

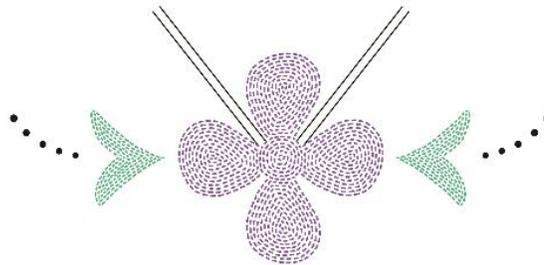
National Inquiry into
Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women and Girls



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 I
Public Hearings**

**Hotel Bonaventure
Montréal, Quebec**



Translation

Thursday, March 15, 2018

Public Volume No. 68

**Nathalie Hervieux, in relation to Eliane Hervieux-
Kistabish**

**Heard by Chief Commissioner Marion
Buller & Commissioners Michèle Audette & Brian
Eyolfson**

Commission Counsel Shelby Thomas

INTERNATIONAL REPORTING INC.

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APPEARANCES

Assembly of First Nations	Daniel Cunningham
Assembly of the First Nations of Quebec and Labrador (AFNQL)	No appearance
Concertation des luttes contre l'exploitation sexuelle	No appearance
Conseil des Anicinabek de Kitcisakik	No appearance
Director of Criminal and Penal Prosecution (Quebec)	No appearance
Government of Canada	Jennifer Clarke
Government of Quebec	No appearance
Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami	No appearance
Innu Takuaikan Uashat mak Mani-Utenam (ITUM)	No appearance
Naskapi Nation of Kawawachikamach	No appearance
Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada, Saturviit Inuit Women's Association of Nunavik, Ottawa Inuit Children's Centre	No appearance
Quebec Native Women	No appearance
Regroupement Mamit Innua	No appearance
Les Résidences oblates du Québec	No appearance

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Commission Counsel: Shelby Thomas	
Grandmothers, Elders, Knowledge-Keepers: Melanie Morrison (NFAC), Sarah Nowrakudluk (NFAC), Laurie Odjick (NFAC), Sedalia Fazio, Louise Haulli, Audrey Siegl, Pénélope Guay, Kathy Louis, Oscar Kistabish, Évelyne St-Onge, Bernie Poitras Williams, Laureen "Blu" Waters-Gaudio, Martha Greig, Patricia Kaniente Stacey, Michael Standup, Elaine Kicknosway, Edouard Chilton, Sharon Tardif-Shecanapish, Winnie Bosum, Priscilla Bosum	
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Registrar: Bryan Zandberg	

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Eliane Hervieux-Kistabish)**

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Montréal, Quebec

---Upon commencing on Thursday, March 15 at 11:59 a.m.

MS. SHELBY THOMAS: Good morning,
Commissioners.

This morning, Nathalie Hervieux will share her personal story as a survivor and the story of her sister Eliane Hervieux-Kistabish.

Mr. Registrar, Nathalie would like to promise to tell the truth.

MR. BRYAN ZANDBERG: Hello, Nathalie.

MS. NATHALIE HERVIEUX: Hello.

MR. BRYAN ZANDBERG: Hello. Do you promise to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth?

MS. NATHALIE HERVIEUX: Yes.

MR. BRYAN ZANDBERG: Thank you.

MS. SHELBY THOMAS: Nathalie, first of all, could you introduce yourself to the commissioners?

MS. NATHALIE HERVIEUX: *Kuei.* (translating self) Hello. I come from the community of Betsiamites. My name is Nathalie. I am a mother of four daughters. I come from a family of 15 children. I'm the ninth.

It's not easy to talk in public, to talk about everything I've been through. I'm not doing it for

1 revenge or to break up -- my family. I am doing it for
2 myself and my children and my grandchildren and all the
3 children I can help, women, people.

4 My first memory of someone touching me is
5 back when I was four, five years old. We were living with
6 my paternal grandmother. I didn't know why. I knew it was
7 wrong, but I didn't say anything.

8 When we moved to what was a new house for
9 us, I was seven years old, but it was not liveable. It was
10 unfinished. There were no stairs to get in. I remember
11 that there was no furniture. There was just a horse, my
12 mother was holding my hand. I think she was pregnant, too.
13 And then when I turned around, it probably seemed like I
14 was having a hard time leaving my paternal grandparents'
15 home, but I didn't know what was waiting for me or where I
16 was going.

17 I don't remember the first time I
18 experienced incest, but it went on for a long time. It
19 lasted a long time, for at least seven or eight years in my
20 pre-teen years. I experienced fondling by old people, by
21 people in the community, a lot. There was a lot of it.
22 And I experienced only sexuality during all these years, I
23 didn't learn games, guitar or music, or anything. I didn't
24 have any games. I only learned sexual games -- I learned
25 this and it was always the same thing. I couldn't skate.

1 I didn't know how to do anything a child does for fun.

2 On top of that, I was raped at 13. I didn't
3 talk about it. Even my mother didn't know about it. Even
4 everything my parents -- my family didn't know what I was
5 going through. I repressed everything I was going through.
6 I didn't cry. I couldn't have friends because I was going
7 through too much at home. I wasn't living. I didn't have
8 many friends and I isolated myself. I couldn't defend
9 myself. I didn't know how to defend myself.

10 The only thing is, if I talked about it, I
11 was afraid of my parents. I was afraid of my mother. I
12 was afraid of my father because at one point I stole a
13 small jar of fruit salad that cost, at the time, 10 cents,
14 and there were three of us. My friend and I had stolen it
15 and then the other one told on us. On the way back, I ate
16 the little jar of fruit salad. I knew what he was like and
17 then when I got home, I got a -- I wasn't even through the
18 doorway and my mother hit me with the belt. I was eight
19 years old at the time. So I thought if I tell them what
20 I'm going through, incest, touching, they're going to kill
21 me. They'll kill me if they find out. So I never told
22 them.

