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Statement - Volume 596 (Translation)

Leesee Karpik

Statement gathered by Sam Kabbara

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Documents submitted with testimony: none.
---Upon commencing at 5:30 p.m.

SAM KABBARA: This is Sam Kabbara, statement taker with the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Woman and Girls, in Ottawa, Ontario, at November 19, 2018. The time is 5:30pm. Today I am speaking with Leesee Karpik, of the Pangirtunk.

LEESEE KARPIK: Pangirtung.

SAM KABBARA: Pangirtung, how do you say it?

LEESEE KARPIK: Panniqtuuq.

SAM KABBARA: Panniqtuuq Nation and resides in [address redacted], Gatineau, in Quebec. Leesee is here to share her truth as a survivor, which occurred in Pangirtung in approximately the year 2000. Also present in the room is Looee Okalik, Leesee’s aunt and a health support. Also, for the record, Leesee you are voluntarily to provide your truth and you agree to the video taping and audio taping of your truth, you also understand at the end of your truth, you will be able to determine whether you would like your truth to be public or private.

LEESEE KARPIK: Okay.

SAM KABBARA: Alright.

LEESEE KARPIK: Okay, I’m Leesee Karpik from Panniqtuuq. I came here to be interviewed, which I believe to be a good time to share my story today. I would like to
first of all say thank you for being here today, and I would like to add that I am grateful for the support, the tremendous support from my children, my family, my friends, my fellow community members, including the hospital staff as well as the police and everyone else who became my support system after the incident. At that time, I should have not survived the incident, in the year 2000.

Although that happened at the time, we must continue to move forward, because if I choose to live in fear, I would not be able to cope day to day living. Things happen and when they do, I must believe it passes, although I use to think I would live in fear all the time. Because everything passes. At that time, I wasn’t thinking clearly. I think my body and mind was extremely stressed out at the time. I would give up and really give up sometimes.

When I look back today, I feel grateful for having gone through that. Yes, life is a difficult journey. No one has it easy in life. We have strength as well as weakness within. Today we are given what we could handle in life daily, but at the time I use to think -- every time I felt like giving up, I would think -- ”Why am I still alive today”. Those were my thoughts at the time, but I have learned that, I am grateful for the things I have experienced as they have given me strength.
Strength for today, if I didn’t have family, I would not have the support I had throughout. If I had no children, I would not have had their support, as well as my sibling’s, my older sister as well as my younger sister’s. My true friends, immediate family, have supported me tremendously.

During the time of the incident, that was the most difficult life experience I had at that time. But when I look back at it, and seeing how others are victimized, our fellow citizens, females, males, children and elders, being a victim has no boundaries today. I used to think at the time, why was I treated that way? I believe God will not give us something we cannot handle.

I used to think at the time “I don’t want to be alive today”. My body was going through a lot after the vicious beating and my mind wasn’t thinking clearly at that time. It’s not purposeful having those feelings, but when I am experiencing it more often, I feel more grateful for being able to think clearly today and I feel my body is doing fine most of the time although I struggle sometimes. I cannot live feeling like a victim all the time. I have been given gratitude and I believe I should use that.

For those people who hurt others, they need to find some sort of support for themselves or others. The act of beating or murdering others. I wonder why is it that way. I know now that I was still immature to understand, because
I did not grow up being mistreated. But we need to understand, things happen in life and it happens in the world we live in. We don’t expect to be treated like that. We don’t expect a lot of things to happen. Those are behind us now. Those who have passed on, I would like to mention, the fact that some want to beat others so badly, to a point they die. For those who treat others that way, we need to strengthen up and turn things around. Although it may seem difficult to do, but I believe we could be the stronger one if we believe in our strengths.

