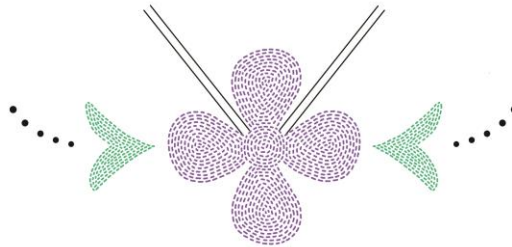


National Inquiry into
Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women and Girls



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 Statement Gathering
Taloyoak, Nunavut**



PUBLIC

Wednesday August 22, 2018

Statement - Volume 514

**Dennis Lyall,
In relation to Sylvia Lyall & Angela Meyer**

**Statement gathered by Lillian Lundrigan,
Commission Counsel**

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Documents submitted with oral statement: none

**III
NOTE**

The use of square brackets [] in this transcript indicates that amendments have been made to the certified transcript in order to replace information deemed inaudible or indecipherable by the original transcriptionist. Amendments were completed by listening to the source audio recording of the proceeding and were made by Bryana Bouchir, Public Inquiry Clerk with the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQ, February 5th 2019 at Vancouver, BC.

Taloyoak, Nunavut

--- Upon commencing on Wednesday, August 22, 2018.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Could you introduce yourself, your full name and today's date?

MR. DENNIS LYALL: My name is Dennis Lyall, I'm from Taloyoak. Today's date is August 22nd, 2018.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Thank you, and I'll just stop it and pause it. Now the recording's going. So you can talk about your sister Sylvia Lyall.

MR. DENNIS LYALL: My sister was murdered way back when. I can't even remember, it seems so close and yet so far. And I guess before that, before that happened, my wife Christine's sister was murdered back in 1981 by the brother of the brother who murdered my sister in [Iqaluit] ~~the (indiscernible)~~.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: M'hmm.

MR. DENNIS LYALL: And that became a very hardship for us, for the whole family. And my father-in-law -- my wife's father and mother were very worried because one of my wife's sisters is married to another brother, the third brother, that he might try and do it again. And my father-in-law and mother-in-law died not knowing if their daughter was going to be safe.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: M'hmm.

MR. DENNIS LYALL: Because like I said

1 before, my sister and my sister-in-law were murdered by two
2 brothers, and the other brother is married to my sister-in-
3 law. And father-in-law and mother-in-law were very, very
4 worried that (indiscernible).

5 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Okay.

6 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** And just -- that's just
7 to start. And the next event in my life came about when my
8 sister Cathy Meyer's daughter went missing from her home in
9 Yellowknife. And it brought back many memories of what me
10 and wife went through when -- I guess in a way a murdered
11 person as you know -- we know she's, she's not alive
12 anymore. But the missing person you don't know, you cannot
13 fully understand if that person is still alive today or
14 not.

15 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** M'hmm.

16 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** And murdered women is
17 bad, it's very bad. But at least we know they were put in
18 the ground properly.

19 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** M'hmm. But with a
20 missing family member there's no closure.

21 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** There's no -- I don't
22 know what the closure means, but there's no ending to the
23 story of the missing people.

24 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Yeah, no answers.

25 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** No answers. And we're --

1 we tend to blame the, the officials such as RCMP not
2 working hard enough.

3 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Yes.

4 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** But I know they're trying
5 their best to solve each case nowadays.

6 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Yes.

7 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** But it is still very,
8 very hard for us as family members, to keep pushing the
9 officials such as the law, to keep looking for missing
10 relatives.

11 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Yeah, yeah. Do you
12 -- if I can ask you about your sister Cathy's daughter, the
13 one who is still missing? How do you feel the officials
14 that you mentioned -- the officials are doing their best
15 and we see that. But there's a pattern that has occurred
16 over the years that police -- for example police didn't do
17 enough to investigate, or even start investigating, when an
18 Indigenous woman went missing. How do you feel your
19 sister's daughter's case was handled, could it have been
20 done a bit better?

21 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** As a family member I feel
22 alone. I think -- I really feel my niece went missing and
23 nobody else's niece went missing, or sister went missing,
24 or sister got murdered. I feel that I'm taking it all by
25 myself, there's no other murdered women, there's no other

1 missing women.

2 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Yeah.

3 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** And that -- and I feel
4 that the lawmakers should, should not give up looking for
5 missing Aboriginal people.

6 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Yeah. Do you feel
7 that they are giving up or have given up?

