

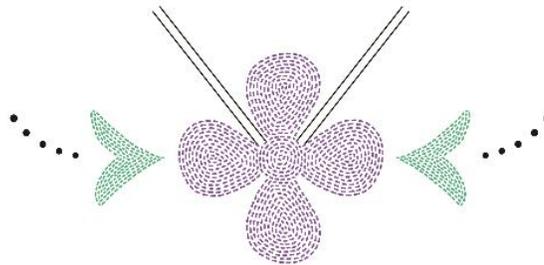
National Inquiry into  
Missing and Murdered  
Indigenous Women and Girls



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.**

## II

### APPEARANCES

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

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

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**Witness: Nathalie Hervieux (in relation to  
Eliane Hervieux-Kistabish)**

**Exhibits**

(No exhibits filed)

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

(Eliane Hervieux-Kistabish)

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

Nathalie Hervieux

(Eliane Hervieux-Kistabish)

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



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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

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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

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.

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



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.

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

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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

Nathalie Hervieux

(Eliane Hervieux-Kistabish)

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 say *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.

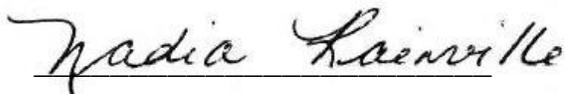
24 So I want to say *howa* to you and your  
25 daughter, your family. Again, on behalf of the

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.