec City police, but police from other
9 cities, like Ville-Marie and another city.

10 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Okay. Did
11 the police release photos of your daughter throughout
12 Quebec, as a missing or disappeared person?

13 **MS. ANASTASIA NOLLIN:** No, I wasn't aware of
14 that.

15 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Did the
16 police keep you posted of where they were at with your
17 daughter's disappearance or situation?

18 **MS. ANASTASIA NOLLIN:** No, never, except
19 when it was me who'd go to get information. I'd go to
20 their office.

21 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Okay. Once
22 your daughter was found, did the system guide you to tell
23 you: "Here's what's possible for your daughter, given the
24 trauma and the situation such as she'd experienced?"

25 **MS. ANASTASIA NOLLIN:** No, not really.

1 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Okay. So the
2 organization you were just speaking of, for the benefit of
3 my colleagues, it's IVAC. Compensation for victims of
4 criminal acts. This organization, did you contact them?

5 **MS. ANASTASIA NOLLIN:** Yes. And once we
6 moved there we also contacted those in Sept-Îles. That can
7 be checked there; she has a file here and also in Quebec
8 City.

9 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Okay. Okay.
10 Once she left the Youth Centre -- was it a Youth Centre or
11 did she go into a centre for --?

12 **MS. ANASTASIA NOLLIN:** A Youth Centre, yes.

13 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Did they stop
14 providing her with counselling and psychological support?

15 **MS. ANASTASIA NOLLIN:** Yes, that's right.

16 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Well, she's
17 lucky to --

18 **MS. ANASTASIA NOLLIN:** It was me. I was the
19 support.

20 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** That's what I
21 was going to say. She's lucky to have you, truly. And the
22 questions were important, and your answers were also
23 important, and if you allow us, these are things which we
24 must use in the report on this National Inquiry, which is
25 also your Inquiry.

1 **MS. ANASTASIA NOLLIN:** Yes. In any case,
2 the last thing I'd like to tell you, at any rate, I think
3 of it every time I see a story about a child who has
4 disappeared or a girl who has disappeared on TV. In any
5 case, I'm the living proof, with my daughter, that it's
6 real, that these things do happen, disappearances like
7 these. It could have happened that she could have been
8 killed by this guy, when he was throwing knives at her. He
9 did everything to her, y'know. She could have died. How
10 he would have gotten rid of my daughter, we'd never have
11 known. We'd never have found her. That's it. Every time,
12 it comes to mind, it hurts, every time.

13 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** I thank you
14 very, very much. We thank you and our beautiful, our kokums
15 at the back will be handing you an eagle feather that the
16 women, the hereditary chiefs from British Columbia, have
17 gathered and given to us for all the women and men who come
18 to share their truths. It's a small gesture of love that
19 we offer you, a small symbolic gesture for these women, the
20 most important bird, which is the eagle. And to that we
21 also add this gift which is Labrador tea because kayak is
22 for me and for many people, some good Labrador tea is
23 comforting too. And so we offer you that for the gift you
24 have given us with all this great truth. Thank you!

25 **MS. ANASTASIA NOLLIN:** Anyhow, I thank

1 everyone here for having listened to me give my statement,
2 my testimony. And, anyhow, I wish you much luck and may
3 this never happen to you. (Offering of gifts by the
4 Grandmothers and singing.)

5 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** So I would like to ask
6 that we adjourn this hearing. Thank you.

7 **MR. LOUIS GEORGE FONTAINE:** (Speaking in
8 Native language) (Through an interpreter) The next hearing
9 will commence at 11:00 a.m. I'm asking that the meals be
10 ready on time, for 11:00-11:30 a.m. The next person who
11 will come to share here at the hearing. Please don't
12 forget: there's always a shuttle service between Maliotenam
13 and Sept-Îles. For those who want to attend the hearing,
14 every half hour, there's a shuttle service. This
15 afternoon, at noon, we'll eat. We're inviting everyone to
16 come and eat lunch with us. (End of translation). Every
17 half hour, for those people who want to go to Sept-Îles or
18 from Sept-Îles to Maliotenam, every half-hour. And also,
19 there's lunch offered here in the next room. Everyone is
20 invited. You're all welcome. All those who want to.

21 So then, there are always gifts that can be
22 offered to the Commission for those who want to give a
23 gift. These gifts will be kept by the Commission, and
24 they'll be taken to an exhibition centre or centre for
25 crafts. In what region? I've no idea. But these are the

1 gifts donated to the Commission. So, some gifts have
2 already been donated by the Maliotenam and Uashat
3 community. So then, everyone is invited. So 11:30 a.m.
4 (Speaking in Native language)

5 --- Upon recessing at 11:18 a.m.

6 --- Upon resuming at 11:32 a.m.

7 **MS. JEANETTE VOLLANT:** Good Morning. My
8 goodness! It's too loud! Look at me, listen. I have
9 something to tell you. We're about to start. We're now
10 waiting for the commissioners. The commissioners are not
11 here yet and Counsel Rock will be coming with --. Are you
12 ready Counsel Rock? (Speaking in Native language)
13 commissioners, please.

14 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Good Morning.
15 Good Morning. Thirty seconds. I'd like to invite up here
16 a Quebec woman, Suzanne. It's the 12 days of action to
17 eliminate all forms of violence against women. In
18 30 seconds, the time for Commissioner Robinson to arrive,
19 could you come here? Martine, where's Martine? She's
20 coming.

21 **MS. SUZANNE:** Yes, our two communities have
22 already partnered on the 12 days of action to eliminate all
23 forms of violence against women. So as you were just able
24 to see, this violence is present everywhere and the 12 days
25 of action started on November 25. On the 27th, a flag was

1 raised by the town councillors in Sept-Îles. And these 12
2 days of action will end on December 6. That's the Day of
3 Remembrance commemorating the Polytechnique massacre, which
4 took place in 1989, when 14 young women were killed because
5 they were women who wanted to have a profession in the
6 field of engineering. So we see that we still have a lot
7 of work to do today for this violence to stop.

8 So, I wish everyone to be aware and to
9 remember all the beautiful testimonies that we have had
10 here, which show we still need to open our minds, our
11 hearts to help women and men who have been victims. We
12 know that, if women are victims, that it's because there
13 are some shortcomings. Let's hope that all the
14 shortcomings which will be noted by our Commissioners, the
15 report they'll prepare, well, that there will be ears that
16 will listen, that will hear and take action to ensure the
17 recommendations, which will bring tremendous help to
18 everyone. Thank you.

19 **MS. JEANETTE VOLLANT:** Thank you very much.
20 And Ms. Suzanne, on the part of the Commission, a small
21 gift.

22 **MS. SUZANNE:** Thank you so much.

23 **MS. JEANETTE VOLLANT:** Thank you. Thank you
24 because I know what it's about, what she's talking about.
25 I've worked with women who were victims of violence in

1 Uashat and I've worked there for two years. I was a
2 coordinator, so violence, I have experience with it. So I
3 was able to help the other women, afterwards. So the work
4 continues and I'm very glad.

5 (SINGING AND DRUMMING)

6

7 **Second Hearing: Sylvanne Bellefleur**

8 **Heard by Commissioners Michèle Audette, Qajaq Robinson and**
9 **Brian Eyolfson**

10 **Commission Counsel: Ken Rock**

11 **Grandmothers, Elders, Knowledge-keepers: Anne-Marie André,**
12 **Pénélope Guay**

13 **Clerk: Jean-Luc Dorion**

14 **Registrar: Bryan Zandberg**

15 **MR. KEN ROCK:** *Un, deux.* (One, two) Good
16 morning. *Bonjour.* This morning, we have Sylvanne
17 Bellefleur. She is from the Committee; she's from
18 Natashquan, and she has a story to tell. She's been victim
19 of discrimination on the same night by, what I could say,
20 four different institutions and it happened recently. She
21 will be testifying this morning. I wasn't sure, yet, if
22 she was going to testify, she was going to testify in her
23 language or in French. So I don't know how she feels. So,
24 yeah. Can you swear in the witness? (Speaking in Native
25 language) The Bible.

1 **MS. SYLVANNE BELLEFLEUR:** Good morning.

2 **MR. BRYAN ZANDBERG:** Do you swear to tell
3 the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so
4 help you God?

5 **MS. SYLVANNE BELLEFLEUR:** Yes, I do.

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

7 **MR. KEN ROCK:** (Speaking through an
8 interpreter) I've said, recently. There are interpreters.
9 There are translators for -- which language are you going
10 to use? Is it in French or are you going to speak in
11 French? So, I'd like that you, that you testify. You can
12 speak in French or in Innu language. You have the choice.
13 If you speak in Innu, please speak slowly to improve the
14 Innu language, speak slowly.

15 **MS. SYLVANNE BELLEFLEUR:** So, good morning
16 everyone. (Speaking in Native language) On July 14, I was
17 in Quebec City. I had moved to Quebec City to go to
18 school. We had gone to a summer festival in Quebec City on
19 July 14. A Metallica show. We were five people. We were
20 together in an area. You know, the Plains of Abraham. We
21 stayed there until about 10 o'clock. Me and my husband,
22 we'd decided to leave the Plains because there were tons
23 and tons of people.

24 After that I'm texting my cousin to find out
25 where she was. She answered me back and she says, "I left

1 the Plains. My daughter, she wasn't feeling well." That's
2 what she tells me. And then I said to her: "Where are you?
3 Where are you at?" And she answered me that she was at St-
4 Hubert's on the Grande Allée. And I told her: "Okay. I'll
5 be there. Stay put. We're coming, me and my husband."
6 And so, she was waiting for us over there, at the
7 restaurant. She had ordered some takeout for her daughter.
8 She hadn't been feeling too well. We hadn't eaten. We'd
9 gone to the Plains very early to grab some good spots. And
10 so, me and my husband, we decided to eat in the St-Hubert's
11 dining room. And my cousin did the same thing. She ate
12 with us, her husband and her daughter.

13 And I ask the hostess's permission for the
14 girl to eat with us in the dining room. And the hostess,
15 she was okay with that. And then she gives us a table for
16 six people. There were five of us. Then the waiter comes.
17 He hands us some menus. He wants to know what we'd like to
18 drink. Me and my husband decide to have water, the others
19 too. Then we look at the menu. Then I tell the waiter
20 that I was ready to order and my husband too. And then
21 finally everyone had ordered. The girl was sitting next to
22 me. And then she says to me: "Can I eat?" He tells me:
23 "Yes, you can eat." Then he opens her box. The box is
24 yellow at St-Hubert.

25 And then, we waited at least 20 minutes for

1 eating. They were looking at us. They get up and they
2 push me. And I said to him, "Why did you push me? Why are
3 you getting involved? We didn't do anything to you." And
4 "I'm going to press charges against you," he tells me.
5 Then after that, my husband says to him: "Yes, press
6 charges against her. I'll testify on her behalf that it's
7 you who started it, that it's you who wanted to hit her,
8 you pushed her." So then, his wife tells him to stop it.
9 So the man, he was laughing, doesn't say a word and sits
10 down. And then we go outside. Some policemen were already
11 there, outside waiting for us. We were on the patio.

12 **MR. KEN ROCK:** If I understand correctly, it
13 was the restaurant, the waitress who had called the police?

14 **MS. SYLVANNE BELLEFLEUR:** Yes, it's the, the
15 waitress who called the police. That -- the police, they
16 were already outside the restaurant, on the patio. Then we
17 went out. There was a policeman. There must have been at
18 least five, six policemen outside. There was a policeman
19 who asked us, me and my husband for our IDs. We got our
20 IDs out. And then there was one policeman taking a picture
21 of our IDs. So the policeman he says to me: "I'm going, I'm
22 going, I'm going to check your IDs." He was going to check
23 for criminal records. And he wanted to check, at the same
24 time, if someone in the restaurant wanted to, who wanted to
25 lodge a complaint against us. We waited 20 minutes,

1 outside. Then the policeman comes back. He gives our IDs
2 back. He says: "You, you're good. You can leave." And the
3 entrance is right there, just in front of me. I wanted to
4 pass, to leave. But the policeman, he was -- there was a
5 policeman who was really arrogant. He was pretty wound up.

6 **MR. KEN ROCK:** Was it another policeman? Is
7 it not the same one who let you go?

8 **MS. SYLVANNE BELLEFLEUR:** No, it's not the
9 same. There were six policemen. There was one policeman
10 at the front and one policemen near the restaurant's door.
11 And the, the other policeman, he says to me: "Seems that
12 you've been making some death threats?" So, me, I made a
13 gesture. I was standing there like this. I said, "No, I
14 didn't make any death threats! It was me who got the death
15 threats from the waitress." And then he grabbed me, he
16 grabbed my hand. It's like, he puts it behind my back. He
17 handcuffs me, really tight. Then he bends me down, he
18 bends me down. I was looking at the -- I'm facing the
19 ground. I was handcuffed like this, behind my back, real
20 tight. After that, he said nothing to me. He didn't even,
21 he didn't even read my rights, nothing. Then I had --
22 before, before he takes me away, there's another policeman
23 who took my name, who opened my bag, and he put the tickets
24 I had received in my bag. After that, he takes me away. I
25 couldn't see anything. I know, I know, I knew somehow

1 where he was taking me because we keep on going, because we
2 were going straight and then we were turning. So then I
3 said to him: "Can you stop? I can't keep up with you."
4 They were walking so fast, and I couldn't keep up with
5 them. He refused to stop. Again, he kept on walking very
6 fast. It's -- they took me to the back. They took me to
7 the back there, of the restaurant. The Savini restaurant.
8 There's a place.

9 **MR. KEN ROCK:** A back alley?

10 **MS. SYLVANNE BELLEFLEUR:** A back alley,
11 thank you. There was a back alley. They took me there. I
12 couldn't follow them anymore. My arms were hurting. My
13 elbows were hurting. I fell to the ground. I just dropped
14 to the ground. I was on my belly. And at that point, the
15 policeman was saying -- they flipped me over. They, they,
16 they -- me -- they performed some manoeuvres to check my
17 state of consciousness. They were yelling: Miss, Miss, can
18 you hear me? They performed a manoeuvre here, they pressed
19 very hard in my chest, here, at shoulder level. I respond,
20 I didn't respond, I was scared, I was terrified.

21 And then, the -- they did it twice, checking
22 my state of consciousness. I didn't even respond. I --
23 them -- I could hear them talking. Then one policeman, he
24 said that, that there was nothing they could do, and he was
25 laughing at me, that he was laughing at my culture, where I

1 was from, at my size. There was a woman who was passing
2 by. She said, "What are you doing to that lady?" And
3 after that they stopped. They were saying that they have -
4 - that there was nothing we can do. It was case for the
5 paramedics. And me, when I heard the word "paramedics" at
6 this -- me -- I was happy. I said, "At last, I'll be
7 safe."

8 **MR. KEN ROCK:** So, you were conscious the
9 whole time? All this time, you were aware of what was
10 happening?

11 **MS. SYLVANNE BELLEFLEUR:** Yes, I was
12 conscious. I heard them.

13 **MR. KEN ROCK:** So, were there still five,
14 six policemen, the same policemen?

15 **MS. SYLVANNE BELLEFLEUR:** Yes, around me. I
16 was on the ground. Then one of the policemen called for
17 the paramedics, the ambulance.

18 **MR. KEN ROCK:** What happens next?

19 **MS. SYLVANNE BELLEFLEUR:** A short while
20 later, the paramedic arrives. He wanted to know what had
21 happened. That the -- the police falsely claimed that I
22 had been very aggressive with them. That I was a Native
23 woman. That I was aggressive with, against, well toward
24 them, the police. Then when he heard "Native woman" the
25 paramedics, they like, they changed their, their behaviour.

1 **MR. KEN ROCK:** In what sense? How were the
2 paramedics?

