

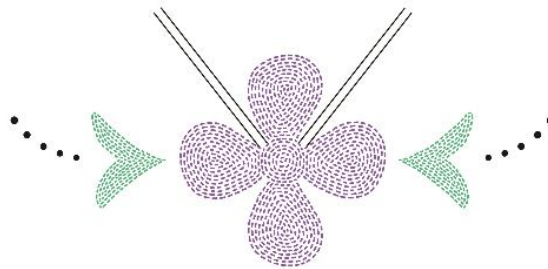
National Inquiry into
Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women and Girls



Enquête nationale
sur les femmes et les filles
autochtones disparues et assassinées

**National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous
Women and Girls
Truth Gathering Process – Part I
Public Hearings**

**Bonaventure Hotel
Montreal, Quebec**



Translation

Thursday, March 15, 2018

Public volume 69

**Érica Bégin, Daniel Petiquay, Jean-Marc Quitish,
Antoinette Flammand, Francine Flammand, Francine Dubé,
Lucie Dubé, Angèle Petiquay & Desneiges Petiquay, In
relation to Marie-Paul Petiquay, Thérèse Flammand &
Julie-Anna Quitish**

**Heard by Chief Commissioner Marion Buller
and Commissioners Michèle Audette & Brian Eyolfson**

INTERNATIONAL REPORTING INC.

II

APPEARANCES

Assembly of First Nations	Daniel Cunningham (Legal Counsel)
Assembly of First Nations Quebec-Labrador (AFNQL)	No Appearance
Concertation des luttes contre l'exploitation sexuelle	No Appearance
Conseil des Anicinabek de Kitcisakik	No Appearance
Directeur des poursuites pénales et criminelles	No Appearance
Government of Canada	Sarah Churchill-Joly (Legal Counsel)
Government of Quebec	No Appearance
Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami	No Appearance
Innu Takuaikan Uashat mak Mani-Utenam (ITUM)	No Appearance
Naskapi Nation of Kawawachikamach	No Appearance
Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada, Saturviit Inuit Women's Association of Nunavik, Ottawa Inuit Children's Centre Quebec Native Women	No Appearance
Regroupement Mamit Innuat	No Appearance
Les Résidences oblates du Québec	No Appearance
	No Appearance

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In relation to Marie-Paul Petiquay, Thérèse Flammand
and Julie-Anna Quitish**

Heard by Chief Commissioner Marion Buller,
Commissioners Michèle Audette and Brian Eyolfson

Commission Counsel: Fanny Wylde

Grandmothers, Elders and Knowledge-keepers: Melanie Morrison
(NFAC), Sarah Nowrakudluk (NFAC), Laurie Odjick (NFAC),
Sedalia Fazio, Louise Haulli, Audrey Siegl, Pénélope Guay,
Kathy Louis, Oscar Kistabish, Évelyne St-Onge, Bernie Poitras
Williams, Lauren "Blu" Waters-Gaudio, Martha Greig,
Moreen Konwatsitsawi Meloche, Patricia Kaniente Stacey,
Michael Standup, Elaine Kicknosway, Charles-API Bellefleur,
Edouard Chilton, Sharon Tardif-Shecanapish, Winnie Bosum and
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Registrar: Bryan Zandberg

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Exhibits

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1 Montréal, Quebec

2 --- Upon commencing on Thursday, March 15 at 3:44 p.m.

3 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** So, dear Commissioners, I'd
4 like to present to you the sharing circle for this
5 afternoon, made up of members of the Attikamekw Nation.
6 These family members will come to tell the story of five
7 Indigenous individuals, including three women, who died
8 near Manawan, Quebec in 1977.

9 The five individuals were apparently
10 involved in a motor vehicle accident and drowned.

11 However, to date, all family members reject
12 that theory, and they're here to tell you of their
13 understanding of the events, their theory, the
14 repercussions it has had in their lives and the
15 recommendations.

16 I would like to remind the Commissioners of
17 how we'll proceed. I'll ask everyone to introduce
18 themselves, first name and last name and their community.
19 We will then swear in each person, although our traditions,
20 when entering a sharing circle, we're *de facto* sworn in,
21 but for the purposes of the Inquiry's work, we'll swear
22 them in.

23 I'll ask a first question. I'll ask them to
24 share what they want to share about their loved ones who
25 they lost, a second question on the impact that loss has

1 had on their lives, and finally, I'll give them some time
2 for their recommendations.

3 So without further delay, I'll ask the first
4 person here to my left to tell us her name.

5 **MS. ÉRICA BÉGIN:** Érica Bégin, representing
6 the family of Marie-Paul Petiquay.

7 **MR. DANIEL PETIQUAY:** Daniel Petiquay, my
8 sister Marie-Paul, grandmother Quitish, my sister
9 Julie-Anna Quitish.

10 **MS. ANTOINETTE FLAMMAND:** Antoinette, the
11 daughter of Thérèse Flammand.

12 **MS. FRANCINE FLAMMAND:** Francine Flammand,
13 the daughter of Thérèse Flammand.

14 **MS. FRANCINE DUBÉ:** Francine Dubé. I'm
15 Lionel Petiquay's aunt.

16 **MS. LUCIE DUBÉ:** Lucie Dubé, Manawan.
17 (Indigenous language spoken).

18 **MS. ANGÈLE PETIQUAY:** Angèle Petiquay,
19 Manawan. I'm Denis Petiquay's sister.

20 **MS. DESNEIGES PETIQUAY:** My name is
21 Desneiges Petiquay. I'm... Marie-Paul from Manawan was my
22 sister.

23 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** So just to help the
24 Commissioners understand, the loved ones whose families are
25 here are Marie-Paul Petiquay, Thérèse Flammand,

1 Julie-Anna Quitish, Denis Petiquay and Lionel Petiquay.

2 They are the loved ones who will be discussed.

3 Could the Registrar please swear in the
4 witnesses?

5 **MR. BRYAN ZANDENBERG:** Okay, so, as I
6 understand it, you want to swear in using an eagle's
7 feather. Is that right? Yes? Okay. So, I'll provide an
8 eagle's feather. There are nine witnesses, so I'll hand out
9 an eagle's feather to each group of three witnesses to
10 swear everyone in at the same time, to make it easier. Is
11 that okay? Yes? Okay.

12 So, it would be good to hold the eagle's
13 feather with a partner next to you. That's it. Yes, like
14 that is good.

15 So does everyone solemnly swear to tell the
16 truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth?

17 **MS. ÉRICA BÉGIN:** Yes.

18 **MR. DANIEL PETIQUAY:** Yes.

19 **MS. ANTOINETTE FLAMMAND:** Yes.

20 **MS. FRANCINE FLAMMAND:** Yes.

21 **MS. FRANCINE DUBÉ:** Yes.

22 **MS. LUCIE DUBÉ:** Yes.

23 **MS. ANGÈLE PETIQUAY:** Yes.

24 **MS. DESNEIGES PETIQUAY:** Yes.

25 **MR. BRYAN ZANDBERG:** Thank you very much.

1 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** So, the first question I'd
2 like to ask you is what you'd like to share with the
3 Commissioners today about your loved one?

4 **MR. DANIEL PETIQUAY:** My sister, I think of
5 her... I was the first one to get in the car. The panel was
6 blue. I got in. When I got in the car, I saw a box of... I
7 just saw the 40-oz box that was in it. I didn't see much
8 beer. I searched and I found... that was all I saw. I saw
9 cases of beer. It was the non-Indigenous people who had
10 that.

11 After that, I moved to the front. On the
12 driver's side, I looked underneath. I saw revolvers
13 underneath, while on the other side, I found knives under
14 the seat. That's what I saw in the car. They were hiding
15 those knives. They came to the community to pick up
16 Indigenous people, people from Attikamekw, because they
17 wanted to kill them. It was about 7:00 a.m. when they left
18 the community. This was done by non-Indigenous people. They
19 had them drink a lot before leaving with them.

20 I saw my aunt Guyana... I only saw my aunt
21 get in the car. I didn't see my sister get in the car. She
22 was in the car. But I saw my aunt get in. I stayed sitting
23 outside the house because I saw that they were going by
24 there. Maybe they were "braking." We saw red lights. That
25 may have been when they took them by force and put them in

1 the car.

2 The next day, I heard that my sister had
3 been murdered. They asked that we go identify them, the
4 Sûreté du Québec, because they had retrieved them from the
5 river, and a fire had been built there. The white people,
6 they said that they had made a fire to dry their clothes.
7 It's strange that they did that.