23 The first time I talked about it I was 33, I
24 was 33 years old. That's when I started getting help.
25 Someone asked me, "Why didn't you report it?" I said, "To

1 this day, I would still be in the justice system because
2 there are too many of them. Some of them have died. Some
3 are still in the community. Some of them haunt my
4 thoughts, my nightmares." Lately, I've had the same
5 nightmares. I didn't think it would --

6 When these things were happening, I also
7 hurt people when I repressed my emotions. I hurt a lot of
8 people through hatred, resentment and anger. The closest
9 people to me, my children, have experienced what I have
10 experienced, because I know that they have also experienced
11 what I experienced. They were preyed upon.

12 I was always in the shadows. I didn't love
13 myself. I so, so wanted to be loved. For years, I was
14 very angry with my mother for everything I had been
15 through.

16 What I did when things weren't going well
17 with my mother, I would go to one of my -- another house
18 for two or three months. Then I would come back to my
19 mother's house. I was always running away, not knowing
20 that I was running away. I went to a lot of houses, but in
21 those houses, I was also fondled. I wasn't safe.

22 The two houses where I was not fondled, I
23 thought, hey, it's not normal. I was waiting for someone
24 to come during the night, but there were just two houses
25 where I hadn't been touched during the night. For me,

1 thinking as a child, that was not normal. This was not a
2 normal family. I was always thinking that way because I've
3 always lived in an adult body instead of a child's body.

4 I always had -- when people asked me to do
5 something, I did it to make myself feel loved. I did
6 everything and more so that people would love me, so that
7 they would acknowledge me, so that they would appreciate me
8 in what -- but I was never acknowledged in that sense.

9 Even my mother doesn't recognize me today
10 because I've changed a lot. I have always sought
11 recognition, appreciation and respect, but never. I never
12 had that opportunity. I gave of myself body and soul to
13 what was asked of me.

14 I didn't know if it was true when people
15 said, "You're generous. You're good. You're -- ." It
16 didn't mean anything to me. It didn't reach my heart.
17 "Ah, you're a good lady. You're a hard worker." I didn't
18 believe them, but I did everything to make myself loved, to
19 please everyone. I could work 24 hours and neglect my
20 children so that my mother would acknowledge me, appreciate
21 me for what I was doing.

22 When I studied, I studied at school and I
23 could piss off the teachers because I was in so much pain.
24 At lunchtime, incest could happen before I went back to
25 school. Sometimes I didn't go home for lunch. I went back

1 to school for fear of what I could -- of what was waiting
2 for me at home. But I didn't understand why I was that
3 way. I didn't understand anything that was happening. I
4 didn't know what was going on in my life.

5 One thing I can tell you is that I had
6 suicidal thoughts, many, many times, the ways, the places I
7 could do it. Who's going to cry for me? I thought about
8 those things when I was seven, eight years old.

9 Even one last time, two years ago, I thought
10 about suicide. Ultimately, suicide was not in the cards.

11 When I was 17 years old -- at 16 or 17, I
12 started drinking. I had all the fears in the world, I was
13 afraid of the dark. The only place I felt safe was at
14 church, where I would go help for half an hour, but I went
15 often. The other places were scary for me, even at home,
16 even in public places, in places -- where I was brought
17 into the woods. Incest happened there too. It didn't
18 matter where I went, there was a lot of incest.

19 The boy who touched me the first time at my
20 grandparent's house came back into my life. He abused me
21 many times. Every time he saw me, it seemed like it was
22 time, in the community circles. It happened many, many
23 times.

24 Also, the smell, the smell of the men and
25 booze, I could smell it. Sometimes it comes back to me. I

1 never forget where I come from.

2 I worked up north one summer, and I was
3 stuck in a washroom. I knocked, there were like no
4 windows, so I knocked. And the other leader came to get me
5 out. That same summer, I again panicked inside a washroom.

6 Last year, I got stuck inside a restaurant
7 washroom. I couldn't understand why I was always afraid
8 inside bathrooms, and then I realized that the incest
9 always took place inside a bathroom.

10 I would panic, you know, I was reliving what
11 I had gone through. I was experiencing -- what an adult
12 can do sexually, I experienced when I was young,
13 everything. When they would name their penis, when they
14 called it names, it - made me want to vomit. Those words
15 disgusted me when I was a teenager. Even when I was
16 younger, I didn't know what body parts were called. I
17 knew. I would hide -- I would over-dress so that no one
18 could see me, my body. I thought it was marked on my
19 forehead: "Look, a girl. He has to abuse you." I thought
20 they knew it, that I was marked. I didn't understand. I
21 was more vulnerable, fragile, but mostly I thought I was
22 marked. I lived like this for many years.

23 As a result of that, I met my current
24 spouse, who is the father of my four daughters. Just
25 seeing his forehead move when he frowned made me afraid.

1 It made me afraid when he looked at me. I was afraid of
2 him physically. I had -- I accepted the unacceptable from
3 my spouse for years, meaning infidelity. I was afraid to
4 leave him then because I was afraid of how it would affect
5 my children, my daughters today, in their relationships.

6 He didn't beat me, but psychologically,
7 verbally, he made me feel inferior as a woman. I compared
8 myself to those -- women -- "Ah, I'm ugly. I'm not okay.
9 I'm not beautiful." I would belittle myself.

10 I accepted all of this unacceptable
11 behaviour because I allowed him to let me experience
12 moments because I didn't understand why I was going through
13 this, the worry, the anxiety, the fear when he would come
14 back.

15 The moment I find -- I don't talk about this
16 often, spousal violence, how everything I experienced in my
17 youth affected me. That's what I thought, sex equals love.
18 I had always thought that sex meant love, but it wasn't the
19 case.

20 I went to a public school in Sept-Îles. I
21 was happy to go there. But that's also where I started
22 drinking a lot. Even when I went to write an exam, I was
23 still drunk.

24 At the end of the school year, we were
25 partying while -- but in the morning, my godmother and her

1 husband knocked on my apartment door. She said, "We've
2 come to get you to bring you home." I was unable to say,
3 "No, I'm not going. I want to stay here." So, we loaded
4 our things. I got in the car, but deep down in my heart, I
5 said, no, it's your mother who wants you to come home.
6 That's all I was told.

