National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls
Truth-Gathering Process – Part 1
Statement Gathering
Hôtel Bonaventure
Montreal, Quebec

March 14, 2018
Public Volume 296
Cécile Ottawa, Manon Ottawa & Lucie Quitich Ottawa, in relation to Maxime

Heard by Daria Boyarchuk
## Table of Contents

Public Volume 296  
March 14, 2018  

**Witnesses:** Cécile Ottawa, Manon Ottawa  
& Lucie Quitich Ottawa

Testimony of Cécile Ottawa et al. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .  1

Legal Dicta-Typist’s Certificate . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 32

Heard by:  
Daria Boyarchuk

List of exhibits: none.
--- Upon commencing on Wednesday, March 14, 2018, at 9:53 a.m.

**MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** Hello, my name is Daria Boyarchuk and I’m hearing private testimonies for the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. We’re in Montreal, at the Hôtel Bonaventure, on March 14, 2018. It’s 9:53 a.m., and we’re starting with a private hearing for Ms. Cécile Ottawa’s testimony about a baby who went missing from the hospital. His name is Maxime... His last name, is it... Maxime?

**MS. CÉCILE OTTAWA:** Uh, Cécile Ottawa.

**MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** Yes. OK. Perfect. But we’ll introduce...

**MS. MANON OTTAWA:** Manon Ottawa. I’m Cécile’s niece.

**MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** Thank you. OK.

**MS. LUCIE QUITICH OTTAWA:** Lucie Quitich Ottawa. (Gesturing to Cécile) My sister-in-law.

**MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** OK, your sister-in-law. Thank you.

**UNIDENTIFIED PERSON:** (Indiscernible) Ottawa. My sister-in-law, Cécile.

**MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** Thank you.
MR. EDWARD CHILTON: Edward Chilton, translator-interpreter.

MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: Thank you.

MR. GILBERT NIQUAY: Gilbert Niquay, counselor and helper.

MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: Thank you. OK, thanks for the introductions. Now, Cécile, we’re ready for you to start your testimony. As I explained earlier, just tell your story and speak freely, and then...

MS. CÉCILE OTTAWA: [Note: Ms. Ottawa speaks in Atikamekw and the words transcribed here are the translation provided by the interpreter, Mr. Edward Chilton.]: Hello. My little brother Maxime was... You could say lost, because he got sick.

MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: And was it...

MS. CÉCILE OTTAWA: Eczema. It was eczema.

MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: Eczema, OK. And can you tell us his last name? And his date of birth, if you have it.

MS. CÉCILE OTTAWA: It was February... January 30! January 30, 1954.

MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: 54, OK. And how old was he when he went to the hospital?

MS. CÉCILE OTTAWA: Six.

MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: Six months, OK. Six
months, and what’s the name of the hospital?

MS. CÉCILE OTTAWA: La Tuque.

MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: La Tuque. Is it Saint-Joseph Hospital, in La Tuque?

MS. CÉCILE OTTAWA: Yes.

MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: OK. Thank you. Please go on.

MS. CÉCILE OTTAWA: My parents never heard about him again. The only thing they were told was that he had been moved, transferred to another hospital. But which hospital? They weren’t told anything. (Indiscernible) about him being transferred. After that, they never heard anything more.

MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: OK, and was it the parents who went to the hospital to ask the doctors? And was it the doctors who confirmed that he had been transferred, or...? How did it happen?

MS. CÉCILE OTTAWA: The child was transferred alone. Nobody was with him: neither of his parents, nor any other Atikamekw person. And they heard he had been transferred to Quebec City.

MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: To Quebec City.

MS. CÉCILE OTTAWA: I was 11 when my little brother was moved. Transferred.

MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: So do you know how much
time they spent at the hospital in La Tuque? How long, how many months or days...

MS. CÉCILE OTTAWA: After a year. He was in the hospital in La Tuque, after that he was transferred to Quebec City.

MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: A year? Twelve months? (Whispers).

MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: Do you have the death certificate?