3 **MS. SYLVANNE BELLEFLEUR:** Then, --

4 **MR. KEN ROCK:** (Speaking in Native language)

5 **MS. SYLVANNE BELLEFLEUR:** They transferred
6 me, you know, to the ambulance. They performed some
7 manoeuvres in, in the ambulance. Once inside, inside the
8 ambulance, the paramedic guy too was laughing at me. He
9 tried some manoeuvres to check my state of consciousness.
10 If I didn't respond, he was going to intubate me. But I
11 could hear him. I didn't want to answer. I didn't want to
12 respond. I just moved my eyes a bit so that he could see
13 that, that I can hear him. He pressed very hard, here.
14 Even at the shoulder level. So -- oh! I forgot. Before
15 they put me in there, they had me restrained because the
16 policeman, he had said I was aggressive. I was still
17 handcuffed, and they were waiting where, they, they were
18 going, to which hospital they were going to take me. My
19 husband, there was nothing he could do. He was held back.
20 I'm digressing a bit. There was nothing he could do. He
21 was being held back by three policemen at the restaurant.

22 **MR. KEN ROCK:** Were you by yourself, at this
23 point?

24 **MS. SYLVANNE BELLEFLEUR:** Yes, I was all
25 alone with the police and the paramedics. There were no

1 female officers; there were only men. Then, the paramedic
2 got, he got the call for where he was going to take me.
3 They took to the CHUL on Laurier Boulevard. Then, on the
4 ride there, the paramedic was laughing at -- he was
5 laughing. It didn't seem professional. There was -- the
6 other driver, the driver, he was driving very fast around
7 the bends, and so me I'm tied up, restrained. At a turn I
8 fell on --

9 **MR. KEN ROCK:** On your side?

10 **MS. SYLVANNE BELLEFLEUR:** Yes, on my side.
11 I had fallen on my side. My head was hanging down.

12 **MR. KEN ROCK:** At that point, restrained,
13 how were your tied up?

14 **MS. SYLVANNE BELLEFLEUR:** At the back.

15 **MR. KEN ROCK:** You were still handcuffed?

16 **MS. SYLVANNE BELLEFLEUR:** Yes. I was
17 handcuffed and restrained. Then the paramedic says to me:
18 "Miss, do yourself a favour, get yourself back up
19 properly." I couldn't do it. I was tied up. I had --
20 there was nothing I could do to help myself. So he got up.
21 He used his two arms. He -- he pulled me and then he set
22 me back onto the stretcher with a -- it seemed aggressive
23 to me. He grabbed me. Yes, the paramedic was rough with
24 me.

25 This happened twice. There was a turn. He

1 did the same thing, he tells me: "Miss, do yourself a
2 favour, get yourself back up properly." But he knew, deep
3 down, he knew that I couldn't.

4 Once at the CHUL, once we got to the
5 hospital, the nurse came. She says: "Okay, so what do we
6 have here?" The paramedic again he falsely claimed that I
7 was aggressive and that I was an Indigenous woman, that --
8 when the nurse heard that I was an Indigenous woman, she
9 was saying that her -- I could hear her. She had reacted
10 in a way I didn't like. She wasn't saying it, but there
11 was a tone in her voice.

12 **MR. KEN ROCK:** Some negative remarks?
13 Attitude? Comments? What (Speaking in Native language).

14 **MS. SYLVANNE BELLEFLEUR:** I don't remember.

15 **MR. KEN ROCK:** (Speaking in Native
16 language).

17 **MS. SYLVANNE BELLEFLEUR:** Then he said
18 "Okay, let's go!" That they were going to take care of us.
19 They moved me into hallway, then they untied me at the
20 hospital's entrance, before transferring me onto another
21 stretcher. So then, the paramedics were telling me: "Help
22 us to transfer you onto another stretcher." And me, I
23 didn't have any blood circulation left in my arms. I was,
24 I wasn't even able to try. He took my, my arm. He
25 transferred me onto another bed, and then he pushed me back

1 down. Then he left me in the hallway all by myself. He
2 left, he left my stuff. After that I was -- I was afraid
3 that they'd do something bad to me, that they wouldn't
4 believe me. I wasn't -- I wasn't safe.

5 I took off, from, from the hospital. I left
6 the hospital. I called my husband on his cell to tell him
7 that I, I had gotten out of there. He, he was looking for
8 me. He, he came across some policemen on the Grande Allée.
9 He said, "Where did you, where did you take my wife," he
10 said to the policemen. So the policeman told him: "Ah!
11 They've taken her either to the Quebec City Hôtel-Dieu or
12 to the CHUL." He went to check at the Quebec City Hôtel-
13 Dieu. (Brief inaudible exchange with her husband). He
14 says that he encountered the policeman twice. The first
15 time, he went to check at the Quebec City Hôtel-Dieu. I
16 wasn't there. Again he encountered the same, the same
17 policemen. They said that I was at the CHUL. Then he, he
18 came by bus. We met at the CHUL. No, not at the CHUL. At
19 Laval University. I walked from the CHUL to Laval
20 University. At that point, I was frightened, I was scared.

21 **MR. KEN ROCK:** What did you do after that?

22 **MS. SYLVANNE BELLEFLEUR:** I called my cousin
23 to come and pick me up. The same cousin when we went, we
24 were at the show together. Then she met us the Hôtel
25 Universel on Sainte-Foy Road. Again I walked all the way

1 to Hôtel Universel. Then, my cousin, she got there. She
2 took us back home, to our apartment. Afterward, I had --
3 once home, I couldn't even sleep. I was afraid that the
4 police would come to get me because they had the address of
5 where I lived. I wasn't safe. I was sore all over.

6 When he woke up, in the morning, I say to my
7 husband: "I want to go back home to Natashquan. I don't
8 think I'm going to stay here, to continue to work. What's
9 more, I was working at the CHUL as an orderly. Then he
10 insisted that I go and see a doctor. I said, "Yes, I'll go
11 and see a doctor. You'll come with me." My arms were
12 hurting. I couldn't get dressed. He helped me a lot when
13 he, when I got dressed to go and see the doctor. And the
14 doctor, he was there at the hospital.

15 **MR. KEN ROCK:** Which hospital?

16 **MS. SYLVANNE BELLEFLEUR:** The Chauveau
17 hospital in Loretteville. I'll tell my story. She seemed
18 a bit reticent, like she didn't want to get involved. She
19 just gave me three days off, work stoppage. After that I
20 went back home. I got my stuff. I went back. We took the
21 road for Sept-Îles. Since then, I have been there ever
22 since, I'm -- I moved. I moved back to my community.

23 **MR. KEN ROCK:** Why did you move to Quebec
24 City in the first place?

25 **MS. SYLVANNE BELLEFLEUR:** To go back to

1 school. I went to study at Fierbourg to become an orderly.
2 I wanted to work in a hospital.

3 **MR. KEN ROCK:** Okay. But, in fact, you were
4 working at a hospital, at the CHUL? How long did you work
5 there?

6 **MS. SYLVANNE BELLEFLEUR:** Well, I'd just
7 started. I'd started two weeks, two and half weeks in the
8 month of June. I started to work in June 2017. But I had
9 been hired in May. And then I quit. My outlook has since
10 changed.

11 **MR. KEN ROCK:** What was, what impact, this
12 experience, how did this effect you, this bad experience?

13 **MS. SYLVANNE BELLEFLEUR:** I had lost a lot
14 of my self-esteem, self-confidence. I became insecure. It
15 also impacted my marriage. I isolated myself. I was off
16 work until September, but I couldn't do nothing, or else
17 I'd cry all the time, at home. I had to do something.
18 Now, I work at the community health centre. I go see the
19 elderly. I do home care. I go see the elderly, and this
20 gives me strength, to see them every day. So I find that
21 I've changed. Even my husband says I've changed.

22 **MR. KEN ROCK:** You told us that the event
23 took place in July. Of what year?

24 **MS. SYLVANNE BELLEFLEUR:** 2017, on July 14,
25 2017.

1 **MR. KEN ROCK:** This past summer?

2 **MS. SYLVANNE BELLEFLEUR:** Yes. I never
3 thought this could happen to me.

4 **MR. KEN ROCK:** Afterwards, did -- did you
5 take -- did you take any action regarding this?

6 **MS. SYLVANNE BELLEFLEUR:** I went. I met a -
7 -

8 **MR. KEN ROCK:** Did you meet? Did you file a
9 complaint about this, afterwards?

10 **MS. SYLVANNE BELLEFLEUR:** Yes, I met an
11 investigator in Quebec City.

12 **MR. KEN ROCK:** Can you tell us under what
13 circumstances? How did it go? Where? When? (Speaking in
14 Native language)

15 **MS. SYLVANNE BELLEFLEUR:** I met him in
16 Quebec City on August 23. I met the investigator, on
17 August 23. I filed a complaint against the policemen.
18 They took my statement. They recorded me. After that,
19 there was a support worker who, who came with me. He took
20 me to go and contest the three fines. And I had received
21 one by mail. The fines I had received amounted to \$121
22 each. After, when I contested my, my fines, I received a
23 letter saying that they had dropped one of the fines
24 because of the date. It wasn't the right date. On my fine
25 it was written July 13, between 11:00 p.m. and midnight.

1 recommend that you seek legal counsel prior
2 to making a decision. I've tried to call you
3 at the number you've provided, but the number
4 is invalid. Should you have any questions
5 about this case, please feel free to contact
6 me."

7 And it's signed, Denis Cardinal, Detective Sergeant,
8 Criminal Investigation. But I never gave my phone number
9 to the police.

10 **MR. KEN ROCK:** Did you get in touch with
11 them?

12 **MS. SYLVANNE BELLEFLEUR:** No, I didn't call.

13 **MR. KEN ROCK:** But you, you've also filed a
14 complaint for -- did you file a complaint against the
15 policemen?

16 **MS. SYLVANNE BELLEFLEUR:** Yes, I filed a
17 complaint, and they're in the middle of investigating it.
18 They told me it was going to take six months to a year.
19 But I think that it's the Viens Commission? Yes, I called
20 there. I had -- I called that number there, at the Viens
21 Commission. But I think that's in Val-d'Or.

22 **MR. KEN ROCK:** (Speaking in Native language)

23 **MS. SYLVANNE BELLEFLEUR:** But my outlook has
24 changed a lot because of the police departments,
25 paramedics, even the hospital. Even in 2017, we, we're

1 still being subjected to racism. And the reason I've done
2 this, I'm doing this, it's to raise awareness among youth,
3 young girls who go to study away from home, to be careful,
4 to -- (Speaking in Native language).

5 **MR. KEN ROCK:** (Speaking in Native language)

6 **MS. SYLVANNE BELLEFLEUR:** Yes, I've, I've
7 spoken on the radio, broadcast even in Natashquan. I -- I
8 had felt the need to, to speak out. And it was good.

9 **MR. KEN ROCK:** (Speaking in Native language)

10 **MS. SYLVANNE BELLEFLEUR:** No. Ah, it's
11 really her, the young girl. But no, I'm deeply troubled
12 that she saw it with her own eyes.

13 **MR. KEN ROCK:** The young girl at the
14 restaurant, right?

15 **MS. SYLVANNE BELLEFLEUR:** She saw
16 everything. And this gets to me. Plus, I think that she
17 was traumatized when she saw that.

18 **MR. KEN ROCK:** That, that's your cousin's
19 young daughter, the one who was with you at the restaurant?

20 **MS. SYLVANNE BELLEFLEUR:** Yes. I thought we
21 were going to spend a nice evening. And I thank my husband
22 for always being there with me. That's all.

23 **MR. KEN ROCK:** I guess that would conclude
24 her testimony. I don't know if you had any questions for
25 her?

1 **COMMISSIONER BRIAN EYOLFSON:** Thank you,
2 Sylvanne. I have a couple of questions. Thank you,
3 Sylvanne. Can you hear me?

4 **MS. SYLVANNE BELLEFLEUR:** Yes.

5 **COMMISSIONER BRIAN EYOLFSON:** Can you hear
6 the translation? *Oui?* [Yes?]

7 **MS. SYLVANNE BELLEFLEUR:** Yes.

8 **COMMISSIONER BRIAN EYOLFSON:** I just have a
9 couple of follow-up questions for you, if you don't mind.
10 When you were at the restaurant and the police officers
11 were there, which police force were they from, just to be
12 clear?

13 **MS. SYLVANNE BELLEFLEUR:** Which force? The
14 Quebec City.

15 **COMMISSIONER BRIAN EYOLFSON:** The Quebec
16 City. Thank you. You also said that a police officer told
17 the ambulance paramedic that you were native and also that
18 they were laughing at you and your culture. I'm wondering
19 if you can be more specific. Do you recall anything that
20 they may have actually said to you in more detail?

21 **MS. SYLVANNE BELLEFLEUR:** They were saying:
22 "Ah! It's a Native woman" and that they, they were not
23 going to -- they were saying that they, the policemen (Asks
24 Counsel Rock for some help).

25 **MR. KEN ROCK:** She is going to respond in

1 her language and then I will translate what she says.

2 **MS. SYLVANNE BELLEFLEUR:** (Speaking through
3 the interpreter) They say that "she's a, a Native," and
4 it's only they who'll be believed. It's always us, the
5 police will always lie when it intervenes, when it has to
6 intervene among Indigenous women.

7 **MR. KEN ROCK:** The policeman said that ah,
8 she's just a Native, she's just a Native and, then,
9 whatever she says, anyway, they will believe them over her.

10 **COMMISSIONER BRIAN EYOLFSON:** Sylvanne, I
11 believe you also said that you filed a complaint against
12 the police. What kind of a complaint was that, or where
13 did you file that complaint?

14 **MS. SYLVANNE BELLEFLEUR:** It's the
15 investigation that took my complaint in Quebec City, when I
16 met the police officer, uh, the investigator. It was on
17 August 23. I called the Viens Commission for some help,
18 and they asked if I was going to file a complaint against
19 him. I said yes, and then, the Viens Commission, they set
20 things up for me to meet with the investigator. The
21 investigator, his name is --

22 **MR. KEN ROCK:** (Speaking in Native language)

23 **MS. SYLVANNE BELLEFLEUR:** From the City of
24 Montreal.

25 **MR. KEN ROCK:** The City of Montreal?

1 **MS. SYLVANNE BELLEFLEUR:** Yes.

2 **MR. KEN ROCK:** She met with the SPVM police
3 investigator from SPVM.

4 **COMMISSIONER BRIAN EYOLFSON:** Thank you.

5 **COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON:** Just a couple
6 more questions in relation to complaints. Can you hear me
7 now, in French?

8 **MS. SYLVANNE BELLEFLEUR:** Yes.

9 **COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON:** Okay. You
10 said that there was also this kind of language and
11 mistreatment by the ambulance techs. Have you approached
12 the hospital and filed a complaint with them?

13 **MS. SYLVANNE BELLEFLEUR:** No, I didn't file
14 a complaint with the hospital.

15 **COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON:** And, the St-
16 Hubert restaurant where you received abuse from the
17 waitresses. Have they been notified or a complaint made
18 with them?

19 **MS. SYLVANNE BELLEFLEUR:** No.

20 **COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON:** Okay. Those
21 are all my questions. Thank you, thank you for coming and
22 sharing with us, and I thank your husband for supporting
23 you and -- just thank you so much your courage and strength
24 to come here and to share with this community and with the
25 country what you have experienced. Thank you.

1 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Thank you
2 very much Sylvanne, for having taken the courage. Also,
3 there are a lot of people who've contacted us when the
4 event occurred. There are people who have -- you -- from
5 your community -- who were worried and who were supporting
6 you. So I want to thank them too. My colleagues have
7 thanked your husband, but thank you also to the women
8 who've, the men and women who've appealed to us. And, for
9 having accepted to come here and publicly testify, which is
10 what you've done.

11 Thank you also, Counsel Rock, for having
12 submitted that there are five forms of discrimination in
13 Sylvanne's testimony alone. The questions that were asked,
14 well, there's the health system, that is, the hospital and
15 paramedics. I don't know if they're one and the same
16 professional order -- but they're not the same professional
17 orders -- but, for the paramedics, did you file a complaint
18 with their professional order?

19 **MS. SYLVANNE BELLEFLEUR:** No.

20 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Okay. And at
21 the Viens Commission, your case is proceeding, if I
22 understand correctly?

23 **MS. SYLVANNE BELLEFLEUR:** Yes.

