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Truth-Gathering Process
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Dennis Lyall,
In relation to Sylvia Lyall & Angela Meyer

Statement gathered by Lillian Lundrigan,
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Witness: Dennis Lyall

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

**MS. LILLIAN LUNDHRIGAN:** 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 LUNDHRIGAN:** 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 LUNDHRIGAN:** 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 LUNDHRIGAN:** M' Hmm.

**MR. DENNIS LYALL:** Because like I said
before, my sister and my sister-in-law were murdered by two brothers, and the other brother is married to my sister-in-law. And father-in-law and mother-in-law were very, very worried that (indiscernible).

**MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Okay.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**MR. DENNIS LYALL:** No answers. And we're --
we tend to blame the, the officials such as RCMP not working hard enough.

**MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Yes.

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

**MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Yes.

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

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

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

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Yeah.

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

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

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

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Yeah.

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

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

MR. DENNIS LYALL: M'hmm.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: She said she felt
something was wrong, right? Where was her daughter? And she tried to call right away to the hospital, like to officials.

**MR. DENNIS LYALL:** M’hmm.

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

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

**MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** M’hmm.

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

**MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** M’hmm.

**MR. DENNIS LYALL:** And in this case, my sister's case, this five o'clock -- this was a few hours before they started looking. And as a parent I know -- I may disturb the white man's way of thinking. If my child
is missing I'm not waiting until five o'clock. I'm not
going to wait until 24 hours. I want my child found.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Right now, yeah.

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

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: M'hm.

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

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Yeah.

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

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

MR. DENNIS LYALL: M'hm.

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

MR. DENNIS LYALL: Yeah. And we have right
now, in the springtime we have 24 hours of daylight. And
the white man's way of thinking is after dark or after daylight. It doesn't correspond.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: M'hmm.

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

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Yeah.

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

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: M'hmm.

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

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Agenda?

MR. DENNIS LYALL: -- information.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Yeah. So is that something you -- how do you think that can change to help
our people better?

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

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Yep.

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

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: M'hmm.

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

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

MR. DENNIS LYALL: Yeah, it's a
recommendation that we start right now. Get our family
members involved, get the community involved, and the
lawmakers involved. But as you know Lillian, that coming
from a small community, that everybody is touched by
missing people, especially missing people. We all go out
and look. Fine if we find them within a few minutes, a few
hours. And there's no timeline for us when to start.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Yeah.

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

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

MR. DENNIS LYALL: Yes.

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

For example mental health and counselling for people that have gone through a traumatic experience in their life. And Cathy shared with regards to Angela. She -- her illness came on really fast and there was no help for them. Even in Yellowknife. You would think Yellowknife has more services right, than isolated communities. But Cathy experienced it and she shared with us that the lack of services for Angela when she needed the
help, and they were told their option is to send Angela
down south to get care, the proper care. And it shouldn't
be like that because we're all Canadians, right? We should
have the same level of care for our, our family members
that need help in the community as a Canadian in a city,
right? And that's a recommendation that she put forward.
How do you feel about that?

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

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Yeah.

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

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Yes.

MR. DENNIS LYALL: -- and say hello, and hug
and whatever. But you don't have that same facilities that
you do down south. And some of the documentaries I have
seen, some of these home cares, it's very -- it's very awful. It not the personal, personal care. And like the almighty dollar tells me that you Lillian, you're going to look after 15 of us. How are you going to do personal care if you're looking after 15 of us instead of maybe two on one the most.

**MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Yeah.

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

**MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Yeah.

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

**MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Yeah.

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

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

MS. LILLIAN LUNDРИGAN: M'hmm.

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

MS. LILLIAN LUNDРИGAN: It's not --

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

MS. LILLIAN LUNDРИGAN: Yeah.

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

MS. LUNDРИGAN: M'hmm.

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

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

MS. LUNDRIGAN: M'hmm.

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

MS. LUNDRIGAN: (Speaking in Inuktitut)

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

MS. LUNDRIGAN: M'hmm.

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

MS. LUNDRIGAN: Took advantage of their --

MR. DENNIS LYALL: I think so.

MS. LUNDRIGAN: Yeah.
MR. DENNIS LYALL: And I know so.

MS. LUNDRIGAN: Yeah.

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

MS. LUNDRIGAN: M'hmm.

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

MS. LUNDRIGAN: M'hmm.

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

MS. LUNDRIGAN: Is it?

MR. DENNIS LYALL: Yeah.

MS. LUNDRIGAN: Can you give me an example?

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

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Yes.