MR. EDWARD CHILTON: No. That’s what she said earlier, that they didn’t get a slip. Not a slip, but... a death certificate.

MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: Oh, OK.

MS. CÉCILE OTTAWA: And did you ask someone in the family? Did you ask to see the medical record? Or something... no?

MS. MANON OTTAWA: No. Not yet. We took some steps to get the death certificate. The birth certificate to confirm that Maxime really existed.

MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: Yes.

MS. MANON OTTAWA: We found his baptism certificate. So Maxime was born in Amos on January 30, 1954. He was...

MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: ’44 or ’54?

MS. MANON OTTAWA: 1954. He was baptized on
January 31, 1954. He was confirmed on July 28, 1954, in La Tuque.

MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: Confirmed in La Tuque, OK. Was that the day he was admitted to the hospital?

MS. MANON OTTAWA: Yes.

MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: OK. Did his parents...

Did his parents take him to the hospital?

MS. MANON OTTAWA: No.

MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: OK, he went alone.

MS. MANON OTTAWA: Yes, the Manawan priest took him. Father [J-M. H.] got the baby evacuated. He sent him to the hospital because he had eczema on his face.

MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: Who is he exactly?

MS. MANON OTTAWA: [J-M. H].

MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: [J-M.] and his last name?

MS. MANON OTTAWA: [H].

MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: [H.] ... can you just...

MS. MANON OTTAWA: [Spelling the last name].

MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: [Spelling the last name].

MS. MANON OTTAWA: [Spelling the last name].

MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: OK, I’ll ask you to confirm it afterwards. (Laughs). OK, that’s fine. Thank you. So you never received the death certificate. And
that’s since 1954.

(Whispers).

MR. EDWARD CHILTON: She says her little brother Maxime was gone for two years. And she used to wonder if he would ever come back.

MS. CÉCILE OTTAWA (still speaking in Atikamekw): Sometimes I would think, “My little brother, when he left, maybe he was stolen, kidnapped. Or maybe he was sold by the one who sent him to the hospital.” We never got anything back, like the tikinagan or his personal items. We don’t know where any of his things ended up. That’s why sometimes I think that my little brother is alive. And sometimes I think that if he is alive, we should know if he is. At the beginning, when it started, it was my sisters-in-law who talked about it at first. They said maybe we should try to track him down. And my brother, Henri Ottawa, he told his daughter Manon she should try to do something to track down Maxime again.

MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: And who is Henri Ottawa? Who is Henri Ottawa?

MS. CÉCILE OTTAWA: My brother Henri Ottawa; he asked his daughter Manon, here, to keep trying to look for Maxime.

MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: Was this recently?

MS. MANON OTTAWA: It was before he died, in
2011. In 2010!

MR. EDWARD CHILTON: 2010, yes.

MS. MANON OTTAWA: A few weeks before he
died. One week.

MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: And Manon, have you
done anything to...

MS. MANON OTTAWA: I started looking into it.
I only knew Maxime because he was my father’s brother, but
that’s it. Yes, I didn’t know him. He was sick and he had
been taken away. That’s all I knew. I started doing some
research in 2015.

MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: What did you do
exactly?

MS. MANON OTTAWA: I asked people about him,
I asked my aunts. Because I didn’t know anything about
Maxime at that point. Just his name and that he was my
uncle. So I started doing some research, asking my aunts
some questions. What year was he born? What did he have,
where was he born? What hospital was he brought to? And
that’s what I did to begin with. After that I searched
through the registry at the presbytery.

MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: OK.

MS. MANON OTTAWA: I didn’t find anything
about my uncle there. His name wasn’t in the registry.

MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: The registry at the
MS. MANON OTTAWA: The presbytery, yes.

MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: Ah. Where?

MS. MANON OTTAWA: In Manawan, in Manawan.

All my aunts, uncles, they...

MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: The others are all in it?