7 Then, when I got home, I said, "Oh, now I'm
8 going to drink. I'm going do everything I can to -- I'm
9 just going to drink because I don't want to go back to
10 Betsiamites anymore." Well, that's what happened. I had
11 some drinks with my sister. We went out. But the next
12 night, everyone was partying, everyone, my mother, my
13 brother, my brothers, everyone, even me. I was 16 years
14 old. My sister was 15. My brother, who was homeless, got
15 beat up and then we brought him back. Then the next night,
16 something happened. The month of -- on June 30, 1979, my
17 brother, my mother and my father were in the bush. They
18 went there with my little brothers. The rest of us -- I
19 kept drinking. They went off with some beer and all that.
20 But, there had been some violence between my father and
21 mother, and my brother who was with them, took the gun and
22 he shot his father, and killed him.

23 After that, there was the funeral, the
24 preparation, all, all, all, all of that, and then it was
25 over. No one talks about it. It's taboo. There was the

1 funeral. No one talked about it. There was shame, guilt.
2 I was always, always blaming my mother. Why didn't he kill
3 my mother instead of my father? This was what I was
4 thinking because I was angry at my mother, very, very, very
5 angry.

6 The years passed. We started drinking
7 again. In 1981, I had my first daughter with my husband,
8 my second, my third, three years in a row. And I took care
9 of my children as best I could. Their father was not
10 around. I was the one who took care of my children. Then,
11 after they grew up, I got my house. That's when I started
12 drinking again. I sometimes drank at my mother's house,
13 but I wasn't happy there. I was still experiencing a lot
14 of lateral violence with my brothers and sisters because I
15 was not healthy.

16 So it was like this for several years,
17 drinking, neglecting my children. I played bingo a lot. I
18 was very involved in this. Then the neglect of my children
19 was -- my daughters were badly affected by this.

20 I never finished my Secondary V studies,
21 high school. I'm missing two -- of the credits to get my
22 high school diploma. I was pushing myself, but it seemed
23 like something was blocking me. I went to university to
24 study psychology. I took five courses. That's where it
25 ended. I never finished anything I started. I would start

1 something, but I would never finish. My motivation, my
2 confidence, my self-esteem had really been destroyed from
3 the start, when I was young, my biological family, the
4 death of my father. I've been very traumatized.

5 I start things all the time, but I don't
6 finish them. I never complete anything. I don't feel like
7 I deserve it. I always thought I didn't deserve anything.

8 I also worked in an organization. When we
9 were finished working, a lady talked to me about a person
10 who was contemplating suicide. That's when I went to get
11 help and went to see a psychologist.

12 At 33 years old -- no, 32 -- I was 32 when I
13 went for help. Thanks to this lady, when she gave the name
14 of the psychologist, I secretly took some steps, like I am
15 doing today. I left. I haven't told anyone about speaking
16 at the hearing. I went to social services for help, but in
17 secret. I knocked. I asked to see a psychologist. To me,
18 a psychologist was for people with mental health problems.
19 I was afraid. I went there, but I hid so that no one would
20 see me in the office, so no one would know who was on the
21 inside, as I was saying. This went on for a year. The
22 person I've been sharing with for years, from the start,
23 asked me, "Are you coming with us to the bush?" She must
24 have said therapy. I don't know, I don't remember. "Okay,
25 I'm coming." I didn't know where I was going, but I knew

1 the place. It was not far from my home. But I was
2 participating in a workshop about emotions. I left. I was
3 running away from my emotions like a coyote running away.
4 I can still see it today. I was running into my room, but
5 it was an old house. I was running, but it wasn't obvious.
6 It was really not obvious because I didn't know about
7 emotions yet, how we experience them, and especially what
8 they are called.

9 Then when that person followed me, ran to
10 catch me, right then, to support me, it was on the surface
11 -- grief about my father, 17 years after being on the
12 surface. This was the first time I spoke openly about it,
13 17 years after my father died. And then it took 10 days to
14 open up about what I experienced with my father.

15 My father was my role model. He brought me
16 to school on the first day. He was the one who came to get
17 me when there was a storm, because we didn't have buses in
18 those days. He would pick up my report cards from school.
19 For me, it was really, really -- and that's why I was angry
20 with my mother, because she wasn't there, especially when I
21 really needed her.

22 And when I finished all that, since then, I
23 don't drink. I haven't had a drink since starting therapy
24 because when someone told me something, I had to do it to
25 please people, to show that I'm capable, that I'm a person

(Eliane Hervieux-Kistabish)

1 four or three years old. She wanted to come with me. She
2 grabbed onto my ankle. I didn't want her to come and I
3 didn't want to bring her. In those days, we could bring
4 our children to bingo. I remember hitting her over and
5 over so she wouldn't come with me, and I left her like
6 that, and then I left. I have trouble forgiving myself for
7 that because of my addiction. She was three years old, I
8 think. I hit her. I lost my head. What my mother did to
9 me, I did to my oldest -- my oldest daughter. She couldn't
10 understand why I had hit her so many times, so many smacks.
11 Then I left. I left her like that. I have a hard time
12 accepting that moment. I understand -- we have -- we have
13 trouble with -- I have trouble making a connection with
14 her. I respect her because of the hurt I caused my little
15 girl.

16 I kept going. I continued to take steps, to
17 seek help. I went to a treatment centre. I had some good
18 friends I could confide in and share what I experienced
19 with, who supported me, who respected me.

20 As I was saying, my sister who was with me
21 at the party on June 30th, 1979, we had a good
22 relationship. She would call me every day, to tell me what
23 was happening with her, give me -- I shared everything I
24 was doing to get out, to help myself, often my children --
25 because she had her children later on. She helped me a

1 lot.