24 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Okay. And
25 seeing that you're moving forward with your case, I'll be

1 careful with my questions. I'll lean more toward
2 recommendations. If we can dream together, because from
3 your story, this is in 2017: that because we're a woman and
4 Indigenous, we're going to be treated differently. So here
5 you have several institutions: healthcare, public security,
6 a professional order which is the paramedics and, a thing,
7 a restaurant. What would be your recommendations?

8 **MS. SYLVANNE BELLEFLEUR:** I don't know.

9 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Why did the
10 people act like that toward, toward you?

11 **MS. SYLVANNE BELLEFLEUR:** I've always asked
12 myself this question. There were never any answers. But
13 one question keeps coming back all the time: Why did they
14 take me in a dark place with five policemen? I was alone.
15 I always ask myself that question, but I don't have an, an
16 answer to that. I don't know what recommendation to make.
17 I, I can -- I don't know.

18 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** You say that
19 this has -- this has had an impact on your self-esteem, on
20 your -- this has been a big factor in your sense of safety
21 versus your insecurity. This has impacted you. Have you
22 sought any help for that?

23 **MS. SYLVANNE BELLEFLEUR:** I went to see a
24 psychologist in Natashquan.

25 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Are you still

1 going?

2 **MS. SYLVANNE BELLEFLEUR:** Yes.

3 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** That's good.
4 That's good. And the elders, if I understood right, they
5 too are giving you strength?

6 **MS. SYLVANNE BELLEFLEUR:** Yes.

7 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** For the time
8 it takes the Viens Commission to do its work, until then,
9 what I can wish for you, is for you to continue being
10 surrounded by people who will support as you move forward
11 through this difficult ordeal. And if ever you see that,
12 later, I'd like to add something else -- I find that, I
13 can't, I don't want to guide you. I'm not allowed to do
14 that -- you should take this as a recommendation. And I
15 must respect the mandate that we have here, but don't be
16 shy, we're reachable; we'll be adding things in the
17 recommendations, and please keep us posted.

18 **MS. SYLVANNE BELLEFLEUR:** Yes.

19 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** For the good
20 of, of today and of tomorrow.

21 **MS. SYLVANNE BELLEFLEUR:** Yes.

22 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Do you have
23 anything else to add?

24 **MS. SYLVANNE BELLEFLEUR:** No.

25 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Thank you

1 very much. Counsel Rock.

2 **MR. KEN ROCK:** (Speaking in Native language)

3 We'll adjourn. Thank you.

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

5 So we're going to ask our beautiful Grandmothers to come.

6 We're giving you this gift on behalf of the National

7 Inquiry, our Grandmothers from British Columbia and the

8 Commissioners and the team for your courage and your

9 strength in coming here. So, an eagle feather, some

10 Labrador tea, and I'm sure, the community here will be,

11 will giving you strength. (Giving of gifts by the

12 Grandmothers and the Commissioners to Ms. Sylvanne

13 Bellefleur).

14 **MR. LOUIS GEORGE FONTAINE:** One, two.

15 (Speaking in Native language) So, it's time to break for

16 lunch. Everyone, all people, everyone is invited to the

17 adjacent room here, everyone. So everything will start at

18 1:30 p.m. this afternoon, for the continuation of the

19 Commission. (Speaking in Native language)

20 --- Upon recessing at 12:43 p.m.

21 --- Upon resuming at 1:40 p.m.

22

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

24 Native language) So, we're asking people to come and take

25 their places. The hearings are commencing. And that, yes,

1 it's always the same announcement which is very, very, very
2 -- it's very much appreciated that you turn off cell phones
3 or put them on vibrate mode. We're about to commence, I
4 think. (Speaking in Native language) Good afternoon.
5 Thank you.

6 **Third Hearing: Yvette Bellefleur**

7 **Heard by Commissioners Michèle Audette, Qajaq Robinson and**
8 **Brian Eyolfson**

9 **Commission Counsel: Fanny Wylde**

10 **Grandmothers, Elder, Knowledge-keepers: Anne-Marie André,**
11 **Pénélope Guay**

12 **Clerk: Jean-Luc Dorion**

13 **Registrar: Bryan Zandberg**

14 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** So, good afternoon
15 everyone! To receive Ms. Bellefleur's testimony, she has
16 asked that an Elder lead the prayer. So I invite everyone
17 to stand up for the prayer. Thank you (The reciting of *Our*
18 *Father* in Native language)

19 So, dear Commissioners, I'd like to
20 introduce to you the next witness, Ms. Yvette Bellefleur,
21 who's here to my left. Ms. Bellefleur will be sharing the
22 story of her life, which has been fraught by repeated
23 instances of domestic abuse and every form of violence.
24 Today, she's here, standing here, so this is a testament to
25 her great resilience. So, this is the experience she wants

1 to share today with the Commission.

2 First, I'd like to ask the registrar to
3 proceed with the swearing in of the witness. She wishes to
4 be sworn on the Bible.

5 **MR. BRYAN ZANDBERG:** Do you swear to tell
6 the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so
7 help you God?

8 **MS. YVETTE BELLEFLEUR:** Yes.

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

10 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** So Good Day, Yvette.

11 **MS. YVETTE BELLEFLEUR:** Good Day.

12 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** I invite you to introduce
13 yourself to the Commissioners and say which place you're
14 from.

15 **MS. YVETTE BELLEFLEUR:** It's because I'm
16 having an audio problem. I'm translated simultaneously. I
17 can only hear in one ear.

18 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** Okay.

19 **MS. YVETTE BELLEFLEUR:** That's why --.

20 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** Would you rather that I
21 sit on this side?

22 **MS. YVETTE BELLEFLEUR:** Yes.

23 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** Okay.

24 **MS. YVETTE BELLEFLEUR:** I can't hear
25 anything, here. It's just an echo. But here, I can hear

1 100%. (Speaking in Native language) Okay, that's great.
2 We can go ahead.

3 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** So, I invite you to
4 introduce yourself to the Commissioners and say which place
5 you're from.

6 **MS. YVETTE BELLEFLEUR:** Okay. I'm from, no.
7 That's not it. My name is Yvette Bellefleur. I'm 55 years
8 old, and I was born in La Romaine in Shipu territory, but I
9 now live in Mingan. Also, we're five children. I'm the
10 eldest in the family. I have two brothers, and two
11 sisters. That's it in terms of family. Is there anything
12 else to --?

13 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** No, I think that suffices
14 for the introduction. What would you like to share today
15 with the Commissioners?

16 **MS. YVETTE BELLEFLEUR:** It's -- there are
17 four phases in my life. I won't go into all the details
18 because; there's someone this morning who said what has
19 happened; leave it behind. You've already done your poo,
20 it's behind. And so, I won't go too much into details, but
21 there are four important phases in my life.

22 It's -- there was -- I'll start with: I was
23 at a worksite. I met someone. It's a, it's a guy from
24 north of Mingan, from Ekuanitshit (ph). My boyfriend calls
25 him "citizen." So the guy says to me: "Yvette when you

1 walk, you walk like this." I was always walking like that,
2 with my head down.

3 So, since there is like two, two phases in
4 my life. The first phase, it was the trauma I suffered
5 when I was young. And now, I'm in the healing period. So,
6 at the age of -- I have, with my parents -- my parents,
7 they were strict. That's okay. I'm glad. I was able to
8 go far in my life. We have -- I've only seen violence
9 twice at my parents' home. It was my father when he was
10 inebriated. It happened twice. Other than that, I didn't
11 see much of this, nothing much to report.

12 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** He was violent toward who
13 exactly, your father?

14 **MS. YVETTE BELLEFLEUR:** With, toward my
15 mother. But it's, it's while in a state of, of
16 inebriation. And when he wasn't inebriated, he's normal.
17 He's also been a loving father. A regular guy. He stopped
18 drinking a long time ago. It's not important; it's, that's
19 not it. Then I grew up. I went to school. It's like --
20 it's like waking up.

21 The priest, Alexis Joveneau, it was a
22 confessional. I can see the green paint. It was green. I
23 went to confession. I had learned by heart the prayer of
24 contrition. I'd learned it by heart. And, it's always
25 "Come and sit, my child, come and sit, my child." So, if

1 it's him, the priest there, then I sat. I don't know what
2 category I can put it in. It's -- he had a wandering hand.
3 Today, I'd call this a wandering hand, at 55 years old, but
4 in those days, then I was 7, 8, I was 7 years old when he
5 began caressing my back.

6 And, what he was interested in, we're
7 talking later here, it was a move which, later, involved
8 bras; y'know, he would pull on my bra -- and "snap!" it
9 would go. That was his move with me. And we're still at
10 the confessional. But, I'm happy to say it now because I
11 was ashamed. I said, "This is not normal, that's not
12 normal." I know it's something bad. I can't go forward; I
13 can't go backward. If I'm here, it's something bad.

14 Then I also froze. I'm glad to say it.
15 It's like a release. Plus we -- they'd ask us to wash the
16 dishes. Me, I was happy to go get my 25 cents then. In
17 those days, it was -- he paid us 25 cents. It was always,
18 this always took place in his office. So dark, the office
19 is dark, always curtains. I did housework for my 25
20 cents. And so, always the same thing: "Sit here," and then
21 the caressing of the back, the bra. Always the same
22 things. This went on for three years, until the time I
23 left for Havre St-Pierre. This, this is the first phase
24 I'm talking about.

25 And he did this to my cousins as well. My

1 cousins came with me. And so he did the same thing. I
2 think that there are lots of victims. So, I was asking
3 myself the question, perhaps after the hearings are
4 finished. Is it assault? Is he a pedophile? Or is he a
5 pervert? I'm -- I don't know, and he's never touched me
6 except for the caresses. There was no penetration,
7 nothing. He didn't assault me, but he did touch me, you
8 know, in personal places. And if, let's suppose someone
9 touches you in places that are personal, you tend to, to
10 keep yourself safe. That's how it is.

11 So, in those days, we were vulnerable in the
12 sense that -- what -- what young people have today, they
13 have sex prevention. Sexual assault, drinking, drugs. Us,
14 we were vulnerable, meaning that we had no prevention for
15 assault, during those days, for rape. And I've seen on
16 Facebook there are lots of, of, of comments. But, I'm with
17 those women who testified yesterday.

18 It's also, I suddenly remember his breath
19 smelling of, of garlic. His garlic breath. It's, I think
20 it's never here. It was a locked drawer. And it stayed
21 that way. Mom just found out. And she herself even said
22 to me: "Why didn't you, why didn't say anything to me?" I
23 said, "Why tell you? You wouldn't have believed me."
24 Because, at that time, it was God. He was a -- he was all-
25 powerful then. Then, we had to go to church. So, I've said

1 to my daughter. I have a daughter who's 35 years old.
2 She's an only child. I said to my daughter: "You choose
3 your religion. I'm not going to impose anything on you.
4 It's up to you to choose your religion. But, I still
5 believe. I still believe in God. I believe in God."

6 That, that's one phase of my life, and I had
7 like a malaise. And then, later, he tells me -- that's,
8 that's the other malaise I had, it's me who did it, not
9 him. It's me who did it, meaning that, he said to me:
10 "Yvette, come and make my eggs." Okay, that's good, in the
11 living room I still had some chamber pots. And then I'm
12 cooking the eggs.

13 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** Who did?

14 **MS. YVETTE BELLEFLEUR:** The priest. He
15 called me at home, I had to cook some eggs. I was there
16 for my 25 cents. Then, I had some chamber pots. There were
17 many, we had chamber pots in those days. That, that's for
18 another. So, I had some chamber pots. That's my own
19 malaise. In moving my head, a chamber pot falls, a black
20 stain. I thought to myself, "What do I do?" I take it, I
21 smash it, there! I throw on the floor. And then, it's
22 like if, it was like my, some sort of revenge, because a
23 chamber pot, a chamber pot, that's dirty, it must be. I
24 must have had my hair dirty. Anyhow, it's, it's like 1-1.
25 It's like 1-1 between him and me. This is about Father

1 Joveneau's wandering hands.

2 Then, there were also -- we also had gifts.
3 There weren't many items in stores. There were always some
4 notebooks in his cabinet. And this might be a, bait to
5 attract us. It's to lure me, maybe. I was, I was with my
6 cousins. We were happy to get notebooks. And I see
7 similar notebooks at Walmart all the time, and this brings
8 me back.

9 Second -- I go on with my life. I leave for
10 Havre St-Pierre. Havre St-Pierre, I, I -- do you have a
11 question about that? No. It's okay?

12 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** How old were you before
13 you left for Havre St-Pierre?

14 **MS. YVETTE BELLEFLEUR:** About 12 years old.
15 And then later, I go to Havre St-Pierre. I go to Havre St-
16 Pierre. I was in residential school. That, that's the
17 second important phase. Wait that -- if they sell you
18 there -- rapes, assaults, all of that. So, I, I'm going to
19 Havre St-Pierre for the residential school in Havre St-
20 Pierre. And it's there where I encountered drinking, booze
21 and drugs.

22 Then one night, I had been drinking. I had
23 a crush on a guy from Tête-à-la-Baleine. He was a hunk!
24 Boy, was he a hunk! I start drinking, and then this same
25 guy, he raped me in the woods, in some undergrowth near

1 Havre St-Pierre. There is a wooded area. That's where he
2 raped me, and there were like, three who were looking on.
3 It was two Innus, two guys from the Basse-Côte-Nord [lower
4 north shore]; it's two Quebec guys. Then, there is -- I
5 don't -- I think that the nuns, they ought to have seen me
6 with my pants were half, half -- they were down here, there
7 -- I don't know how to explain it. It was --

8 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** Half-way down?

9 **MS. YVETTE BELLEFLEUR:** About here.

10 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** Okay.

11 **MS. YVETTE BELLEFLEUR:** I was holding my
12 jeans this way, and the nun, I figured, she ought to have
13 seen me. I was still -- I remember it really well. I
14 wasn't drunk, and I was alert. And she ought to have seen
15 me. Afterwards, I took a shower. I did not, I didn't
16 report it, because I already felt shame. The filth. The
17 filth. I took a shower.

18 Afterwards, I was in the cafeteria the next
19 day. All the students probably knew about it, of, of, of
20 the assault. I don't know if it's rape, or assault?

21 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** May I ask you? Was the
22 man who assaulted you, was it an Indigenous man, or a --
23 [inaudible] man?

24 **MS. YVETTE BELLEFLEUR:** No, it was -- it was
25 a Quebec man. And he holds a high position. And this is

1 the second time in my life, here, that I've talked about
2 it. And, it's like the first time I told my new boyfriend.
3 He accepted it. He didn't judge me. He has, he simply
4 accepted. And me, I've already accepted it, because the
5 past, I've accepted it. I'm in a healing process. And,
6 it's, of course, so that's it -- the following day, all the
7 students, they like -- I felt -- how could I put it? When
8 they --

9 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** Watched?

10 **MS. YVETTE BELLEFLEUR:** Watched. Long
11 stares, silently judging. I was young then. That's why I
12 say that's when I started to, to walk like that. All my --
13 that's -- that's why the men from Mingan, they tell me that
14 I walked with -- like this because I had to -- it's all
15 there. I want - How can I put it? -- I want, I want to
16 stay alive.

17 After that, I didn't like Havre St-Pierre.
18 I asked my mother to transfer me to the other residential
19 school in Pointe-Bleue (ph) over there. That went well
20 too. It was me, the rebel. I began to rebel. You name
21 it, booze, pot, running away, the -- it wasn't big things -
22 - I didn't do that much, but -- it wasn't, it wasn't really
23 so bad, but it was more me who played -- tricks on my
24 teachers. Because of the running away.

25 I stayed there, in Pointe-Bleue for two

1 years. A year and half. And later, I decided to get
2 married. It was me who asked my ex-husband to get married.
3 I wanted to get married. I wanted freedom. I didn't want
4 anymore to be -- my parents to tell me what to do. I
5 wanted to get married. I wanted to be free.

6 So it's at this point, at this point, that
7 was the beginning of, of a, of a prison. My very own
8 prison. That's when -- for sure people were talking and
9 doing -- saying things to people. It hurts. Gossip, it
10 hurts, perhaps. I don't know what happened.