Inuit say a lot of stuff that becomes rumors before finding out the facts. Something they’ve heard becomes the truth, that is quite painful for those involved. When those people decide to talk about others, they should be self-aware and just don’t do it. Find out what is going on with the subject and help the person instead of being accusatory towards the person because that is stressful being targeted every time. This happens up to today, but we need to stand strong together and help those who need our support because they are not alone in this world, the world is diverse and we see so many different things happening every day, things we are not expecting at all.

I am grateful for being able to stand strong today, I would also like to help support those who struggle with stress. They are not alone, no one is alone, when we try to
handle it ourselves it becomes very difficult. We should see gratitude as a gift and not be embarrassed about the stressors of our body and mind. After what I’ve gone through, TI [Note: Tuungasuvvingat Inuit] provided counselling for me for 10 years. That was the only way, although it was quite difficult to go through, my body was quite exhausted at times, but there is a way to move forward. I would wonder “how am I going to do this today”. I felt like giving up, but the day would pass although it was difficult to begin with. Looking at all the things I’ve been through, I find it shocking that I was able to get through it with support and guidance. To think of it, I had a lot of people behind me. My youngest son, he was born, and after the incident, it was in the morning and the kids had to go to school, I couldn’t walk around in our unit, we also had a stairway. I was worried about the kids having to go to school, but I couldn’t walk up the stairs, so I crawled up the stairs towards their rooms. The baby who couldn’t talk or even try to say anything was not even a year old, said when I walked in. Even though I wasn’t expecting him to say anything. He said “dear, my love”, when he said that “my love”, I was thinking how difficult the day will be.

When he said that, I left the room briefly and wondered -- what did that toddler say, he cannot even talk
but he said something, I started to wonder and was scared for a bit. I wasn’t expecting that at all because he was still a toddler. He was way too young to say something like that. When time passed, I use to think back and think -- God is showing me through him. I thought how great our God is.

We are not alone and for a moment I thought I was completely on my own. My life experiences are not perfect, but we do learn from them in a lot of ways.

Around the same time, I thought I wasn’t going to live from losing so much blood. I was stabbed on my leg, after being viciously beaten. I had lost so much blood and the floor was full of blood. I was being beaten to death. I saw something that showed me strength. We have ancestors who were very strong as well as a grandmother who was very strong. Also, a grandfather who was very strong and an aunt who was very strong. I am grateful to them although they are no longer with us anymore because they give me strength through out in many ways.

During the time I was viciously beaten, I felt helpless seeing how much blood I have lost. I was feeling helpless and knowing I’ve lost a lot of blood, I started thinking I am not going to live anymore. At that moment, I heard my grandmother say, “you are not done, you cannot leave your children right now”. When I heard that, today I
feel so grateful, well I have always been so grateful up to
today, as well as my family even though it is still
difficult for us. We were always taught, rise even if it
is a difficult situation. I am sorry -- If I did not have
ancestors who were strong as well as a family with a strong
dynamic, I would not be standing strong today. If I didn’t
have friends who were strong as well.

[L.D.] is another one, I am very grateful to have her
in my life and I always tell her, I will never forget the
support you gave me back then. At that time during the
vicious beating I was getting, I would talk to my attacker
for long periods of time. I said to him, even though you
are hurting me this way and although my body is badly
beaten, I know in time I will heal. You yourself are
hurting too. You cannot be treating others that way, you
are victimizing many people and not only me although you
see only me right now. I am telling you I will not give up
the fight to survive. I also know you will not give up. At
that time when I was saying that to him, it seemed like he
was getting ready to hit me again, but I couldn’t see
clearly.

I had to watch every little move he made, it was a
very long beating, he did that to me for like six hours.
Although he was doing that to me, I would say to him, we
have love within, and I would remind him who we came from.
I reminded him, who my grandmother was who was also his
mother. I would also say is it okay to treat relatives
that way? I would say that is wrong. He kept his eyes on
me, watching to see what I was doing next. I was starting
to fall asleep or pass out and I started to feel really
cold.