2 One day she went to stay with her sister to
3 go to school in the Abitibi region. So she started school
4 there, and then lived her life there. She married an
5 Algonquin man. We would call each other all the time. We
6 would see each other when they came over. They would come
7 and visit us. Later, in 2000, I called her but no one
8 answered. I left messages for her to call me back. She
9 never called me back. The last time I spoke with her was
10 in May 2000. Life went on. I couldn't reach her all
11 summer. I didn't know where they lived. I didn't know
12 anything. I didn't know what was happening with her.

13 I continued the journey I had begun. On
14 August 25, I was on my way to a meet with the psychologist
15 at 8:00, 8:00 in the morning. I had an appointment. The
16 weather was very nice and warm in the community. It was a
17 sunny day and I was on my way to my appointment. Coming
18 into the main entrance of the community, I saw my sister
19 coming to meet me and she looked -- something on her face
20 told me, was telling me something. Then we stopped and
21 then the other one stopped and then I went to meet her.
22 She said, "Something happened. I got a call from our
23 nephew." "What happened?" "Our sister died." "Okay."
24 When I could talk, I asked -- I was thinking it was a car
25 accident or that she was sick. Those were the only two

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1 things that I could think of. I became aware again, I
2 asked, "But how did our sister die?" She said -- it took a
3 while to get it out. She said, "Your sister was killed by
4 her husband."

5 I got back in the car and went to health
6 services, social services. Back then, everyone stood
7 outside smoking cigarettes. I got out of the car and I
8 couldn't feel my body anymore. I ran. I ran right to the
9 door. And the psychologist was there. The intervenor was
10 there, and the entire staff was there as well. And I was
11 running, and then when I got to the door, I tried to tell
12 them what my sister had just told me, but I couldn't get it
13 out. I wasn't able to tell them how. Maybe I was in
14 shock. I don't know. But they told me to say it quietly,
15 to take a breath. Finally, I was able to tell them what
16 had happened. No one was around me. I heard people
17 running upstairs, but it was like I was in a dream. It was
18 like I was in a nightmare. I was like a zombie. I went
19 toward the washroom. There was no one around me. Everyone
20 was running around.

21 Then when I came back, we were in the car.
22 It's like there were moments that I was not there. Some of
23 the events would come back to me, and then moments when I
24 felt I had lost touch. It's not true. It's not true. I
25 thought that what happened wasn't real, because I wasn't

(Eliane Hervieux-Kistabish)

1 there. It was more in Abitibi. We were far away. We were
2 on the North Shore. She was still in Abitibi. I wasn't
3 there.

4 Also, apparently she often said, "I want to
5 be next to my dad when I die. I want to be with my dad."
6 Apparently, that's what she said.

7 Even though I was in a state of shock, I was
8 the one who took charge of bringing her back to
9 Betsiamites, arranged the service, bought her coffin,
10 bought her dress, everything, everything, everything. I
11 had taken charge of all this, but without necessarily
12 connecting with what I had just experienced. She was my
13 little sister. I prepared the food for them. Who is going
14 to serve them? I did it all. It wasn't easy when I saw
15 her. I had to wait a few days before bringing her back
16 home, to my mother's. I didn't know she was experiencing
17 so much violence.

18 Today, when I look back, I think, no, I
19 don't want to live with violence anymore. I went to find
20 help again.

21 One day -- it was definitely not planned --
22 my spouse and I went to a dinner. I didn't drink and he
23 drank. When I saw he was getting drunk, I went home with
24 the car keys so he couldn't drive. I didn't drive. I left
25 with the keys. I went home with a friend. At 1:00 in the

1 morning, my spouse called me and said, "Hey, the keys!" I
2 can tell you, I was so scared. "You took the keys!" I had
3 been sleeping and I got dressed. Sharon and I, I got
4 dressed. "Mom, where are you going? I'm not staying here."
5 I said he's going to yell at me. And he -- we went with
6 his friend. We were running. I got the keys. I turned on
7 the lights in the whole house. I got the keys. Got out of
8 the house. We ran. We went to my sister's house. Went
9 into the community. We went to see him over where the party
10 was. At the snowbank, we jumped and then they followed me,
11 with his friend. We were at the exit. We went through the
12 whole community to get out because I was so scared, just
13 hearing his voice. We went over to one of my aunts and
14 went on the porch. He had just passed in front of us. I
15 was so scared that we went all around the community. And
16 the girls followed me. When a car passed by, we would jump
17 in the snowbanks. The others did the same thing as me.
18 But he never realized we were there. It was fear that made
19 me do that, but he never found us. He wasn't aware of what
20 we were going through.

21 And then I thought, no, next time, if he
22 yells like that, I'll call the police, but I was sober and
23 it never happened because I said to myself I won't die. I
24 don't want to die. What my sister went through, I didn't
25 want to die because of the violence my father also went

1 through.

2 And at that time, I took back my power, to
3 say no, stop the violence against spouses, against people.
4 It's not obvious, though, not obvious when someone does
5 something to you, what you went through when you were
6 young. Time stands still. If someone yells at me, I
7 freeze. I'm not going to be guarded anymore. That's the
8 impact of what I experienced when I was young.

9 When someone -- when there's loud bickering,
10 I freeze. I was also very scared of the authorities, the
11 police, principals. I was very afraid of the authorities,
12 afraid of getting hit. I had to be perfect all the time so
13 I wouldn't get punished. That was one of the effects of
14 what I experienced.

15 My daughter's friend sometimes talks about
16 it and we laugh about it because he never realized that we
17 were running away from him because we went all around the
18 community. We even went where he was, you know, that's how
19 scared I was. I also scared my children with what I was
20 going through. There's a lot of anxiety, dread.

21 I made my mother go through a lot too. I
22 made her go through things that I regretted. I hurt my
23 mother because I resented her so much.

24 All of this had consequences. I had to go
25 through quite a few therapy centres to get better, to keep

(Eliane Hervieux-Kistabish)

1 -- I was in survival mode for many years, many, many years,
2 many years.

