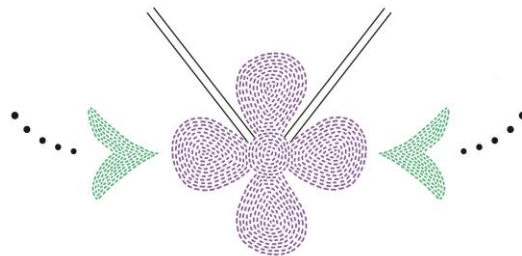


National Inquiry into
Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women and Girls



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 1 Statement Gathering
Ottawa, Ontario**



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Statement - Volume 596 (Translation)

Leese Karpik

Statement gathered by Sam Kabbara

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Documents submitted with testimony: none.

1 Ottawa, Ontario

2 ---Upon commencing at 5:30 p.m.

3 **SAM KABBARA:** This is Sam Kabbara, statement
4 taker with the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered
5 Indigenous Woman and Girls, in Ottawa, Ontario, at November
6 19, 2018. The time is 5:30pm. Today I am speaking with
7 Leesee Karpik, of the Pangirtunk.

8 **LEESEE KARPIK:** Pangirtung.

9 **SAM KABBARA:** Pangirtung, how do you say it?

10 **LEESEE KARPIK:** Panniqtuuq.

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

21 **LEESEE KARPIK:** Okay.

22 **SAM KABBARA:** Alright.

23 **LEESEE KARPIK:** Okay, I'm Leesee Karpik from
24 Panniqtuuq. I came her to be interviewed, which I believe
25 to be a good time to share my story today. I would like to

1 first of all say thank you for being here today, and I
2 would like to add that I am grateful for the support, the
3 tremendous support from my children, my family, my friends,
4 my fellow community members, including the hospital staff
5 as well as the police and everyone else who became my
6 support system after the incident. At that time, I should
7 have not survived the incident, in the year 2000.

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

17 When I look back today, I feel grateful for having
18 gone through that. Yes, life is a difficult journey. No
19 one has it easy in life. We have strength as well as
20 weakness within. Today we are given what we could handle
21 in life daily, but at the time I use to think -- every time
22 I felt like giving up, I would think -- "Why am I still
23 alive today". Those were my thoughts at the time, but I
24 have learned that, I am grateful for the things I have
25 experienced as they have given me strength.

1 Strength for today, if I didn't have family, I would not
2 have the support I had throughout. If I had no children, I
3 would not have had their support, as well as my sibling's,
4 my older sister as well as my younger sister's. My true
5 friends, immediate family, have supported me tremendously.

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

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

22 For those people who hurt others, they need to find
23 some sort of support for themselves or others. The act of
24 beating or murdering others. I wonder why is it that way.
25 I know now that I was still immature to understand, because

1 I did not grow up being mistreated. But we need to
2 understand, things happen in life and it happens in the
3 world we live in. We don't expect to be treated like that.
4 We don't expect a lot of things to happen. Those are
5 behind us now. Those who have passed on, I would like to
6 mention, the fact that some want to beat others so badly,
7 to a point they die. For those who treat others that way,
8 we need to strengthen up and turn things around. Although
9 it may seem difficult to do, but I believe we could be the
10 stronger one if we believe in our strengths.

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

23 I am grateful for being able to stand strong today, I
24 would also like to help support those who struggle with
25 stress. They are not alone, no one is alone, when we try to

1 handle it ourselves it becomes very difficult. We should
2 see gratitude as a gift and not be embarrassed about the
3 stressors of our body and mind. After what I've gone
4 through, TI [*Note: Tuungasuvvingat Inuit*] provided
5 counselling for me for 10 years. That was the only way,
6 although it was quite difficult to go through, my body was
7 quite exhausted at times, but there is a way to move
8 forward. I would wonder "how am I going to do this today".