I remembered the knife he used in the room. At first
when I mentioned I needed to go use the washroom, I hid the
knife between my legs, and I must have thought to hide it
in the drawer, so he won’t use it to attack me again. I am
glad I thought of that at the time. Because I had no
doubt, he was going to attack me the same way again.
During the six hours of enduring this, I started to feel
like I was going to fall asleep or pass out, I kept forcing
myself to stay up. I would try to see around me, although
it was difficult because my face was very swollen, no one
would recognize me.

After talking to him, I would check to see if he was
still there, I realized he wasn’t there. I started to
think I should escape, but if he saw me trying to escape,
he will beat me up again and could finish me off. But I
felt it was my chance to escape, so I started looking for
footwear, any types even if it were boots. I may have put
on my parka too. At that time when I first got there, I
forgot to mention he was my relative. I wasn’t expecting
him to do that to me, but on my way out of there, he
grabbed me by the hair and dragged me to the bedroom. I
wasn’t expecting that at all.

I have realized today, yes it was a very difficult
time of my life, but I do not let it take over me. Because
I have moved on. It will not benefit me, my fellow Inuit
or anyone who is sick. Anyone who feels that way or may
have those thoughts, think again. Try to remember they have
feelings too and think more towards helping others. I am
grateful up to today, to my fellow man, my children my
relatives, those who have compassion, if we didn’t have
compassion, we would not be helping each other in the world
today. I thank you for interviewing me, but if you feel
you have any questions, feel free to ask. Thank you.

Pretty well covered, very
well, all in Inuktitut. This is for the people that need
help, I hope you can clearly understand, Auntie.

LOOEE OKALIK: Clearly understandable. I do
have a question. You’ve shared your story with me.

LEESEE KARPIK: Yup.

LOOEE OKALIK: I still remember some of the
things you’ve shared with me. You said you had a dream
about your sister, who said to knock on something. Can you
clarify that for us?

LEESEE KARPIK: My sister, I had a dream but
what was it, at that time? Oh -- at that time when he was doing that to me. Someone was knocking on the door, I wanted to shout “help” as loud as I could, but when he opened the door, he said that nothing was going on. Here he was beating someone close to death. He was acting like nothing was wrong and I thought if I said something, I would get more beating, so I kept quiet to survive the ordeal. I had no choice, I had no other way. People who are being beaten that way, are going through what I went through. Watching over themselves feeling like giving up but there is hope.

After going through what I went through, I can say I understand the choices made during. When I escaped, I thought how I will be going to make it over there, how will I be able to walk over. I have a dear friend who had a place nearby, her name is [L.D.]. I was very scared, but I kept trying to walk over. When I started knocking, I was dreading that no one would answer the door. When she opened the door, she asked me. “Who are you my dear”? I replied, “It’s me Leesee.” She asked, “What happened to you?” I told her I was viciously beaten and asked her if I could come into the house and told her to call the police.

Every time I sat down, it felt like I was about to pass out, so she was moving the chair to different spots to keep me moving. She kept me awake at that time. It took
the police to come about 20 minutes, while I was starting
to pass out. So, this is has helped me realize my
strength even though I felt like I cannot make it. I don’t
know how I survived but I believe every one of those who
say they are survivors. It’s absolutely believable when
one says they have survived because during the attack, it
feels like our body is going to give up, we find strength
from within.

We have a powerful mind, and I’ve used that go gain.
But it can also be destructive, once it chooses to be. When
we use it as a tool for the better, good things can happen.
In life we will experience many different things, while
living in our world today. If you have any questions, go
ahead, yeah.

**LOOEE OKALIK:** Luckily, he didn’t follow your
trail, because I am sure you had your footprints and a
trail of blood where you were going.

**LEESEE KARPIK:** I don’t recall worrying about
that at the time, maybe because I was so scared.

**LOOEE OKALIK:** Yes.

**LEESEE KARPIK:** I never looked back, besides
I couldn’t see anything because my eyes were swollen shut.

**LOOEE OKALIK:** Yes.

**LEESEE KARPIK:** I really don’t know, I don’t
recall any of that.

LOOEE OKALIK: Yes.