3 In 2007, I had to leave the community to
4 live in the city for eight and a half years. It wasn't
5 easy, but I learned a lot. I left the community. I quit
6 my job. I left my family for eight and a half years. Yet
7 it also taught me a lot. They taught me how to talk. They
8 taught me how to express what I was feeling. They taught
9 me how to live in society. They taught me a lot. I
10 learned a lot in eight and a half years in Quebec City.
11 Many people also helped me through the events. I got help,
12 mental health resources.

13 I have a daughter who saved my life, my
14 fourth who got me out of the community to live in the city.
15 My daughter has mental health problems due to substance
16 abuse and still today I see children, young people, who are
17 caught up in drugs that cause mental health problems. My
18 daughter was 15 years old.

19 I have seen every stage of psychosis due to
20 harmful substances, breaks with reality, hallucinations.
21 I've been through all this. We went through it together.
22 The brain is the only part that you can't transplant. It
23 takes medication to be more -- it helps a lot.

24 With the resources I got, with mental health
25 support, there is also grief to go through, mourning for my

1 daughter who was normal, and today I have to accept the
2 illness. It took several years before I could accept the
3 illness.

4 I didn't think she'd ever be able to manage
5 on her own, but today she's in an apartment. She pays her
6 own way. She cooks her own food. She goes to school. She
7 takes care of her needs. I was afraid that I would have to
8 take care of her forever, but today she is able to -- she's
9 responsible for herself. She still has work to do, but
10 that's okay. That's where she is now and she doesn't want
11 to go back into the community.

12 I asked her recently, "Would you like to go
13 back home?" She says, "No. No, I'm fine here." Because
14 there is stronger monitoring here, and the resources she
15 needs to help her support herself.

16 As well, my little sister was her godmother.
17 She didn't know what happened when her godmother died, then
18 it was -- we were all in shock, then I couldn't take care
19 of her, explain to her what happened.

20 And, she didn't want to go the day of her
21 godmother's funeral. "I want to go to school." She didn't
22 want to. It seems she was in shock as well, but I couldn't
23 take care of her to explain what happened.

24 **MS.SHELBY THOMAS:** Ladies and gentlemen,
25 Commissioners, can we take a break?

1 **COMMISSIONNER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** For?

2 **MS. SHELBY THOMAS:** For 10 minutes?

3 **COMMISSIONNER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** The Chief
4 Commissioner suggests we take some time to eat and then
5 resume, if it's possible for Ms. Hervieux?

6 **MS. NATHALIE HERVIEUX:** Yes.

7 **MS. SHELBY THOMAS:** Yes.

8 **COMMISSIONNER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Forty-five
9 (45) minutes, 45 minutes, is that going to be enough,
10 Nathalie? Okay.

11 --- Upon recessing at 1:18 p.m.

12 --- Upon reconvening at 2:12 p.m.

13 **(SONGS AND DRUMS)**

14 **MS. M. KONWATSITSAWI MELOCHE:** We had the
15 announcement in French and we're just going to say in
16 English that there is a technical problem at this point.
17 There's an issue, and according to the National Inquiry,
18 part of their mandate is to have live stream. So right
19 now, you could -- until we get ready, you could have a
20 couple of jokes, tell a couple of stories, give us some
21 laughter, smell that sweet grass, no other kind of grass,
22 nay, none of that. None of that while we're here. I know
23 we have to separate these two. So we just have to be --
24 yes, the size fund, you know, the short size, short and
25 sweet, but short and funny and short and sweet and funny.

(Eliane Hervieux-Kistabish)

1 We have to keep them apart sometimes.

2 So once we get the technical issue repaired,
3 we will certainly let you know, and at this time I will
4 just remind you then that there is no supper tonight. So
5 you can make plans with your friends or, you know, family.

6 There is an obligation as well to return the
7 headphones that you're wearing. So those are all part of
8 the service that is given here by the National Inquiry.

9 Also, that the green lanyards -- your green
10 lanyards that you wear, these things -- oops, I took it off
11 -- well, it's red for some people. Other people have
12 green. But you have to wear your lanyard around your neck.
13 That has to be worn at all times. I had to be escorted in.
14 I took it off and I had to be escorted back in, so don't
15 forget it.

16 And the other thing is, there's an open call
17 for proposals for artistic expression. So there's an
18 artistic expressions open call for any artists out there
19 who have visual audio material or performance art, and you
20 could represent your reality, an expression for the
21 communication of emotions for the inquiry here, for the
22 National Inquiry. So there's all different types of
23 expressions, and I think that's the joy of what Canada and
24 people are learning here, is that we're a very multi-
25 talented and multi-creative people. It's like we just have

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(Eliane Hervieux-Kistabish)

1 made aware when it gets repaired. So it's part of the
2 mandate of the National Inquiry, so I appreciate your
3 patience.

4 Hold on a moment.

5 **COMMISSIONNER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Pénélope, I'd
6 like you to come and tell us a little bit about the
7 blankets you made.

8 One of the beautiful projects in terms of
9 artistic expression is also part of the Truth process for
10 the inquiry, so a poem, vocals, a song, a work of art is
11 also part of the proof if you want to honour your family.

12 And there are some beautiful women who have
13 made gifts for the National Inquiry.

14 **MS. PÉNÉLOPE GUAY:** In Quebec City, as soon
15 as we heard that there was a project to make blankets and
16 quilts, we decided to get involved in the project because
17 it spoke to us too. We felt we had to be with the
18 families, give them love, compassion. So we, my coworkers
19 and I, we -- but we didn't want to do just anything, so we
20 thought we would talk about it at the same time with the
21 people of Quebec City. We're going to ask them to
22 participate in the quilt-making. So we set up all over the
23 city and when there were events, we would set up tables and
24 people would come over. It also gave us the opportunity to
25 explain what kinds of spirits there were, what happened.

(Eliane Hervieux-Kistabish)

1 At the same time, we made people aware of what was
2 happening with the National Inquiry on Women. As a result,
3 a lot of people participated, children. The word we sent
4 was to say to someone somewhere, we would like you to make
5 an embroidered or beaded drawing, but to put intentions in
6 the quilt, to put love, to put a little bit of their
7 participation in their hearts.