9 I felt like giving up, but the day would pass
10 although it was difficult to begin with. Looking at all
11 the things I've been through, I find it shocking that I was
12 able to get through it with support and guidance. To think
13 of it, I had a lot of people behind me. My youngest son, he
14 was born, and after the incident, it was in the morning and
15 the kids had to go to school, I couldn't walk around in our
16 unit, we also had a stairway. I was worried about the kids
17 having to go to school, but I couldn't walk up the stairs,
18 so I crawled up the stairs towards their rooms. The baby
19 who couldn't talk or even try to say anything was not even
20 a year old, said when I walked in. Even though I wasn't
21 expecting him to say anything. He said "dear, my love",
22 when he said that "my love", I was thinking how difficult
23 the day will be.

24 When he said that, I left the room briefly and
25 wondered -- what did that toddler say, he cannot even talk

1 but he said something, I started to wonder and was scared
2 for a bit. I wasn't expecting that at all because he was
3 still a toddler. He was way too young to say something
4 like that. When time passed, I use to think back and think
5 -- God is showing me through him. I thought how great our
6 God is.

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

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

20 During the time I was viciously beaten, I felt
21 helpless seeing how much blood I have lost. I was feeling
22 helpless and knowing I've lost a lot of blood, I started
23 thinking I am not going to live anymore. At that moment, I
24 heard my grandmother say, "you are not done, you cannot
25 leave your children right now". When I heard that, today I

1 feel so grateful, well I have always been so grateful up to
2 today, as well as my family even though it is still
3 difficult for us. We were always taught, rise even if it
4 is a difficult situation. I am sorry -- If I did not have
5 ancestors who were strong as well as a family with a strong
6 dynamic, I would not be standing strong today. If I didn't
7 have friends who were strong as well.

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

22 I had to watch every little move he made, it was a
23 very long beating, he did that to me for like six hours.
24 Although he was doing that to me, I would say to him, we
25 have love within, and I would remind him who we came from.

1 I reminded him, who my grandmother was who was also his
2 mother. I would also say is it okay to treat relatives
3 that way? I would say that is wrong. He kept his eyes on
4 me, watching to see what I was doing next. I was starting
5 to fall asleep or pass out and I started to feel really
6 cold.

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

18 After talking to him, I would check to see if he was
19 still there, I realized he wasn't there. I started to
20 think I should escape, but if he saw me trying to escape,
21 he will beat me up again and could finish me off. But I
22 felt it was my chance to escape, so I started looking for
23 footwear, any types even if it were boots. I may have put
24 on my parka too. At that time when I first got there, I
25 forgot to mention he was my relative. I wasn't expecting

1 him to do that to me, but on my way out of there, he
2 grabbed me by the hair and dragged me to the bedroom. I
3 wasn't expecting that at all.

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

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

18 **LOOEE OKALIK:** Clearly understandable. I do
19 have a question. You've shared your story with me.

20 **LEESEE KARPIK:** Yup.

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

25 **LEESEE KARPIK:** My sister, I had a dream but

1 what was it, at that time? Oh -- at that time when he was
2 doing that to me. Someone was knocking on the door, I
3 wanted to shout "help" as loud as I could, but when he
4 opened the door, he said that nothing was going on. Here
5 he was beating someone close to death. He was acting like
6 nothing was wrong and I thought if I said something, I
7 would get more beating, so I kept quiet to survive the
8 ordeal. I had no choice, I had no other way. People who
9 are being beaten that way, are going through what I went
10 through. Watching over themselves feeling like giving up
11 but there is hope.

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

23 Every time I sat down, it felt like I was about to
24 pass out, so she was moving the chair to different spots to
25 keep me moving. She kept me awake at that time. It took

1 the police to come about 20 minutes, while I was starting
2 to pass out. So, this is has helped me realize my
3 strength even though I felt like I cannot make it. I don't
4 know how I survived but I believe every one of those who
5 say they are survivors. It's absolutely believable when
6 one says they have survived because during the attack, it
7 feels like our body is going to give up, we find strength
8 from within.

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

15
16 **LOOEE OKALIK:** Luckily, he didn't follow your
17 trail, because I am sure you had your footprints and a
18 trail of blood where you were going.

