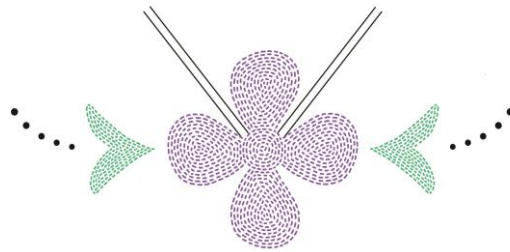


National Inquiry into  
Missing and Murdered  
Indigenous Women and Girls



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  
Hotel Bonaventure  
Montreal, Quebec**



**PUBLIC**

**March 16, 2018**

**Public Volume 300**

**Jacqueline Flamand, Valérie Flamand  
& Victoire Flamand,  
In relation to Régis Flamand**

**Heard by Jayme Menzies**

II  
Table of Contents

Public Volume 300

March 16, 2018

Witnesses: Jacqueline Flamand, Valérie Flamand  
& Victoire Flamand

PAGE

Hearing of Jacqueline Flamand et al. . . . . 1

Legal Dicta-Typist's Certificate . . . . . 20

Heard by: Jayme Menzies

**List of exhibits:**

1. Letter from the Government of Quebec, Ministère des Relations avec les citoyens et de l'Immigration dated June 22, 1998 (1 page)

1 Montreal, Quebec

2 --- Upon commencing on March 16, 2018, at 2:12 p.m.

3 **MS. JAYME MENZIES:** So, my name is Jayme  
4 Menzies. I'm from Manitoba. I'm of Métis origin. It's  
5 2:12 p.m. on March 16.

6 So, you can begin.

7 **MS. JACQUELINE FLAMAND:** Hello. My name is  
8 Jacqueline Flamand. I'm the daughter of Véronique Ottawa  
9 and (indiscernible) Jimmy Flamand.

10 I'm here for my mother who lost a child.

11 **MS. JAYME MENZIES:** Do you want to introduce  
12 yourselves first, and we can come back to that?

13 **MS. VALÉRIE FLAMAND:** My name is Valérie, and  
14 I'm also the daughter of Véronique and Jimmy Flamand. I'm  
15 the second youngest of her ten children. I live in Manawan.

16 **MS. JAYME MENZIES:** OK, thank you.

17 **MS. VICTOIRE FLAMAND:** Hello, my name is  
18 Victoire Flamand, I'm Véronique Ottawa's and Jimmy  
19 Flamand's daughter. I'm the eighth child. I have five  
20 brothers, and we were four girls. Five or six, six  
21 brothers, and I live in Manawan.

22 **MS. JAYME MENZIES:** Thank you. So, you can  
23 start wherever you want.

24 **MS. JACQUELINE FLAMAND:** We wrote down what we  
25 wanted to say because sometimes... I'll read what we wrote.

1                   **MS. JAYME MENZIES:** OK.

2                   **MS. JACQUELINE FLAMAND:** Today, March 16,  
3                   2018. We'll talk about our brother, Régis Flamand. He was  
4                   born on May 8, 1967. When he was around eight or ten months  
5                   old, Régis was evacuated by seaplane to the Joliette  
6                   Hospital. Shortly after, he was transferred to Montreal. We  
7                   don't know what the name of the hospital was. He was in his  
8                   baby carrier when he was taken away.

9                   My mother decided to tell us that Régis used  
10                  to cry a lot, to cry a lot. He was evacuated alone, without  
11                  his parents. I'm just reliving it, I was 3 years and 10  
12                  months old. When my mother was going to take Régis to be  
13                  evacuated. We never heard anything afterwards. Until two  
14                  men showed up, two well-dressed men in suits with an  
15                  interpreter from Manawan, from our community, Manawan. His  
16                  name was David Marcel Ottawa, and he was with the two men  
17                  to announce that Régis was dead. They made him sign papers.  
18                  I was with my father that day. We were at the Hudson's Bay  
19                  store. I saw my father collapse when Mr. Ottawa told him  
20                  his son Régis was dead. And that scarred me. I was 7 years  
21                  and 10 months old, and I can still remember the moment my  
22                  father collapsed. My mother wasn't there; she was away.  
23                  She had gone to give birth to my sister (indiscernible)  
24                  with me. Our father Jimmy always wondered why the body  
25                  wasn't sent back to the community. Our father died shortly