8 So we made a lot of them. We also posted it
9 on Facebook. I think it's a good way to communicate and
10 reach out to our communities, which are sometimes very
11 isolated. So we also made this project happen. So we
12 received quilts from all over, from Montréal, also from
13 communities far away, all over, from Mexico -- Indigenous
14 people from Mexico sent a quilt. A quilt means a patch.
15 The patch is here. I find the ones with the blue masks
16 especially beautiful, all the quilts. Eight quilts were
17 created for us. So I think you saw them going around in
18 the -- there are others who made some as well, but in
19 Quebec too. I am very happy to have participated in this
20 creative project, but also to have involved people from the
21 Quebec community, and like Michèle said, from Mexico.

22 So this is our Missinak Community House
23 project. Thank you very much.

24 **(SHORT BREAK)**

25 **MS. LAUREEN "BLU" WATERS-GAUDIO:** So you

1 just heard about the quilt that was made, and that's
2 something that you can use as well in your own community to
3 bring awareness and to support those that you have already
4 supported here and those who couldn't make the trip.
5 Perhaps it's something that they may want to do because
6 they couldn't come here.

7 So if you do want to make something, you can
8 contact one of our people here, and they will help you to
9 get it to us so that we can put it up when we do our other
10 hearings, like we have these ones up here. And also, in
11 our rooms we put them on the floor so that we can put our
12 sacred objects on there.

13 So if you choose to do that, that would be
14 great, and it can represent what the Murdered and Missing
15 Indigenous Women and Girls trans into spirit community
16 looks like from your territory, from your view, from your
17 understanding. So it's a way of collecting more
18 information and supporting those that have gone through the
19 same as what you have, and that gives them an opportunity
20 to support you.

21 So I just wanted to mention that to you.

22 **MS. SHELBY THOMAS:** Ladies and gentlemen, we
23 will reconvene.

24 So Nathalie, if you'd like to start up where
25 we left off before the break.

1 **MS. NATHALIE HERVIEUX:** Hello again.

2 (translating self) *Kuei.*

3 I'm going to continue talking about my
4 sister, my sister who I had -- I think before I left for
5 lunch.

6 I didn't really -- as I mentioned, I didn't
7 really tell my family that I was going to the hearing to
8 talk publicly. I only told the one sister who I'm close
9 to, that I was going to speak out. But I texted the person
10 in question before I started. The one who lives in the
11 community itself, I didn't want to talk about it because
12 she suffered a lot, saw a lot of things, she saw things
13 with her own eyes and then I didn't want to tell her that I
14 was going to the hearing. When I texted her earlier, I
15 said, "I'm going to speak at the hearing." "Are you going
16 to talk about our sister?" I said, "Yes." "Why didn't you
17 talk to me about it? Why didn't you tell me?" I said, "I
18 haven't told anyone. I'm going there for myself."

19 For the families and our family, because I
20 also had difficulty talking about it. I didn't believe I
21 was even going to come here myself. I didn't think I would
22 come. I didn't think I was going to come. When they
23 called me for an interview, I put it off, and then finally,
24 at some point, it was -- I'm like limited. When someone
25 tells me something, it's important to do it. That's when I

1 did the interview.

2 I really lack confidence. And, when I
3 texted my sister, she was crying. She sent me emoticons
4 showing she was still crying. She said, "You're a strong
5 woman. You're a brave woman. I'll be thinking of you
6 during the hearing." I said, "Yes, thank you. I love you,
7 sister." Because she saw everything that happened with her
8 sister. I thought about her earlier, about her children,
9 her three children, my sister, her daughter, who is
10 handicapped, and her two boys, of the impact that this
11 experience had on them, of isolating themselves, of
12 repressing what happened. I wanted to help them, but I
13 didn't want to push any further because they are not at
14 that point yet. I respected their choice.

15 As for my sister, she is still suffering
16 from these events, due to the event.

17 Today, I can talk about it. I speak about
18 it more because it allows me to free what is inside of me.
19 I speak about it often. Of course, the emotions coming
20 out, and I know somehow it's healing, healing at the same
21 time as family drama. It was twice as much suffering from
22 the same situation, that of my father and my sister. It's
23 like two almost identical events but at the same time
24 emotions that were repressed for years. I had to work on
25 these two events, which were dramatic for a family, and the

1 impact on the family as well.

2 Everything I've been through has had a lot
3 of repercussions in my life. I wanted to get out of it. I
4 would backtrack. I wanted to get out of it. This is what
5 happened. Forward and then back. Sometimes I would take
6 two or three steps forward, then three or four steps back.
7 That's what happened in my life.

8 I'm 55 years old this year and I will be 56.
9 I have only been really living for a short time. I've
10 taken back my life, control over my life. Thanks to
11 treatment, treatment centres, people who helped me, who
12 listened to me, who took care of me, because I was not able
13 to make decisions for myself. Others made decisions for me
14 because I didn't see myself as capable of doing things.
15 They made the decisions for me. "Go ahead, Nathalie, you
16 can do it. Go ahead." I couldn't do it because I didn't
17 have the -- I couldn't see that I was good at anything. I
18 saw myself as a bad person, not nice, dirty. You know, all
19 those words had become embedded in me. Did you want to
20 value me? Ah no. Somewhere behind -- the person who says,
21 "You're good." But there is something. It's in my
22 thoughts.

23 But where am I now? I live my life with all
24 of the abuse and I can also listen to women in need, to
25 children who want a hug, because I wasn't able to give

1 hugs. I really wasn't able to give to anyone, to look them
2 in the eyes. I was always running away. I couldn't do it.

3 If you want to take care of me -- no, no,
4 no, I'm capable. I'm all alone. I can manage on my own.
5 I've been doing it on my own all my life. What's
6 underneath? What do they want? There's always a negative
7 thought in the background. I couldn't do it.