LEESEE KARPIK: It feels like, I convinced him at that time, after talking to him about everything.

LOOEE OKALIK: Yes.

LEESEE KARPIK: Like, even when I was sleeping he would watch me, like -- maybe because my body was hurting. After that incident, when I feel someone angry or looking that way, I can feel it, so I immediately distance myself up to know.

LOOEE OKALIK: Yes.

LEESEE KARPIK: And when I see someone who has been abused, I ask my co-worker if she can help her instead because she is too bruised up. I still feel when I see that, I cannot handle it very well, up to today.

LOOEE OKALIK: Yes.

LEESEE KARPIK: Many years have passed, but I continue to let it go up to now.

LOOEE OKALIK: Yes.

LEESEE KARPIK: What else would you like to hear?

LOOEE OKALIK: Yes. You mentioned earlier that the police took almost half an hour, what happened at that time when the police came or when you went to the nursing station?
LEESEE KARPIK: I was immediately brought to the nursing stations. My parents, my father -- oh. My mother was at the church at that time.

LOOEE OKALIK: Yes.

LEESEE KARPIK: When they brought me down, they brought me into the trauma room and started working on me.

LOOEE OKALIK: For how long?

LEESEE KARPIK: I cannot say for how long, because I was being worked on and the police were asking me questions at the same time. I can’t recall the exacts of those moments.

LOOEE OKALIK: Yes.

LEESEE KARPIK: It is very difficult to try and think about what is going on after being traumatized that way.

LOOEE OKALIK: Yes, traumatized.

LEESEE KARPIK: Being in shock and traumatized.

LOOEE OKALIK: Yes.

LEESEE KARPIK: When the attack involves sharp objects or when the person wants to viciously beat someone, like, he wasn’t only beating me, he was biting me and tearing off my skin. He was acting like an animal.

LOOEE: Yes, like a dog.
LEEESEE KARPIK: Like, he was acting like a creature, not like a human being. His behavior.

LOOEE OKALIK: Yes.

LEEESEE KARPIK: People can behave that way.

LOOEE OKALIK: Yes.

LEEESEE KARPIK: Like -- It made me think that this person is evil as Satan.

LOOEE OKALIK: Yes.

LEEESEE KARPIK: When you’ve never experienced something like that, you start to say stuff like that, when I was at the nursing station, they worked on me for a very long time. The police would ask questions also. When I got home, I was asked what they would like me to do with our home. When they asked, I didn’t want to traumatize my kids, so I didn’t want them to come home at the time. Before they brought me home.

LOOEE OKALIK: Yes.

LEEESEE KARPIK: At that time, I was staying away to prevent shock, because my entire body was so swollen.

LOOEE OKALIK: Yes.

LEEESEE KARPIK: Including my face was in pretty bad shape.

LOOEE OKALIK: Yes, they didn’t send you to Iqaluit?
Leesee Karpik

LEESEE KARPIK: They never sent me to Iqaluit, even though my body was in a critical condition.

LOOEE OKALIK: Yes.

LEESEE KARPIK: I was afraid to go anywhere, and for those who wanted to come and visit, I would say no because I didn’t want them to be shocked.

LOOEE OKALIK: Yes.

LEESEE KARPIK: I felt sympathetic for my father, when he came to see me.

LOOEE OKALIK: Yes, at the hospital?

LEESEE KARPIK: To my place. I was home at the time, he came in and his knees weaken, and he fell when he saw me, he was shocked to see my condition.

LOOEE OKALIK: Yes.

LEESEE KARPIK: And -- your older brother [J.] came to see me.

LOOEE OKALIK: Yes.