11 And that's when the violence with my ex-
12 husband began. It's -- he had been drinking. He was
13 drinking a lot of booze. Me, wasn't drinking during the
14 first few years of my life with him, five years. There was
15 some drinking, I -- there isn't -- I got it all, okay, the
16 violence from A to Z. I'll try to list them for you --
17 later. I don't want to go into the details, but it's
18 important for the hearing.

19 I had three pregnancies. My daughter was
20 born prematurely weighing three-and-half pounds. I was at
21 -- I was like -- it's like when a woman falls in love, I
22 became like an emotional addict. I was blind. It was him,
23 he was my love, even if my parents were telling me "It's
24 not good." No, he's the best. C'mon, go! Let's go.

25 I -- it's -- I couldn't see my friends.

1 When he went hunting, I would take advantage of it to go
2 see my friend, my friend Jeannine. She's passed away now.
3 And when he saw me -- it made, I'd say -- I'm going to take
4 it slowly because I don't want to go too fast.

5 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** Take your time, Yvette.

6 **MS. YVETTE BELLEFLEUR:** Yes. I've listed
7 them. This, this will go into the sacred fire. I've
8 written everything, here. I've several pages. And I've
9 written all the different forms of violence I've suffered.
10 I've listed everything. Oh good, so I was here. Okay.
11 Yes. That's true. I was at I had three pregnancies. My
12 daughter was born. When I was pregnant, I was assaulted
13 even though I had a child inside my womb. It was me who
14 was working.

15 The day when I went into labour, my ex, he
16 was going caribou hunting. He was my love so I had to do
17 everything for him. I did everything for him. I went to
18 the Henri Janis (ph); there's a store called Henri Janis
19 (ph). And so it was me who was going to get 10 gallons of
20 gas, you know, struggling. I took five gallons. I weighed
21 130 pounds. I take 10 gallons. I bring it to the sled.
22 Another 10 gallons, c'mon! Then, at night I went into
23 labour. And we left the following morning, my daughter and
24 me. We weren't allowed to be accompanied, before. We left
25 on a seaplane from La Romaine in the middle of a storm.

1 It's Léonard McKenzie who -- not McKenzie -- Léonard
2 Deraps, Léonard Deraps who took us to Sept-Îles. In fact,
3 he's the one who's -- in part -- saved my daughter. She
4 was three-and-half pounds at birth. She stayed two months
5 in a hospital in Sept-Îles. After that, I got pregnant a
6 second time. Given that he was often beating me, I had a
7 psychological rejection of -- having children. And so my
8 son was stillborn in La Romaine.

9 We lacked everything. That's crazy. I
10 started my contractions at midnight. The nurse who was
11 there, she was inexperienced. I was in labour, and it was
12 daylight at four o'clock in the morning, and there was a
13 helicopter nearby. If he was -- I say to myself, today, if
14 he'd been smart, he would've called the helicopter. It
15 could have taken me. Maybe he could have survived. But,
16 maybe this it's just in my head. But he didn't survive.
17 He didn't even break his sack.

18 It's Philomène, my mother's friend who
19 accompanied us. My mother couldn't bear to see me in that
20 state. She was so stressed out, and so was my father. And
21 straight away, I fell into a trauma, trauma, a serious
22 trauma then. Meaning that during the second pregnancy I
23 was still being beaten. I was still being beaten. That,
24 nobody touches my love. It's, it's, it's him. Then I was
25 beaten just the same. I always accepted that.

1 That, that's the first phase of my life. I
2 don't want -- go straight away into the -- I don't want to
3 go straight away into the second one. I'll stick with the
4 first.

5 So then I was in -- I was in -- I fell into
6 a deep depression. I was very gloomy. I didn't want
7 anymore to -- I was miserable seeing happy women walking
8 with their babies. And, my uncle's wife came to see me and
9 I -- I told her the story of a couple. After that, I
10 started to come out. And even Father Joveneau, he came to
11 see me at home. I said -- I closed the curtains. I said,
12 "I don't want to see you." I didn't open. Absolutely
13 nothing. It's -- "Get lost. Go away!"

14 Then, I got pregnant a third time. It was
15 immediate. It's -- for me, I didn't want any other kids
16 that, that -- children live in this sort of violence. I
17 didn't want that.

18 And this lasted 32 years of -- 32 years. I
19 had always said, "I'll make my marriage work. I'll make my
20 marriage work." But at one point, I just couldn't take it
21 anymore after 32 years. Then, I -- every form of violence.
22 I've suffered it all. I preferred physical violence over
23 psychological violence. The psychological, that can kill
24 you. With physical violence, I had, had some black eyes
25 for long time. He dragged me.

1 When I won -- I was a very strong-minded
2 woman, a woman who's very stubborn, a hard-working woman.
3 I fought for the Innus of La Romaine. I'm going to speak a
4 little slower, slower, here. It's -- I've been to, I went
5 to university, for my certificates in Business
6 Administration. I was an economic development officer. I
7 was a healthcare manager, housing director; I studied to be
8 airplane pilot. I also have lots of -- I was a woman -- I
9 did six years of, of -- I had a career in La Romaine. I
10 was a woman -- I was into politics, for six years, in
11 negotiations. The airport, I was -- the airport, that's
12 our baby there, 22 million. The paving in La Romaine, it's
13 with the work team -- anyhow, I've had many -- I loved it.
14 Where was I? It's a -- I can't remember where I was.

15 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** It lasted 32 years.

16 **MS. YVETTE BELLEFLEUR:** Yes, it lasted
17 32 years. It's -- it's about -- Oh! Yeah! The violence
18 that I've suffered. It's the black eyes. When I won the
19 election, he threw me -- he got so mad at me that he threw
20 me on the floor. There were people there, my audience.
21 I've never gotten over it. No, I never got over it. I
22 need to talk about it. The audience around, watching.
23 Aye! I was on the floor, being kicked. I'm being kicked,
24 and nobody moves, nobody stops him. And it goes on, so the
25 following morning I was evacuated to the hospital in Sept-

1 Îles. I had my whole shoulder -- hurt everywhere. Then I
2 was evacuated. It was the -- they evacuated me, the night
3 I won the elections.

4 I went into to the room, into the gym to
5 speak with young people, and I still made it, and that was
6 my pain, and the injuries too -- he had beaten me outside,
7 just on the front lawn. So, in full daylight. There was
8 also -- there was only -- nobody came to my defense. Only
9 onlookers. This is -- that had -- me. Aye! I'm not a
10 clown here! I'm in the middle of being -- someone is
11 hurting me!

12 And, this is one of the recommendations: If
13 you see a woman being beaten, help her! She needs
14 protection. And me, no one protected me. No one came.
15 Everyone -- I could see the people by their windows: Come!
16 A show! And then -- there was the physical pain.

17 In terms of ecological violence, ecological?
18 Economic! Economy, it's -- I worked a lot. I had -- I had
19 the big bucks. I was making good money and during this
20 period of, of -- during this period of violence. I had the
21 big bucks, and I wasn't allowed to give any money to my
22 parents. And if I would give money to my parents, I was
23 criticized. It's -- it's -- it's I was being crushed and -
24 - I also -- later, I contributed to this downfall with --
25 my marriage. It was me who bought the booze. I had the

1 money. There was lots. There is the sale on liquor. It
2 costs 80 bucks over there, here instead it costs 40. I had
3 -- there was -- I had no problem buying a case of beer, two
4 cases of -- because I was in pain in here. It was to numb
5 my pain. So c'mon! Beer, beer! C'mon! Come! Let's have
6 a party! It was really chaotic during that period of my
7 life, for --

8 And by the way, I have, I have, because --
9 I'll digress for a bit. I'd like to. I thought because we
10 have so many deaths caused by the use of speed. If I may
11 digress, I'd like that, to buy some speed. And I had the
12 SQ. Yvette goes to La Romaine; he goes to sell speed. I
13 wonder if they're going to arrest me. Then I wanted to do
14 the same things for -- the beer there, you know, selling
15 liquor illegally there? I want to buy ten cases for
16 myself. I bring them back to La Romaine. That's easy
17 money over there. That's -- we -- we -- I'd sell -- I
18 would alert -- that's all. To be continued. But, I'd like
19 to do it, it's -- because there are so many deaths linked
20 to this. We might have a good couple of dozen drownings.
21 Because, when they go to get booze in Kegaska (ph) there,
22 in winter, in summer. That was just -- I like to do it.
23 Anyhow.

24 Second, the economic violence. I had some
25 attempted murders from my husband. It's -- there was -- we

1 had a trial. We had a trial for -- it was like -- how can
2 I put it? It was like -- a trial for the sexual assault of
3 a young girl. And, seeing that was him, we had 10,000 in
4 fees -- for the defense there, to pay for a lawyer. Then,
5 it's the foll -- he was, he managed to get away with an
6 acquittal. He doesn't have a record. He was -- got away
7 with an acquittal. Then, the following day, he was
8 acquitted. He started to leaf through his acquittal.

9 Later that night, he broke a bottle, and
10 then he tried to stab me. And this was the day after his
11 acquittal. He was supposed to be happy. He was supposed
12 to be fine. He wasn't charged; he's fine. He was supposed
13 to be fine. These are the questions I was asking myself, not
14 supposed to -- me -- attack me with a bottle.

15 I filed a complaint with the police. I
16 filed a complaint, and they took him in. It's the judge --
17 to the judge, because I don't remember who, or what year,
18 or the date. It's the same judge who acquitted him. He
19 travels with -- he takes him to Sept-Îles. That's what I
20 claim. Okay it's just a claim. But, he -- him. He put
21 him in jail in Sept-Îles.

22 And then, during the evening, the judge, he
23 had -- because of the illegal sale of liquor in La Romaine,
24 it exists, okay? Even among Quebecers. Then, the same
25 judge asks me: "Get me a 40-ouncer of hard liquor, okay?"

1 And then me, I knew where I could, could, where I could
2 find some. I went to see my father. I said, "Give me your
3 40-ouncer. It's for the judge. I'll pay you \$80." Then,
4 the following day, my husband, my ex-husband was acquitted.
5 It's like, it's like a period of doubts that I had at that
6 point. It's the judge; he's not supposed to buy illegal
7 liquor, I think. He's supposed to be impartial. This has
8 always -- me. This -- in the judge's behaviour in the
9 illegal sale. He too contributes, contributes to the
10 illegal sale. He doesn't help us. That's right.

11 Then, the attempts. I also got, one night,
12 knifed. But I like, moved just in time -- but I wasn't
13 talking. I wasn't saying anything to anyone. Then I also
14 got -- how? You know, had a rifle pointed at me, here. It
15 went "click." But it was empty inside the rifle. There was
16 nothing in it, just a "click." I can't. Nowadays, I can't
17 -- go near -- guns. I can't. It's a trauma that'll never
18 go away. And knives too, sharp knives --

19 I'm now working in a store, at a convenience
20 store in Mingan. My boss, he wanted to sell some, some,
21 some knives, and very sharp. I froze. I said: You don't
22 sell them here or I'll leave. This didn't bother him. No.
23 "You're not selling any knives here. Please. Or else,
24 I'll panic. I was freaking out. That's why the, the, the
25 -- that's what made me, it's: "I can't stand the sight of

1 12-gauges or knives." It's like -- it's like it shattered
2 a part of my life.

3 After that it's the rapes. My ex-husband
4 also raped me. His friends tried to rape me during those
5 beer parties. And so that's what happened.

6 As for -- I did -- I did travel a lot in my
7 life. I've been everywhere. Hotels -- There were hotels,
8 and there were like, trips. It was interesting -- very
9 interesting. I've always wanted to travel.

10 And lastly, in closing, I was like in a low
11 period. I didn't contribute to -- I didn't contribute. Me
12 too, I did -- to myself. I was drinking. I was drinking a
13 lot. It was at the start of my acute depression. Acute,
14 in the sense, I did -- okay, violence also pushes you to
15 want to take your life. I tried three times. Once with my
16 daughter in the basement -- because -- I -- I was being
17 beaten. I was in pain. No self-esteem. Absolutely
18 nothing, zero.

19 Then, and that's why I believe in God. I
20 always say my prayers. I said, "Help me, God. I don't
21 want -- I just need help. Help me!" Then my daughter says
22 to me -- she was four, five years old -- my daughter says
23 to me: "Yvette, mommy, what are you doing?" After that I
24 put the rifle away. I wanted, I still wanted to live.

25 The second, it's the SQ who saved me. I was

1 like in a -- when, when people -- I'm in this -- how --
2 when, when I wanted to take my life. There's nothing that
3 exists anymore. There's nothing, there's nothing. There's
4 no love. It's dark, it's a shell. It was my very own
5 shell. Then it was the SQ that got me out of there. I was
6 about to -- I wanted to throw myself -- I needed help. It
7 was a cry for help. But it's the SQ that took me to the
8 Galeries Montagnaises. It happened here.

9 The third -- I wanted to -- myself. It was
10 during a severe burnout. I was working hard as a
11 healthcare manager. I was fighting. I was drinking. I
12 was being told all sorts of crazy stuff. I was being
13 accused, blah, blah, and so on. So this gave me a severe
14 burnout, and really severe. It's -- I wanted to throw
15 myself, to drown myself. Then I said, "God, send me
16 someone!" It's like a voice was speaking to me from deep
17 inside my heart. That was the start, the start of my
18 healing. It's the beginning of the end.

19 And so, the voice in my heart said: "Go to
20 the hospital." I'm off to the hospital. For the first
21 time, a doctor talks to me for one hour. I was feeling
22 pain in -- just feeling the pain -- that feeling of pain,
23 of wanting to take my life. Nothing matters, in -- there's
24 nothing anymore. Then, it was -- I was -- and then I was
25 given some Ativan tablets. And Ativan, the little miracle

1 pill, I took it. All that hurting pain, all of a sudden is
2 gone. And all the feeling of pain is suddenly gone. It
3 was a severe burnout. It's -- I wanted to take my life.
4 It's my self-esteem; it was gone. I had been dumped -- No.
5 We had -- I had an agreement with my employer, to, to end
6 the contract.

7 I fought hard for my community as a
8 healthcare manager, for the Unamen community. Talking
9 about healthcare management -- I don't know, but it's just
10 a recommendation I want to make here, for, for the future.
11 We had a couple who was having some issues, a fight, there.
12 The mother, she was like -- she had had a lot of injuries.
13 She was dragging her kids around. The man is there.
14 Nobody was looking after them. Us, we couldn't pay out
15 because it wasn't a disease. Social Services, it was not
16 their department, the police even less, and even less the
17 Innu Council. And then they told me that I'd cheated the
18 Unamen health care centre. I did not cheat the Unamen
19 health care centre. I committed fraud against Health
20 Canada in the sense that, we, we told the woman with the
21 kids: "We're going to pay for your chartered flight so you
22 can go to Sept-Îles. You're going to go to the emergency.
23 Before, we were allowed to do that."

24 And then me, I say that there ought to be --
25 it's for everyone, it's for all women and men. It's simply

1 to have a centre, an organization -- where everyone puts
2 their party funding -- because I've seen battered women in
3 La Romaine. I even defended a battered woman myself. He
4 went to hide behind a garbage can. I said, "You there,
5 you're going to stop that. You're going to go somewhere
6 else." That's why I say it; it was part of my
7 recommendations, but I don't want to forget. After that --
8 yes, we, we got the family out to Sept-Îles, but I've never
9 cheated the -- the health care centre nor the Council, nor
10 Radio Ekuanitshit. I've never cheated.

11 Then, it's -- the self-esteem, which is
12 gone. That's why -- I'm glad I had a severe burnout. It's
13 the limit, it was my limit. It's, it's some good -- good
14 studies -- big disappointments -- big responsibilities.
15 And, during my burnout, my mental illness, I said, I've --
16 I'd like to be a cashier again. Since then I became a
17 cashier, today, and I love it.

18 Money's not a big deal. I'm earning -- it's
19 alright what I'm earning. I've worked all my life. And
20 then, that was the beginning of my healing, the end of my
21 suffering, my burnout. A burnout, you can beat it, you can
22 beat it. I tried to beat it.