8 When I moved to Quebec City, that's when I
9 learned a lot. That's when I learned to live again. I
10 feel very grateful toward non-natives because they taught
11 me to live again, to educate myself as well, because I
12 didn't know how to walk with my head held high, look you in
13 the eye. I couldn't do it. All I could see was
14 negativity.

15 I brought this picture of my sister that was
16 in my room. When the incident happened, I rationalized it.
17 Ah, my father was killed. My sister was killed. I figured
18 out the puzzles with my head and not my heart. I wanted --
19 I understood why it happened that way, but this time it
20 really wasn't that way.

21 I called -- I was talking to my sister's
22 spouse as if nothing had happened. I talked to him all the
23 time as if nothing had happened, as if nothing had
24 happened, there was never any resentment or hatred. It was
25 like I rationalized it.

1 But what my sister went through, she was
2 killed as if it was nothing, you know, but I just realized
3 that I had to come here, that it hurts a lot.

4 From the shock I had, I got the message; it
5 was like it was the rational and not the emotional that had
6 the upper hand. I wanted to be strong for everyone, but I
7 didn't get the chance to grieve. That's the impact it has.
8 I always react to emotions afterwards, long afterwards.
9 Not right away. But now, if anything happens to me, it's
10 like a state of shock, I freeze. This is a long-term
11 process. Whatever I experience always ends up being a
12 long-term process whenever these events happen. I also
13 blamed my sister. Why didn't she call me? Why didn't she
14 tell me? There was anger on top of that. I blamed her.
15 Why didn't she call me, you know? I always saw it like
16 that. It's like nothing happened. It was normal. I
17 always normalized events that were dramatic. It was
18 normal. It's always normal. Everything is okay.
19 Everything is -- but it wasn't normal. It's not normal to
20 see very traumatic events in this way.

21 I always want to be strong for everyone, but
22 I forgot about myself a lot. I, more than anyone, have
23 forgotten myself. I wanted to take on everyone's emotions,
24 my family, my children. I wanted to save the world, but
25 today I am the one who has taken charge of what I need.

1 I need to be respected as a woman. I am an
2 Innu woman from the Betsiamites community. Maybe I still
3 have a ways to go. That's normal. I have a hard time
4 returning to my community.

5 It's like I was telling someone, the people
6 who hurt me in my life, I said - it's strange that I
7 compared it because there are so many dogs in the
8 communities -- I said, "If a dog bites you once, he won't
9 come back to bite you a second time." I said, "If you
10 cross a person, they'll come back at you again and again."
11 Sometimes it's like -- I compare it to aggression. You
12 know, I said, "A dog can bite you once, but not twice." You
13 know, I was surprised to make a comparison like that
14 because it broke my heart. Physically, sometimes that's --
15 that's what made me live, especially in the previous years.

16 But at the same time, from what I
17 understand, life is putting me in situations so that I am
18 able to get through things, situations similar to what I
19 have experienced because I did not speak out about it. I
20 didn't speak to anyone about it when I was young, but there
21 are events today that force me to face them, not
22 necessarily with violence, or revenge, but that have taught
23 me to express how I feel today. I bring myself, but with
24 my wounds and not hatred or resentment. I bring how I feel
25 because I learned it, how I feel today.

1 I feel honoured to be here. I'm also proud
2 to be here because it was not easy. It wasn't easy to get
3 here. I came from Mingan and, on the road yesterday, I
4 almost went back because the roads were bad, went back and
5 cancelled. No, I'm not coming. You know.

6 But my partner often took me to treatment
7 centres. He took me where I wanted to go. Even yesterday,
8 he brought me to Quebec City so I could come and attend the
9 hearing. He was always ready to bring me, because I didn't
10 drive. I've been driving a car for two years, and he was
11 the one who was always ready to drive me to places, to
12 treatment centres, to therapy. He was my driver. Then he
13 said, "I'm bound because I'm the one driving." I was
14 dependent on a lot of people, everyone, even my daughters,
15 my daughters would drive me places.

16 There are a lot of other things. A lot of
17 things have an impact. It's like I was saying to someone,
18 "Ah, I'd like to be able to speak spontaneously, but I'm
19 not able to." It's long-term. I have to think about it
20 and then I come back after a day, two weeks, and maybe
21 years, to come back. But I can't defend myself on the
22 spot. I'm frozen. That's the effect it had on me.

23 The services I used when I was in Quebec
24 City, the CAVAQ resources, I went to CAVAQ for help. I'm
25 at La Boussole for my mental health. I went to the women's

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1 sharing circles. I went to AA groups, anonymous emotional
2 support groups. I did a lot of things for eight years, and
3 I shared in groups -- different groups, as well as therapy
4 centres where I attended, l'Aube de la paix, Attitude, to
5 be able to live again one day, truly live my life.

6 **MS. SHELBY THOMAS:** Nathalie, if you could
7 talk to women who are in a similar situation to yours, what
8 is the message you would like to share?

9 **MS. NATHALIE HERVIEUX:** I invite women to
10 talk about it, to go get help, to get resources, too.
11 Knock on many doors even if they are closed. Sometimes,
12 stay at the door, go in. Go knock on the different doors.
13 That's what I did. There are doors that closed. So then I
14 went to other doors. I knocked on a lot of doors in order
15 to move forward.

16 The woman who I shared a lot with in the
17 beginning is a woman who is still in my life and who I have
18 called whenever I needed to at work. I felt like a coyote:
19 "Hey, something's wrong. I'm going through this or that."
20 And I would call her three or four times, every time I --
21 and she's still here today, but I don't call as often.
22 She's here. I call her once a year, three times a year,
23 depending how much I need her. At first, it was four times
24 a day, 10 times a week. Whenever I needed to. I persisted
25 and she would call me back. I thought she would take away

1 my hurt and suffering, find solutions for me, but no, I was
2 the one who found my own solutions.

3 And my dream today is to talk about it in
4 the communities, to give conferences to help people, people
5 who need support. That's what I want to do one day, to go
6 into the communities, to talk about it, because I think I
7 have a lot of strength, a lot of gratitude for life because
8 many people have helped me go through events, who lent me a
9 helping hand, listened to me, lent me their ears when I
10 needed it. I think that's the cure, listening, reaching
11 out your hand. For me, it's giving the most love that I
12 can, and hope.