LEESEE KARPIK: My ex-boyfriend, [Ex-Boyfriend]. He was always alone with me, and he noticed I had changed, it’s understandable how I’ve changed.

LOOEE OKALIK: Yes.

LEESEE KARPIK: My life changed from that day on, no doubt about that.

LOOEE OKALIK: Mmmm.
LEESEE KARPIK: People notice that about me.

LOOEE OKALIK: Yes.

LEESEE KARPIK: I’m not purposely changing.

(Speaking English) -- It was a survival.

LOOEE OKALIK: Yes.

LEESEE KARPIK: And, it took a while to send me out on the plane. I couldn’t walk for a very long time, for 2 years.

LOOEE OKALIK: Yes.

LEESEE KARPIK: When I was finally sent out. Before Larga, it was a place called Baffin House in Montreal, they sent me out alone without an escort.

LOOEE OKALIK: Mmmm.

LEESEE KARPIK: Today we see people with escorts who are in serious condition.

LOOEE OKALIK: Yes.

LEESEE KARPIK: I was sent out alone at that time, I was very fearful so I couldn’t sleep at night.

LOOEE OKALIK: Yes.

LEESEE KARPIK: Only when the rest of the patients were awake, I would finally go to sleep while someone was watching over me.

LOOEE OKALIK: Yes.

LEESEE KARPIK: I was living in fear, that someone might attack me at night, so I would end up
sleeping 3 hours every day. (Speaking English) -- Through
the time from the beginning. This was going on for a very
long time.

LOOEE OKALIK: Yes.

LEESEE KARPIK: (Speaking English) -- it
really
affected my sleep too. If I notice something happening or
if I feel unsafe in any house, I will not fall asleep.

LOOEE OKALIK: Yes.

LEESEE KARPIK: I know, (Speaking
English) -- myself.

LOOEE OKALIK: Yes.

LEESEE KARPIK: During that time, he was
being tried in court, I never had anyone support me as a
victim.

LOOEE OKALIK: Yes.

LEESEE KARPIK: The prosecutor -- the
prosecutor
asked me to go to the police station because he was going
to be tried in court.

LOOEE OKALIK: (breathes in)

LEESEE KARPIK: Here my attacker is sitting
in the jail cell right, next door. The prosecutor wanted
to ask some questions and brought me into the room right
next door to him.
LOOEE OKALIK: Yes, he could hear everything?
LEESEE KARPIK: I think so, he was right next door in the jail cell.
LOOEE OKALIK: Yes.
LEESEE KARPIK: In the meantime, his family was coming and going to visit him, while he was in jail. While at the same time, the prosecutor was asking me questions at the police station.
LOOEE OKALIK: Yes, that process needs to change.
LEESEE KARPIK: Absolutely, that process has to change, my attacker was right next door.
LOOEE OKALIK: Yes.
LEESEE KARPIK: While he was being tried, I never had a support worker sitting beside me.
LOOEE OKALIK: Yes.
LEESEE KARPIK: I only had my friends who came to support me.
LOOEE OKALIK: Yes.
LEESEE KARPIK: After that incident, I wouldn’t talk about my experience because I loved them and I didn’t want them to hear my story, out of love.
LOOEE OKALIK: Yes.
LEESEE KARPIK: I was very close to them and loved them a lot and I didn’t want to keep talking about
Leesee Karpik

1. it.

2. LOOEE OKALIK: Yes.

3. LEESEE KARPIK: So, I loved my children, I didn’t want them to hear anything. I had them away from me for a very long time, because I didn’t want them to see the bruises from the vicious beating, in fear of them being traumatized by my look.

4. LOOEE OKALIK: Yes.

5. LEESEE KARPIK: I wanted to protect them, I didn’t want them to be angry over such a horrible situation.

6. LOOEE OKALIK: Yes.

7. LEESEE KARPIK: They never saw anything like beating.

8. LOOEE OKALIK: Yes.

9. LEESEE KARPIK: That was it, but when I finally gain strength, I wasn’t employable anymore, I was maimed by this attack. I couldn’t get any financial help. Only through Social Assistance, there was no other financial help for us.