1 after, on May 18, 1973. I often heard my father asking  
2 himself questions. My mother would often wonder too because  
3 the sun card (indiscernible) kept arriving in the mail. We  
4 kept receiving the sun card in the mail until 1983 or 1985.  
5 After we stopped receiving the sun card, he still had  
6 questions about Régis, because there had been no death  
7 certificate. The death certificate of his son Régis. He  
8 wondered if he was actually dead or not. In 1987, our  
9 brother Jasmin, who was the youngest child in our family  
10 and he worked as an interpreter and counselor for social  
11 services, began the process to help our mother, Véronique,  
12 get answers to her questions. The only thing we got after  
13 that was a letter from (indiscernible). He had died on May  
14 14, 1971, in Montreal. And he was buried in the St-Paul,  
15 St-Vincent-de-Paul parish cemetery in Montreal, on May 17,  
16 1971. The letter was signed by Normand Renaud. We still  
17 wonder why we never got his death certificate. We always  
18 feared that Régis had been kidnapped to be used as a guinea  
19 pig in medical experiments. The consequences of losing our  
20 brother Régis have been devastating. Among other things,  
21 our mother started drinking so much alcohol that it made  
22 her sick. Also, her drinking made us feel abandoned,  
23 rejected in a way. She often left us on our own. We were  
24 neglected. We know that she was suffering a lot and we  
25 always felt powerless about her situation and everything

1 she experienced. It had a direct impact on us, because as  
2 we grew up we started drinking too. We started drinking a  
3 lot of alcohol. We repeated what we had seen and known  
4 since childhood. It always made our mother sad to see us  
5 (indiscernible) because we think she saw herself in us. Our  
6 mother never got to grieve. She lived with doubt, in  
7 confusion. Most of the time she didn't know who to confide  
8 in or ask for help. She sometimes refused to eat, saying  
9 that she wouldn't eat because she thought her baby wasn't  
10 eating either. It's like she felt guilty, even though it  
11 wasn't her fault. She never got to grieve. She didn't get  
12 to grieve because she didn't get to hold Régis. Rock him,  
13 say goodbye and bury him herself.

14 (Sobs)

15 **MS. JAYME MENZIES:** Jacqueline, should we take a  
16 break (indiscernible)?

17 (Short break)

18 **MS. JACQUELINE FLAMAND:** She never even got the  
19 papers that could've helped her grieve. It broke our hearts  
20 to see our mother suffering like that and to not be able to  
21 do anything. Toward the end of her life, in October 2015,  
22 our mother asked for a doll with (indiscernible) the baby  
23 carrier, because it comforted her and reminded her of our  
24 little brother Régis. Years of suffering in silence, that  
25 had been the only way... That had been the only way to find

1 a bit of comfort. We believe that our mother deserves to  
2 rest in peace. That's why we, the children, her children,  
3 are here. We want to ask for your help so that we can be at  
4 peace as well, and so that we can grieve, at least. We  
5 want the government to help us. We want proof that our  
6 brother died, and we want to know what he died of too,  
7 because that was never clear to us. They told us he was  
8 sick, that he had a head malformation, but that's all. That  
9 seems vague to us, and we want more explanations.  
10 (Indiscernible). Toward the end of our mother's life, her  
11 doctor noticed she needed counselling. He saw that she was  
12 suffering a lot and that it affected her both physically  
13 and psychologically.

14 **MS. JAYME MENZIES:** Thank you. Does anyone  
15 else want to share, other than...