8 My mother was advised. My father was still
9 alive. He was alive. My father became angry, very angry.
10 It's strange that they didn't look for what I found in the
11 car, because they didn't do an investigation. There was no
12 investigation. That's what I really think. There was no
13 investigation. Maybe the knives and all that, and the
14 thieves, maybe they're in the river. They didn't look. They
15 didn't search. The guy left. He asked me to tell the story.
16 His name was Philippe Flammand. He was the one who asked me
17 to tell, because he went with the police to investigate.
18 There were marks in the back, he said, on their backs,
19 because they had been stabbed in the back those who were
20 sitting in the car, those who were taken.

21 I can't say that it was an accident. They
22 were murdered. That's a lot. That's really heavy, because
23 they came to get Indigenous people. I don't know why they
24 did that.

25 My mother always... there was a lot of

1 substance use, and she always said "My daughter was
2 murdered." My grandmother also said the same thing.

3 And now, I can say today that it was a
4 dagger to the heart, still today. That's what we feel, a
5 dagger to the heart. And I can also say that that may be
6 why I'm sick. I drink to forget, to try to forget, to not
7 think about it. I still drink.

8 I now suffer from a bad case of diabetes.

9 **MR. JEAN-MARC QUITISH:** Julie-Anna was my
10 sister. She is the same as Daniel. Certainly he too, what
11 he saw is the same as what I saw. Everything he saw, there
12 was a lot. There was a lot of alcohol. In particular, there
13 was a lot more in the back of the car.

14 My sister arrived and got out. She came to
15 get her purse and I told her "Julie-Anne, don't go. Take
16 someone else. He'll be here soon." I waited... there was...
17 because there was always one arriving to... he brought
18 groceries, a person from St-Michel brought them. We were
19 waiting for the groceries and she was told "We'll get in
20 with him, because him, he'll take you right where you want
21 to go with him. You'll be safer where you want to go. It's
22 safer." She didn't listen to me. And I told her "At least
23 our little girl Marie-Paul, she's really young and you're
24 taking her. What's she going to do there? What's she going
25 to do alone in town if you take her?" Again, she didn't

1 listen to me, and she said "I'll take her anyway."

2 And her aunt told her to get out of the
3 house, because she lived with her aunt, whose name was
4 Emma-Louise. She told her to get the child out whom she had
5 custody of. Julie-Anna took the child. It's true that it's
6 all... she took her. That's why I think about her
7 sometimes.

8 Now, the car, there was no accident. It was
9 not in the water like that on its own because before the
10 car was in the water, they were murdered because when we
11 went... we went to the scene... there were a lot of people
12 who were around to see how it happened for there to be an
13 accident there. The tracks that were there; it's as though
14 the vehicle had backed into the river because we saw tracks
15 where there was effort... a lot of effort to push. That's
16 according... to me; it's because they were murdered and
17 then they were pushed into the river.

18 Because the white person there, he came to
19 get one of his friends here in Montreal to return. Maybe
20 that person was more... found it easier to do something,
21 maybe a God I could say.

22 They arrived in Manawan. It was a Ford that
23 arrived. There were large "spots" on the car when it
24 arrived. There were other Indigenous people there, tow
25 trucks. And he told me, "Why don't you go after the

1 non-Indigenous people? Come see what it looks like in the
2 car." We went to see the car with the driver. He didn't
3 come to get his rifle. His rifle was still in the car.
4 There was blood all over in the car. Why was there blood
5 all over in the car? That's why I said they were murdered.

6 I often think about my sister. Why didn't
7 she listen? I often ask myself that. She went to die there.
8 That's it.

9 Thank you.

10 **MS. ANTOINETTE FLAMMAND:** I also want to talk
11 a bit about what we went through.

12 **INTERPRETER:** She is reciting the Lord's
13 Prayer to have more courage, strength, to be able to
14 continue the sharing.

15 **MS. LISA DUBÉ:** Ask our Mother Mary to give
16 us the strength to continue, because the story that we will
17 tell should... it's a story that is very hard to tell. That
18 is why we're asking for help from the Virgin Mary to help
19 us, to give us strength and light.

20 **INTERPRETER:** She is reciting the Hail Mary
21 in Attikamekw.

22 **MS. ANTOINETTE FLAMMAND:** At the time of the
23 events, I was with... I was with my mother. We had left our
24 house. We had been at Joséphine's, at the house. I had been
25 with her at Joséphine's. We stayed for a bit at

1 Joséphine's. And I remember, at the time, Joséphine had
2 told my mother... she had told my mother, "Your daughter
3 will sleep here and you, go alone to find what you are
4 looking for." She was also looking for my father.

5 And me, I didn't want to stay there. I
6 didn't want to let my mother go alone. I followed her, my
7 mother, because she was going to look for my father. She
8 had been in another house trying to find him.

9 I saw the car driving around the village. We
10 got into it too. We drove around the village to try to find
11 him. Manawan wasn't that big. It wasn't as big then. There
12 was just the part of the woods there. We went around the
13 houses. We went around and the police told us to get out of
14 the car and we got out. We left. And then, later, we saw
15 the car come back and the white man who was there, he
16 stopped. He told us to get in and we got in. We did not go
17 far. That was where he stopped. The car stopped. I tried to
18 get her out of the car with me. I told my mother to get
19 out, but she didn't listen to me. I pulled her by the legs.
20 She didn't want to get out. She stayed in the car and one
21 of the white men who got out, he got us out of the car. He
22 got me out of the car and sent me to the side of the road.
23 After being forced out, after that, he slammed the door
24 shut.

25 He took off immediately after that. That's

1 where he left me all alone. And it was already dark and I
2 didn't know where to go. I remembered where my sister
3 lived. That's where I went. Because it was dark, I didn't
4 know where to go. I was at my sister's. I went to bed
5 there, and slept there.

6 That's where I woke up early in the morning.
7 I ran home. That's when I saw that there were a lot of
8 people at my father's house, and the neighbour, and at
9 André Dubé's house, there were a lot of people. That's when
10 I heard... I learned that I no longer had a mother. I had
11 lost mom.

12 And it hurts a lot when I talk about that
13 and when I talk about it, even just thinking about it. My
14 mother should have listened to me. She should have listened
15 to me when I told her to get out of the car. She should
16 have listened to me. I was eight years old at the time of
17 those events.

18 **MS. FRANCINE FLAMMAND:** It's really hard to
19 hear my little sister tell her story because she was the
20 last person to have touched my mother.

21 The last time I saw my mother, she was
22 drinking and she took me to the neighbour's house, our
23 neighbour. I'll speak in Attikamekw.

24 The last time I saw my mother, she had taken
25 me to a neighbour's house. She told the neighbour, whose

1 name was Margo... we called her Kokum Agnes (Ph.),
2 Grandmother Agnes. "You'll help me watch the children." She
3 took me to Margo's house herself. "That was always what I
4 did. I always helped those who had a lot of children.
5 That's what you'll do too, help families, big families.

6 And I often wonder why she had taken me
7 there? She had 11 children. She left them. She left her
8 children. She had 11, 9 girls and 2 boys, and she left just
9 like that.

10 Sometimes, I feel bad for my father because
11 I always saw him all alone since my mother's death. I have
12 never seen my father sitting with another woman. I have
13 never seen him stay with another woman. I sometimes think
14 that maybe he had too many... a lot of children. Maybe
15 that's why he never looked at another woman, because he
16 loved our mother a lot. Maybe that's why he never wanted to
17 be with another woman. We never asked him why, but it was
18 his choice.

19 In the beginning, my sister, she was very
20 young when she left Manawan and the other sister, Nicole.
21 She was the one who watched my younger sisters. She had a
22 child too, and my mother had two grandchildren that she
23 saw, my sister's children, and Nicole's children. She had
24 seen her two grandchildren.

25 As for my sister Nicole, it was her who

1 babysat... her who kept an eye on us in addition to her own
2 children. She had a lot of children. She may have been 18
3 at that time. The other one was 17, the first sister, and
4 the baby of the family, she was only four when our mother
5 left.

6 I always heard my brothers and sisters
7 trying to find out... they asked questions. They asked to
8 see their mother. I always saw the one who was four years
9 old. She looked out the window. She called "Mommy!" And
10 they told her "Your mom isn't here anymore." And she
11 pointed to the door because she wanted to go out. They
12 stopped her so she wouldn't go out. They kept her in the
13 house.