8 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** It's really hard to tell.
9 I have mixed feelings, yes and no. Like I said before, I'm
10 not really thinking about other people that are -- that
11 have murdered sisters and missing nieces, where I should
12 be. I know there are others but I kind of feel personal
13 about this, and I feel that they should keep looking.

14 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Yeah.

15 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** There might be some
16 evidence that they're not sharing. I'm not sure what's
17 happening there.

18 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Yeah. When your
19 sister Cathy shared with the Inquiry at the Yellowknife
20 hearing earlier this year, she mentioned -- her and her
21 husband mentioned that when your niece went missing that
22 day, Cathy -- she knew something was wrong, right? As a
23 family member, as a mother, we know our children, right?

24 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** M'hmm.

25 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** She said she felt

1 something was wrong, right? Where was her daughter? And
2 she tried to call right away to the hospital, like to
3 officials.

4 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** M'hmm.

5 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** And she was told --
6 and I remember this very well when she told me this, she
7 was told wait until five o'clock. How -- it made me think
8 why wait until five o'clock? What if that's your child
9 that you're, you're missing, right? So I'm -- we're trying
10 to get our head around what are these officials -- like if
11 it's not the police, it's the staff at the hospitals or
12 social workers. What are they -- what makes them think to
13 say wait until five o'clock?

14 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** That's -- us Aboriginal
15 people, we don't have a timeline to find our children.

16 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** M'hmm.

17 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** There's no such [set]
18 time. And the, the other part of our country, if I may say
19 white people, have a timeline for everything. They have a
20 timeline for a missing person, 24 hours.

21 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** M'hmm.

22 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** And in this case, my
23 sister's case, this five o'clock -- this was a few hours
24 before they started looking. And as a parent I know -- I
25 may disturb the white man's way of thinking. If my child

1 is missing I'm not waiting until five o'clock. I'm not
2 going to wait until 24 hours. I want my child found.

3 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Right now, yeah.

4 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** Fine, if they find him,
5 I'm sorry you found him before the deadline came.

6 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** M'hmm.

7 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** I'm sorry if you did
8 that, but I'm glad you found him or her.

9 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Yeah.

10 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** And let's, let's -- the
11 other thing I really can't understand is what time you
12 start.

13 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Yeah, yeah. So in
14 that window, like from that afternoon when your niece went
15 out to have her cigarette right, she walked away somewhere,
16 and Cathy was told to wait until five o'clock. In those
17 few hours, you know, maybe she could have been found,
18 right?

19 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** M'hmm.

20 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** So these are things
21 that, that we're trying to as an Inquiry put our finger on,
22 put our foot down. Policies have to change, because like
23 you said (speaking in Inuktitut). We don't have timelines.

24 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** Yeah. And we have right
25 now, in the springtime we have 24 hours of daylight. And

1 the white man's way of thinking is after dark or after
2 daylight. It doesn't correspond.

3 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** M'hmm.

4 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** And now we brought up --
5 even though it was 24 hours sunlight, yet we were told to
6 go to bed early and wake up early, otherwise the sun is
7 still going on in our heads.

8 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Yeah.

9 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** But it's not like down
10 south where, where you're missing your loved ones. And it
11 just takes too long for, for the law makers to start
12 looking or helping. Well where were -- I don't know if I'm
13 saying it right or not, but we as a family are looking and
14 we need help.

15 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** M'hmm.

16 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** And the lawmakers carry
17 it further. Was he murdered, was he - what are they
18 hiding? They're not sharing information. [We're, as
19 Inuit, w]e always share our information, whether my brother
20 drowned, my father drowned, my sister was killed. You know
21 we share these things, there's no hidden, hidden --

22 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Agenda?

23 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** -- information.

24 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Yeah. So is that
25 something you -- how do you think that can change to help

1 our people better?

2 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** I think -- well once we
3 ask for help, I think the family members and any members of
4 the community start looking right away. See Search and
5 Rescue, they start right away, whereas the lawmakers, they
6 wait 24 hours.

7 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Yep.

8 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** Up here it's extremely
9 cold, there's -- a few hours, few minutes can make a
10 difference between life and death.

11 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** M'hmm.

12 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** And we don't have such
13 thing as -- I don't know who brought this time, timeline,
14 because we're wasting our time for someone that is safe.
15 And there's no such thing as Inuit, if you're safe fine.
16 And there's no timeline for being safe.