10. LOOEE OKALIK: Yes, with a number of children.

11. LEESEE KARPIK: I had several children at home, five of them.

12. LOOEE OKALIK: Yes.
LEESEE KARPIK: I did it on my own. Took care of them and right now they are independent adults who I must say are not perfect but I they can manage on their own now. They do not depend on anyone and that is how they were taught growing up. That comes from love. They are quite independent, and with that I see love. If they can share their love, I hope they do.

LOOSEE OKALIK: Yes.

LEESEE KARPIK: If one can avoid refusal to help that is our way of life. Back in the day, no one just sat around. They also carry gratitude to those who have helped them throughout their lives, and they don’t forget that. I would like to bring that back today, that is our tradition and there is no boundary to continue this kindness, we need to bring it back today. Because that experience has helped me strengthen. I believe gratitude and love is a healthy upbringing and I believe we should continue to teach the young the same thing. Refusal was condemned.

LOOSEE OKALIK: Yes.

LEESEE KARPIK: After that, we were appreciated for helping and were told that someday you will have the strength to continue.

LOOSEE OKALIK: Yes.

LEESEE KARPIK: Yes, it is not by accident
that we experience this. Let’s be grateful for having the strength to get through it.

LOOEE OKALIK: Yes.

LEESSEE KARPIK: That is all I have for now, but at that time when the court came for the trial, the public is welcomed to come and listen, and they do. I would also say, that the victims of this sort of attack always need a support worker who is experienced in this field. I would go to the Hamlet Office and ask them; can’t you try to do something to change this?

LOOEE OKALIK: Yes.

LEESSEE KARPIK: I spoke to an MLA and asked -- isn’t there another way for victims to have support during this ordeal? I also tried to ask the Hamlet to see if they could find a way for support and they said that they couldn’t do anything further.

LOOEE OKALIK: Yes

LEESSEE KARPIK: The community members need to find ways to support people including the MLA’s, they need to find a solution for the victims who need support, because after the attack they continue to live as a mother, caregiver, feeding, clothing, the victim has feelings too. She must bring her children up to the best of her ability by raising them with good conscience. My mind would wonder at that time and no wonder. After that experience, I can
say no wonder, I use to feel it was a sign of weakness, but it is not. It is an experience like no other, those who are treated that way need help and support, and I feel there is no alternative. They are not faking it. Everyday they wake up with the stressors in their body, this is experienced by many people. Thank you.

**LOOEE OKALIK:** Now, after court, he was arrested, he was sent to jail, how long was he sent to jail for?

**LEESEE KARPIK:** I really don’t know, because it was at that time and I am starting to forget some things.

**LOOEE OKALIK:** Yes, did you feel he got enough time or was it too short of a time?

**LEESEE KARPIK:** At that time, when someone was sent to jail, they were released earlier and sent back to their community.

**LOOEE OKALIK:** Yes.

**LEESEE KARPIK:** That should be looked at again.

**LOOEE OKALIK:** Yes.

**LEESEE KARPIK:** At that time, when he was released, I started hearing that he did the same thing to another woman. There must be another way, also when he came back to Panniqtuuq, he did that again. I started a
petition to remove him from the community because he did not change.

**LOOEE OKALIK:** Yes.

**LEESEE KARPIK:** When a person who is victimized to that extent, they continue to look for faith in the system. Because they will never feel safe immediately when the system fails them. They have feelings too you know.

**LOOEE OKALIK:** (breaths in).

**LEESEE KARPIK:** I have experienced this, how can I do better or for others who have been through the similar situation. How can I help them cope with the situation, because I don’t want them to struggle as I did. I know for a fact that victims need a support system throughout. This experience has an affect for a very long time possibly for the rest of their life.