14 And the other one, the second-last child,
15 they stayed together, crying, and looked for their mother.
16 They went from room to room trying to find their mother,
17 crying.

18 One of my brothers also found it very hard.
19 Once, he climbed somewhere very high. We went up and got
20 him. We asked him, "Why did you climb so high there?" And
21 he then replied "I want to go see mommy in heaven." And
22 then he climbed again on an electrical pole and was
23 electrocuted. We asked him, "Why did you climb up
24 there?" He replied, "I want to go see mommy in heaven. I
25 want to go see mommy." He got three third degree burns. He

1 had third degree burns.

2 My father went to see him at the hospital.
3 He stayed a long time at the hospital. He went to stay with
4 my brother, the boy.

5 Those are the repercussion we suffer when we
6 have no mother. All kinds of things happen, all kinds of
7 accidents.

8 I had a lot of difficulty too as a girl. I
9 attempted suicide too. I don't know how many times I tried.
10 I don't even know.

11 When I turned 35 years old, I don't
12 remember, because my mother was 35 when she died. She was
13 almost 35 years old. And then, I don't even know, when I
14 turned 35 years old. I don't remember. Maybe I was
15 completely lost. I didn't touch drugs, but I consumed a
16 lot, drank a lot of alcohol. That's what I used a lot.

17 Three are gone. My sister's name was Lina.
18 She's gone, and Micheline, my sister, and our brother
19 Jacques. There was a fatal car accident. He had five
20 children when he had the fatal accident. He had a baby. He
21 was seven or eight months old when he died. It was really
22 hard then because we felt bad for our young cousins because
23 they had just lost their father. We relapsed again right
24 away then, when we lost our mother.

25 I have a lot of pain. He always loved the

1 children. I always saw him watching them. I don't know how
2 many grandchildren he would have, her too, to watch them.

3 Sometimes my father is all alone at home. I
4 feel bad for him. I think there would have been a lot of
5 people staying with him.

6 It hurts me that my sister Marie didn't
7 come. She was unable to be here.

8 My mother's death was on June 26, 1977,
9 that's when she died. Three days later, she was buried.
10 It's as though we were in a hurry to bury them. My mother,
11 it was actually her birthday. Her birthday was June 29 and
12 that was the day she was buried. We were supposed to have a
13 family meal that day. It's as though... what's her birthday
14 like now? It's the gift we received from the white people.
15 That was the gift they gave us, to go bury her on her
16 birthday. That was the gift we received from the white
17 people. That's what I find really hard.

18 I admire other women who celebrate their
19 mothers' birthdays. Sometimes, I'm jealous.

20 I always talked to my mother. I always said,
21 "Let me meet a man with a big heart; help me find that
22 young man, that man." Sometimes, I think that she listened
23 to me, she heard me because the guy that... the man that I
24 married is a very, very good man. He has never beaten me.
25 He has never said anything to me, or his father, he is the

1 same type, just like him, his behaviour. He is not a
2 violent man. I have never heard that about my father. They
3 saved me, that's true. Maybe I would have been dead a long
4 time ago if I had continued to act that way. He helped me a
5 lot so that I would go back to school in La Tuque. In the
6 beginning, I didn't want to stay there. I didn't want to
7 stay in La Tuque because I was afraid, was scared, of non-
8 Indigenous people. I was told, "Wait for me outside while
9 I'm in school. Sometimes I went to see if he was there. "If
10 you leave, I will quit school." I'll leave. He did that for
11 three months. He came to wait for me in the morning and at
12 noon. He came to see me inside.

13 I had a lot, a lot of difficulty at that
14 time because I was still really afraid because I was still
15 afraid of non-Indigenous people, whites, and at some point
16 it went away. I felt a bit better. Finally, I was able to
17 go alone. I stayed by myself in La Tuque while he went to
18 work in Manawan.

19 I have never told Daniel, but I still have a
20 severe addiction. It's been a long time since I've seen a
21 psychiatrist, a psychologist. I had nothing left to say.
22 It's as though I was only going to get a prescription.
23 That's what I think. There's a medication that I'm
24 completely addicted to, a pill. I have been using that
25 medication for a long time because I had a lot of anxiety.

1 I still take it now. I didn't have any children yet when I
2 started taking that medication, using it. I still use it
3 now. Now, it'll be... I began taking medication in '80 or
4 '81, and I'm still taking it every day, particularly in the
5 evening. And I tell myself, I'd like to... I'd be happy to
6 stop taking it, but if I stop taking the medication, I
7 could relapse, relapse into anxiety. I had a lot of anxiety
8 and so, if I stop the medication, I will fall back into
9 that.

10 That's my wish. What I want the most is to
11 stop taking that medication, but I can't. I'm not even able
12 to walk alone in town. Even when I go to the mall, I can't
13 do it. I'd panic. I'd panic when I went there alone.

14 I think that's the impact it had, what
15 happens. That's enough for now.

16 **MS. FRANCINE DUBÉ:** Hello. I'll speak in
17 Attikamekw.

18 I'm also here to talk about my nephew,
19 Lionel Petiquay, because he got in with the three women
20 too. Lionel was in the car. That's why I'm here, to
21 represent the family.

22 It's true that it's hard. Even 40 years
23 later it's hard. It weighs on you. It weighs heavy when we
24 talk about it. It's hard.

25 Listening to those who have spoken, about

1 what they're feeling, what they've experienced, it's hard.
2 We were sick over it. And I feel bad for my sister, the one
3 sitting behind me, and my brother-in-law. It was their son
4 who was lost. I was 16 years old at the time. Now I'm
5 57 years old, and it still hurts inside when we think about
6 it. There's a lot of pain. It's hard to talk about it. I
7 listen to the others talk about it too and it's really
8 hard.

9 When it happened, they weren't told anything
10 at all. The police didn't come to see them to give them any
11 information. They only heard about it from the children. It
12 was one of my young cousins who went to his parents to tell
13 them that his brother had been in a fatal accident. It was
14 one of their young sons who told them the news.

15 The SQ didn't do their job right. They
16 didn't do their work in a professional way. They never met
17 with the police, with the SQ officers. They were never told
18 anything... they could never explain and recount their
19 child's last 24 hours. They always tried to find out what
20 happened. It was too vague. The event was too unclear, what
21 happened. We say that they were murdered. We know that. The
22 elders who said... they tried to find out from those who
23 were already dead. They went to see. The elders said, "They
24 didn't drown. They were murdered."

25 That's what's hard to think about. It's hard

1 to think because we know that there wasn't a proper
2 investigation. We were scorned. There was no respect, the
3 respect for the investigation. We weren't respected. The
4 investigation wasn't done properly. That's why we asked
5 that an investigation be opened. It didn't work. The SQ
6 always replied "The investigation won't be reopened."

7 The time was only taken recently to reopen
8 the investigation. Today, that's what's harder to talk
9 about.

10 We faced a lot of problems when we tried to
11 find out what happened, and the families who are sick, and
12 others are drinking. They try to drown their feelings.
13 There's violence, fighting in families. Accusations are
14 made and everything.

15 And what I'm saying, what I think, when I
16 lost my nephew, because he loved life. He was happy. He was
17 always smiling. We'd see him everywhere because he was
18 always talking. He liked other people and his life was
19 taken from him. His life was cut short. But he was very
20 happy, full of life.

21 That's why I think that the SQ, my sister
22 was prohibited from going to see the pictures that were
23 taken... the pictures that were taken when they were taken
24 out of the water. Pictures were taken of the victims, and
25 my sister was prevented from seeing the pictures. She was

1 told, "You're not allowed, have no business looking at the
2 pictures that were taken."

3 Even after that, he was the one who went to
4 dress them after. The elder is still alive and when he went
5 to dress them, he saw... he knew that the bones were
6 broken. When he dressed them, he knew... they watched
7 carefully to not uncover the body too much because the body
8 was hidden from them, but they didn't say what it looked
9 like. How were the five victims? What condition were they
10 in? Because they were hiding how they were injured. And the
11 elder who dressed them told us, "I found... I felt that the
12 bones were soft and they weren't in the right place." For
13 example, the knees weren't in the right place where they
14 should have been.

15 That's what my sister always asked, and the
16 children. What... why did they do that to us? Why did they
17 act like that toward us? Why did they hide things from us?
18 We're human beings too. Why did they treat us like second
19 class... we have a heart. I don't know why... how they were
20 able to do that, to have... acted that way toward the five
21 victims. They said at St-Michel, "Why are they..." Yet St-
22 Michel is not in that direction. The town of St-Michel was
23 in the other direction. Why did they take that road?