17 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** M'hmm. Okay, so
18 that's one of the recommendations you're --

19 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** Yeah, it's a
20 recommendation that we start right now. Get our family
21 members involved, get the community involved, and the
22 lawmakers involved. But as you know Lillian, that coming
23 from a small community, that everybody is touched by
24 missing people, especially missing people. We all go out
25 and look. Fine if we find them within a few minutes, a few

1 hours. And there's no timeline for us when to start.

2 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Yeah.

3 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** And I feel that there is
4 -- some secrets are being held back by our policing
5 community.

6 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Yeah. Okay, because
7 of the lack of sharing of information?

8 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** Yes.

9 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Okay. Another
10 thing, if I may say, when Cathy was sharing she made
11 another -- I mean her whole story, her family's story, was
12 very valuable to the work that we're doing. You know we
13 pray every day that, you know, they find answers. But
14 another thing she shared, which really affects many -- our
15 Indigenous people across the country, but also I feel in my
16 heart for Inuit, because I'm an Inuk, the lack of services
17 for our -- in our communities.

18 For example mental health and counselling
19 for people that have gone through a traumatic experience in
20 their life. And Cathy shared with regards to Angela. She
21 -- her illness came on really fast and there was no help
22 for them. Even in Yellowknife. You would think
23 Yellowknife has more services right, than isolated
24 communities. But Cathy experienced it and she shared with
25 us that the lack of services for Angela when she needed the

1 help, and they were told their option is to send Angela
2 down south to get care, the proper care. And it shouldn't
3 be like that because we're all Canadians, right? We should
4 have the same level of care for our, our family members
5 that need help in the community as a Canadian in a city,
6 right? And that's a recommendation that she put forward.
7 How do you feel about that?

8 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** I feel very strongly. I
9 feel the same way as Cathy does, and Cathy's a lot better
10 talker than I am. But the care services that we are
11 receiving, we have to go to them. We send our elders down
12 to Ottawa, down to strange places where an elder who needs
13 24 hour care, they still have to eat. As Inuit, part of
14 our life is eating our food, and our own space, our window,
15 looking out the window, looking out at the land, looking
16 out the door, looking out at the nice cold weather.

17 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Yeah.

18 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** And not buildings, not
19 trees, not cement, not the old people walking under you.
20 You need to -- we as Inuit, we like to look in the, in the
21 other person's eyes --

22 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Yes.

23 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** -- and say hello, and hug
24 and whatever. But you don't have that same facilities that
25 you do down south. And some of the documentaries I have

Dennis Lyall

(Sylvia Lyall & Angela Meyer)

1 seen, some of these home cares, it's very -- it's very
2 awful. It not the personal, personal care. And like the
3 almighty dollar tells me that you Lillian, you're going to
4 look after 15 of us. How are you going to do personal care
5 if you're looking after 15 of us instead of maybe two on
6 one the most.

7 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Yeah.

8 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** And we tend to spend more
9 money on the liquor stores and jails. We have better jail
10 systems than we do the school system. And they're -- they
11 tend to spend more money on these really unrelated for
12 personal Inuit life. And like a person from down south
13 don't want to stay in a low cost rental house because it's
14 small. They need their space when they come up here, so we
15 have to build better houses for them.

16 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Yeah.

17 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** And why are we being
18 treated as northerners, different as they would treat
19 southerners?

20 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Yeah.

21 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** And when I come up here,
22 when I work up here, I have to buy my own furniture, I have
23 to buy my own fuel, my own electricity, I have to pay for
24 my holidays if I'm so lucky to have holidays down south or
25 the next community, I have to take it out of my own pocket.

1 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** M'hmm.

2 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** But a lot of these
3 southerners, they don't have to pay for the hotels, they
4 don't have to pay for their meals. This, this is one of
5 the things that's causing a lot of animosity towards
6 southern people, because they get everything free up here.
7 And we go down south, we don't get southern allowance.

8 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** M'hmm.

9 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** We pay for our own
10 hotels. People are going to say yes, you get free
11 healthcare, but Jesus.

12 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** It's not --

13 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** By all means let's change
14 the south to north.

15 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Yeah.

16 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** Southerners get
17 everything free, for nothing up here. They don't even -- I
18 don't even know if they pay rent some of them.

19 **MS. LUNDRIGAN:** M'hmm.