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

21 **LOOEE OKALIK:** Yes.

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

24 **LOOEE OKALIK:** Yes.

25 **LEESEE KARPIK:** I really don't know, I don't

1 recall any of that.

2 **LOOEE OKALIK:** Yes.

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

5 **LOOEE OKALIK:** Yes.

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

11 **LOOEE OKALIK:** Yes.

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

16 **LOOEE OKALIK:** Yes.

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

19 **LOOEE OKALIK:** Yes.

20 **LEESEE KARPIK:** What else would you like to
21 hear?

22 **LOOEE OKALIK:** Yes. You mentioned earlier
23 that the police took almost half an hour, what happened at
24 that time when the police came or when you went to the
25 nursing station?

1 **LEESEE KARPIK:** I was immediately brought to
2 the nursing stations. My parents, my father -- oh. My
3 mother was at the church at that time.

4 **LOOEE OKALIK:** Yes.

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

8 **LOOEE OKALIK:** For how long?

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

13 **LOOEE OKALIK:** Yes.

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

17 **LOOEE OKALIK:** Yes, traumatized.

18 **LEESEE KARPIK:** Being in shock and
19 traumatized.

20 **LOOEE OKALIK:** Yes.

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

25 **LOOEE:** Yes, like a dog.

1 **LEESEE KARPIK:** Like, he was acting like a
2 creature, not like a human being. His behavior.

3 **LOOEE OKALIK:** Yes.

4 **LEESEE KARPIK:** People can behave that way.

5 **LOOEE OKALIK:** Yes.

6 **LEESEE KARPIK:** Like -- It made me think that
7 this person is evil as Satan.

8 **LOOEE OKALIK:** Yes.

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

17 **LOOEE OKALIK:** Yes.

18 **LEESEE KARPIK:** At that time, I was staying
19 away to prevent shock, because my entire body was so
20 swollen.

21 **LOOEE OKALIK:** Yes.

22 **LEESEE KARPIK:** Including my face was in
23 pretty bad shape.

24 **LOOEE OKALIK:** Yes, they didn't send you to
25 Iqaluit?

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

3 **LOOEE OKALIK:** Yes.

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

7 **LOOEE OKALIK:** Yes.

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

10 **LOOEE OKALIK:** Yes, at the hospital?

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

14 **LOOEE OKALIK:** Yes.

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

17 **LOOEE OKALIK:** Yes.

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

22 **LOOEE OKALIK:** Yes.

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

25 **LOOEE OKALIK:** Mmmm.

1 **LEESEE KARPIK:** People notice that about me.

2 **LOOEE OKALIK:** Yes.

3 **LEESEE KARPIK:** I'm not purposely changing.

4 (*Speaking English*) -- It was a survival.

5 **LOOEE OKALIK:** Yes.

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

9 **LOOEE OKALIK:** Yes.

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

13 **LOOEE OKALIK:** Mmmm.

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

16 **LOOEE OKALIK:** Yes.

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

19 **LOOEE OKALIK:** Yes.

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

23 **LOOEE OKALIK:** Yes.

24 **LEESEE KARPIK:** I was living in fear, that
25 someone might attack me at night, so I would end up

1 sleeping 3 hours every day. (*Speaking English*) -- Through
2 the time from the beginning. This was going on for a very
3 long time.

4 **LOOEE OKALIK:** Yes.

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

9 **LOOEE OKALIK:** Yes.

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

12 **LOOEE OKALIK:** Yes.

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

16 **LOOEE OKALIK:** Yes.

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

21 **LOOEE OKALIK:** (breathes in)

22 **LEESEE KARPIK:** Here my attacker is sitting
23 in the jail cell right, next door. The prosecutor wanted
24 to ask some questions and brought me into the room right
25 next door to him.

1 **LOOEE OKALIK:** Yes, he could hear everything?

2 **LEESEE KARPIK:** I think so, he was right next
3 door in the jail cell.