24 They had been... my sister went to see the
25 scene of the accident, my sister. They saw too that it

1 wasn't an accident. They doctored the scene because, if
2 there had been an accident, you see everything on the
3 ground, all the splatter there would be and, at the scene,
4 it wasn't in that condition. There was no sand disturbed.
5 It was... they just saw the tracks that went... the tire
6 tracks that led into the water. There were a lot of signs
7 that showed that it was not a drowning. They were killed,
8 murdered.

9 We know, we think very strongly that the
10 actions of the non-Indigenous people, the white men,
11 because they didn't go to the SQ right away when they
12 arrived in St-Michel. First, they went for a coffee at the
13 restaurant and then said that there had been an accident.
14 That's when we saw that, for them, that Indigenous lives
15 were worthless. And the SQ said at that point that there
16 were Indians who were dead there, "Let's go see." And he
17 was a witness too. He was told what he had to say, to tell
18 what he saw. Even the police told him what to say. That's
19 what I said earlier. That's what I said earlier; we find it
20 strange. People are sick over it.

21 We don't have the time for our... because
22 it's hard to grieve when we don't know the truth. We don't
23 know the truth, what really happened. We feel that there
24 was injustice in this.

25 I feel sorry for my young cousins who lost

1 their brother because they found it really hard when they
2 lost him, and they want to know what happened. And we don't
3 know either because the SQ investigated; it was the same
4 result. And it's even worse; it's like someone slapped us
5 in the face. That's how we feel. It's always the same
6 thing. They say they drowned. Even now, it's even more
7 painful to be told that because we weren't believed. They
8 don't believe what we say.

9 There you go. That's it. Thank you.

10 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** Commissioners, before we
11 continue, a witness has requested a break. So if you could
12 give us a five-minute break?

13 So we'll take a five-minute break. Please
14 respect the five minutes. Thank you.

15 --- Upon recessing at 4:46 p.m.

16 --- Upon resuming at 4:59 p.m.

17 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** Thank you Commissioners for
18 giving us that break.

19 So I would ask the next witness to proceed.

20 **MS. LUCIE DUBÉ:** Hello everyone, everyone in
21 attendance. I'm pleased that there are many of us, that
22 there are many of us who want to discuss and talk some
23 more.

24 My name is Lucie. They call me Grandmother
25 Lucie. My name is Lucie Dubé. I'm from Manawan.

1 At the time of the events, when we lost
2 those who departed, my son as well, in the afternoon, while
3 I was at home, while I was doing laundry, he... I told him,
4 "You'll help me." Because doing the laundry was very hard
5 then. And he told me, "I need to leave, Mom. I want to go
6 see my friend, Lionel. He's all alone at home." I told him,
7 "Don't be too long. Come home after." He had his coat over
8 his shoulder and he left. I called out to him, "Don't be
9 too long because we're going out. We're going to see your
10 father at work." That wasn't true. It wasn't true that we
11 were going out. It was just so he'd come home as soon as
12 possible. Until evening, evening came. That was in the
13 afternoon.

14 In the afternoon, I saw the car drive by my
15 sister Annie's house. That's where the car stopped. I spoke
16 with my sister Annie. "Who's that?" And she told me that it
17 was Naser (ph.). I saw them going there. I saw them both
18 come toward me, Lionel and my son. And I told Naser, in
19 fact, because he was a police officer at the time, "Tell
20 him to go... don't let the two boys get in the car with the
21 two white men who were there." That's what I told him.

22 Then, at one point, I couldn't see the car
23 because they had left. It was almost blue. The panel that
24 was there, it was blue. I waited for my son and, at one
25 point, they stopped in front of our house. My son got out

1 of the car running. And I asked him, "Where are you
2 going?" I was standing in the door. "We're going for a
3 ride. Our friends are with us." They weren't his real
4 friends. They found friends. "I'm coming for my tape to
5 play in the car." And I told him, "Don't get in. Stay here
6 and come home." He told me, "No, I won't leave. I'll ask
7 them to drop me off here." That's what he told me. He
8 didn't come home that evening.

9 We went to bed, me and my daughter. And at
10 one point, I woke up. Three hours after midnight, I woke
11 up. I went to look in his room. He wasn't there. I woke up
12 my daughter, "Wake up. We're going to look for your
13 brother. He didn't come home."

14 I met with a lot of people to ask what they
15 had seen. They replied, "No, we didn't see him." There were
16 a lot of people who were walking about the community of
17 Manawan. There were a lot of people who were walking about.
18 There was even one, I got in Naser's car. He let me get in.
19 He said, "Get in, we'll drive around to look for
20 him." Marguerite got in too. We called her Grandmother
21 Marguerite. We drove around. I called those who were there
22 and asked, "Is Denis there?" "No." We didn't find him. We
23 didn't find him in Manawan. I said, "I'll get off at our
24 house because I don't know where he is." I returned to our
25 house, but I was unable to get back to sleep. I always

1 waited for him to return. Sometimes we stood outside on the
2 porch until the sun came up. I sat outside on the porch of
3 the house on a chair because I was watching because I
4 thought he'd come back.

5 Until the afternoon, I sat on the chair and,
6 at one point, the car... not the car he got in. And the car
7 took care of patients, the white man. He was the one who
8 drove people who had appointments. He stopped... he didn't
9 stop the car right away. He stopped at one point. Two girls
10 got out, my daughter and my sister's daughter. I called
11 them right away. And I said, "Have you seen your
12 brother?" My daughter came running. She came and said,
13 "Mom, you look terrible. Never again... I will never see my
14 brother again." And I said, "Why didn't you..." He had been
15 to St-Michel. "Why didn't you watch your bother? You always
16 stayed there."

17 I don't really know; it's as though I fell
18 backward, fell on my back. The last thing I remember, when
19 she called "Mom," after that, I don't remember anything at
20 all. I woke up. There were a lot of people. There was a
21 woman named Suzanne. She came. She came to wake me up by
22 putting a lot of water in my face. I had called my mother
23 at that point, who was coming. They went to get her. She
24 came to see me. And then she told us that we had been
25 whipped by our Creator. That's what she told me. That's

1 what we say, whipping, so people can live quietly. That's
2 what my mother told me.

3 My husband was not there because he was
4 working. He worked for the council. He worked for the
5 council in the woods.

6 I was afraid. I was very afraid. And then I
7 thought what will he think when he gets the news? I don't
8 remember if he arrived. I don't remember very well.

9 That's what happened to me, the feelings
10 that I had. I think I'll stop there.

11 Is that it, Angèle?

12 It's true that there were no elders to go
13 tell because, in the past, it was the elders who would go
14 tell... go give the news to the person. For example, it
15 could be the police. That's not what was done. No one came
16 to give us the news.

17 That's it. Thank you again.

18 **MS. ANGÈLE PETIQUAY:** Hello everyone.

19 Me too, it was my brother Denis who I lost
20 in this event. There was just one year difference between
21 us. I was always close to him.

22 At the time, there were several people
23 living in St-Michel, like my sister, and they said, those
24 who lived in St-Michel, when the girls went to St-Michel,
25 when the road was built... that's why my mother also

1 defended her daughters because they always said... my
2 father always said, "Watch..." because he wanted to leave
3 for work, he always said, "Watch our children."

4 And that time, I stayed home too and when I
5 saw my brother, I didn't think, that would be the last time
6 that I would see him. He came to get... he said, "We're
7 listening to music." There were cassettes. He had several
8 because he listened to music a lot. He had a lot of
9 cassettes, records. He liked listening to music.

10 Sometimes, he had me do errands, because it
11 was my last year of school, and he had errands. That's at
12 the end of the school year. And he asked me to do errands
13 because he gave me money because he was working at the Bay,
14 at the Hudson Bay store. He worked there. He gave me money
15 to buy records, cassettes, for him.

16 When he came to the house that time, they
17 arrived in a car, the van that came to our place. I was
18 there. I had gone to see them because he had gone into the
19 house to get his cassettes. Lionel was sitting in the car.
20 There was no back seat. There were cases on the floor.
21 Lionel was sitting on them. He said, "These are our new
22 friends. We met them, some new friends. We met new friends.
23 Now, we're going to drive through the village. We're going
24 to drive around the village." That's what my brother said,
25 "We're only going to drive around here to listen to music."