20 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** And of course the -- I'm
21 talking about three-quarters of the population that do work
22 from up, up here from down south. They need a vehicle to
23 get around, to get to the airport. Oh, I need a vehicle.
24 What about Inuit, they don't ask for vehicle when they go
25 down south.

1 **MS. LUNDRIGAN:** M'hmm.

2 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** They ask for rides into
3 town from the airport to the hotel. We don't ask for that
4 down south we take a taxi. These are -- like in the olden
5 days, white man was the boss.

6 **MS. LUNDRIGAN:** M'hmm.

7 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** Fortunately I was born --
8 when I seen this white man being the boss was through
9 Hudson Bay Company. They were the bosses. We even called
10 the Hudson Bay Manager the boss in Inuktitut.

11 **MS. LUNDRIGAN:** *(Speaking in Inuktitut)*

12 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** *(Speaking in Inuktitut).*
13 They make clothing for these Hudson Bay managers, they make
14 clothing for the RCMP to travel. They gave them dogs, they
15 gave them sleds. I'm not even sure if the women got paid
16 for making all the winter clothing for these -- especially
17 the RCMP officers.

18 **MS. LUNDRIGAN:** M'hmm.

19 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** Hudson Bay, I know the
20 women never got paid for making all these -- I'm paying
21 your husband so you've got to help me, like -- so to make
22 the clothes.

23 **MS. LUNDRIGAN:** Took advantage of their --

24 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** I think so.

25 **MS. LUNDRIGAN:** Yeah.

1 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** And I know so.

2 **MS. LUNDRIGAN:** Yeah.

3 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** Whatever the white man
4 said in my days, back in the 1950s, even as early as 60s,
5 what white man said, it's a demand, it's a command. And we
6 as Inuit didn't want to hurt this white man by ignoring
7 him, so we agreed with him, so not to hurt his feelings.

8 **MS. LUNDRIGAN:** M'hmm.

9 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** By neglecting him, by
10 saying no to him. We didn't want -- he hurt me, he hurt my
11 feelings already.

12 **MS. LUNDRIGAN:** M'hmm.

13 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** I don't want to turn
14 around and hurt his feelings. And he hurt mine already,
15 but I don't want to hurt his feelings. And it's still the
16 same way today.

17 **MS. LUNDRIGAN:** Is it?

18 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** Yeah.

19 **MS. LUNDRIGAN:** Can you give me an example?

20 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** Example, there are many
21 examples. There are a lot of, a lot of true Inuit people
22 that will not say no so not to hurt your feelings. But as
23 you're talking to Inuk, they reason between them. But
24 reasoning with the qallunaaq -- qallunaaq will demand of
25 Inuk, Inuk will agree, so the Inuk does not want to hurt

1 the qallunaaq's feelings.

2 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Yes.

3 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** So they agree, they don't
4 discuss things.

5 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** So do you feel that
6 in terms of getting the proper care and services, Inuit
7 need to deal with the trauma that we've been living
8 through? Because colonization, residential schools,
9 (speaking in Inuktitut) that, you know the hurt that's
10 happening in our communities. Inuit -- because we're --
11 like you were just saying we -- the qallunaaq takes
12 advantage of the Inuk, even though we want help, we try to
13 ask for help, but they take control of how they're going to
14 help us, right? That's not working. It's, it's pretty
15 obvious it's not working amongst Indigenous people, Inuit,
16 across the country. How can we move away from that and
17 help our people, Inuit help Inuit. Qallunaaq, they keep
18 coming to control how we're going to help each other. How,
19 how can we fix that?

20 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** Colonization. I looked
21 through that, and I thought -- ~~I knew they~~ [Inuit] were
22 going to take control when our, when our territory, Nunavut
23 Territory was created. And we got NTI, we got TFM, we've
24 got a whole lot of other -- three other regional
25 organizations. And I thought that was going to go away,

1 colonization. And I think as Inuit our feeling -- we're
2 feeling, I'm feeling it. I'm being overcrowded by southern
3 workers. Meaning what I said before, they don't have to
4 pay for their ticket to go back and forth, they don't have
5 to pay for their furniture, they don't have to pay for
6 their food, they don't have to pay for gas, they don't have
7 to pay for the snowmobiles. Some organizations --
8 government officials, they even have -- they even supply
9 them with vehicles such as snowmobiles, Quads and what have
10 you.

11 And I feel this -- sometimes it makes me
12 angry, seeing a southerner telling me what to do and what
13 not to do, when I'm paying for everything. I'm paying
14 income tax, same as Ottawa.