**LOOEE OKALIK:** Yes.

**LEESEE KARPIK:** When you have lived that, once you hear it, it brings you back to that moment, whatever it may be.

**LOOEE OKALIK:** Mmmm.

**LEESEE KARPIK:** When we were young children, whatever we choose, whether it was fun or not. We still remember those moments up to today. It’s the same thing, what ever was done to me will not disappear from me. But I
must continue to remind myself everyday how I will handle
life daily. What can I handle today, do I have enough
strength, or do I feel too weak today? How can I find
strength that will help me today? That is what keeps me
going today.

LOOEE OKALIK: Yes.

LEESEE KARPIK: It is a slow process. But I
don’t want to lose faith in myself, because If I lose faith
in myself, I could destroy my gains that I have worked for,
and I would have no one to turn to.

LOOEE OKALIK: Mmmm. Can you say today, that?
you have forgiven your attacker or are you not there yet?

LEESEE KARPIK: I hear things, that he hasn’t
changed, he keeps going back to that man.

LOOEE OKALIK: Yes.

LEESEE KARPIK: I don’t want to end it like
this but, I know he will not hurt me again. No one should
be treating people like that. I was never brought up with
that kind of anger. You, you are the one hurting yourself
and you are the one with issues because you continue to
hurt others that way. How come you don’t ask yourself why?
All I can say is, you have no control over me. I have
control of myself. I can work towards healing and I can
say, if I feel like forgiving you, I can choose to.
Because I am not afraid of you.
You’ve put me through a lot, but you need to think about who you victimized because it wasn’t only me, it was an entire family. It is a difficult situation to go through altogether. I would like to say this to him now. I am not afraid of you no more today. I can say that today. I’ve wanted to forgive you many times, but I have heard of so many victims that you have also attacked. It’s unbelievable to hear, because I feel you are so mean. That I can say to you too.

LEESEE KARPIK: I think I am done, or do you have any other questions?

LOOEE OKALIK: Yes, would you like to add anything or any recommendations that should be noted?

LEESEE KARPIK: Like, we as a family or a relative, we still hear up to know that a relative may be attracted to another relative. For those who hear about that, or if they hear anything pertaining to that from this person or another. Don’t leave them behind. This person can trick anyone or turn against you any given time. Not only to you.

LOOEE OKALIK: Yes.

LEESEE KARPIK: I would also like to thank you for coming here to do an Inquiry.

LOOEE OKALIK: Mmmm.
LEESEE KARPIK: Today we have more resources in our communities or anywhere in Canada, because it makes a big difference in our communities and other places. You must be open minded about what you hear, because they are being honest. The people who are coming to the communities to hear our stories are here because they want to help, only because they have compassion, they want to find solutions that will make a difference in a helping field.

LOOEE OKALIK: Yes.

LEESEE KARPIK: That’s it for now, if you do not have any more questions.

LOOEE OKALIK: Yes, you mentioned earlier how our ancestors lived a peaceful life, nowadays there are struggles and are different types. How can we make changes to that?

LEESEE KARPIK: Yes, like I said earlier, we had strong ancestors who lived at peace. Although we see all the struggles and we see so much going on, on the TV. I would ask myself. Would I want to be friends with that person who treats other’s that way? I would only tell myself, No I want to stay away from someone like that and I don’t want to support someone like that, because many people are suffering. Let’s strengthen from those. And for those who are missing, yes, it is a difficult, we need to remember who they were, the strengths they had, and I
know we miss them, but we need to find peace from within when we are missing them. What helps you, because that is helpful. It is hard to live with that we will not see our loved ones again. Let’s think about the positives and how beautiful their lives were. We don’t know what happened to them. People are searching for them; the police and the coroners are investigating.

Today we hear about DNA, I am grateful we have that tool now, because it helps find those who attackers. We don’t know why they feel the need to attack but I know that we don’t want them to behave that way. They have issues themselves.