16 **MS. VALÉRIE FLAMAND:** What affected me was  
17 that I was born on May 17, 1971, the date on which the  
18 letter says my brother was buried. (Indiscernible) that  
19 always affected me, and what our mother told us about  
20 Régis. She always wanted to get some (indiscernible),  
21 answers to her questions, because she said her son was  
22 normal when he left. She said he left in 1968 or so, our  
23 brother, in 1971 (indiscernible) they sent someone to tell  
24 us he was dead. We never got any answers, any news in the  
25 meantime. While he was alive. When he was still alive.

1                   **MS. JACQUELINE FLAMAND:** There's that, too. I  
2                   also wondered what happened to those papers, how they got  
3                   my father to sign them. I don't know if they gave him a  
4                   copy, did he ever (indiscernible).

5                   **MS. JAYME MENZIES:** Do you know what was on  
6                   those (indiscernible)?

7                   **MS. JACQUELINE FLAMAND:** Pardon?

8                   **MS. JAYME MENZIES:** What was the document he  
9                   signed?

10                  **MS. JACQUELINE FLAMAND:** I don't know, it was  
11                  (indiscernible)...

12                  **UNIDENTIFIED PERSON:** And the interpreter died  
13                  (indiscernible).

14                  **MS. JAYME MENZIES:** Oh yeah, OK.

15                  **MS. JACQUELINE FLAMAND:** That's what she  
16                  (indiscernible), she often wondered, you know, if it's  
17                  possible to be (indiscernible) and betrayed, and given up  
18                  for adoption? And that (indiscernible) that she never  
19                  received a death certificate. (Indiscernible).

20                  **MS. VALÉRIE FLAMAND:** (Indiscernible). A lack  
21                  of communication between my mother and father because  
22                  (indiscernible) my mother was away, she wasn't in the  
23                  community when the men came to tell us the news.

24                  **MS. JAYME MENZIES:** Yes, so, we ask...  
25                  (Indiscernible).



1                   **MS. VICTOIRE FLAMAND:** Since they didn't hear  
2 about it together (indiscernible) his father.

3                   **MS. JAYME MENZIES:** I understand. I  
4 understand, I think, that you want help to find these  
5 documents? Have you already tried asking the hospitals? Not  
6 yet? OK.

7                   **MS. VALÉRIE FLAMAND:** When Jasmin worked as a  
8 counselor, he tried to find documents to find our brother.  
9 I don't know where he went, but he was told our brother was  
10 buried in St-Vincent-de-Paul, in Laval.

11                   **UNIDENTIFIED PERSON:** That's the only letter  
12 they received, but do they know at which hospital...

13                   **MS. VALÉRIE FLAMAND:** No, we don't know  
14 which...

15                   **UNIDENTIFIED PERSON:** They never said which  
16 hospital he was taken to.

17                   **MS. JAYME MENZIES:** OK.

18                   **UNIDENTIFIED PERSON:** Only that he was...

19                   **MS. JAYME MENZIES:** He was transferred  
20 somewhere, but we don't know where. Do you have a copy of  
21 that document? Do you have a copy here?

22                   **UNIDENTIFIED PERSON:** You transferred it?

23                   **MS. JAYME MENZIES:** Oh, Maryse has it? OK.

24                   **MS. VICTOIRE FLAMAND:** Yes. And even...

25                   **MS. JAYME MENZIES:** And you kept a copy? The

1 same one?

2 **MS. VICTOIRE FLAMAND:** She told me she had  
3 (indiscernible) the copies she had at (indiscernible).

4 **MS. JAYME MENZIES:** OK.

5 **UNIDENTIFIED PERSON:** If I may add  
6 something...

7 **MS. JAYME MENZIES:** Of course.

8 **UNIDENTIFIED PERSON:** I am the aunt-in-law of  
9 (indiscernible) and I often heard my sister-in-law  
10 repeating, telling the story, and it caused a lot of  
11 powerlessness. I didn't even have a voice to  
12 (indiscernible). And of course, when she got sick she  
13 talked to them about (indiscernible).