15 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Yeah.

16 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** I'm paying GST same as
17 Ottawa, but our GST items cost more up here and we're still
18 paying the same GST. And these are the things that -- our
19 income tax. We're so very few Inuit in Nunavut. And I
20 have asked the politicians to cut our GST off and some of
21 our income tax. And our income tax has never been adjusted
22 to the cost of living that we are experiencing up here.

23 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Never?

24 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** Never have.

25 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Wow.

1 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** And I'm being threatened
2 to be imprisoned if I don't pay my income tax by my own
3 free government.

4 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** M'hmm. Inuk, we're
5 so isolated and yet the government services don't --
6 they're not helping Inuit enough, right?

7 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** When it comes to, when it
8 comes to cost of living our government don't really care as
9 long as they get their money. As long as they take the
10 income tax and the GST, their unemployment payments, you
11 know. They don't -- they don't give it back to us.

12 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** M'hmm.

13 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** And they're not helping
14 mental health. Like you said, it's one of the biggest
15 obstacles that we're facing right now. And we need to
16 start to spend less money on jails. A lot of our prisoners
17 are mentally unfit.

18 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Yeah.

19 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** And the majority of the
20 Inuit prisoners I know are, are -- they need help. They
21 don't belong in jails.

22 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** No, they need --
23 okay, so here's my question to you then. How can they get
24 help? What kind of help -- okay one, what kind of help can
25 they get; and who can help them best? Because my opinion

1 is qallunaaq are not doing the right job. Because look it,
2 we're 2018 and it's -- the problem's getting worse.

3 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** Yeah.

4 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** (Speaking in
5 Inuktitut), how can we switch it so that they are -- people
6 like, you know the men that are (speaking in Inuktitut) on
7 their wives, how can they get help?

8 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** Social services, they've
9 got to change their attitude. Instead of taking children
10 away, they need a care facility in each community where
11 their children can be looked after.

12 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** M'hmm.

13 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** That's Social Services.
14 And Social Service's mentality is your husband beat you up
15 yesterday, so we're going to send you and your family to
16 Yellowknife. Leave your husband at home, your husband's
17 free to do whatever he wants, but you as a woman have to be
18 shipped out to Yellowknife say, or to another community,
19 with all your kids. Look after your kids, feed your kids,
20 sleep with your kids, while the husband is left at home.

21 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** M'hmm.

22 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** That's screwy.

23 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Yeah.

24 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** I think the husband
25 should be sent out.

1 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Yeah, to get help.

2 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** To get help.

3 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Yeah, okay.

4 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** And the anger again is
5 the animosity against the white people getting everything
6 for nothing.

7 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** It's that whole
8 colonization --

9 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** It's the whole
10 colonization.

11 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Yeah, okay.

12 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** And I was hoping and
13 praying that it would change. It did change for a few
14 months, when we got -- elected our own government
15 headquarters. Nunavut Headquarters or Nunavut.

16 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** M'hmm.

17 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** And NTI of course has
18 been around for longer than our government system. I wish
19 somebody could change how -- the qallunaaq, they were
20 bringing out diplomacy. You have to have Grade 12 for
21 this, you have to have a university degree for this. And
22 our ancestors lived up here without going to school. Their
23 learning was from watching their parents do things.

24 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Yeah.

25 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** And how to control each

1 other, how to control hunting, how to control this, how to
2 control that. But there was no classroom. Our whole
3 classroom was the whole environment.

4 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Yeah. So that needs
5 to be brought back to our people?

6 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** Yes, not to the depth
7 that our --

8 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Yeah.

9 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** -- our ancestors would.

10 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** It will never be
11 again.

12 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** Well that wouldn't be
13 again, but it can, it can happen.

14 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Yeah, yeah. Just to
15 go back to that anger and animosity that Inuit are feeling
16 because of everything's that happened over the last 100 or
17 so years. You talked about your wife's family, her
18 brothers, and your sister Sylvia's murder. That's -- in
19 one family that's, that's a lot of violence and anger,
20 right?

21 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** Yes.

22 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** (Speaking in
23 Inuktitut), what -- if you can, if you want to, you don't
24 have to answer me, but how do you -- why do you think
25 there's so much violence and anger in that one family?

1 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** I think it's jealousy, a
2 man accusing a woman of seeing other people. That's just
3 the start.

4 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Yeah.

5 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** And they have to have a
6 few drinks before they say it.