1 Maybe... I think that it was about late
2 afternoon when he came to get... it was almost sundown when
3 he came.

4 What the white people said, I don't believe
5 that either. It wasn't an accident. I don't believe that
6 either. They said they were going fishing when they arrived
7 in Manawan. There were five Indigenous people hitchhiking
8 to go to St-Michel. That's when they took the... that they
9 had the accident at kilometre 16. Several people saw my
10 brother there, in St-Michel. They were in St-Michel. Maybe
11 they came back during the night. They could have been
12 killed anywhere. That's what I have to say about the
13 statement; there's only one person, a white man, who made
14 the statement. The other one only signed at the bottom of
15 the page. He corroborated the statement. They were not met
16 with individually.

17 Why don't I believe the report? My brother
18 was a very good swimmer. He could dive. He could swim
19 across the lake out front. He was able to swim across the
20 lake.

21 Once he fell. There was a plane that
22 crashed. My brother got on it. He was 13 years old when he
23 had that accident. The plane crashed, and my brother told
24 how he had woken up completely at the bottom of the lake.
25 He could only see the weeds in the water. He said, "I

1 looked up" and he saw the reflection of the plane and he
2 went there. The way he saw it, he even helped others, even
3 the pilot of the plane. He helped.

4 That's why I don't believe the report. And
5 he always worked out. He was very muscular. He was very
6 thin, but was very strong, he worked out, because he
7 exercised. Like bags... flour bags, he filled them with
8 sand. He worked out with that. Sometimes he lifted up my
9 brothers and did push-ups. That was when... it was when
10 Bruce Lee was his idol. He wanted to be muscular like Bruce
11 Lee. He was muscular from working out.

12 That's why I think about it a lot. I think
13 he was murdered, killed, because if he had only had an
14 accident where he fell into the water, he would have been
15 able to save those who were in the car. Even him, he was
16 sitting in front, next to the driver. That's how they found
17 him. Those who were at the scene saw him in the front.

18 And then we got a shock. That's why my
19 mother also didn't know much about it. We don't really
20 remember much. Everything that happened during the
21 funerals, we don't remember very well.

22 Me, I still think they were murdered. I'll
23 never forget that. My brother, he may have already been
24 dead when the car went into the water. The way we saw it,
25 we call it the *Petit journal du sapin*, before the *Journal*

1 *de Montréal*. That is where his picture was in the paper.
2 That newspaper was very painful for us, because what the
3 police did the minute they got out of the car; it's as
4 though he wasn't a man. It's as though he received no
5 respect, my brother. That's what really hurt us. No pride
6 in it for us because we were not informed by the
7 authorities.

8 At the time, he told us, "We won't be there
9 long." He told us, "We'll be back before long. We're just
10 driving around the village." That's what I don't believe at
11 all.

12 There are several things that I asked to see
13 from the testimonies. I asked people what they saw during
14 my brother's last 24 hours. They were seen in St-Michel.
15 They were in St-Michel, along with the other people who
16 were with them.

17 And what's in the white man's statement? "We
18 went fishing. We went to Manawan to go fishing. There were
19 five Attikamekws who asked to get in and they got in and
20 got lost. I turned left instead of turning right." If
21 that's true, no one would have seen them in St-Michel.

22 I'll stop there for now. Thank you.

23 **MS. DESNEIGES PETIQUAY:** Hello everyone.

24 My sister was 15 years old. She was too
25 young to leave. She was too young to be killed, but my aunt

1 Julie-Anna was too young. She had a young baby, my aunt.

2 She wasn't even two years old, my cousin Valérie.

3 For all these years, I've kept inside me...
4 I've suffered. I had post-traumatic shock for years. I even
5 left my community when I was very young. I went to the
6 residential school. After that, I left when I was very
7 young, in 1985. That was 32 years ago. I turned 50
8 recently, in December. For all those years and when they
9 began talking about the case of the five deaths, two or
10 three years ago, I saw it on TV. It's a bit like... I felt
11 like I'd been brushed aside, while my sister Janine and
12 I... my sister Janine, she's lived in Montréal since she
13 was 17 years old. We always talked about that, my sister
14 Janine and I, when she was living in Montréal, when I came
15 back to live in Montréal in 1989. We wanted to bring it out
16 while my mother was still alive and my grandmother.

17 After, we said maybe the other families
18 won't hear about it. Maybe it will hurt them too much...
19 they'll hurt too much. There are still people who were
20 alive at that time, who were there for that drama.

21 I must have been nine years old in 1977. I
22 was born in '67, and my sister Marie-Paul, she was living
23 with my aunt, my mother's sister. She was older, my aunt
24 Emma-Louise. And she always had problems there where she
25 lived, and in the morning, she came back from there. As I

1 remember, there was someone... I don't know... who had told
2 her, "Why did you come back without shoes?" My brother, I
3 think he already spoke about it, my brother Daniel.

4 After, she stayed at my grandmother's and my
5 aunt too, Julie-Anna, came back from where she was living
6 to my grandmother's with your young baby. It was the
7 morning.

8 And me, with my aunt Julie-Anna, I had good
9 times with my aunt Julie-Anna. My God, I adored her, my
10 aunt. It broke my heart when I couldn't see her anymore, my
11 aunt.

12 That morning, my kokum told me, "Don't
13 go." That van was already driving around, I don't know,
14 maybe they were looking for young women to get in, young
15 women to go I don't know where. My aunt had said, she said,
16 "I'll get in with them, with your sister Nicole." But I
17 told her, "You're too young" like my uncle Jean-Marc told
18 her. I begged my aunt not to go. I told her, "Valérie is
19 too young." And she told me, "The kokum will watch her with
20 you guys, Valérie."

21 It's like when I saw them get in the van,
22 it's like after I told myself that I'd never see them
23 again.

24 And I saw a woman... I think it was their
25 mother who was already in the van, and I never saw them

1 again until the next morning, the next morning or
2 afternoon, the police chief was Naser Flammand who came to
3 tell my parents "Something happened and your daughter
4 Nicole was there." Nicole, that's Marie-Paul. I always
5 called her Nicole. She was in it too. He said, "I think the
6 five who died were killed, drowned." I heard that too. I'll
7 never forget it.

8 My father, cried like an animal cry, wanting
9 to say "They have killed one of my daughters." My God, it's
10 as though I can still see my father saying that, crying and
11 telling my mother, "It's your fault, you didn't want to
12 hold them back. You... you always gave away your
13 daughters." That's what he said. Because I was living with
14 my aunt too. That's what happened.

15 For several months, my father, he began
16 drinking a lot, a lot, until a few months later, he was
17 killed too. That's what I've never forgotten. It was always
18 on my mind.

19 Until I left the community, I was often
20 angry at my family. I just stayed with my sister Janine.
21 Janine passed away in November 2004. Throughout that time,
22 we always talked about it, me and my sister Janine. We
23 never forgot, because our father, he loved us a lot.

24 And my aunt Julie-Anna, I begged her not to
25 go. I told myself, when she got in the van, it's as though

1 I'd never see her again because I often slept with her. She
2 often took care of us, her nieces whom she loved a lot.

3 For years maybe... I don't know how long...
4 I saw my little cousin Valérie. She had grown up. I always
5 wanted to talk to her about what happened that morning, but
6 I never could.

7 It was years, years. It's like when they
8 started bringing it out, 40 years later, I told myself, I
9 need to talk about it too. It's like they took on the
10 Sûreté du Québec, I believe, with a lawyer. But for me,
11 justice, I don't believe in justice. I can't believe in it
12 anymore. They were killed. For me, they were killed. That's
13 what I tell myself. That's what I've always told myself,
14 years of pain. Even my sister, she suffered a lot, my
15 sister too.

16 I'm sorry for... I think that's what I
17 wanted to say... what I wanted to tell you.

18 But just talking like that with my daughter,
19 my uncle and my grandfather, I'm with them. I'll continue
20 to be with them if they ever reopen the investigation. I'll
21 be with my family. I'll be by their side.

22 I think that's all. I'm tired. My memory...
23 I've like forced my memory a bit too.

24 Thank you very much.

25 **MS. ÉRICA BÉGIN:** I've been part of

1 Marie-Paul's family for 23 years. I've always lived with my
2 mother-in-law. In the beginning, I didn't understand what
3 she was saying in Attikamekw. She always talked about her
4 daughter, Marie-Paul. I didn't understand what she was
5 saying.

6 One day, I asked my husband, "Who's
7 Marie-Paul?" He told me, "It's my sister. It's my sister
8 who I didn't know either because I was only two years old
9 when she died."