4 **LOOEE OKALIK:** Yes.

5 **LEESEE KARPIK:** In the meantime, his family
6 was coming and going to visit him, while he was in jail.
7 While at the same time, the prosecutor was asking me
8 questions at the police station.

9 **LOOEE OKALIK:** Yes, that process needs to
10 change.

11 **LEESEE KARPIK:** Absolutely, that process has
12 to change, my attacker was right next door.

13 **LOOEE OKALIK:** Yes.

14 **LEESEE KARPIK:** While he was being tried, I
15 never had a support worker sitting beside me.

16 **LOOEE OKALIK:** Yes.

17 **LEESEE KARPIK:** I only had my friends who
18 came to support me.

19 **LOOEE OKALIK:** Yes.

20 **LEESEE KARPIK:** After that incident, I
21 wouldn't talk about my experience because I loved them and
22 I didn't want them to hear my story, out of love.

23 **LOOEE OKALIK:** Yes.

24 **LEESEE KARPIK:** I was very close to them and
25 loved them a lot and I didn't want to keep talking about

1 it.

2 **LOOEE OKALIK:** Yes.

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

8 **LOOEE OKALIK:** Yes.

9 **LEESEE KARPIK:** I wanted to protect them, I
10 didn't want them to be angry over such a horrible
11 situation.

12 **LOOEE OKALIK:** Yes.

13 **LEESEE KARPIK:** They never saw anything like
14 beating.

15 **LOOEE OKALIK:** Yes.

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

21 **LOOEE OKALIK:** Yes, with a number of
22 children.

23 **LEESEE KARPIK:** I had several children at
24 home, five of them.

25 **LOOEE OKALIK:** Yes.

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

8 **LOOEE OKALIK:** Yes.

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

20 **LOOEE OKALIK:** Yes.

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

24 **LOOEE OKALIK:** Yes.

25 **LEESEE KARPIK:** Yes, it is not by accident

1 that we experience this. Let's be grateful for having the
2 strength to get through it.

3 **LOOEE OKALIK:** Yes.

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

11 **LOOEE OKALIK:** Yes.

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

17 **LOOEE OKALIK:** Yes

18 **LEESEE KARPIK:** The community members need to
19 find ways to support people including the MLA's, they need
20 to find a solution for the victims who need support,
21 because after the attack they continue to live as a mother,
22 caregiver, feeding, clothing, the victim has feelings too.
23 She must bring her children up to the best of her ability
24 by raising them with good conscience. My mind would wonder
25 at that time and no wonder. After that experience, I can

1 say no wonder, I use to feel it was a sign of weakness, but
2 it is not. It is an experience like no other, those who
3 are treated that way need help and support, and I feel
4 there is no alternative. They are not faking it. Everyday
5 they wake up with the stressors in their body, this is
6 experienced by many people. Thank you.

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

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

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

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

18 **LOOEE OKALIK:** Yes.

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

21 **LOOEE OKALIK:** Yes.

22 **LEESEE KARPIK:** At that time, when he was
23 released, I started hearing that he did the same thing to
24 another woman. There must be another way, also when he
25 came back to Panniqtuuq, he did that again. I started a

1 petition to remove him from the community because he did
2 not change.

3 **LOOEE OKALIK:** Yes.

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

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

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

17 **LOOEE OKALIK:** Yes.

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

21 **LOOEE OKALIK:** Mmmm.

22 **LEESEE KARPIK:** When we were young children,
23 whatever we choose, whether it was fun or not. We still
24 remember those moments up to today. It's the same thing,
25 what ever was done to me will not disappear from me. But I

1 must continue to remind myself everyday how I will handle
2 life daily. What can I handle today, do I have enough
3 strength, or do I feel too weak today? How can I find
4 strength that will help me today? That is what keeps me
5 going today.

6 **LOOEE OKALIK:** Yes.

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

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

13 **LEESEE KARPIK:** I hear things, that he hasn't
14 changed, he keeps going back to that man.

15 **LOOEE OKALIK:** Yes.