7 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Okay.

8 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** And alcohol doesn't help
9 anybody.

10 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Where is that anger
11 -- there's so much deep rooted anger and violence in a
12 person. I wonder -- we're trying to figure out where is
13 that coming from, where is it stemming from? And it only
14 comes out --

15 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** Where -- you know Inuit
16 parents were very strict to some point.

17 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** M'hmm.

18 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** And a lot of young people
19 didn't talk to their parents, they kept everything to
20 themselves. I spoke to my parents, you spoke to your
21 parents of course, and we went to -- I went to church with
22 my mom, and most of us kids in my family went to church
23 with their mom. And we spoke and we understood each other.
24 You didn't even have to speak when your mom, or your
25 parents, saw your face, there's something wrong.

1 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** M'hmm.

2 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** And you didn't even have
3 to talk. And it doesn't matter if you're a white man or
4 Inuit, if you're a good parent you will know when your
5 child is having problems.

6 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** M'hmm. So is that
7 something that's lacking now, missing in some people, that
8 there's so much -- because I see young people even today,
9 that are getting to the level of violence that's happening.
10 Even in my own hometown, in [Arviat]. [Speaking in
11 Inuktitut] (~~indiscernible~~), or whatever they're doing, all
12 that anger comes out. Where, where is it coming from, what
13 do you --

14 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** I think, I think a person
15 keeps it in himself, to himself, until he has a little bit
16 more courage. When he has a little bit of drink he has a
17 little courage. Then that courage takes over I think, and
18 the violent comes in after.

19 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Yeah.

20 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** And too many of our young
21 people -- not even our young people, a lot of our elders
22 too abuse their wives or female partners, whatever. And
23 you keep all that anger inside you, but yet you smile at
24 her, or you smile at people, be nice to other people. You
25 have a few drinks and that courage comes out. Courage

1 takes over I think.

2 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Okay.

3 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** That's when -- that's the
4 drinking part.

5 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Yeah.

6 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** The other part I have
7 seen in my lifetime is even if you're not drinking, the
8 violence comes out of you all of a sudden and starts
9 beating up your wife.

10 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** It's, it's that
11 bottled up --

12 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** Yeah.

13 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** -- and then it comes
14 out.

15 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** It comes out yeah, even
16 when you're not drinking.

17 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Yeah. That's why
18 it's so important -- I was talking to someone, and we're
19 talking about how our ancestors [speaking in Inuktitut]
20 (~~indiscernible~~), we -- they were taught not to speak about
21 another person, keep -- if you have a problem you keep it
22 within yourself. You don't need to go talk to everybody
23 about what your problem is. Nowadays, today, what's coming
24 out with all this mental health stuff is talk to somebody
25 about your problems. So there's been a switch right, with

1 Inuit culture.

2 Back then, traditionally we were not
3 supposed to talk about it, our issues and our problems.
4 Now today, we're telling our people talk about your
5 problems to this person and that will help you. So we were
6 told one thing a 100 years ago, and now today we're being
7 told another thing. So it's that change, and we have to
8 figure out what's going to work best for our people,
9 because our people are dying and we've got to --

10 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** In my, in my days, when I
11 was younger, we had the ministers, Anglican ministers and
12 Roman Catholic missionaries, they used to teach us. They
13 used to let us gather in the church once or twice a week,
14 and they spoke to us, we took religious lessons.

15 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** M'hmm.

16 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** But they would -- they
17 would hold to that, there was care, they were caregivers.

18 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** M'hmm.

19 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** Like I'm an Anglican, and
20 like our minister used to tell us you're Anglican, you're
21 not supposed to like the Roman Catholic. You know that?

22 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Yes, yes, yes.

23 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** And you still have it
24 today with them joking, more joking today than ever.

25 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Yeah.

1 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** But yeah, in our days,
2 when I was a kid we had Sunday Schools, we had workshops in
3 missionaries' homes, we had -- we had all kinds of stuff
4 going on.

5 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Yeah.

6 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** That didn't happen in our
7 ancestries, but in my time that's what happened. I began
8 my schooling in an Anglican house. And we didn't have a
9 church then. The church -- the living room of the Anglican
10 minister's house was the church.

11 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Okay.

12 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** And our workshop,
13 whatever gathering. And there we began to speak a little
14 bit of English. We knew how to count some, but we knew how
15 to do math, multiplications and stuff like that, and
16 English, and being on time. That's when my system started
17 to go into the modernized system.