10 I saw my mother-in-law cry a lot. When she
11 arrived, she cried for her daughter. She suffered a lot.

12 My children, my nieces, my nephews, they
13 often talk about their aunt who they didn't know, who they
14 would really have loved to know. It affects me.

15 I don't believe it either. I don't believe
16 it was an accident. I'll stop.

17 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** We've now come to the
18 second question. Many of you, however, during the first
19 round, spoke about the events and what that caused in your
20 life.

21 So, if you agree, maybe we can move on to
22 the recommendations? Does everyone agree? You can also
23 speak if you want to add to the repercussions that it's had
24 on your life.

25 **MR. DANIEL PETIQUAY:** When my sister died, my

1 mother, my father, they were angry. I don't know who... it
2 wasn't them... I told myself it wasn't them. It was the
3 white people. They were the ones who killed them. They did
4 something.

5 My father, at the time, he said, because he
6 was angry, he told me, "I won't live long, two months." Two
7 months after the events, he died. My father died because he
8 had said, "I'll follow your daughter. I want to follow them
9 to the other side." And he lived two months, and died on
10 September 22. The event happened in July. It was very fast,
11 very fast, because he truly loved his daughter. That's
12 true. He told me, "You wanted your father to..." But if you
13 had heard him, because he was angry at the white people.
14 You didn't see him. It wasn't long... it wasn't long before
15 he was gone. That's true. He told the truth.

16 That's still what I see. I believe that,
17 that he did not feel well. He always heard the police
18 coming to tell him, "That's it, they're going to
19 court." Never. I always waited. That's what I told him.

20 When I got in the car, "What did you see?" I
21 saw knives. There were several knives on the floor. There
22 was a revolver, and there was a 40 oz box. There wasn't a
23 lot of beer. That may be why they got drunk really fast.
24 The white men had them drink hard liquor so they could kill
25 them, because alcohol is stronger than beer and they got

1 drunk faster.

2 In '77, I lost my uncle Pierre. His small
3 baby, he was on a hammock. I was watching him. There was no
4 electricity when he went into the water too. He went into
5 the water with his car. I lost a lot like that.

6 That was really hard to bear. That's what I
7 tell them. It's strange. Maybe we're not rich enough to try
8 to find out. If a white man does something to a white man,
9 they come right away to find the Indian to lock him up,
10 send him to prison. That's what they do to us. However,
11 when a white man has nothing, he becomes depressed,
12 discouraged. Me, I don't care. Me, I don't like that. Me, I
13 don't feel well when the white men give us trouble.

14 Maybe I'll go take food in the territories.
15 Maybe that's how they think. Maybe they say, "We'll be
16 owners of the territories." That's how white men think. It
17 seems to me that they shouldn't mock us like that because,
18 for him, as soon as he has something, it always goes to
19 court. They're fine, but on the Indigenous side, when we do
20 something, they never believe us.

21 I'd like it to work better, so they can
22 investigate. I'd like the investigation to be done, not
23 just this one, but all the others, that the investigation
24 be done over. It would be nice to have the right answers.
25 This has caused us pain for a long time.

1 Sometimes, I wait for things to be the way
2 they should be. That's very, very hard when... what we
3 bear. It would be good for us to have some help now. Then,
4 we'll feel better. We'll have some release if we have help.

5 That's it. That's what I wanted to add.

6 Thank you.

7 **MR. JEAN-MARC QUITISH:** Hello again,

8 everyone.

9 I wanted to talk again about Julie-Anna, and
10 my little niece Valérie. When I think about my sister
11 Julie-Anna, and about Valérie... I think of her... I think
12 sometimes... I don't know how happy she'd be to see her
13 daughter, and her grandchildren growing up. And I think
14 about that, I say she should have listened to me when I
15 forbade her to go. But maybe today she would have seen, if
16 she were still alive, if she had listened. She wasn't very
17 obedient. And she didn't know... she wasn't aware of that,
18 that white men were dangerous because they weren't afraid
19 to kill, to murder people because he is very, very good at
20 telling lies.

21 Like this, he murdered, killed five people,
22 a white man. And I was there... she was taken to St-Michel,
23 and the white man had asked me, "Why don't you take the
24 white men to court who did this?" Because he killed them.
25 There were no tools. There was no way of doing that. I

1 didn't ask anyone to help us.

2 When I ask someone for help, it takes money,
3 money to prepare texts, so we can go to the police, all
4 that. Always... every day, "Did you ask? Did you go see the
5 police?" I said, "No, no one can help me that way because
6 it's the white man." It's as though I was... because I'd
7 seen the car, what it was like, everything, what position
8 the rifle was in. There was a 12-gauge shotgun inside the
9 car and it was covered in blood. There was no blood in the
10 car, because when there's an accident in the water and all
11 that... it was stained with blood. It was terrible to see
12 the car.

13 I was never... my mother wanted me to go
14 show her the car and I said, "No. You won't forget it if
15 you see it. I can't."

16 Today, we're sitting around here, there was
17 no proper report done saying what really happened when the
18 police took out... it's as though it was... it's as though
19 it was an animal, a rabbit, because they took them out of
20 there and they loaded them like animals. They didn't put
21 anything. They didn't put them in caskets, in bags. They
22 didn't put them in it. They put them in the pick-up like
23 that. I knew them. I knew the police officers. One has died
24 and the other is still alive. I don't know how old he'd be.
25 That's what I say... that's why I say the white man, I

1 don't know... I think if she had seen her grandchildren...

2 Sometimes, it's as though when I'm sitting,
3 sometimes it's as though I were there.

4 And I wish all that were clarified, because
5 me, I'll never forget that. It was a very bad memory for
6 me, particularly the white man who is still alive, the
7 non-Indigenous man who has not died.

8 When I tell Valérie, if it were me, If I
9 knew him, I wouldn't hesitate to... even it if were at
10 night, during the day, anytime, that's all I told her, "I
11 wouldn't hesitate to..." When I talk, I always look down.
12 The memory always comes back to me when I see the car. I
13 always ask when... when I look there, I see who is at
14 Valérie's. And I tell myself... I'd like it to be... that's
15 why I say now that what we're doing here today is a very,
16 very urgent thing, very hard to bear. It's hard to
17 shoulder. It's hard.

18 When I hear others, me too I have... what
19 I'm saying, I knew Denis. He was my friend. We went
20 fishing, because I went to see them sometimes while they
21 were fishing, all that. He was my friend. They were my
22 friends, the same as their mother, Christine. She was my
23 aunt. She was my aunt. It's Isidore who was... that's why I
24 say that I lost a lot, not just the five, because I also
25 lost my brother. And I've never found out what it was. I

1 think about that sometimes.

2 I always go to the store to try to find out
3 why my brother... but I won't get into that. That's all I
4 wanted to say. It's already hard enough to live with that.

5 Maybe... I hope they do this right, redo
6 another investigation. I think it would be better to redo
7 it. If it works, at least I'll be free, but I'll come
8 again. Even though I have emotions like right now, I'd
9 like... because I'm shaking a lot because I'm diabetic, and
10 have a pacemaker. That's why... I'm sweating right now. I'm
11 sweating.

12 I'll pass the microphone to her. Goodbye
13 everyone.

14 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** Antoinette, it's your turn
15 now. Your recommendations please.

16 **MS. ANTOINETTE FLAMMAND:** I thought... I met
17 once when working at the youth home, and an employee who
18 worked with me told me, "You see the big truck at the
19 convenience store?" He told me that the five dead, that was
20 him. I didn't say anything. I got up. I looked at the
21 truck. I left the youth home. I went to the convenience
22 store. I went in the main entrance and left by the other
23 door. I looked at the guy who went in because he was there
24 to deliver gas. I asked him his name. "Is that your name?"
25 He said, "Yes, that's my name." And I asked him questions,

1 "You remember the five who died? The little girl who was
2 crying, that's me." He just looked at me. I wanted to tell
3 him more, but I couldn't speak. It's as though there was a
4 barrier. I could only look at him and then I left. I looked
5 at him a lot and he looked at me. I think I stopped four or
6 five times until I reached my mother-in-law's. I stopped
7 again. I looked at him again. He looked at me again at that
8 point. I was angry. I wanted to say something to him, but I
9 couldn't because I was afraid of him. Maybe he'd do the
10 same thing if I went to town. If I went to St-Michel, maybe
11 he'd do something to me if he recognized me when I was in
12 St-Michel. He might try to kill me because now he knows
13 what I look like.