14 **MS. VICTOIRE FLAMAND:** I also have something  
15 about my father. We knew (indiscernible) my brother Régis's  
16 date of death because my father (indiscernible) May 14 in  
17 (indiscernible) my brother was buried on May 17, when my  
18 little sister was born, and my father died on May 18, 1973.  
19 It's like it always happened in May. And I was born in May  
20 as well, it wasn't even a year (indiscernible).

21 **MS. VICTOIRE FLAMAND:** Because my little  
22 one... Because I was born on [date of birth], 1970.

23 **UNIDENTIFIED PERSON:** You know, if I may add  
24 something, they received a letter saying that he died on  
25 this date and that he was buried at this spot, but why did

1           they never feel the need to contact the parents while he  
2           was alive...

3                           **MS. JAYME MENZIES:** Uh-huh.

4                           **UNIDENTIFIED PERSON:** And why was there no  
5           more information than that, no death papers? I think it's  
6           cruel.

7                           **MS. JAYME MENZIES:** Yes, it's cruel. I find  
8           that weird, too. I haven't heard stories like this one in  
9           the other provinces or territories, but here, in Quebec,  
10          it's a pretty common story, and yes, it's cruel.

11                          **UNIDENTIFIED PERSON:** Yes. It's like... I  
12          don't know what they thought of Indigenous parents, but  
13          it's like they thought, oh well, they're going to lose...  
14          I'm sure they don't care anyways, they didn't realize that  
15          parents (indiscernible) for us, in our language  
16          (indiscernible) what that means. It's like we  
17          (indiscernible) by stealing these little beings of light  
18          from their parents. It's heartless, it's really cruel.  
19          (Indiscernible), the emotions, sorry, but we've been  
20          hearing stories all week and it's very heavy. And it's  
21          recent, you know? I mean, they're young. What can often be  
22          scary is being told you should forget. People don't  
23          understand. We keep getting told that we're whining  
24          (indiscernible), but that's not it, it's how we were  
25          treated.

1                   **UNIDENTIFIED PERSON:** And not knowing is the  
2                   worst part. It's been two generations, because when you  
3                   want to heal (indiscernible) it's the truth that will  
4                   (indiscernible).

5                   **MS JACQUELINE FLAMAND:** Now, there are days  
6                   when I think about my mother. (Indiscernible) you're still  
7                   looking. (Indiscernible) The death of our mother, the death  
8                   of our...

9                   **UNIDENTIFIED PERSON:** It's like she feels the  
10                  pain that her mother used to feel. It's still here.

11                  **MS. VALÉRIE FLAMAND:** Even my daughter  
12                  Annabelle, she was very close to her kokum, my mother. My  
13                  mother told Annabelle about her life and Annabelle took  
14                  care of her kokum. She tried to make her food. And she  
15                  would say no, my baby isn't eating.

16                  **UNIDENTIFIED PERSON:** It's like the guilt was  
17                  preventing her from living, and that's something, because  
18                  it affects the children too. Like I said earlier...

19                  **MS. VALÉRIE FLAMAND:** The children were  
20                  affected too. Even if it was in 1971.

21                  **MS. VICTOIRE FLAMAND:** My mother died on  
22                  October 24, 2015. She was 75. And I said she was still  
23                  young. It was the sadness (indiscernible) she died  
24                  (indiscernible) and her baby was still there. The important  
25                  thing (indiscernible) she had been strong and did the best

1 she could.

2 **UNIDENTIFIED PERSON:** That's what I was  
3 saying earlier. It's as if the government knew the bond and  
4 how precious children were to us. It was for our ancestors.  
5 And ripping children (indiscernible), they are like lights  
6 to us, created a kind of darkness for us, and we're still  
7 living with it today, with the residential schools and the  
8 missing children. Today we're trying to see the light and  
9 get some clarification. We went to get out of it.

10 **MS. VICTOIRE FLAMAND:** (Indiscernible) it was  
11 orchestrated. It was done on purpose. (Indiscernible).