13 Today, for sure, I'm much lighter than over
14 the last few weeks because the dreams were not easy. My
15 experiences caused me to have dreams every day, every day,
16 starting with my sharing about my paternal grandparents. I
17 was dreaming about terrorists, everything, everything,
18 everything for the last few days and I didn't understand
19 why, but I was able to run away. In the dreams, I ran away
20 every time. I was able to run away.

21 Also today, I am able to take care of myself
22 and leave behind my baggage because I'm the one with the
23 solutions for what I experienced. I know I'm going to have
24 other experiences, I don't know how, but in other ways. I
25 have been through a lot in the last few months, but I was

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1 able to express myself in a more human way because before,
2 I was more aggressive. Everything was a lot of work, work
3 that I did and continue to do. I continue to work through
4 it.

5 Since November, the one that took place in
6 Maliotenam, I had an individual meeting and since then,
7 because I mentioned to you that I had had a pathological
8 gambling problem for about thirty, forty years, and it came
9 back. It came back over the holidays. I no longer play
10 today. I was afraid because of this hearing. I knew that
11 there was a hearing and that I was going to speak in
12 public. It's my choice. It's my choice to speak in public
13 and I played the machines and all that. That's it. I was
14 running away, because it's not easy to speak in public and
15 it's more anonymous when I was sharing in groups. It was
16 more anonymous, and now it's in public.

17 But I'm happy. I am proud that I shared
18 with you. Thank you for your patience, for listening to
19 all these women. I am so happy to be among you today.
20 Thank you.

21 **MS. SHELBY THOMAS:** Commissioners, do you
22 have any questions or comments?

23 **COMMISSIONER BRIAN EYOLFSON:** Thank you,
24 Nathalie. I don't have any specific questions for you. So
25 at this point I just want to thank you very much for coming

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1 and sharing. I just want to acknowledge your strength and
2 your perseverance in being able to come here and share and
3 tell us everything you've been through and what you've done
4 in terms of your healing journey. I want to thank you very
5 much for sharing that with us today.

6 **CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER:** I too do
7 not have questions to ask, but I too want to thank you for
8 coming today and sharing your truth, your life with us.
9 What you've said today is very important to our work. All
10 of what you've said is very important.

11 But I also want to thank you from my heart
12 for coming. I am just completely in awe of you. I have
13 such great respect for you and your courage and your
14 strength. So thank you. You've spoiled us by coming.
15 Thank you very much.

16 **COMMISSIONNER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** If you want,
17 I'll try to speak in English.

18 Nathalie, for me, you have always been a
19 great lady with a lot, a lot of resilience for having had a
20 few years where we lived close, close, close to one another
21 with your beautiful daughters also, and then your
22 granddaughters, your grandchildren. So I -- I see a new
23 Nathalie. Really, it's incredible. Once a victim, then a
24 survivor, a fighter and now a person who is fully alive.

25 The courage, too, to talk about what you did

1 as a mother to your children takes much, much, much courage
2 and you have given us this gift, this lesson. As perfectly
3 imperfect parents, we also need to reflect on how we are as
4 parents and you have taught us well, and I hope that the
5 communities will call on your wisdom, your knowledge and
6 your experience.

7 It's a shame that we don't know enough about
8 your story. It deserves to be heard and I sincerely wish
9 this for you.

10 And we also try to make this space safe, and
11 it's also a place for women to honour their sisters,
12 mothers or loved ones. So we are honoured to welcome your
13 father's and your sister's spirit here and she will become
14 part of Canadian history, your history.

15 And we have a tradition. This is going to
16 make me cry, because it is so moving, we were hoping to
17 hear from many women and we heard from many women and many
18 men and we received many eagle feathers and today, I was
19 sad to give out, last night and this morning, the last
20 eagle feather. But then I said, oh, there are still a few
21 families left. What will we do? We'll send them by mail
22 because we have to. It is necessary because it's a
23 beautiful tradition that my grandmother will explain to you
24 in English as to where it all started. And a generous man
25 undid his traditional headdress to offer you a feather. I

1 don't know if Don is here? He's not here, but he left for
2 Kahnawake to get his traditional headdress and he prepared
3 this for you.

4 The grandmothers will come and give it to
5 you, okay? And they are Mi'kmaq.

6 (GIFT PRESENTATION)

7 MS. SHELBY THOMAS: Commissioners, can we
8 end the session?

9 So we're going to end the session for
10 10 minutes.

11 MS. BERNIE POITRAS: I just want to explain
12 to you, Nathalie. First, I want to say *howa* to you. I
13 just have one thing to say. I was taught this as I went
14 from a victim to a victor, and you are a champion of that,
15 and I want to saw *howa* to you from the bottom of my heart.
16 I had a really hard time sitting there because it really
17 hit home to me too. And to the hundreds of women that are
18 listening across Canada, what an amazing story you have. I
19 just want to say *howa* to you and explain about the
20 feathers. It started months and months and months ago from
21 family members that have been donating the eagle feathers
22 for the other family members, just to keep the passing on
23 and that.

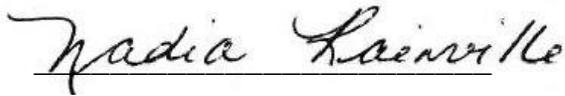
24 So I want to say *howa* to you and your
25 daughter, your family. Again, on behalf of the

1 grandmothers, the Chief Commissioner and the Commissioners,
2 we would like to honour you and your daughter with the
3 eagle feathers.

4 --- Upon adjourning at 3:08 p.m.

LEGAL DICTA-TYPIST'S CERTIFICATE*

I, Nadia Rainville, Court Transcriber, hereby certify that I have transcribed the foregoing and it is a true and accurate transcript of the digital audio provided in this matter.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nadia Rainville". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Nadia Rainville

March 26, 2018

* This certificate refers to the original transcript in French.