23 I had to restart my life, and so I was at
24 the worksite for -- I was a cleaning woman. I've never
25 been down at the bottom of the ladder. I've always been at

1 the top. And then I was like a cleaning woman. I was
2 cleaning toilets, rooms. I was all alone. This is when I
3 cleaned up my life. There are people who did make fun of
4 me. And I know that my former colleagues, they're laughing
5 at me because I've become a cleaning woman. I said, "It's
6 an honest job, cleaning woman." It's very honourable when
7 we sit on a -- it's very honourable. And then, I cleaned
8 up my life; that's where it started.

9 That's where it started -- it's when the --
10 a guy from Ekuanitshit with whom I -- his name is -- my
11 boyfriend, calls him "citizen." He's from Basse-Île, I
12 think. But I can't remember his, his first name anymore.
13 He says to me: "Hey Yvette, I always see you walking --
14 now, right now, you're going to stand and sit up straight
15 and then you're going to look at people. Practise." After
16 that, I practised. I'm like, I'm like nothing there.
17 That, that gave me the hope to move forward.

18 And -- what can I say -- I practised; it was
19 hard. I stumbled. Just the posture there, I stumbled. My
20 back was hurting from always being crushed. And, this is
21 what -- this was the beginning of my healing.

22 It's been seven years now since I left my
23 ex. I still speak to him, once a year. I -- he still sees
24 my family. It's a -- that's their choice. I wasn't raised
25 to be mean, disrespectful. It's -- that's the -- that's

1 their choice. He's still father to my daughter. He often
2 calls where I live in Mingan. Me, me, this -- this --
3 doesn't bother me. Because I met a new guy, a new
4 boyfriend. And I've known violence. I was violent with --
5 because it's a vicious circle, eh? I was violent with my
6 partner, but he understood because he's stronger than me.
7 He understood. He's patient. So I said, "I'm going to
8 testify at the hearing in --" I needed to do something. He
9 says to me: "Yvette, go to it, go and bury it." A
10 psychologist had told him: "Never keep any bad inside of
11 you." And so, the bad needs to come out somewhere.

12 I really loved Mr. Grégoire. And it stinks,
13 sometimes, it smells like crap. I'd never thought of that
14 -- Speaking of crap, I was thinking of the nuns, they never
15 took a dump. It's true, I've asked a nun the question: "Do
16 you go to the bathroom?" She says: "Like everybody." It's
17 like my mom says: "The nuns, they never urinate." That's
18 why I say -- our -- for sure, it's going well; he has four
19 children. I have a daughter. It's going well, it's going
20 well. It's -- Thomas takes care of business, there isn't,
21 like -- it's --there's a lot of -- respect in there. I
22 love my new life.

23 And then he tells me: "Yvette, go, and then
24 you're going -- you'll have closure with your past there.
25 But on the other hand, you'll make some recommendations."

1 That's why I've written it down. I may have 20 pages.
2 It's in chronological order. What I have said, that was
3 general. But here, my chronology is here. And I've
4 accepted the past. Now, now, the past is history. I can't
5 undo the past. I can't. Tomorrow, if I think of tomorrow,
6 there will be many Yvettes who'll (sound), there are many
7 Yvettes who'll be working in their heads. And the gift
8 today, is here, being at the hearing, sharing and --

9 When I was called by the Commission, I was
10 told: "You're going to the hearing, you were picked." I
11 had nightmares for three nights. I saw my own death. I
12 saw myself in a coffin. I saw a baby dying. I saw --
13 there were like, three deaths. There were three
14 fatalities. It was, it was intense. That was it, that was
15 it, it's -- I had to write something, the meaning of the
16 three nightmares. Then I did my -- I pray a lot. Even if
17 I'm separated, I still believe in God. Because in those
18 days, if you were separated, you wouldn't; he won't give
19 you the host. Well, sometimes it's, I still go and take
20 communion.

21 So as I was saying then, I was dreaming
22 baby. It wasn't mine and my boyfriend's baby, it was just
23 a baby. And so I said, "It's here that I'll get closure
24 with my past. It's here that I'll leave behind, and it's
25 here we'll move forward. We shouldn't look back, but look

1 there. I'm here with my mother, and that's what counts.

2 I've forgiven myself, my ex who had cheated
3 on me. Me too, I had cheated on him. That, we were 1-1,
4 all the time. And then with my new -- that, there's love.
5 There's patience. I love him. And I'm -- yes, I've for --
6 I drank so much. Okay, about booze, true I was often
7 drunk, often going home sick, but I was able to work. But
8 every Monday morning, I was sick from my drinking because I
9 had binged.

10 And then, I recently wanted to care for a
11 girl. And I was known as a drinking woman. I wanted to
12 care for the young girl, just four months before her 18th
13 birthday because I really like her a lot, this young girl.
14 We get along. And when the young girl requested if she
15 could stay with me -- and what I didn't like it's that
16 Mamit's Social Services, there. There are some people -- a
17 photo here, right here. There's a photo on my forehead. I
18 have a label in Mamit.

19 But I still go all the same to get my bottle
20 of wine. But I don't, we don't, I no longer, we no longer
21 have parties at home. But, I still go get a bottle of wine
22 for two, with my boyfriend, because it's needed, because
23 he, he has, he has like high blood pressure. Me, I'm
24 diabetic. Oh diabetic! Diabetic. Me, I've been diabetic
25 for 30 years now, okay?

1 In -- in what was happening at the time of
2 the domestic violence, I was eating my emotions. Okay,
3 eating the emotions. I had beautiful teeth. I started
4 eating my emotions. I was eating junk, and then I reached
5 250 pounds by eating, because I'm eating. I don't have --
6 I don't have an escape hatch, I eat. I was so big. And
7 now I'm a diabetic. It's 30 years now.

8 And then, since that -- I want to give women
9 hope. It's ever since I took control of my life, seven
10 years ago; it's been one step at a time. Now, my diabetes
11 in my blood, in the blood had reached 13. Too high, too
12 much, it's too thick; it's like sugar; there's only syrup
13 in there. And recently, about a year and half, two now,
14 the syrup is a 7, at 7. It's normal now. I'm happy now.
15 That's why I took care of myself. I took care of myself,
16 and then I lost 100 pounds. It's the healing process
17 inside that has made me lose 100 pounds. But I'm happy,
18 it's --

19 Social Services, they should -- I don't
20 know. What I wish is that we, ourselves be in charge of
21 Social Services. There's, there's always, I don't know
22 but, they make me sick. That, that might be the next phase
23 to -- them, Social Services in Mamit, they make me sick.
24 It's -- it's bad. They don't listen to us. They -- they
25 give us labels. There are some people, prejudices,

1 preconceived ideas -- it's -- there's -- yes, I did drink a
2 lot.

3 Now, I -- let's say for example, they go to
4 the home of a Quebec family and they, they too drink a
5 glass of wine. It's -- me, I drink a glass of wine, but
6 before I drank, yes. Now I'm in a healing process. If,
7 let's say -- what I wish, is that the Innus, that we'd be
8 in charge of social services. Because we're the ones who
9 know the -- I have something here. Is there a question?

10 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** I'd just like to ask you
11 Yvette, during those 32 years of violence from your
12 husband, have you ever filed a complaint with the
13 authorities?

14 **MS. YVETTE BELLEFLEUR:** Yes. He went to
15 jail. But he wasn't charged like -- a man -- he wasn't
16 charged. It's like a sword, right here. It's -- he had to
17 behave for one year. Simply let -- they didn't charge him.
18 They didn't charge him. There weren't any charges. He
19 doesn't have a criminal record. All good. And, what I'm
20 saying it's (Speaking in Native language) it's your life.

21 But today, I'm happy. It's, it's for --
22 it's, I think of myself. I have limits. I have limits.
23 Before I had no limits. Now I have limits. I can no
24 longer tell Yvette: "C'mon, go, go." No. I'm 55 and I
25 love life and I'm happy.

1 Ah yes! Before I finish. It was rare I'd
2 get up in the morning, smile, and say "I'm happy." That's
3 phase two. I was dreaming of three deaths. The second
4 phase is I, I get up, I say "I'm happy, I'm smiling, aye."
5 That's why I'm going to put, I want to put it in the sacred
6 fire there.

7 Also, I believe. I always say my prayers.
8 I'm always saying my prayers. I believe in -- I believe in
9 God. Very important. It's in mine and Jesus' too, I
10 believe. I believe in Him, I believe in -- that's why God,
11 He's always going to help us. It doesn't matter -- you
12 believe; it's always a higher being who's going to help us.
13 That's all I have to say. Thank you.

14 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** Thank you Yvette. I'll
15 let the Commission have the next period for questions and
16 comments.

17 **COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON:** Michèle laughs
18 at me because I always have questions.

19 **MS. YVETTE BELLEFLEUR:** *Je...* I don't
20 understand English.

21 **COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON:** Michèle always
22 laughs at me. She looks at me and she goes: "Oh, you have
23 questions." *Oui,* (Yes,) I always have questions. In this
24 Inquiry, we're looking at the causes of violence and
25 solutions, and I was thinking, as I was listening to you,

1 you know, what, what is it that we can do? We've heard
2 from a number of women who've had, who've had violence from
3 their partners. You know, people knew and people did
4 nothing and they had nowhere to turn. So my questions to
5 you, I guess there's two questions. What, what did you
6 need that wasn't there? And, how can we help these men?
7 Is there something that can be done to help these men to
8 stop being violent towards women?

9 **MS. YVETTE BELLEFLEUR:** Okay. First thing,
10 in my case. I once had to flee La Romaine, because my ex,
11 said to my daughter: "You, you should've never been born."
12 That's verbal abuse. Then, I said to my daughter: "Get
13 dressed warmly, take a few things." I took the Ski-Doo and
14 I left for Natashquan. I didn't get any help. That's why,
15 why I wanted -- I didn't have any help and so I left. I
16 took the -- necessary steps to get into the shelter for
17 Indigenous women. Me. I had money; I could afford to pay,
18 to pay for my gas. But women who live at the poverty
19 level, they can't do this, they can't do this. Besides,
20 that was my Ski-Doo, which -- it was my Ski-Doo -- it was -
21 - me, I could afford it. I left. But a woman under, below
22 the poverty level -- that's why I would ask, that there be
23 an organization. That everyone could chip in some funding
24 to better, better, better, better help women in distress
25 from violence.

1 And also, for men, there are caregivers.
2 When there's -- when there was an argument between a
3 couple, for everyone it's "poof!" and there's nobody. And
4 when there's a show "poof!" everyone is watching you.
5 That's why for the men, I think, for the men, there should
6 be -- I know that I've seen on Facebook. Men starting to -
7 - getting together in those yurts. They're -- yes, some
8 small gatherings, they're, they're doing gatherings also
9 for men in different communities. There's a woman who was
10 saying: "We should to do gatherings for women. It's been a
11 while since we've had one." It helps. And, as for men. A
12 man too needs help. He needs help -- there's like --
13 they're offering counselling, but, apparently it's
14 declining in counselling centres. I don't know. But, me,
15 I say for the men, we should have a retreat lodge in the
16 woods with the Elders. We need to -- we need to return to
17 our roots.

18 That's why I think that there's hope.
19 Instead of -- sometimes, I listen everywhere, and it's --
20 instead of -- we get guest speakers from Montreal or from
21 out west. This costs 20-30 thousand. I know, I once
22 worked in this. Just, sometimes, therapists or guest
23 speakers, I'd love to earn 20,000. But you know? 20,000
24 could be used for a men's lodge, to use for meetings, for
25 healing. Instead of investing in one person, they could

1 invest in several Elders. These Elders, we need to pay
2 them too. They need -- this is not free. The Elders, the
3 elder men -- this is how I was seeing it.

4 So, this is an old dream, but in Unamen,
5 it's been done. We had -- we'd the Basil Mark (ph) project
6 as we used to call it. He had brought -- sponsored (ph)
7 Basil Mark (ph) and then they -- they brought some youth
8 in, about a dozen kids in the woods. And then they went.
9 They did portaging. They went down the rivers. But, you
10 know what? They were accompanied by Elders. If we -- they
11 were are able to save three or four there who are -- who
12 have -- who have found the right path; I'm talking about
13 kids here. And after that, send them to -- a healing
14 centre; they're in the towns.

15 I don't know, but me, I'd invest the 20,000,
16 I'd invest in this kind of healing, in our own culture, our
17 own beliefs, but with Elders. It's a return to the roots,
18 and there aren't any others -- you know, it's all great to
19 shout, find, discuss -- let's wake up! That's how I see
20 it.

21 What was the second question? The men and
22 then the women? Okay. Okay.

23 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Yes. Yes
24 Yvette, you've answered.

25 **MS. YVETTE BELLEFLEUR:** Yes.

1 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Thank you
2 very much. Thank you so much for also having continued
3 what the women and men have started doing here since Monday
4 focusing on one individual at a time. And also for having
5 the courage to say it here, and to free yourself from it.
6 So then, I have a lot of admiration for the people who do
7 this. And I say it to you, I have a lot of admiration.
8 And, knowing that you'll be going to the sacred fire -- I
9 don't know when you'll do it -- but, if I can be behind
10 you, to just quietly accompany you, I'd be very honoured
11 because it's hard to listen to your testimony. But seeing
12 that you're standing --

13 **MS. YVETTE BELLEFLEUR:** Yes. Yes. I felt
14 respected. But, the group here also, I felt respected.
15 That, that's my life and I'm happy to share. I'm a lot
16 calmer. Before I was raging.

17 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** No, me, I
18 love the way you are. It shakes things up. That's good
19 and now we'd like to give you on behalf of the National
20 Inquiry and members of the team, our beautiful Grandmothers
21 at the back, our Great-Grandmothers, Elders, an eagle
22 feather that was picked by the women of British Columbia.
23 To say to you a great big thank you with some Labrador tea.
24 A big thank you. (Giving of gifts by the Grandmothers and
25 the Commissioners)

1 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** I would ask the registrar
2 to adjourn this hearing. Thank you. (Indigenous singing)

3 **MS. JEANETTE VOLLANT:** We'll take a short
4 break and then we'll start -- we'll take a break and then
5 after that, we'll announce when the next hearing will
6 commence.

7 --- Upon recessing at 2:54 p.m.

8 --- Upon resuming at 3:15 p.m.

9 **MS. JEANETTE VOLLANT:** I'm waiting for
10 Ms. Anne-Marie St-Onge. She'll be talking to us about her
11 quilt.

12 **MS. ANNE-MARIE ST-ONGE:** (Speaking in Native
13 language) Ah yes. Usually.

14 **MS. JEANETTE VOLLANT:** I don't know.
15 Translator? Ah! He's here. (Speaking in Native language)

16 **MS. ANNE-MARIE ST-ONGE:** (Speaking in her
17 language, she's telling a story about the quilts) (Speaking
18 through an interpreter) We've talked about missing women,
19 who were -- those who were killed. I've made a quilt.
20 We've made several of them. And we've made them together
21 with my grandchildren, three of my grandchildren. They
22 came from Betsiamites and three others in Kawawachikamach.
23 And then we set ourselves up to -- they asked me: "What are
24 we doing? What are you doing? 'I want to make some quilts,
25 some quilted blankets.'" How are you going to make them? 'I

1 don't know how, I'll make them, and then I want to decide -
2 -'" I told them: "I want to find out." I said: "We're
3 going to make some flowers. We are going to make some
4 flowers. And we cut out some flower shapes."

5 There's one of my grandchildren, he was a
6 very sensitive child, and he had listened to me explaining
7 what we were doing. And I explained to him the situation
8 of women in Canada, about the murdered and missing women.
9 And the other grandchildren said to me: "But, what
10 happened? Were they put in jail? Were the men put in
11 jail? Why did they kill them? Why weren't the women
12 found? Were there any searches?"