12 **UNIDENTIFIED PERSON:** Today we want... We  
13 want the truth, we want justice. It's the least that should  
14 be done. Reparations. (Indiscernible).

15 **MS. JAYME MENZIES:** Um, in the documents that  
16 you gave to Maryse to get photocopied. Were there birth  
17 certificates?

18 **MS. JACQUELINE FLAMAND and MS. VALÉRIE**

19 **FLAMAND:** No.

20 **MS. VALÉRIE FLAMAND:** It's just the letter.

21 **MS. VICTOIRE FLAMAND:** We only have the  
22 letter.

23 **MS. JAYME MENZIES:** Do we have access to your  
24 parents' or even your brother's birth certificates?

25 **MS. VICTOIRE FLAMAND:** I think that my

1 mother's second husband has my mother's birth certificate,  
2 but not Régis's.

3 **MS. JAYME MENZIES:** I was just asking because  
4 it could help us (indiscernible) the process. If you could  
5 send us a copy, or email it or... Maybe it could help a  
6 little. I don't have any other specific questions, but I  
7 want to make sure you shared your feelings and maybe you  
8 would like to tell us stories about your mother from your  
9 childhood as something more... I don't know... If you have  
10 more stories. (Indiscernible) other questions. When you...  
11 When you were told he was dead, did you get any support  
12 from the hospital, from your community, spiritual or  
13 financial support, or counselling? Nothing at all? And do  
14 you get any support now?

15 **MS. VICTOIRE FLAMAND:** I see a psychologist. And  
16 my family, my children, my mother (indiscernible), that's my own  
17 experience.

18 **MS. JAYME MENZIES:** OK, and that's in Manawan?

19 **MS. VICTOIRE FLAMAND:** Yes. I was supposed to  
20 see him today, but I called and cancelled my appointment  
21 since I'm in Montreal. But I'll see him again on the 4<sup>th</sup>  
22 (indiscernible).

23 **MS. JAYME MENZIES:** OK, so there's an option at  
24 least.

25 **MS JACQUELINE FLAMAND:** (Indiscernible) just the

1 memory that I remember well is when we were at the store  
2 (indiscernible) I was lost (indiscernible).

3 **UNIDENTIFIED PERSON:** (Indiscernible) working  
4 outside. (Indiscernible) to work. His mother was getting  
5 help. (Indiscernible) because it was the mother who stayed  
6 alone with the children. (Indiscernible).

7 **MS. VICTOIRE FLAMAND:** It's true that my  
8 mother loved her children, all her children. There were no  
9 favourites; she loved them all. But she suffered even more  
10 in 2005. Because we have an older sister who committed  
11 suicide. (Indiscernible) our mother suffered even more.

12 **MS. JAYME MENZIES:** Do you want to talk about  
13 your sister?

14 **MS. VICTOIRE FLAMAND:** Our big sister was  
15 second-in-command, after our father died. She helped  
16 (indiscernible) our mother and us.

17 **UNIDENTIFIED PERSON:** Do you think that  
18 (indiscernible)losing Régis (indiscernible) had an impact?  
19 Because you can tell the impacts now that it has  
20 (indiscernible). Do you think that's one of the reasons?  
21 (Indiscernible) calmly.

22 **MS JACQUELINE FLAMAND:** I can say that after  
23 my sister died, my mother was always scared of losing  
24 another one of her children. Especially me. I realized that  
25 I cause her a lot of pain because I drank heavily, very

1 heavily. I haven't had a drink in two years and three  
2 months now. After my mother died. I took charge of myself.  
3 Because I was suffering a lot. Just thinking about my  
4 mother. How she suffered too. But today, I'm trying to get  
5 past it. I pray a lot. Sometimes I speak to my mother...  
6 Help me... Come help me again. To continue on. Sometimes I  
7 think I see my mother smiling at me. She must be proud to  
8 see her daughter overcoming her drinking problem. That's  
9 what I wanted to share.