MS. MANON OTTAWA: Yes. Their date of birth, of confirmation, everything. It was all in there. Even the date of death of one of my uncles who died in a hunting accident. But Maxime’s name wasn’t listed. So that made me wonder why his name wasn’t on the list. When I started looking into it, my cousin Gérald went to look at the registry in La Tuque. And that’s when he found the information, the baptism certificate, in La Tuque. Wemo, his certificate was in Wemotaci.

MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: Which certificate exactly?

MS. MANON OTTAWA: Baptism certificate.

(Whispers).

MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: You have the certificate? A copy of the certificate?

MS. MANON OTTAWA: Yes, yes, I have his certificate.

MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: Do you have it with
you?

MS. MANON OTTAWA: No, it’s in my room.

MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: Oh, in your room, yes. Can I see it after? I can make a copy and show it to the commissioner. Thanks, thanks.

MS. MANON OTTAWA: Yes, yes, that’s fine. So that’s how we learned that he had been confirmed in La Tuque. It was just after he was admitted to the hospital. And... He was sent to La Tuque. Like they said, he stayed in La Tuque for a year. After a year, he was sent to Quebec City, to the Enfant-Jésus Hospital. And then they never heard anything from Quebec. It was just two years after he was taken to La Tuque that they heard something. But the baby had died.

MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: They said he had died?

MS. MANON OTTAWA: Yes.

MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: Ah! That was the Enfant-Jésus Hospital in Quebec City?

MS. MANON OTTAWA: Yes.

MS. CÉCILE OTTAWA: They never got the hospital-issued death certificate.

MS. MANON OTTAWA: That’s why my father always had doubts about the death, because they never got anything...

MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: To confirm.
MS. MANON OTTAWA: Just, yes. Just the
(Indiscernible).
(Whispers).

MS. MANON OTTAWA: My father used to say,
“I’ve never known anyone to die from eczema.” I know that
he had told me about my niece. My niece had the same thing,
and he said, “But that’s what my little brother had. He had
eyzema.”

MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: On uh (Indiscernible).

MS. MANON OTTAWA: Yes, that’s right.

MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: I have a question for
Ms. Cécile, you probably know. Did the parents, your
parents, visit Maxime at the hospital during the year he
was in La Tuque? Were there any visits? Was there anything?

MS. CÉCILE OTTAWA: No, I’m not aware of them
having gone there to visit.

UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: There was no way to...

MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: To go there.

UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: To go there. There were
no means of communication either.

MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: Yeah.

UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: That’s why the parents
never went.

MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: I understand.

MS. CÉCILE OTTAWA: What happened back then
is that people were evacuated from the community by plane.
And we couldn’t go with them because either there wasn’t
enough room on the plane or we just weren’t allowed to go
with them.

**MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** And where were you? You
weren’t living in La Tuque then. Where did you live?

**MS. CÉCILE OTTAWA:** Manawan.

**MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** In Manawan, OK. Thank
you. OK.

**MS. MANON OTTAWA:** It was always my sister-
in-law who babysat my brother. Whenever my parents left, it
was always my sister-in-law Lucie who babysat. Lucie
Quitich. My hope for today is that the work that was
started continues. It can’t stop here. Since the door is
open, I want to keep working, researching, so that it
doesn’t happen again one day. Because a lot of people are
involved at the moment. That’s why we have to keep going,
not give up. We have to continue talking about it. So that
the Indigenous names aren’t always... Say involved, or that
they do more than they have done to us in the past. That
is, the children who were stolen or kidnapped you could
say. So that it doesn’t happen again, reoccur.

**MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** It reoccurs, it still
(Indiscernible)?

**MS. CÉCILE OTTAWA:** Yes. So it doesn’t happen
to children again, so that the door doesn’t close. So that the work continues.

**MR. EDWARD CHILTON:** You wanted to know if it’s still happening, or if there’s something else to tell, or what?

**MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** Well, if you want to keep going, yes, I have questions for you too. Like how do you think the Inquiry’s commissioner can help you in your process? What would you prefer, what’s your advice, how can we, the Commission, help you? To track down what happened to Maxime and all the other babies who went missing during those years?