14 I was angry to see him there. And I thought,
15 after that, I should have thrown a match at him so he'd
16 burn with the gas. And I thought about it after, I said,
17 I'll throw a match while he comes to deliver gas.

18 I didn't stop looking at him. When I got to
19 the youth home, I looked at him through the window too
20 because I looked at him and the person working with me,
21 "Did you see the guy? Yes, you saw him? You saw his face
22 again, everything?" And I said, "Yes, I looked him right in
23 the face." "You should have gone across, to go tell
24 Joséphine. Maybe they saw him too."

25 And then I went there to tell her where the

1 white man was, where he was then, because he was delivering
2 gas.

3 That's it. That's all. Thank you.

4 **MS. FRANCINE FLAMMAND:** I'm thinking about
5 today, what our life looks like. Maybe it would be better
6 today, because we live all over. So there are four who left
7 to live in town. One of my sisters went to live in Joliette
8 and has two children. One committed suicide. She died too,
9 but my boyfriend died and one of his other children is an
10 orphan today. He has a girlfriend and has children. And the
11 other died, he had four children. They were all placed in
12 Manawan. They came to get them, youth protection, social
13 services. They were placed outside the area. Our nephews
14 were taken away because they had already been placed. One
15 of my sisters was keeping them, and we kept some too.
16 Antoinette kept one. Nicole... I know my father kept one.
17 He kept his grandson. Now they're all outside the area.
18 They're not well because they were placed with a foster
19 family. They're not well.

20 When they turned 18, they were let go and
21 they can't do anything now. How can they manage when they
22 are kicked out right away? They try to go to school. They
23 can't anymore because they weren't taught anything in their
24 foster families, the Quebecers in whose homes they were
25 placed.

1 And my other sister, her name is Noëlla. Her
2 too, she's completely... we don't see her often. I don't
3 know how to describe her to you. She's completely
4 intoxicated. We can't go get her. She never comes to
5 Manawan when we go get her to bring her to Manawan, because
6 it's been a long time for her too since she left Manawan.
7 She came back when my sister Micheline died. We tried to
8 keep her there. She returned to Joliette. That was the last
9 time she came to Manawan. Her health isn't good. She's
10 diabetic. She catches all sorts of.... because she drinks a
11 lot. She's diabetic, and she has cirrhosis of the liver.
12 She has high blood pressure, and high cholesterol. That's
13 what the doctor told me one time when I stopped to see him.
14 He told me, "You'll have the illness of an alcoholic." And
15 he didn't... that's what he told me. It's true that my
16 liver hurts. I don't smoke. I quit smoking a long time ago,
17 but it was hard. I drank beer. I have been in therapy twice
18 and there has been improvement. There's a lot of time
19 between my periods of drinking. I only drink beer
20 occasionally.

21 Maybe we could have all succeeded when we
22 went to school. Maybe we would have all graduated if our
23 mother were alive. She would have encouraged us. Maybe she
24 would have told us, "Go to school and I'll watch your
25 children."

1 I'm very proud of one of my aunts. She told
2 her daughter... today, all those children are working. Her
3 daughter is working. They all work in education. Those
4 children are doing very good work because she told them,
5 "I'll go watch your children. Go to school. I'll take care
6 of... I'll watch the children."

7 That might be what our mother would have
8 told us if she were alive. She would encourage us.

9 But the white men ruined all that, because
10 we had our mother.

11 I don't believe it either about the
12 accident. It wasn't an accident. It's true that they were
13 murdered. They were killed. I feel bad for the other women,
14 the girls, the girl who was very young, and Julie-Anna.
15 They may have been raped first, the three, before they were
16 killed. Their underwear was found in the woods, near the
17 60-kilometre mark. Their underwear was found hanging on the
18 trees. That may be where something happened.

19 I think about that sometimes. Light a small
20 fire to dry something? I don't know. Because it was
21 different back then and today, because today, matches, it
22 wasn't the same. It was different back then.

23 I found a match at the flea market. It's
24 true that when it's put in the water, it dissolves
25 completely. I don't know why they believed their talk about

1 matches. They didn't say "lighter." They said "matches."

2 I read the report myself. It was badly done.
3 It wasn't credible. It was as though it was a child who had
4 written the report. That's how it was done. It wasn't
5 serious.

6 That's what I wanted... that's what I'm
7 asking for, me, to know the truth, to tell the truth about
8 what happened on June 26, 1977. That's also when I'll
9 finish my grieving, when they finally tell us the truth. We
10 haven't done our grieving. We're still in pain. It's going
11 to continue. We need to find the truth.

12 Thank you.

13 **MS. FRANCINE DUBÉ:** Hello. Hello again,
14 everyone.

15 There are a lot of things when we think
16 about that. Today, what happened is really big, all that
17 the families went through, what was done to them. The
18 family was torn apart because they blamed each other. It
19 was a form of domestic violence. There was enormous
20 violence in that because they said... they blamed each
21 other when they... drank. They blamed each other and the
22 violence increased with substance abuse.

23 Last year, we had a commemoration for the
24 five victims. A headstone was made. We purchased a
25 headstone. A headstone was made to always remember to think

1 about them. During the commemoration ceremony, my sister
2 was there, the one sitting in the back here... that's my
3 sister, my big sister, her son Lionel. She had heart
4 attacks because it was so hard on her. She was taken away
5 by ambulance. That's the impact that we suffered, because
6 there was anger. They developed illnesses.

7 We also want to know... the recommendations
8 we want to make, there will always be a wound inside us. We
9 will never be healed until we are told what happened.
10 That's what we don't know. What happened? Why did it
11 happen? What was done to them? We're blocked when we want
12 to find out something. We're disrespected.

13 I once saw a coroner who had written for
14 another man, he said, "There'll be no autopsy, no
15 investigation, because it costs too much. Indigenous people
16 cost too much." It's as though we're a burden on the
17 government. That's what I don't like. We think about that.
18 It really weighs on you.

19 The recommendation, we want investigations
20 to be done properly, in due form, so they respect the
21 Indigenous people, for them to respect that, because they
22 are human beings. The work has to be done properly for them
23 to treat us like humans now. They can't say that we're
24 worthless. Because mathematically, it's impossible for five
25 Indigenous people to die and two white people to survive.

1 It's impossible. Mathematically, it's impossible.

2 We really don't believe it. That's what we
3 want to know. That's why we came here, because we want the
4 truth so we can really grieve, for there to be healing in
5 relation to this event.

6 I thank you for listening to us. Thank you
7 for sitting and listening to us. Thank you very much. I
8 love you all. Thank you.

9 **MS. ANGELE PETIQUAY:** The repercussions on
10 us, it was very hard for me to lose my brother because we
11 were proud because he was good at everything. He was good
12 at writing. When he went to school, he was always in the
13 library. He read the dictionary. He was always looking in
14 the dictionary. And at the same time, he showed me words
15 that I didn't know. He was the one who wanted to show me.
16 He told me something, and sometimes I said that he would
17 have been a good employee in our community if his life
18 hadn't been taken away.

19 I'll talk again about the statement by the
20 white man. I want to come back to that. As she said, it's
21 as though the report was thrown together, like they had
22 written whatever they wanted. There's one thing, it's
23 marked June 26, 1976, and it happened in 1977. That's what
24 I wanted to say, and that there were a lot of feelings of
25 injustice. That, that marked us, what happened to us.

1 We were left in the dark because the
2 investigation didn't give us a proper report. That's what
3 hurt us, a lot. My father too, it hurt him. He drank a lot
4 too because of the pain. That's it. He blamed himself
5 because everyone was trying to figure out what could be
6 done, what could be said. My father drank a lot. When he
7 was drinking, he talked about it with my mother, and my
8 mother was already hurting enough from what had happened.
9 My father too, it hurt him.

10 When he wasn't drinking, when he was told,
11 he would take my mother because he felt bad for her and he
12 would take her in his arms. That made him suffer a lot.

13 I worked where my brother worked. He asked
14 me to work a long time on it. I was only 17 years old when
15 I began working. But I didn't want to work. I didn't want
16 to be permanent. I was offered a permanent position because
17 I still wanted to go to school. I was finishing Secondary
18 III and I was starting Secondary IV again. What I had, I
19 was strong in math, in accounting. I was very interested in
20 that to be able to go to school, to go as far as possible
21 in education. My father didn't let me go. He told me, "Work
22 because you're being given a job. Do it. And then you can
23 leave. You'll stay with your children."