13 And my five-year-old grandson came. He
14 tells me: "Look at me. Look at my tears, mom." I said to
15 myself, "Who made my grandchild cry? Who, who's hurt him?
16 Who, who's hurt him?" He said to me: "It's you who made me
17 cry." "Why, how, how did I do that?" I'm not near him,
18 how did I make him cry? "When you told your story." My
19 grandson was crying because of my story. All the questions
20 that I was asked. After that I didn't know what to answer.
21 Why were the women in jail? Why were they killed? These
22 were very difficult stories. I couldn't ask them too many
23 questions. I couldn't answer them. I already had one of
24 my grandchildren crying. I couldn't continue anymore, and
25 I couldn't continue explaining the women's situation.

1 And then, my grandson, wiped his tears with
2 his quilt, and so I'd like to leave it for the women, the
3 women who are not, who have not been found. I'm donating
4 it to the Commission so that, so that this quilt can travel
5 around Canada. And I'd like to thank you.

6 **MS. PÉNÉLOPE GUAY:** Hello. Kuei. Me, I'm
7 Pénélope Guay. I live in Quebec City, but I'm originally
8 from the Pekwuaka (ph) community, in Lac St-Jean. So, in
9 living in an urban area, we, we've really -- our work is
10 also to raise awareness among the population of our
11 situation, our history. I'm truly a woman of history. I
12 teach a lot of history because that was my -- my
13 oppression, history. I come from a girl under the *Indian*
14 *Act*. So, I've always lived outside my community. So --
15 because my mother was Indigenous and my father is a Métis.
16 And this has interfered with my life. I cannot speak the
17 language. It's a question of identity. Now, I don't know
18 why I'm telling you that. I'm very moved. Okay.

19 We in Quebec City, we have a community house
20 called Maison Missinak, an emergency shelter for Indigenous
21 women, which is located in Charlesbourg. We also have a
22 traditional site located in Saint-Tite-des-Caps; it's where
23 we can bring families. We can do our metashan (ph). We
24 can -- anyhow, when the, the children come to the land,
25 they don't want to go back; it just goes to show how much

1 we, in urban areas, miss it.

2 So we have had a big piece of land since
3 2010. And now we're about to start a new organization
4 which will be called Mamuk (ph), a multi-service centre in
5 an urban setting. And that, that's going to be amazing
6 because we can host in that location. We'll be able to
7 welcome you also, because, at the shelter, you know, it's
8 restricted. We can -- we can -- the only way to come to
9 the shelter, it's then --. I can't invite people in there,
10 while at Mamuk (ph), everyone will be able to come.

11 You know, we've had a Women's Circle in
12 Missinak since 2003. So we have a room that we've been
13 renting since then. We created a project. We called it
14 the comfort quilts. You can see some of them here at the
15 back. I have seven like those. We, our way was to go down
16 into the streets, to go and teach people. Because they're
17 hearing about the Commission. They want to know; they want
18 to understand. So this was a pleasure for me and my work
19 colleagues, to collect the quilt squares that people were
20 making, signing, making drawings, and explaining why, a bit
21 like Anne-Marie's. I think that taking the time to explain
22 what's taking place is also important. So we made seven.
23 They'll be touring Canada also. It's the first time
24 they're being exhibited here in Maliotenam. I'm quite
25 proud. So, after here, it will leave then. They too will

1 be going as well -- We're taking them especially for --.

2 What we were saying with Michèle, it's that
3 we -- them -- it's to comfort the families so that they'd
4 see them, that it's beautiful. And at the same time, all
5 the people who have made these quilt squares, they've put
6 lots of love into it. That's what I'd tell them: "Put lots
7 of love into it, because the families need it." So then,
8 this was done with love, with the teachings, and it has
9 resulted in this beautiful quilt. And so, I thank you very
10 much for listening. Thank you.

11 **MS. JEANETTE VOLLANT:** She's talking about
12 her quilts. Yvette Michèle and Fernande Saint-Onge have
13 brought with them the flag we had started. I think it was
14 in 1997 that we started gathering, us women, women only,
15 all the women in the community. So during our stay,
16 because our first one, where we met, it's in Escher (ph).
17 You have to take the train. So all these women here, who
18 were coming from everywhere: some had to drive, others had
19 to come from -- there were even some from Sheshatshiu in
20 Labrador. And also from Schefferville, Essipit, Pointe --
21 Mashteuiatsh (ph) and from the entire Basse-Côte-Nord
22 [lower north shore], all the villages along the Basse-Côte-
23 Nord [lower north shore].

24 So we would meet for about ten days or so,
25 given that when you take the train it takes one day to go

1 and one to come back. So we -- we were always given pieces
2 of caribou breast, which we had either, how can I say it,
3 smoked or tanned, if you like. And then we had to make,
4 yes a drawing. You could either simply write your name,
5 but what it meant for you to participate in the women's
6 meeting.

7 This gathering lasted 10 years, and then,
8 when we walked over there, from Maliotenam all the way to
9 the old village of Moisie, we brought it with us and we
10 showed it. We asked the people who are pipe carriers to
11 sit and to put their pipes on it and they said: "No, we're
12 too afraid to get it dirty." It's like, almost sacred.
13 And then that's all --

14 You know? Healing comes from way back. Me,
15 I'm talking of 1997; we're now in 2017. It's been almost
16 20 years now that we've -- that this, this -- that we're
17 getting together, we women, always for the healing. The
18 objective of that meeting there with those women there, we
19 wanted to heal ourselves first. After that, the children,
20 after that the man; it was the family. So this lasted, oh
21 God! I still get goosebumps just talking about it, now --
22 that was quite something, huh? I didn't go to all the
23 gatherings, but to several, and it was quite something!

24 At first we didn't want to have any men. We
25 wanted nothing to do with men. We were frustrated women,

1 but we needed the men to go get water, prepare the
2 firewood, and carry our bags. It's quite something, we
3 needed some men, and we accepted a few. After that, the
4 following years, the husbands -- the women brought their
5 husbands and that was -- that was okay, that was good. We
6 had no issue with that.

7 And those were then very difficult years,
8 and I know that healing, is long, is painful. But one day,
9 one day everything melts away. You feel better. You're
10 achieving peace and, that's what's important too.

11 We just talk of healing here, and there has
12 been lots. I myself have witnessed it, the whole week, the
13 healing when I went to the sacred fire. There were lots
14 and lots of families who came to tell their truths. They
15 cried; they went on an emotional ride. Because there are
16 many means for healing. In healing, you can talk, you can
17 laugh, you can cry, you can shout, you can shake, and you
18 can sweat. These are the means of healing we were taught.

19 So for me, what I loved best is to shout. I
20 love that, to shout because I'm a woman who loves to walk
21 on the beach. And so when I'm not happy about something --
22 because I tend to be a stressed or anxious person, I think,
23 I worry too much about others and it's not even for me so,
24 I take that on and I assume it. I'm not supposed to assume
25 it. Nobody should have to. And so I go to the beach; I go

1 for a walk. And so I have the water, and the land, I have
2 the air. And the warmth, well it's the sun, and then I
3 start shout like a madwoman. I've thought: "Oh no! If
4 someone hears me, they'll think I'm crazy." Too bad, too
5 bad if they think I'm crazy.

6 And I'm a woman who's always in a healing
7 approach, process. And I like that, the means for healing.
8 I use them and I have to share them, because people need
9 them. It's not just for women, it's for everyone; the
10 means I give, it's for everyone, not just for me. If you
11 use some of them, that's great!

12 Here, there were some bags of tears; they're
13 sacred tears. So, there were some bags where we could put
14 the tears we had, which flowed from our eyes because of
15 everything we've heard this week. So this was a means.
16 Afterwards we're going to burn them in the sacred fire.
17 You can go to the sacred fire, Lucien Saint-Onge and
18 Grégoire, Grégoire Canapé? I think. They're always there
19 with their spouses, and if you need to talk or anything for
20 you to heal, something that hurts, then you can go there.

21 You can also go to the Family Home. This
22 house there, I didn't even know that, and I was practically
23 the council chair. I was told some time ago because the
24 expenses needed, needed to be accounted for. Well, I said,
25 that home there, it was for the families. And the women

1 who especially need to, to get away from their home when
2 they're subjected to violence. So there was a room. It's
3 even me who chose all the furniture. And it was a home
4 that I loved dearly. For sure today, there are many
5 support workers, so this has somewhat changed the mission,
6 but at the beginning, it was for families, for children,
7 for getting help with the homework and to help families in
8 need. But it's alright like it is now, as it is today.
9 There are many support workers, and one can go and get --
10 and one can go and see the support workers. They're
11 qualified, they love their job. And so, it's -- it's good
12 like that.

13 My Goodness! I'm such a chatterbox this
14 afternoon. And I even said earlier: "Ah! I'm going to go
15 home, my stomach hurts." And now, my stomach is not
16 hurting anymore; I think I'm going to stay. And I'm a
17 woman who likes to speak her mind, who loves to speak the
18 truth, who really loves being honest in life. And I'm also
19 a woman who loves to make people laugh, because when I
20 laugh, I laugh so hard. The other day I was laughing so
21 hard, that one of my cousins said to me: "Oh my God! I
22 heard auntie Christine laughing! So, that's me. I was
23 laughing so hard, and it's like my younger sister Lisane,
24 she, she would laugh even harder than me. So laughter,
25 that was another means of healing, did you know?

1 And all these families here, here, they use
2 every means to heal. They come and share with you the
3 truth of what has happened to them, what has led them to be
4 unhappy. And I'm sure that these families here, are going
5 to go back home with a lighter heart and the feeling that
6 they can breathe, breathe. To forgive themselves and
7 forgive the other. Because I'm a woman who talks a lot
8 about forgiveness.

9 My father has taught me to forgive others.
10 It was not easy, seeing that I was a woman who's suffered a
11 lot of violence, and I was so angry at my ex-husband; I
12 blamed him for all the wrongs until I understood that I had
13 my own wrongs. It's half and half. In life there are two
14 sides. I had just as many wrongs as he did. So one day, I
15 had to ask him for forgiveness. He started to cry. We had
16 been separated for 10 years. So, still after 10 years, he
17 himself came to ask me to forgive him. Forgiveness, that's
18 a -- that's powerful. When you get up and go and see the
19 person, and you say to them: "I beg your forgiveness for
20 all I've done to you, for the way I spoke to you." And
21 whether the person forgives you or not, you, you've made
22 the gesture of being a good person. So me, that's what I -
23 - I don't know why I'm talking this way here, that's how
24 it's coming out today.

25 So, anyhow, I was told to fill the time

1 until there's a -- someone from my family coming to share.
2 And so, I see the -- the executive director of the Native
3 Women, Viviane, I'd like you to come and talk to us for a
4 bit. Can you come?

5 It's someone with whom I worked at the
6 Tipinuaikan (ph) Centre. Tipinuaikan (ph) is for women who
7 are victims of domestic violence, and so forth. We've
8 worked together, and what I wanted to achieve in this
9 centre is respect for women. It's listening to them,
10 having compassion, because for us things are not always
11 well in our homes. And, when you want to help someone, go
12 and seek your own healing first. After that, it'll be
13 easier for you to help the woman standing next to you.

14 Do you want to come Viviane? She seems a
15 bit shy eh? For an Indigenous woman in Quebec City! I've
16 worked with this woman, and I really loved her. And today,
17 she is with Native Women.

18 **MS. VIVIANE MICHEL:** Kuei (Speaking in
19 Native language) I'm going to focus more on the
20 Commission's goals, and objectives, why this Commission is
21 here. For 30 years we've been aware that we're suffering
22 these forms of violence. For 30 years we've been aware
23 that justice doesn't apply because we're Indigenous women.
24 For 30 years we've been trying to take our place, that we
25 need security, that we need a system that protects us. Ten

1 years, if not longer, of demanding this Commission. Ten
2 years of mobilization. Ten years of calling on the levels
3 of government. It's not because of Viviane Michel, and
4 also of other presidents who've preceded me. But it's also
5 with, and I think it's important to stress this, with the
6 alliances we've worked with, we're talking of the people of
7 Quebec.

8 There are some people who believe that we
9 experience discrimination. There are some who see that we
10 experience inequality in terms of justice when it comes to
11 the disappearance and murder that our, our sisters, our
12 women, our daughters go through. We've made it here. It's
13 an important moment. It's a moment where we have a space
14 to say what is wrong. What's wrong? What's wrong when we
15 lose our daughter, when we don't know where our child has
16 gone? It's a space where we can say that when we report
17 it, that justice doesn't lift a finger because we're
18 Indigenous women. We've made it here. Let us own this
19 space as much as possible. Let us make sure that this
20 Commission works. Let us try to improve.

21 It's important to support, and to be
22 supported. There is some amazing energy here. There's
23 some amazing energy in the sacred fire. The welcome.
24 Everything was, everything is interconnected. I'm happy to
25 be here among, among our own, among my community, among old

1 friends that I've, I haven't seen for a long time. I left
2 in 2007; it's been a while. Too long. But that's alright.
3 I feel so good. I feel great. I have a good life. I have
4 done a good job. Not to boast, no, but because I work with
5 my sacred objects. It's not me who's doing the work. It's
6 really my feathers, the feathers I received. It's really
7 the sacred Calumet that works; it's really the snake's
8 remedy given to me by my grandmothers. Wow! Not to be
9 above others, but simply, to do a better job. That's all.
10 (Speaking in Native language)

11 **MS. JEANETTE VOLLANT:** Thank you. Thank you
12 very much! Don't forget the famous -- did you want to say
13 something Pénélope? No. Okay. Because you were making a
14 sign. I don't know. The famous basket. So I'm going to
15 get it. Here, this basket here, here, it's for -- if you
16 want to donate anything. It can be a song. It can be a
17 letter. It can be a poem. It can be anything you want. I
18 don't know what you'd like to donate.

19 I've already made my donation. It's been
20 recorded. With -- it's going to be something from our
21 heritage, our history, memories -- oh come on, oh shit!
22 Goddamn! Pardon me! Pardon me! (Laughter) Now can we
23 start? Oh good! Thank you very much. I'm going to shut
24 my -- I'm going to shut my trap.

25 **(SINGING AND DRUMMING)**

1 **Fourth Hearing: Jenny Régis**
2 **Heard by Commissioners Michèle Audette, Qajaq Robinson and**
3 **Brian Eyolfson**
4 **Commission Counsel: Fanny Wylde**
5 **Grandmothers, Elders, Knowledge-keepers: Anne-Marie André,**
6 **Pénélope Guay**
7 **Clerk: Jean-Luc Dorion**
8 **Registrar: Bryan Zandberg**

9 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** Kuei, dear Commissioners.
10 I'd like to introduce to you our next witness, Ms. Jenny
11 Régis, who's here to share her story as a survivor of
12 violence, different types of violence. So, before we
13 start, I'd like the registrar to proceed with the swearing
14 in of the witness. She'd like to be sworn in with the
15 eagle feather.

16 **MR. BRYAN ZANDBERG:** Good Day. Good Day
17 Ms. Régis. Do you solemnly swear to tell the truth, the
18 whole truth, nothing but the truth?

19 **MS. JENNY RÉGIS:** Yes, I do.

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

21 **MS. JENNY RÉGIS:** Thank you.

22 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** So, welcome Jenny.

23 **MS. JENNY RÉGIS:** Thank you.

24 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** I'm going to ask you to
25 introduce yourself to the Commissioners by giving your name

1 and which place you're from.

2 **MS. JENNY RÉGIS:** Jenny Régis from Uashat.

3 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** I understand that in
4 preparing for your testimony today, you've written down
5 your testimony. You may want to read it for the
6 Commissioners.

7 **MS. JENNY RÉGIS:** Yes.

8 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** I'd invite you to do so,
9 to share now. And, take your time.

10 **MS. JENNY RÉGIS:** Okay. The only reason I'm
11 here, is thanks to a six-year-old child. The same age I
12 was when my life was taken away by in individual in my,
13 from my foster home. He used to come every night, and he
14 used to stick the handle of a screwdriver in me, every
15 night over several months. I didn't understand why, but I
16 thought he was there to kill me. The abuse lasted until
17 the age of 13. I so was tired of enduring all that, that I
18 myself asked the judge that I'd be given in custody to my
19 alcoholic mother, to be close to her and safe. It's true
20 that I was, but I'd never thought that this would happen to
21 her too, by six individuals.