*(Speaking in Atikamekw).*

**MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** Can you translate what she just said?

**MR. EDWARD CHILTON:** The lady asked her the question, what did she want to ask from the Commission? What was she hoping for?

**MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** What requests.

**MS. MANON OTTAWA:** What hope there was. And Manon told her that it’s like what they talked about yesterday: they want help. And Gilbert said... It’s the same thing, said differently, but the same thing. To explain the question a bit better.

**MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** Yes. Thank you.
MR. EDWARD CHILTON: I’ll ask the question.

(Asks the question in Atikamekw). So I’ll repeat the question: I asked her, so that she understands properly, what does she want to get out of this? What does she want the Commission to do for her, to help her in her process?

MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: Thank you.

MS. MANON OTTAWA: (Speaks in Atikamekw with Cécile). I was telling her. Because... For our family, Maxime’s family, it’s been hard to get the documents from the hospital. And we would like for the Commission to help us get the documents and help us find out the truth about what happened to baby Maxime. Because there is still... My grandmother died, and there are still questions. She never talked about it, but I saw her cry. I always saw her cry. Why was she crying? I don’t know. But today, I understand her. I think of how hard it must have been. It’s hard for me, because I have two children and... I can’t imagine being told that my baby died in hospital and not being able to go get him, to go see him. But we want to get... That’s why I want to get answers. We want to get answers. She wants to get answers. She sleeps with that, the questions she has. This morning she told me, “I thought about it yesterday. (Indiscernible) what happened to my little brother?” She sleeps with all these questions. And so do my aunt and I. It’s inhumane. I can’t imagine it. I have
children and... It’s hard on them, it had to be hard on them, too. And we want the Commission to help us find some answers. To find answers and, if my uncle is alive, to find him. We want there to be a DNA databank to help the children doing research.

**MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** The children who went missing, yes. And how do you think we could commemorate baby Maxime and all the other babies that were taken away like that? How can we honour them? The Commission can help you commemorate their story, what happened. How do you think you could, I don’t know how...

**MS. MANON OTTAWA:** Of course...

**MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** A ceremony, do you think a ceremony for all the babies? Because every day, it’s the third day here in Montreal and... We’re hearing the same story in each testimony, the same story about what happened in that hospital during those years, and it continues and it’s...

**MS. MANON OTTAWA:** (Indiscernible). It’s very powerful like... (indiscernible).

**MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** Yes. Like a ceremony to give a voice to all the children? What would you prefer, Cécile?

**MS. CÉCILE OTTAWA:** How could we commemorate the children who went missing? It would be nice to have a
commemorative plaque in our community to teach the next
generation of children about what happened. The plaque
would be there so that everyone can see it and know what
happened to the children who went missing. Some children
were sold, especially in the Manawan community, Father [H.]
did a lot to get the children sold.

**MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** Yes.

**MS. CÉCILE OTTAWA:** Like she says, it was

**MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** Do you know if it’s...
I’m sorry, go on. I’ll ask my question after.

**MS. CÉCILE OTTAWA:** Maybe that’s how we could have a commemorative plaque for those children.

**UNIDENTIFIED PERSON:** Because there are
several Manawan mothers who lost their children in Amos. At the same time, we could put them together. In the commemoration. Because a lot of children went missing. When the mother gave birth, right away the others... The other children... Gone... So commemorations, include all the children of Manawan in a commemoration.

**MS. CÉCILE OTTAWA:** What could be done right away, now, is to prepare a traditional ceremony in honour of the children who went missing or were taken. And it would be for all the children of the Manawan community who
are missing or were stolen or sold. It would be, right now, as soon as possible, holding that ceremony in memory of the children who are missing. Because there are many.