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

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

MR. DENNIS LYALL: Colonization. I looked through that, and I thought -- I knew they [Inuit] were going to take control when our, when our territory, Nunavut Territory was created. And we got NTI, we got TFM, we've got a whole lot of other -- three other regional organizations. And I thought that was going to go away,
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colonization. And I think as Inuit our feeling -- we're feeling, I'm feeling it. I'm being overcrowded by southern workers. Meaning what I said before, they don't have to pay for their ticket to go back and forth, they don't have to pay for their furniture, they don't have to pay for their food, they don't have to pay for gas, they don't have to pay for the snowmobiles. Some organizations -- government officials, they even have -- they even supply them with vehicles such as snowmobiles, Quads and what have you.

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

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Yeah.

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

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Never?

MR. DENNIS LYALL: Never have.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Wow.
MR. DENNIS LYALL: And I'm being threatened to be imprisoned if I don't pay my income tax by my own free government.

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

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

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: M'hmm.

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

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Yeah.

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

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: No, they need -- okay, so here's my question to you then. How can they get help? What kind of help -- okay one, what kind of help can they get; and who can help them best? Because my opinion
is qallunaq are not doing the right job. Because look it, we're 2018 and it's -- the problem's getting worse.

MR. DENNIS LYALL: Yeah.

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

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

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: M'hmm.

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

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: M'hmm.

MR. DENNIS LYALL: That's screwy.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Yeah.

MR. DENNIS LYALL: I think the husband should be sent out.
MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Yeah, to get help.

MR. DENNIS LYALL: To get help.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Yeah, okay.

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

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

MR. DENNIS LYALL: It's the whole colonization.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Yeah, okay.

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

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: M'hmm.

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

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Yeah.

MR. DENNIS LYALL: And how to control each
other, how to control hunting, how to control this, how to
control that. But there was no classroom. Our whole
classroom was the whole environment.

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

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

**MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** Yeah.

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

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

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

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

**MR. DENNIS LYALL:** Yes.

**MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN:** (Speaking in
Inuktitut), what -- if you can, if you want to, you don't
have to answer me, but how do you -- why do you think
there's so much violence and anger in that one family?
MR. DENNIS LYALL: I think it's jealousy, a man accusing a woman of seeing other people. That's just the start.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Yeah.

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

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Okay.

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

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

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

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: M'hmm.

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

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

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

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

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Yeah.

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

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Okay.

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

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Yeah.

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

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

MR. DENNIS LYALL: Yeah.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: -- and then it comes out.

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

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

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

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

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: M' hmm.

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

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: M' hmm.

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

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Yes, yes, yes.

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

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Yeah.
MR. DENNIS LYALL: But yeah, in our days, when I was a kid we had Sunday Schools, we had workshops in missionaries' homes, we had -- we had all kinds of stuff going on.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Yeah.

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

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Okay.

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

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

MR. DENNIS LYALL: M'hm.

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

MR. DENNIS LYALL: I'm not a religious
person, but I think religious leaders should go into our
school system maybe once a week, it doesn't hurt. Even
when I was going to senior high school in [Akaitcho Hall]
(indiscernible) in Yellowknife --

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Yeah.

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

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Yeah, I remember.

MR. DENNIS LYALL: Telling us lifestyles.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Yeah.

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

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

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

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Yeah, yeah.

MR. DENNIS LYALL: But we as Inuit have been
taught time and time -- it's been fed into our head that we
have to go see a professional, a university graduate, that
went to school for many, many years. And he's supposed to
be wise leader. And unfortunately that's not happening.
MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Okay, I don't have any more questions for you, unless you want to share anything else, any more recommendations that you want to put forward for the Commissioners?

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

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Yeah.

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

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: M'hmm.

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

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: M'hmm.

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

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Yeah.

MR. DENNIS LYALL: And I'm paying same, same income tax as he is down there, and he's not buying anything up here. And this is something that -- that really has to change. And this timeline thing about this Inquiry that you're on, there should be no timeline. June
30th of next year you said it was supposed to happen. I take no issue with [think there should be] a report being put out by June 30th, but let it keep going.

**MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGNAN:** The work needs to continue.

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

**MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGNAN:** Yeah, yeah.

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

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

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

**MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGNAN:** Yeah.

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

**MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGNAN:** Yeah.
MR. DENNIS LYALL: Make recommendation, make $30 million recommendation, 50, 100 million. Money is no big deal today. But we're spending it in the wrong places, our government is.

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Yeah, it's true.

Government needs to invest in the Arctic too.

MR. DENNIS LYALL: Oh yes.

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

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

MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: Yeah, okay.

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

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

MR. DENNIS LYALL: M'hmm.
MS. LILLIAN LUNDRIGAN: (Speaking in Inuktitut). It's very important, so thank you very much for sharing.

MR. DENNIS LYALL: Qujannamiik.

--- 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.

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Sherry Hobe

Sherry Hobe
November 5, 2018