22 I grew up in fear of and hatred for men.
23 For many years, I thought of suicide, at that time because
24 I was convinced that God did not exist for me or couldn't
25 see me because none of my prayers had been answered. And

1 that very day, that same day, my mother told me that she
2 was going to stop drinking and that she was going to go
3 into therapy. Once out, when she got out, they recommended
4 that she'd go for the 90 meetings at AA. To save her, I
5 did 180 with her. And today, I realize that I saved myself
6 on that day, I saved myself on my own.

7 At 16, I had to share my life because I was
8 also part of AA. It was hard for me. I was there to help
9 save my mother, but I had to share my life. I wasn't an
10 alcoholic then. I did it and then, and what's really weird
11 in all of this, me who didn't believe in God at that time,
12 my mother tells me: "Go to the washroom. Go and kneel
13 down. Ask God to help you. 'Mom, the washroom!'" You
14 can't do that, you know. That night, I went. I did it for
15 her.

16 What had happened that night, I was getting
17 ready to share. I was about to get up. I was going to get
18 up and then take off, when the lights went out, a power
19 outage. I started to share with two candles, I couldn't
20 see anybody, anybody. It felt good to share that night, at
21 16, about my childhood, and soon after my sharing, wham!
22 The lights are back on. It's as if a God, the God whom I
23 had asked to help me, well, he came that night. I think
24 that this helped me to keep on going for a little longer.
25 I gave myself a second chance that day.

1 From the age of 15 to 25, I call this the
2 age of rebellion. I ran away from the love given to me. I
3 didn't listen to anyone. Four times into therapy. The
4 last one worked. I went to look for the six-year old child
5 in me and bring out what was there, what had really
6 happened.

7 At 25, I found my boyfriend hanging when he
8 had sent me to run an errand. My whole life fell apart, I
9 think. All the prayers, everything I could possibly
10 believe in, all came crashing down that day. I've never
11 got the answer; I never, I never saw the message that was
12 behind it.

13 At 30, no, during that period, there was the
14 police period, the period of my rape, my own rape. I was
15 judged, blamed for a number of years. I had to shut myself
16 in my house, without a life, you know. You'd think that
17 this was all my fault. The six years, I think, that I
18 spent in my room, in my room asking myself what I was going
19 to do. Four attempted suicides, two of which, she saved
20 me, I'll say, my angel.

21 Thirty years old. I find my uncle dead from
22 a heart attack in his room, in going for a coffee. Once
23 again, life deals me another blow, you know. After that, I
24 spend most of my time at home trying to forget all the
25 misfortune hounding me, always ready to leave this shitty

1 life, until an Elder comes to talk to me and gives me the
2 strength and hope to keep going. "God would never send,
3 Jenny, God would never send it to a person who couldn't
4 handle those trials.

5 I can tell you that it's by the grace of God
6 that I'm still here today on this Earth. At 36, I watch my
7 child die of a rare disease. I have the biggest -- I had
8 the greatest bereavement of my life because after the
9 burial of my child, my other child tells me of an assault.
10 I swore to God that I'd never be able to go on through
11 this, this ordeal.

12 Nowadays, I keep my kids locked in the
13 house. I try, for better or worse, to keep them
14 entertained in the house. And when I see that there's
15 something they're missing, I sell some homemade casseroles
16 to satisfy their wants. And that's what brings me here
17 today, before you; it's the courage that my boy had to
18 denounce at the age of six. I died in 2010, but I'm
19 hanging on to this life for the sake of my children and all
20 the children on Earth. I want to see this light at the end
21 of the tunnel. I've never seen it, but I believe in it.
22 I'm watching my son wanting to become a woman because he
23 hates himself, and I think that there should have been more
24 help, today.

25 And when I look, today, I have -- I've kept

1 my secret for 30 years. My son has had the courage at six
2 years old to tell everything. I don't want him to be like
3 me, 30 years old, ruining his life by shutting himself in,
4 remaining on this Earth just -- just because I have
5 children, y'know. I love my children. And when I now look
6 at my son -- for eight years now, I'm trying to, to do the
7 best I can, to help him, to help him, please. There is
8 help for a six-year old child. Don't wait until he's like
9 me, y'know? Don't wait until all children become like us.
10 It's for their -- that's why I'm here. I took his courage
11 and now I'm -- I'm sitting here before you, today. Thank
12 you.

13 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** So Jenny, if you allow me,
14 I have a few questions to ask you.

15 **MS. JENNY RÉGIS:** Yes.

16 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** You've spoken about being
17 sexually assaulted at the age of six. Is that right?

18 **MS. JENNY RÉGIS:** Yes.

19 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** And that it was when you
20 were in a foster home?

21 **MS. JENNY RÉGIS:** Yes.

22 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** It was a foster home where
23 exactly?

24 **MS. JENNY RÉGIS:** Here in Uashat.

25 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** Okay. And this assault,

1 was it the father in the family?

2 **MS. JENNY RÉGIS:** No. No, it was people who
3 were coming, who were being lodged there, some kind of
4 patient services.

5 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** Okay. You've also
6 mentioned a policeman. Can you share a few details about
7 that?

8 **MS. JENNY RÉGIS:** It was, it was on a
9 weekend night. I was at a bar with a cousin. The
10 policeman in question, who wasn't a policeman that night,
11 he comes toward us, and he starts hurling insults at us,
12 treating us like whores, sluts: "I know that you're capable
13 the two of you, of doing to me what I want." My cousin and
14 I, we looked at each other and then started laughing at
15 him. We then called a taxi because we found him very
16 annoying there, listening to his insults, casting
17 aspersions. Well, we called a taxi, and then we left.

18 After that when I got home, I got home, we
19 went home, to my mother's. He comes into our house from
20 the back door, the patio door, and he goes straight into
21 one of the bedrooms, gets undressed, he says, "Come on my
22 bitches, you can do it, you can do it. Everyone is talking
23 about it. You can do it. I mean that's all you do." I
24 didn't find him funny, let me tell you. Then all I could
25 say was "Wait a sec, I'll be back." I go to the bathroom.

1 I took the phone. I had brought it to the bathroom. I
2 called the police. It's the police who came to get him
3 dressed, pick him up, take him back.

4 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** And it was a policeman
5 from which police force?

6 **MS. JENNY RÉGIS:** From here, from my
7 community here.

8 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** Okay. When you call the
9 police, they dressed him. After that, did you file a
10 complaint about this incident here?

11 **MS. JENNY RÉGIS:** Not right away. I didn't
12 lodge a complaint, I meant to say -- but, in the meantime,
13 we were laughing at him all the same, on the reserve, even
14 his work colleagues were laughing at him. I didn't want to
15 make it a big deal, let me tell you. But a few months
16 later, not even a month, two months, I think, I was raped,
17 around this time, a rape. I decided to lodge a complaint
18 for the two, for both. And to this day, I still ask
19 myself: "Was it, was it on purpose? Was it planned? Was
20 this rape planned?" Because the gap -- it wasn't that long
21 after. And plus, it's the same family, I mean.

22 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** So this rape here of which
23 you were victim, was it another policeman too?

24 **MS. JENNY RÉGIS:** No. No. It was one of
25 his relatives.

1 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** Okay. You file a
2 complaint and what happens next?

3 **MS. JENNY RÉGIS:** I make a complaint but, as
4 I told you, I was just coming out of therapy. I had just,
5 at the age of 25, told God who had, who had ruined my life,
6 y'know. I mean, I had just been healed. I had just told
7 God of my past and then the other, a rape comes along so
8 soon after that. I couldn't go on anymore. I couldn't go
9 on because I thought: "Is it going to be another 25 years
10 of this that's in store for me? Is it going to be yet
11 another 25 years of darkness?"

12 I decided to hide this, to stuff this deep
13 down and hide this. I mean -- I didn't want to, I didn't
14 want to keep going, I didn't want to go through what I had
15 just experienced again. It took time for me to open up, to
16 be loved. It took time for me to love too. I look at -- I
17 looked at my children and I said to myself: "No. No. I'll
18 keep going."

19 Because, in the meantime, I mean, all along,
20 it took practically one, a whole year before, before the
21 trial took place. But, throughout that year, the policemen
22 and my attacker, they were walking around together while
23 there was a court order for them not to come near me and
24 frequent bars. And when I'd go out for a drink with my
25 friends, they were there, the two of them. And they were

1 laughing at me, and the next day you'd hear everywhere that
2 I had danced on tables, removed my T-shirt -- everyone
3 laughing at me for so many years. I mean, they messed
4 around with my head for so many years. We had -- every
5 time I'd set my foot out of the door: "We heard that you
6 did this, that you did that." We'd see the flashing lights
7 in my parking lot, just to scare me, just to scare me. And
8 when I'd go outside, he'd back up and leave.

9 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** How did this whole chapter
10 of your life, with the policeman, make you feel?

11 **MS. JENNY RÉGIS:** This shattered my life,
12 I'd say. I had, I was hopeful when I'd finished with my
13 therapy, when I had told God, of my past. I was hopeful, I
14 had -- I told myself "I deserve something good." I had told
15 myself: "I grew up in, in darkness, and now I deserve
16 something good." Then, when this happened, them, behind
17 me, for two years, messing with my feelings, making fun of
18 me in front of the whole village, this shattered me. I
19 never left the house, I think. I clung to my mother's
20 skirt, and my mother clung onto me because she was afraid
21 of losing me.

22 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** I understand that you were
23 placed in a foster home because your mother was unable to
24 keep you.

25 **MS. JENNY RÉGIS:** My mother was going

1 through a divorce when I was four, five years old. It was
2 a time of divorce, my father was leaving. My mother had,
3 she started to be acquainted with booze. It was my
4 grandmother who raised us until she couldn't anymore. She
5 decided to keep the two boys, but the two girls, they had
6 to go to a foster home.

7 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** You also mentioned, that
8 one of your children was victim of sexual assault. Can you
9 share some detail about this?

10 **MS. JENNY RÉGIS:** I had a child with a rare
11 disease which led me to, to practically move to Montreal to
12 the Sainte-Justine hospital. I was going back and forth.
13 Then at one point, I had to stay there eight months, I
14 think. To do his chemo, and the time to recover, this led
15 me -- there was a babysitter -- well, it's the doctor who
16 requested that Social Services, get, get help for me at
17 home because my boy, gravely ill with a rare disease, he
18 needed -- he needed a -- ventilator and to take a lot of
19 medications.

20 Me, my, my job was to take care of my sick
21 boy, and the worker who was coming to help me, well, he was
22 supposed to take care of the other children. And then this
23 babysitter she's the one who was watching them while I was
24 in Montreal. But my son has ADHD, a disease -- disorder,
25 behavioural disorder, I mean. And to punish my son, well

1 he sent his other son to stay there with my boy. It's her
2 way of punishing my boy, I'd say. For eight months,
3 apparently. When I got back, after my baby had died, I
4 buried him. That's when I found out that my boy had been
5 assaulted during the eight months that I wasn't there.

6 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** This babysitter, had she
7 been referred by Social Services?

8 **MS. JENNY RÉGIS:** Yes. And who I didn't
9 want. Who I didn't want because everyone knows everything
10 in the community, and -- I had heard that this family, that
11 they were abusers and that I didn't want to have this
12 babysitter in my home. And then the Services, they -- the
13 Social Services told me: "It's the only one who wants to
14 stay in your house. People are scared of your son, your
15 baby dies in, in your arms. They don't feel strong enough
16 to be there. She's the only one. Take -- keep her one
17 more week." And the following week, I go see them. "No,
18 it's still her that you gotta keep."

19 They make her sign a paper to the effect
20 that no visitors were allowed, that it's just her who can
21 go there, who can stay at our house. Don't worry, neither
22 her husband, nor her children are -- they're not allowed to
23 go to your house. I had, I had, reluctantly, I didn't have
24 a choice, but to say yes. When she told me that she wasn't
25 allowed visitors, I was a little relieved. I didn't know

1 that after, she'd do otherwise.

2 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** And so, your son was
3 assaulted by this babysitter's son?

4 **MS. JENNY RÉGIS:** Yes.

5 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** When your son spoke to you
6 about it, how did you react? Did you -- did you go see the
7 authorities?

8 **MS. JENNY RÉGIS:** When my son -- yes, of
9 course! Well, not right away, I mean. I believe that,
10 something happened the following day, the following day. I
11 had let my son play outdoors. It was six o'clock, I think,
12 just the time to prepare supper. And then there's a woman
13 who comes to my house, running, I mean. "Jenny, your son,
14 he went into the woods with a, a big boy. The boy took him
15 by the hand, and they went into that small wood over
16 there." I panicked. And I panicked. I called my son:
17 "Come on, my big guy!" He's in the woods, he's with
18 someone. I don't even know who it is. I ran toward the
19 woods, I screamed like a madwoman. I didn't know what was
20 happening. I didn't even know that it was him, I mean, the
21 abuser in question, in question. It's when he heard the
22 voice of, of his brother, I think that he -- came out of --
23 he came out of the woods.

24 I brought my son back into the house. I
25 made him explain and that's when he said to me: "Well, you

1 know mom," he said, "it's him, the one I was telling you
2 about." He said, "It's the one I can't say no to." I asked
3 him if he was about to do -- I asked him if he wanted this
4 to stop, if he wanted the guy not to be allowed to go near
5 him. He told me yes. I said, "For that we need to go, we
6 need to go through the police, and you have to file a
7 complaint. You have to say what happened." I said, "Do
8 you think you can do it? I promise I'll be behind you if
9 you do it. If you decide to do it." He said to me "Yes,
10 right away." That's what I did, I called the police and I
11 let him talk.

12 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** When you meet with the
13 police, what happened next? What did they do?

14 **MS. JENNY RÉGIS:** They let my son talk.
15 They took down notes, and they left with them. They left
16 with them, and I was hoping, I was hoping that at least,
17 they'd go and warn that boy, you know, never to go near my
18 boy. I was thinking that, that night it was going to be
19 over. But that wasn't the case. It took me three more
20 complaints, I think. Three other complaints, because, at
21 each time my son would come home -- I'd lose track of him
22 sometimes. He's hyper, it's normal. I'd lose him, you
23 know. I've lost track for an hour, and then my hyperactive
24 son, he'd, he was used to doing his rounds. He'd go to my
25 sister Bianca's house. He'd go inside my grandfather's

1 house. He'd go say hello to my mother. He'd stop at the
2 convenience store, and he'd then come home. This was his
3 routine. This would take, half an hour, this. Half an
4 hour tops and he had -- he'd be back home.

5 But if I'd lose him for more than an hour,
6 then I'd start to wonder. And when he returned, he was
7 always back with a gift, some money, and he'd go and change
8 himself in the bathroom right away. Then I question him.
9 "Well, it happened again, mom." I'd press for some more,
10 y'know. I wanted to know the truth. Why did he have
11 money? Why did he have a gift? Why was he always going to
12 the bathroom to change? And where were his clothes, after?
13 This happened three times, I think. Three times I had to
14 file other complaints.

15 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** Had there already been a
16 restraining order for the young man not to go near your
17 child?

18 **MS. JENNY RÉGIS:** Don't think so, but -- I
19 don't think, and even if -- there was one, it would have
20 been for the first -- he might have understood the first
21 time? I don't know, but if the police, a policeman comes
22 and tells me "You have to stop this right now," I'd stop.

23 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** Did, following this
24 complaint that you filed with the police -- I understand
25 that it's the community's local force, right?

1 **MS. JENNY RÉGIS:** Yes.

2 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** Were there any charges
3 laid in connection with these assaults? Has the young man
4 been charged?

5 **MS. JENNY RÉGIS:** I'd say, I waited a long
6 time for an answer. I don't know, but it'd be like normal
7 to get a letter, a visit, I don't know. When I saw that it
8 had been three, four months that I hadn't gotten any news,
9 I took some further action. I was calling and asking what
10 was happening: "So, what do we have? What's happening?" The
11 policeman came to see me -- well, when he saw -- I saw that
12 I was calling too often and asking, I wanted, wanted
13 answers. He came and he told me that there wasn't going to
14 be anything against him, that he was disabled and that the
15 case was, was closed then, I mean. Disabled? We -- I'd
16 never seen it, his disability. And today, we, we see he
17 has a license, a firearms license. He works. He drives a
18 car. I didn't see, his disability.