**MS. MANON OTTAWA:** When we talk about... We don’t have a death certificate. If you don’t have a death certificate, right away that makes it a case of disappearance. That’s how it is for anyone. It’s the same for (Indiscernible), too. The memory. Nobody, in the list we have, a two-page list. There are babies who died and nobody got a death certificate for any of the babies who died in Amos (Indiscernible). They’re all cases of disappearance. There are even parents who died on the list we have. Many parents -fathers, mothers- died and they never received the death certificate of their child who was on the list of all the children. I’m talking about the children who were, if I may say so, buried in mass graves. But we don’t know if the children were actually buried in the mass grave. They’re on the list, but we don’t know if they really died, we don’t know. Because we never got a death certificate for those children. They’re all cases of disappearance.

**UNIDENTIFIED PERSON:** Even people who had given birth, or mourned. They had passed (Indiscernible) death certificate (Indiscernible).

**MS. MANON OTTAWA:** The commemorative ceremony
that you mentioned, it could be nice to do a type of...

MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: Yes, I wonder if...

Doing something like that for all the children. So that the families can participate by writing names and everything, yes. I think that’s a good idea, too.

MS. MANON OTTAWA: I had already asked. I’m part of a prayer group in Manawan. I’m part of a pastoral committee. And I had talked about holding a mass for these children. And the priest had said, “We’re not going to talk about the children who died, because we don’t know if they died. We’ll talk about the children who are missing.” Because he also always... He’s not sure that those children died. So he said, “We’ll hold a mass for all the children who went missing.”

MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: Missing, yes. And another thing I wanted to ask: You spoke about the father who stole, who sold the children. Do you know if anything ever happened with the complaints, the investigation, everything that happened when the Manawan police... Did anything come of it? Do you want the Commission to help you and the other families? By pursuing these investigations?

MS. MANON OTTAWA: Yes.

MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: That way, we can identify the man in the media. Say his name so that we can just give... Yes, it’s not a commemorative ceremony, but
it’s like an acknowledgement that that man, he was the one who...

MS. MANON OTTAWA: He keeps getting brought up in the hearings, yes.

MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: Yes, hearing, yes.

MS. MANON OTTAWA: Maybe it’s time to investigate his (words in Atikamekw).


MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: Yes. Oh well...

MR. EDWARD CHILTON: It would be good to...

MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: Even so, yes.

UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: Start (Indiscernible)

before, if there really are a lot of dead people...

(Laughs)

MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: We can do a posthumous investigation, of course.

(General approval).

MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: And after we’re done, you’ll announce the name of this man? Father... We’ll write his name, his last name. OK?

MS. MANON OTTAWA: We’ll do a declaration for the name, it’s just a name...

MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: Oh you can just give the... yes. I’ll give you a paper. We can do that, too, and
I’d like to see a copy of the certificate. I’ll make a copy and you can keep the original. Is there anything else you want to share this morning?

UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: (Indiscernible) lived in (Indiscernible) wasn’t able to go out because we had a photo, for what there was...

MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: Oh (Indiscernible), yes.

UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: Yes. Just to...

MS. MANON OTTAWA: Because...

MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: If you have something like... If you have photos, documents, surely we can make copies.

MS. MANON OTTAWA: But the picture I have here, it isn’t the picture of baby Henri.

(Laughs in the room).

MS. MANON OTTAWA: Maxime! Because I have a grandson named Henri.

MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: I taught so!

(Laughs in the room).

MS. MANON OTTAWA: But it’s a picture... I looked it up on Google. And I showed it to my aunts, and asked what type of eczema the baby had when he was taken away. She pointed out a picture. I don’t know if it can give you an idea of what baby Henri had. Baby Henri, I
didn’t mean baby Henri! Baby Maxime.

(Whispers in the room).

**MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** OK. No, but that’s good.

**UNIDENTIFIED PERSON:** And I think that...

(Indiscernible). Simple (Indiscernible) still.

(Indiscernible).

**MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** Oh, thank you. It isn’t...

**MS. MANON OTTAWA:** It isn’t baby Henri. Uh, baby Maxime! It’s just a picture I found when I looked up what kind of eczema baby Maxime had. My aunt pointed this out. She said he was like this. He just had a little, like...

**MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** OK.

**MS. MANON OTTAWA:** Not the whole face, just the cheek.

**MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** Yes. Can I show the Commissioner, just in front of the cameras? Just... This picture here. OK. Here, Manon showed us... This isn’t a picture of baby Maxime, but it’s a generic picture of a baby with eczema on its face. Thank you. Thank you, Manon.

Is there anything else you would like to say? Would you like us to say a prayer? We can say a prayer after? With the grandmothers in our room over there, if you wish? The
UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: (Indiscernible).

MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: Oh, OK! (Laughs). Yes, if you want, we can do that here on camera, and after we can do it (Indiscernible), too. As you wish, whatever you want. We can say the prayer, too, if you want.

(Speaking in Atikamekw). (Laughs).

MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: I understood what she said!

MS. CÉCILE OTTAWA: We can pray everywhere.

(Speaking in Atikamekw).

MS. MANON OTTAWA: (Pointing to Lucie)
Because she’s the one who used to take care of baby Henri, and then of Cécile.

MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: Oh, it was you! You used to take care of...

MR. EDWARD CHILTON: Baby Maxime, not Henri.

MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: Yes, yes, yes. I’m just going to direct the camera toward you. There. What do you remember about baby Maxime? Would you like to share with us? Your memories...

MR. EDWARD CHILTON: I can’t really understand what she’s saying, but... Bring the mic closer and... Because I can’t really understand her either.

MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: Oh. Did you understand?
MS. MANON OTTAWA: I’ll translate.

MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: I’m sorry, tu, vous!

(Laughs). I’ve started using tu* for everyone now. You can translate, that’s fine. I’m sorry. Thank you very much.

What was baby Maxime like? What do you remember about him?

MS. LUCIE QUITICH OTTAWA [speaking in Atikamekw, translated by Ms. Manon Ottawa]: Baby Maxime was born on January 30, in Amos. Julie, my mother-in-law, brought him to Manawan. I helped her take care of her baby. I took care of him; I slept with him. Two months after they came back to Manawan, my mother-in-law and Maxime went hunting and trapping out in the woods and I took care of their baby and their children, Henri and the younger ones. I took care of the baby and bathed him. I was taking care of their baby and I started seeing a sore. I asked my mother-in-law, when they were back in Manawan, I asked why the baby had...

MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: Yes, red, yes.

MS. LUCIE QUITICH OTTAWA [speaking in Atikamekw, translated by Ms. Manon Ottawa]: She told me there must have been something that was causing her baby to have...

MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: What was your age? How old were you then?

MS. LUCIE QUITICH OTTAWA: I was 20. I didn’t
have children right after getting married. So I took care of my little brother’s baby. I took care of that baby like he was my own baby. I took very good care of him; it was like he was my own baby. Even when my mother-in-law was there, I took care of her baby. When she did her chores, the cleaning, I took care of the baby. When the baby’s condition got worse, his mother took him to the dispensary. The dispensary was by the lake. It was made of log. And that’s where my mother-in-law brought her baby. And they gave her creams to put on his cheek. But I put the cream on all the time, and it didn’t help, his condition just got worse. In the spring, around May... July, Father [H.] came to see us and said that he was going to send the baby to the hospital in La Tuque. He called the plane to come get the baby. We brought him to the shore... That is, baby Maxime’s mother brought him to the lake shore for him to take the plane. Because parents weren’t allowed to go with their children. So they sent the baby on its own on the plane, in its tikinagan, its baby carrier. The baby was flown out by himself in the plane, and someone picked him up in La Tuque. I don’t know where. There were no phones. It’s like a telegram.

**MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** Did you find one?

**MR. EDWARD CHILTON:** They used a telegram to communicate because there were no phones in the community.
MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: OK. Was this the Catholic priest?

MS. MANON OTTAWA: Yes. (Speaking in Atikamekw).

MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: And you’ll give me the name afterwards.

MS. LUCIE QUITICH OTTAWA: When the baby was in La Tuque, we couldn’t get any news about him, because we didn’t have a phone and there was no road to go to La Tuque.