10 **MS. VALÉRIE FLAMAND:** After our mother died,  
11 after the burial, my siblings and I agreed to get together  
12 for supper on the 24<sup>th</sup> of each month in honour of our  
13 mother's death, we did on November 24. We figured that  
14 since she loved her children so much, we would all go to my  
15 brother's, then to my sister's. We would each have a turn.  
16 On November 24 it was at my brother Oscar's place, and for  
17 December 24, we decided to do it at her place since it was  
18 Christmas. We invited people. And each time we got  
19 together, we would choose who would be the host for the  
20 next month. And my brother said that we could go to his  
21 place the following month. Ernest said he would have us  
22 over. But then it never happened. And that's when I told  
23 myself that we're still being rejected (indiscernible).  
24 After January 24, the dinner hadn't taken place and I  
25 thought, OK, I'm done with this. I don't want to feel



1 rejected anymore. I don't want to be here. (Indiscernible)  
2 my two sisters, my brothers. I stayed home even on the  
3 first anniversary. I did everything I could to stay away  
4 from my brothers. (Indiscernible) I suffered from rejection  
5 (indiscernible) my mother's drinking. I told myself that  
6 there was no way I'd be there for the first anniversary of  
7 her death. I wanted to get away from them so badly that I  
8 booked a trip to Cuba. Then in May, my sister... One of my  
9 nieces called me and asked me what I was doing, what was  
10 going on (indiscernible) four months after the first  
11 anniversary. I said nothing, pretended there was nothing  
12 wrong. Then she asked why we weren't getting together. Why  
13 wasn't I in contact with my sister? What was going on  
14 between us? And I told her about what happened after the  
15 death, the third month the dinner didn't take place. I was  
16 mad because the others hadn't respected our agreement. It  
17 made me mad and I said I never wanted to do anything with  
18 those guys again. And anyway, things always fall through  
19 with them. Then she said, do it yourself if it's for 4 or  
20 5. At one point they'll go, they'll see and they'll join  
21 you. My niece called in May. She knew I was more apart  
22 (indiscernible) I invited people to mark my mother's  
23 anniversary.

24 **MS. VALÉRIE FLAMAND:** There weren't many  
25 of us, just my nieces and nephews, and none of my brothers

1 or sisters. I said, you see? They didn't come. And they  
2 told me to not give up. (Indiscernible) told me for his  
3 second anniversary that Régis (indiscernible) still invited  
4 people for the second anniversary. I was almost scared that  
5 day, but I was scared that no one would come  
6 (indiscernible). But lots of people came. Many, many  
7 people. The whole family. My mother's nephews and their  
8 partners, my mother's husband, her brothers, a lot of  
9 people. There were so many people, I was almost scared.  
10 (Indiscernible) again (indiscernible) for my mother.  
11 (Indiscernible) that's it.

12 **MS. VICTOIRE FLAMAND:** I wanted to talk a  
13 little about something that happened (indiscernible) when  
14 my mother died, at the viewing at my home. It's like, it's  
15 like I wasn't there. I don't remember seeing her there.

16 (Sobs)

17 **MS. VICTOIRE FLAMAND:** I stopped drinking in  
18 October 2011, and I was in therapy in February 2012. Then I  
19 quit smoking cigarettes after therapy, in March 2012. I  
20 wanted to follow my mother's example and raise children on  
21 my own, because I'm a single mother to this child  
22 (indiscernible). I was pregnant nine times, and had nine  
23 miscarriages. (Indiscernible). I lost my mother, I got  
24 sick, I became depressed (indiscernible), my life was just  
25 like my mother's. Almost the same.

1                           **MS. JAYME MENZIES:** I'll stop the recording

2                           and we can talk some more.

3

4                           --- Upon adjourning at 3:15 p.m.

5

LEGAL DICTA-TYPIST'S CERTIFICATE\*

I, Chanel Blouin, hereby certify that I have transcribed the foregoing and it is a true and accurate transcript of the digital audio provided in this matter.

Chanel Blouin, May 3, 2019

\* This certificate refers to the original transcript in French.