19 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** So, your son was six when
20 it all started? What year, approximately?

21 **MS. JENNY RÉGIS:** 2010.

22 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** Afterwards, how did this
23 affect the life of your son, now, today?

24 **MS. JENNY RÉGIS:** His behaviour has
25 worsened. I mean, during my absence, everything that a

1 mother can, can, can do to raise her child, I lost it. I
2 showed him sharing: he'd steal. I showed him love: he hated
3 the world. I've shown him -- everything that a mother can
4 bring to her child's upbringing, I had lost it. He no
5 longer was the child I had, that I was seeing -- that I had
6 known. It was a different child. Still today, when I look
7 at him, he's a different person. He's a different person.
8 I've, I've -- I do everything in my power to, to bring him
9 closer to me, to show him that there is, that there's hope
10 and that there's love. Right.

11 And today I look at him. He's a boy, but
12 there's so much there that he's lost. He now dresses like
13 a girl. He thinks he's a woman, he wants to be a woman.
14 It's been eight years that I've been knocking on doors for
15 help, for some help. I so much want to save him, I so much
16 want for him not to experience what I've experienced. But
17 it doesn't matter how much I knock, there isn't, I don't
18 have the help I'm hoping for. It doesn't matter where I
19 go: the doctor, the psychologist, my mother, the father at
20 home, you know. I damn well know that we need to keep on
21 pushing, pushing more to reach him. When I say that I went
22 into therapy to go find the little girl in me, and then get
23 it out once and for all, but my son, he's never had a
24 chance to say what has happened, y'know? They're like --
25 "Be quiet!" y'know? "It'll get done, but shut up."

1 What has saved me was going to look for my
2 inner child, and you know, that big lump that you carry in
3 here, that knot you've been dragging around for so many
4 years. That's what I'm hoping for him, that we'll be able
5 go and find that knot and then get it out, y'know. I
6 think, maybe, maybe he'll enjoy life more today? But, when
7 you take the child out of -- we had to, for his own good,
8 for my own good -- I had to admit my child to the Richelieu
9 Centre in Baie-Comeau to get help, to get help, for
10 psychological support, help -- whatever support needed, I
11 wanted it for him. But when you take your child out of the
12 system, there's no more help. (Indigenous word) There's no
13 more psychologist, there's no more -- no matter where I
14 knocked, there's no more help.

15 Even today, my child has been placed in a
16 centre, this week, for negligence. What negligence? I've
17 loved him, I've fed him, I've supported him for eight
18 years, and now they tell me that I'm responsible for
19 neglect? *Oh come on, no!* Open your eyes, you're the ones
20 neglecting him. It's the system that neglects us, *oh come*
21 *on!* And where's the help that I'm asking for?

22 I'm going to lose my son. What the hell am
23 I supposed to do? Do I have, do I have to forget about it
24 and tell myself, I've lost him and it's someone else? No.
25 No. It doesn't matter how miserable I am; it doesn't

1 matter, what a load of crap I am in life. But Christ! I'm
2 going to stand up for him. And not just for him, but for
3 all children here. I want to see it, I want to see it, the
4 light at the end of the tunnel for him. If I didn't get
5 the chance to see it, well goddamn it, make it so that he
6 will see it!

7 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** Why do you think that the
8 police have never followed through with the complaints and
9 that the Director of Criminal and Penal Prosecutions never
10 laid charges against the individual?

11 **MS. JENNY RÉGIS:** I think that -- the job
12 wasn't done. Even the first-aid kit, they say it's been
13 lost. And, do I know where they put it, the first-aid kit?

14 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** The forensic kit?

15 **MS. JENNY RÉGIS:** Yes, that's it.

16 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** How is it Jenny that you
17 are here with us today and sharing your story? What keeps
18 you on your path?

19 **MS. JENNY RÉGIS:** Love. Love of my
20 children. The hope that one day -- that -- something will
21 be done for us, for everyone, for children who are
22 assaulted. It's -- an assault, it's not just a trivial
23 thing, an assault. It's like murder. It's half of you who
24 has died there. And the other is trying to stay alive. I
25 think this is like a murder. Today, I look at my boy, and

1 I say to myself: "They've damn well killed him."

2 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** Now, I'd like to now share
3 if you have any recommendations for the Commissioners.
4 After having lived through all that you have, any general
5 recommendations to make?

6 **MS. JENNY RÉGIS:** I'm not mad at anyone, but
7 what's happening to us today, and well, I think that if
8 this happened to another child, to another child, I don't
9 know, a white child. I'm sure that there'd be help for
10 him. I'm sure that there'd be charges laid against the
11 abuser. I'm sure that something would have happened. And
12 I'm sure that there'd have been help for us. No, no, *for*
13 *them*. For them there is, but for me, no? For my son, no?
14 It's like leaving me on my own and get used to it. But I
15 can't. It's all good to love, it's good to love everyone,
16 it's all good to be thankful for life, but damn it, let's
17 wake up! Let's wake up! We too, we need the same
18 services. We too, we need psychologists. And not just
19 once a month. For whatever time it takes, the time it
20 takes.

21 I've always wanted to go to therapy with him
22 to glue back the pieces, because my boy, he's like lost
23 hope. The trust I had, the trust he had in, in me, well,
24 he lost it over time because today he still asks me: "So
25 what has happened, mom? You promised me that you were

1 going to support me until the end. Where's the police?
2 What's happened?" What do you want me to tell you? For
3 sure, his trust is gone. I'd love it for him to go, to go
4 somewhere, that both of us could go and heal and -- that
5 that there'd be some therapy for the -- the -- assaulted
6 children. I don't know, but me, I'd do it! I'd do it for
7 him, I'd do it for him. That he'd go and get the wound
8 that's been hurting him for eight years now out. Christ
9 Almighty! Find him some therapy, a place where we need to
10 go! We'll go! I want to save my child! I want to save
11 him. I won't stand by and watch him become someone else!

12 No, no. I'm overwhelmed by anger, I mean.
13 I say that we're all alike, y'know. We're human beings, us
14 too. It's all good being Innu and all that, but Christ!
15 We're alike, you, you, you. We're alike, you know? Our
16 children are alike. They have -- a heart, feelings. Wake
17 up! We're here, us too. We need help. We've been crying
18 for help for so many moons! Damn it! It needs to stop.

19 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** I don't have any other
20 questions. I'm going to leave room for the Commissioners
21 to ask their questions. I'll leave you the floor.

22 Commissioners, is it okay if I do the
23 translating for the witness? She asked that I translate
24 for her. Thank you.

25 **COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON:** Thank you. I

1 want to be specific because, in this Inquiry, we're going
2 to be looking at recommendations.

3 **MS. FANNY WILDE: (Counsel Wilde translates**
4 **what Mr. Qajaq previously stated)** I want to be specific
5 because, in this inquiry, we are looking closely at the
6 recommendations.

7 **COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON:** And you said
8 that, you know, you've been asking for help and that there
9 needs to be... People need to listen to your calls for
10 help. And the services --

11 **MS. FANNY WILDE: (Counsel Wilde translates**
12 **what Mr. Qajaq previously stated)** And you, you indicated
13 that you often asked for help and that people --

14 **COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON:** And that there
15 are services and you need, you know, equity in those
16 services.

17 **MS. FANNY WILDE: (Counsel Wilde translates**
18 **what Mr. Qajaq previously stated)** And you need services and
19 you need, especially, equity in those services.

20 **COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON:** Can you be...
21 give us some specifics of what kind of services and help
22 are needed?

23 **MS. FANNY WILDE: (Counsel Wilde translates**
24 **what Mr. Qajaq previously stated)** Can you be a little more
25 specific in naming what types of services that you were

1 looking for or that would be, that are, that would be
2 requested?

3 **MS. JENNY RÉGIS:** Currently, at this very
4 moment, it's me, that my son needs. It's me he needs and
5 no one else. Why must I place him in order for him to get
6 help? I mean it's us, we're his family. His brothers, his
7 sisters are there at home. Why are they taking my child
8 way from me, who has -- I've provided all the help given.
9 Why don't I have help at home? Why am I being forced to
10 let my child go when I know that it's like abandoning my
11 boy for a second time? Am I going to take that? Me? No!

12 I've been fighting for him since 2010.
13 Since 2010, I've put everything aside to -- just for him,
14 for him to feel better. And then they take him away from
15 me because -- they just take him like that, when they want.
16 As for me, I've knocked on every door for him to get, get
17 help at home. Why is it me who has to say yes to their way
18 of calling the shots.

19 Negligence? I've never neglected my child!
20 On the contrary, I did your job, damn it! It's, it's like
21 he's the one who's being punished. He's the one who was
22 assaulted, and yet he's the one punished. He's the one
23 paying the price. I think: "His place, is at home." Why
24 are they finding all sorts of excuses to take him away from
25 me, to tell me: "negligence." I don't think so, that I'm

1 neglecting my boy. My mother is there; all his brothers
2 are there to love him. He's fed, he's clothed. Why are
3 they saying that it's me, who's at fault here? Just to
4 hide that you can't help us? Simply to hide that -- I
5 can't point the finger at me when I've always been there.
6 You can't take my child while I'm still standing.

7 **COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON:** You've been
8 very clear, and I just thank you for what you've shared and
9 for answering my questions.

10 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** (Counsel Wilde translates
11 what Mr. Qajaq previously stated) You've been very clear
12 and specific in your answers, and I would like to thank you
13 for what you just shared with us.

14 **MS. JENNY RÉGIS:** Me too, I thank you. And
15 I hope that it has been heard. That's all I'm asking.
16 Thank you.

17 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Fanny, I have
18 a few questions.

19 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** Okay.

20 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** I have some
21 questions, Jenny. Three times you've filed a complaint
22 with the police, both you and your son. The first time
23 when the police came to you, you tell them: "I want to
24 file a complaint for the sexual assault of my son." I
25 imagine that's what you did?

1 **MS. JENNY RÉGIS:** Yes.

2 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Did they come
3 accompanied with those, those people who are specialized in
4 child sexual assault, when they came to your house?

5 **MS. JENNY RÉGIS:** Can you repeat the
6 question?

7 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Yes. When,
8 when you called the police, the first time, you said: "My
9 son has been sexually assaulted." They, when they came to
10 your home to meet your son, did they bring someone with
11 them who was an expert? Their job is to work with children
12 who are --

13 **MS. JENNY RÉGIS:** No.

14 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** -- assaulted.

15 **MS. JENNY RÉGIS:** No. No. That's what I'm
16 telling you. They just took my son's statement and left.

17 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Okay. Did
18 you, after that, get any calls -- I don't know what the
19 protocol is like here in Uashat, Maliotenam -- to tell you,
20 that they heard from the police that there had been an
21 assault --

22 **MS. JENNY RÉGIS:** By Youth Protection, yes.

23 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** -- We're
24 coming to meet the family?

25 **MS. JENNY RÉGIS:** Yes.

1 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** They
2 explained it to you?

3 **MS. JENNY RÉGIS:** Yes. Well, it's Youth
4 Protection who called me. We got the call and that's the
5 procedure. We're coming for your son.

6 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Did it, did
7 it go well?

8 **MS. JENNY RÉGIS:** It went, it went well.
9 And I have to say, that it's, in fact, the Youth Protection
10 who took me to the hospital to do the test. It's, it's not
11 the police at all who took me there; it's the Youth
12 Protection. After the third complaint.

13 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Not after the
14 first?

15 **MS. JENNY RÉGIS:** No.

16 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Okay. So
17 from the first to the third complaint, you say that you
18 were left in limbo there, in the dark. They don't explain,
19 they don't tell you where things stand? Were there people
20 who explained to you where the complaint was at?

21 **MS. JENNY RÉGIS:** No, nobody! It was up to
22 me to go and look for the answer myself, and then even the
23 answers. I'll tell you, I actually got them when I went to
24 see the doctor. It's the -- it's the doctor and the social
25 worker who were exchanging the information. I found out

1 that my complaint wouldn't be accepted because he was
2 disabled. And then at another visit with my psychologist,
3 who told me that the forensic kit had been lost. I never
4 got a letter or a visit telling me of what had happened.

5 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Okay.

6 **MS. JENNY RÉGIS:** I had to hear this at
7 other people's places.

8 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** There was kit
9 and after that, it was lost.

10 **MS. JENNY RÉGIS:** Yes.

11 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Okay. What
12 is it in English, *trousse médicolégale* (forensic kit)?

13 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** It's when a sexual assault
14 occurs, it's to, to take samples in order to prove sexual
15 assault, so they call it *médicolégale* (forensic)

16 **COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON:** I think it's a
17 medical rape testing kit. It's just being referred to as a
18 first-aid kit so I wasn't too sure. So that was lost?

19 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** Yeah. It was done and
20 then after, it was lost.

21 **COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON:** Okay. So was
22 any evidence lost?

23 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** Yeah, right. (Inaudible
24 question from Ms. Régis) Ah. It's Commissioner Robinson
25 who was asking what, in fact, what we were referring to,

1 because in translation, they mentioned in English that it
2 was a first-aid kit, but that's not what it is. So I
3 rectified that it was a forensic kit. Commissioner
4 Robinson is asking for a little more clarification. So, is
5 it indeed a forensic kit for sexual assault?

6 **MS. JENNY RÉGIS:** Yes.

7 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** And I said that yes, and
8 she said in this regard: "So it had been picked up, but was
9 lost afterwards." I answered yes and she said, "So there
10 wasn't any evidence on file?" I said yes.

11 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** My dear
12 Jenny, your courage has started when we saw you in a, in a,
13 in a news story. And there are people across Canada who
14 were touched and in Quebec, those who understand French.
15 And me I was one of them. I'm not going to hide it. When
16 our children -- we don't want that to happen to them.

17 And to be sure, in the report as
18 Commissioner Robinson Qajaq was saying -- we are mandated
19 to write recommendations. Recommendations, yes, to the
20 federal government, to the provincial government because,
21 there's a decree which means that Quebec has agreed that
22 we'd put questions to their institutions. And the
23 Indigenous communities they have Indigenous governments,
24 band councils. And they're part of institutions and so
25 it's in our thinking process, in our exercise, in the

1 second phase which is the institutional hearings. So we're
2 talking here of the federal government, provincial
3 government, Indigenous governments which are our band
4 councils, the Métis and the Inuits. We're going to ask them
5 these questions.

6 We will try to understand why there are
7 files, cases, that don't move forward or are dropped. We
8 want to know why, to be able to make recommendations. So
9 you've helped us, this I swear you, since your news story
10 until today. Yesterday, when I met you briefly, but only
11 briefly, just by your strength, thousands of women across
12 Canada have also found themselves in situations similar to
13 yours: Where is it, where is the answer or the help needed?

14 So follow the work when we'll get to the
15 institutional phase, to make sure that we don't forget
16 these great questions. These important questions. And I
17 thank you, I thank you so very much. And I hope, I hope --
18 that we shouldn't need an inquiry to get help. Everyone
19 should get help. I hope that you will get it, the help,
20 both you and your son.

21 **MS. JENNY RÉGIS:** I hope so too.

22 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Thank you so
23 very much. So I'm now going to ask our Grandmothers to
24 offer you an eagle feather, an eagle feather that the women
25 of British Columbia, our Grandmothers, feminists, mothers,

1 who also lost loved ones, people they love. They've
2 accepted to gather eagle feathers along the salmon river.
3 This time, it's the Sechelt Nation who is offering this to
4 you for the courage you have and the strength you have.
5 Also some Labrador tea, so this is from our Grandmothers
6 here -- my sweet mommy.

7 **MS. FANNY WILDE:** Dear Commissioners, I'd
8 like to adjourn this hearing. Thank you. (Giving of gifts
9 by the Grandmothers and the Commissioners and singing the
10 closing song)
11 --- Upon adjourning at 4:34 p.m

LEGAL DICTA-TYPIST'S CERTIFICATE*

I, Marc Potvin, 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.

Marc Potvin

March 9, 2018

* This certificate refers to the original transcript in French.