18 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Yeah, it was a
19 different kind of structure.

20 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** M'hmm.

21 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Yeah, okay. It's
22 like that -- it's missing in our young people today. I see
23 it back home too. No more structure, no more -- I don't
24 know, to respect each other.

25 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** I'm not a religious

1 person, but I think religious leaders should go into our
2 school system maybe once a week, it doesn't hurt. Even
3 when I was going to senior high school in [Akaitcho Hall]
4 (~~indiscernible~~) in Yellowknife --

5 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Yeah.

6 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** We had a priest there
7 every week.

8 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Yeah, I remember.

9 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** Telling us lifestyles.

10 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Yeah.

11 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** And that's what's missing
12 from our school system. We don't, we don't have no more
13 respect.

14 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Yeah, yeah. So
15 [speaking in Inuktitut] (~~indiscernible~~), asking if we need
16 to bring that back to our people, and don't rely on
17 qallunaaq to do it for us anymore.

18 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** We don't have to have
19 that, we as Inuit can look after ourselves.

20 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Yeah, yeah.

21 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** But we as Inuit have been
22 taught time and time -- it's been fed into our head that we
23 have to go see a professional, a university graduate, that
24 went to school for many, many years. And he's supposed to
25 be wise leader. And unfortunately that's not happening.

1 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Okay, I don't have
2 any more questions for you, unless you want to share
3 anything else, any more recommendations that you want to
4 put forward for the Commissioners?

5 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** I think my
6 recommendations were heard. And I tried, tried to put them
7 some way, talking with you.

8 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Yeah.

9 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** And I think we should --
10 this jealousy business, we have to overcome it by
11 ourselves. Our jealousy being a white man coming into our
12 land.

13 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** M'hmm.

14 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** They don't have to pay
15 nothing. Their 100 percent paycheque goes to the southern
16 family.

17 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** M'hmm.

18 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** Where their cost of
19 living is so much lower than ours.

20 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Yeah.

21 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** And I'm paying same, same
22 income tax as he is down there, and he's not buying
23 anything up here. And this is something that -- that
24 really has to change. And this timeline thing about this
25 Inquiry that you're on, there should be no timeline. June

1 30th of next year you said it was supposed to happen. I
2 ~~take no issue with~~ [think there should be] a report being
3 put out by June 30th, but let it keep going.

4 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** The work needs to
5 continue.

6 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** The more keep statistics.
7 Let's, let's gather up all the information that you have at
8 June 30th, some of it, not all of it, go out, and then we
9 make recommendation to that. Then next year after that we
10 put out some more, make more recommendations, and maybe 10
11 or 20 years down the line we've going to be self-
12 sufficient.

13 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Yeah, yeah.

14 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** I don't see this
15 happening overnight.

16 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Okay. It's true,
17 but that's what the government has --

18 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** I mean the government,
19 they're qallunaaq, they live by this. Oh, I've got to go
20 to the inn right now. That's the way the white man lives,
21 by this.

22 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Yeah.

23 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** And budget. I mean if
24 you have a budget of 10 million for this year, follow it.

25 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Yeah.

1 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** Make recommendation, make
2 \$30 million recommendation, 50, 100 million. Money is no
3 big deal today. But we're spending it in the wrong places,
4 our government is.

5 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Yeah, it's true.
6 Government needs to invest in the Arctic too.

7 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** Oh yes.

8 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** And its people. Not
9 just in resources, but in the people.

10 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** In Alert of all places.
11 There's a settlement called Alert, it's a government
12 community. And they pay for their food, they pay for
13 everything. They don't have to pay for nothing up there.
14 They even have a bar, because there's no Inuit up there of
15 course, but --

16 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Yeah, okay.

17 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** I think I've said enough
18 on it Lillian.

19 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Okay good. Well
20 thank you very much for sharing, we really appreciate your
21 words. We're going to put it into the report. The
22 Commissioners appreciate everything they hear from every
23 witness that comes forward and the recommendations are the
24 meat of this Inquiry.

25 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** M'hmm.

1 **MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** (Speaking in
2 Inuktitut). It's very important, so thank you very much
3 for sharing.

4 **MR. DENNIS LYALL:** Qujannamiik.
5 --- Upon adjourning.

LEGAL DICTA-TYPIST'S CERTIFICATE

I, Sherry Hobe, 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.



Sherry Hobe

November 5, 2018