MR. EDWARD CHILTON: Ms. Cécile said earlier: since there were no means of communication, or phones, they used a telegram system. But when there was an evacuation, a plane would come pick up the evacuee. That’s what happened with baby Maxime. He was evacuated by plane. But there was another way, too. But it was extremely slow. There was a member who had a big boat. People who wanted to go visit patients at the hospital in La Tuque would take that boat and go toward Casy. To get to Casy, there was a caterpillar tractor that would take the people from the dock to Casy. From Casy, they could take the train. It took a very long time. At least three days to get to La Tuque. Those were the means of communication they had at the time.

MS. LUCIE QUITICH OTTAWA: When I... I couldn’t ask about the baby, because there were no phones.
And there was no road either. And... The only time I heard about Maxime, was when I asked... It kind of stayed...

After Maxime died, we couldn’t do anything. The parents couldn’t go ask for the papers. They couldn’t go ask to see the body. They couldn’t ask to go see the body, because there was no phone. There was no way of getting to Quebec City. Quebec to Manawan was a long trip. There was no road, they couldn’t, travel was very limited.

MS. MANON OTTAWA: And afterwards, when I asked... When my father asked me to look into it, I had called him and that’s when all the questions about the death started coming up again.

MS. LUCIE QUITICH OTTAWA: (Atikamekw).

MS. MANON OTTAWA: She often wonders if the baby really died or not. She always wondered if the baby really died or if he was alive. And if he’s alive, he would be 64 now.

MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: How old?

MS. MANON OTTAWA: 64 years old. And since the meeting with Francis, it’s always, it’s very strong. Ever since the meeting, she’s been convinced that the baby is still alive. She thinks about it all the time. Sometimes... She often thinks... She often thinks that the baby is still alive and that he would be 64. They probably changed his name. He’s probably not called Maxime anymore.
MS. LUCIE QUITICH OTTAWA: I still hope that I’ll find him one day. Maybe he can find us. I’d like the case to remain open, and I’d like to get help finding him.

MS. DARIO BOYARCHUK: The Commission...

MS. LUCIE QUITICH OTTAWA: The Inquiry Commission, yes.

MS. DARIO BOYARCHUK: Thank you. Another testimony, heard by Commissioner Audette. And I’ll speak to her, too, to provide details, answer the questions. If you have questions about your story. But for your story to remain confidential (Indiscernible), what I learned this morning cannot leave this room. So everything remains confidential because it’s a private story. But still, we’ll see what steps we can take to help you find the baby.

MS. MANON OTTAWA: Find the answers.

MS. DARIO BOYARCHUK: Who (Indiscernible), yes.

MS. MANON OTTAWA: For the certificate, did I just give it to you? Or...

MS. DARIO BOYARCHUK: Yes, yes. Here I created a testimony after the recording. I’ll give it to you so you can listen (Indiscernible).

MS. CÉCILE OTTAWA: The ceremony that could be held for the commemoration, it could be held at the Manawan Pow-wow. Because a lot of outside people attend the
Manawan Pow-wow. We could hold the traditional 

commemorative ceremony then. What we could do for the 
ceremony, is to prepare in advance. Prepare some items. 
Like a quilt with the names of all the missing children.

**MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** Ceremonial items that 
you could prepare beforehand.

**MR. EDWARD CHILTON:** Yes, we have to make 

them beforehand.

**MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** Thank you. Is that OK? 

(General approval).

**MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** It’s 11:16 a.m. and Ms. 

Cécile Ottawa’s hearing has come to an end. Thank you.

**MR. EDWARD CHILTON:** Thank you.

**EVERYBODY:** Thank you very much.

**MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** Thank you. *(Laughing 

and speaking in Atikamekw).*
LEGAL DICTA-TYPIST’S CERTIFICATE*

I, Félix Larose-Chevalier, hereby certify that I have transcribed the foregoing and it is a true and accurate transcription of the digital audio provided in this matter.

Félix Larose-Chevalier, August 6, 2018

* This certificate refers to the original transcript in French.