LOOEE OKALIK: Mmmm, I know you are creative and can sew with skins also you can make traditional footwear and clothing. Did those skills help you move forward even though you were going through a hard time?

LEESEE KARPIK: I am very grateful for my ancestors for passing along that skill, that was the only way of clothing themselves, because they didn’t have any store-bought clothing back in the day. They only used ones that were hand made. They passed on those skills that we learn to use today. Our ancestors were not lazy they had seen their ancestors and learned from them too. They were taught this is what you do and how you do it. We were scolded or rushed, they calmly taught us and told us this
is how it’s done. That helps us stay content. It also has
helped think, think about a creation, this has helped me
even though I am going through hardship because everything
cost money now. When we need clothing, or food. Or travel
We need money to get by.

I am grateful that I have a skill to sew, I
was a teacher for a long time as well as a translator
(Speaking English) -- Vice versa in English too. I won’t
be sitting there and ask many questions, if they want to
say something, they will. I don’t sit there and ask them to
say something. It is better not to rush anything, for that
person who has agreed to learn, have them learn at their
own pace.

LOOEE OKALIK: Yes, this is my last question.
You have lived in the South now, but your experience was in
the Arctic. When there is a situation is there a
difference in the reaction or what do you think of that?

LEESEE KARPIK: When I go back up -- I see a
lot of people belittling their fellow Inuit or talking
about them. I have seen that up there. I don’t see that
here. It’s unfortunate to see that happening up there.
Even though there are many people here, they don’t look at
other people and try to find flaws in others. That’s just
not happening down here. We know nowadays and we’ve
learned through the years, that living in the South it is a
different lifestyle. It is their culture and we must accept it.

In our community, the thing is -- the belittling, looking for flaws and such should be avoided. Our fellow Inuit, we should be proud of them and be grateful with their kindness. That is how we should live.

LOOEE OKALIK: The stories you shared are heavy and very informative. I know they will be helpful and beneficial for many. You’ve taught in schools so I am wondering if you would like to end this with a song after sharing your story here at the inquiry.

LEESEE KARPIK: I don’t have one handy right now, if I would have known I would have been more prepared to sing one.

LOOEE OKALIK: Mmmm.

LEESEE KARPIK: If I would have known, I have a song book for children at home, but If I thought of that I would have been more prepared. We have many songs passed onto us.

LOOEE OKALIK: Yes songs --

LEESEE KARPIK: Many have learned from them songs, now those children are all adults. The young ones we taught back in the day.

LOOEE OKALIK: Mmmm.

LEESEE KARPIK: I know it is more difficult
in today’s day in age, and those who I taught have children and families now. Those who I taught, I would like to encourage them by saying. It can be difficult, but you can keep going and things can get easier. When we just give up, we will be teaching others to give up easily, so we need to be mindful about stuff like that. I don’t have a song in mind, but I would like to say thank you.

LOOEE OKALIK: Mmmm, Thank you.

LEESEE KARPIK: You’re welcome. Done, thank you.

SAM KABBARA: Thank you. Right now, at this time. I just want to make sure you provide any recommendations you have for the commissioners.

LOOEE OKALIK: She did.

LEESEE KARPIK: (Speaking English) -- Yeah-ew things I have thought of a lot. Cause that could really help the victims, who ever it is. Could be anybody. We’re not just talking about any race or anybody.

LOOEE OKALIK: Yeah.

SAM KABBARA: It’s going to help a lot of people.

LEESEE KARPIK: Oh, thank you, that’s what I’m here for. Although it’s hard, it’s getting easier every time I talk about it.

---Upon concluding
LEGAL INTERPRETER/TRANSLATOR CERTIFICATE

I, Jeannie Alainga, Court Interpreter/Translator, hereby certify that I have transcribed the foregoing and it is a true and accurate transcript of the digital video provided in this matter.

________________________________________
Jeannie Alainga

February 1, 2019