16 **LEESEE KARPIK:** I don't want to end it like
17 this but, I know he will not hurt me again. No one should
18 be treating people like that. I was never brought up with
19 that kind of anger. You, you are the one hurting yourself
20 and you are the one with issues because you continue to
21 hurt others that way. How come you don't ask yourself why?
22 All I can say is, you have no control over me. I have
23 control of myself. I can work towards healing and I can
24 say, if I feel like forgiving you, I can choose to.
25 Because I am not afraid of you.

1 You've put me through a lot, but you need to think
2 about who you victimized because it wasn't only me, it was
3 an entire family. It is a difficult situation to go
4 through altogether. I would like to say this to him now.
5 I am not afraid of you no more today. I can say that
6 today. I've wanted to forgive you many times, but I have
7 heard of so many victims that you have also attacked. It's
8 unbelievable to hear, because I feel you are so mean. That
9 I can say to you too.

10 **LOOEE OKALIK:** Mmmm. Thank you.

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

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

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

22 **LOOEE OKALIK:** Yes.

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

25 **LOOEE OKALIK:** Mmmm.

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

9 **LOOEE OKALIK:** Yes.

10 **LEESEE KARPIK:** That's it for now, if you do
11 not have any more questions.

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

16 **LEESEE KARPIK:** Yes, like I said earlier, we
17 had strong ancestors who lived at peace. Although we see
18 all the struggles and we see so much going on, on the TV.
19 I would ask myself. Would I want to be friends with that
20 person who treats other's that way? I would only tell
21 myself, No I want to stay away from someone like that and I
22 don't want to support someone like that, because many
23 people are suffering. Let's strengthen from those. And
24 for those who are missing, yes, it is a difficult, we need
25 to remember who they were, the strengths they had, and I

1 know we miss them, but we need to find peace from within
2 when we are missing them. What helps you, because that is
3 helpful. It is hard to live with that we will not see our
4 loved ones again. Let's think about the positives and how
5 beautiful their lives were. We don't know what happened to
6 them. People are searching for them; the police and the
7 coroners are investigating.

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

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

17 **LEESEE KARPIK:** I am very grateful for my
18 ancestors for passing along that skill, that was the only
19 way of clothing themselves, because they didn't have any
20 store-bought clothing back in the day. They only used ones
21 that were hand made. They passed on those skills that we
22 learn to use today. Our ancestors were not lazy they had
23 seen their ancestors and learned from them too. They were
24 taught this is what you do and how you do it. We were
25 scolded or rushed, they calmly taught us and told us this

1 is how it's done. That helps us stay content. It also has
2 helped think, think about a creation, this has helped me
3 even though I am going through hardship because everything
4 cost money now. When we need clothing, or food. Or travel
5 We need money to get by.

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

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

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

1 different lifestyle. It is their culture and we must
2 accept it.

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

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

12 **LEESEE KARPIK:** I don't have one handy right
13 now, if I would have known I would have been more prepared
14 to sing one.

15 **LOOEE OKALIK:** Mmmm.

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

20 **LOOEE OKALIK:** Yes songs --

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

24 **LOOEE OKALIK:** Mmmm.

25 **LEESEE KARPIK:** I know it is more difficult

1 in today's day in age, and those who I taught have children
2 and families now. Those who I taught, I would like to
3 encourage them by saying. It can be difficult, but you can
4 keep going and things can get easier. When we just give
5 up, we will be teaching others to give up easily, so we
6 need to be mindful about stuff like that. I don't have a
7 song in mind, but I would like to say thank you.

8 **LOOEE OKALIK:** Mmmm, Thank you.

9 **LEESEE KARPIK:** You're welcome. Done, thank
10 you.

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

14 **LOOEE OKALIK:** She did.

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

19 **LOOEE OKALIK:** Yeah.

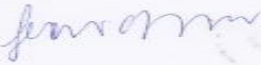
20 **SAM KABBARA:** It's going to help a lot of
21 people.

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

25 ---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