24 At the time of the events, at that time I
25 was pregnant, but I still finished my school year, even

1 though I was pregnant. And I had said that I would return
2 to school after I delivered, but I wasn't allowed to go. I
3 listened to my parents. I always thought "They aren't
4 encouraging me to go back." I always think about that. I
5 even thought about that because my father had told me
6 "You'll watch your baby. You'll see your children every
7 day. Your mother will watch them when you go to work, and
8 every day after work, you'll have your baby." That's why he
9 thought of that, because he didn't want me to leave. That's
10 what he wanted, his wish, for me to not leave.

11 And I listened. I worked. When he left,
12 that's when I continued my training, and I was happy to
13 have completed it. Yes, I wanted to go, I wanted to be in
14 accounting. It's the first time I've said that.

15 My mother also told me, but I cried a lot
16 when she told me about her pain. My mother told me "It's
17 your fault they killed our boy. You sold your boy because
18 you wanted to have money" because he talked about
19 compensation. That's what hurt my mother. I love her a lot.
20 I love my mother a lot because she is very strong. She has
21 always helped. That's what she draws on to say... for her
22 to heal, to find her strength, at least heal a little bit,
23 because she wants to share her knowledge with us. She helps
24 us.

25 In 2015, I think we were ignored again. The

1 police ignored us until there was a report on television.
2 It was then that they called us to reopen the
3 investigation. A lot was done for us to be comfortable, but
4 we all relapsed. There were sharing activities. We worked
5 with the Menerwin (ph.) program. Menerwin is health and
6 life. Social services worked with us on the commemoration
7 project that we were preparing. That was with the monument
8 that we installed, and the needlepoint on the wall. We all
9 worked together on all that. That's what we did as an
10 activity to try to heal, to feel better, so we would feel
11 better.

12 Our recommendations, if there were
13 Indigenous justice, that it be done properly, to not be
14 discouraged. If it doesn't want to work, inject funds in
15 cases like this one involving Indigenous peoples because
16 how much can Indigenous people withstand for it to be done
17 right?

18 Managers should try to find out so we can
19 review the investigation, and the investigation that was
20 conducted. It didn't work. Maybe that's why they didn't
21 want to spend money, because they didn't like Indigenous
22 people. And we want to know the truth. What happened? What
23 happened to them? I'd like to know that.

24 We already talked so that we would feel
25 better; it's about finding out the real truth. What do we

1 know today, what they can do when they try to find out what
2 happened to someone who died, someone passed away, how they
3 died. We'd like that too, for that to be done.

4 Thank you, Mom, for sitting here with me
5 today. It's for you, what you told me. You should try to
6 find out what happened to your brother. That's why we're
7 here.

8 I thank the Commission very much. Thank you,
9 Commissioners. Thank you, Fanny. I love you all. Thank you
10 all for listening to us.

11 **MS. DESNEIGES PETIQUAY:** Hello again.

12 The impact... there were a lot of
13 repercussions on my family. That's what's I'm hearing here
14 now. Even me, my sister and I suffered a lot too, a whole
15 lot. Like I said earlier, we wanted to talk about it, but
16 it's as though we didn't... in the '90s we wanted to talk
17 about it, my sister and I, before she died.

18 We also talked to Mom, who came to see us
19 sometimes in Montréal and Mom told us, "We'll reopen a
20 wound that we suffered that year, and we don't know if
21 others will want to talk about it."

22 Already, my mother had drank a lot, a lot,
23 even my father before being killed. I saw them. Even my
24 grandmother, she had also drank a lot. For years, I saw
25 them before I left my community, before I went to stay in

1 the residential school.

2 That's how it was that year when they killed
3 them; it's as though there was no investigation. I mean I
4 heard my father say, "We don't know anything about what
5 happened." As women here said, two, three days, they just
6 put them in boxes. After that, they... there was no
7 autopsy.

8 There's a man in my community, today he
9 decided, that man, he told me twice that... he told me...
10 it was in Joliette, I don't know what year that he spoke to
11 me about my... that he had gone to identify the five dead.
12 He arrived from St-Michel-des-Saints and he went to
13 identify the five people who drowned. Twice he told me
14 that, that my sister was alive, but she was covered in
15 bruises, that she had been beaten. Even the other two
16 women, he told me that was it, his sister-in-law too, the
17 poor man. That's what that man told me. I would have liked
18 him to be alive today and to tell the truth. Maybe someone
19 told him not to say anything. Maybe he was threatened, that
20 man. That's what I've always believed.

21 I know that most are dead. They're not here.
22 I know that he might have told the truth or not have said
23 anything at all. That's what I think. I found that very
24 hard. Leaving my community... living in the city, I thought
25 about it sometimes, I forgot about it, I thought about it

1 sometimes and I suffered... not I suffered... I mean I
2 drank for many years. It's only when drinking that I talked
3 to anyone else. "You know, my sister was killed. My aunt
4 was killed. There were five deaths." I talked with
5 Quebecers, friends or people from other Indigenous nations
6 who I know here in Montréal said, "Why don't you talk about
7 it?" I don't know why. I said, "My sister is with me too.
8 My sister knows about it."

9 So, I say to myself, recommendation. It's
10 like the woman said, there should be a fund to better help
11 Indigenous people when they're killed, murdered, or I don't
12 know, to have fair justice for Indigenous people because
13 they are the ones who have to manage when something happens
14 because it's not the same with a white person.

15 When something happens, they don't
16 understand what the Indigenous person is saying when he
17 doesn't speak French. That's what I tell myself, that there
18 should just be a fair law for Indigenous people. I'm not
19 racist in saying that, but I believe that so many things
20 have happened in my family.

21 It's like earlier, my uncle Jean-Marc said,
22 my uncle was killed... who had an accident there too, a
23 mystery. After, it was my father who was killed. Again,
24 another mystery. I was young, but I kept everything inside.
25 For years I suffered from a lot of depression, for years. I

1 saw doctors. They gave me antidepressants until I saw my
2 psychiatrist who's behind me, Anick. But before that, I'd
3 gone to see another psychiatrist to talk about it. That's
4 what helps me, I think, talking about it and letting
5 everything out, letting everything out that I suffered in
6 my youth, because it ruined my youth. I didn't have a youth
7 with all the drama that I experienced. I suffered for many
8 years. Sometimes I told myself, "Why am I in this world?
9 Why wasn't I... instead of my sister Pauline who died, why
10 not me? I should have been in her place. That's what I told
11 myself. That's what I often say to myself.

12 Since I left Montréal, I've lived in
13 Chateauguay. I've begun having faith. I've begun talking to
14 the priest, my priest. I've begun reading the Bible a lot,
15 things like that. I've begun going to pow-wows, listening
16 to traditionalists, dancers. And what saved me, I think, is
17 my granddaughter who's 11 years old and my grandchildren. I
18 think it's them who keep me alive and my grandson who's 18
19 months old. I mean I need to... my granddaughter, she often
20 says to me, "Mama, I need to study to become a lawyer or a
21 judge." That's what she tells me. That's her dream. I need
22 to guide her. I need to help her. That's what I tell
23 myself.

24 There have been a lot of injustices. That's
25 what I've seen and heard. In any case, I've heard other

1 families talk. It's like us too, we're with them. I'll
2 stand with them. I'm going to see them often, more often. I
3 know that I need to go see them more often. I haven't been
4 to my community for two years.

5 That's all I wanted to say. Thank you very
6 much for listening to us.

7 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** Thank you.

8 **MS. ÉRICA BÉGIN:** My recommendations, I'd
9 like to recommend that all Indigenous peoples in Canada
10 continue not to give up on those who have disappeared,
11 because we don't give up. We won't give up.

12 Thank you. Thank you.

13 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** *Migwetch.*

14 Now it's time for the sharing circle. I
15 would invite the Commissioners to share any questions or
16 comments they may have. Thank you.

17 **CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER:** First I
18 want to say how thankful I am to all of you for coming
19 today.

20 What you've told us, what you've shared with
21 us is very important. So we're very grateful.

22 **(SHORT BREAK)**

23 **CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER:** Thank you.
24 I will repeat what I started.

25 I want to thank each one of you for coming

1 today. What you have said today is very important and I am
2 grateful that you shared all that you did with us today.
3 That is from my brain.

4 From my heart, I want to thank you all very
5 much. I know this is very difficult for you, and we can't
6 turn back time, but we can move forward with love in our
7 hearts.

8 So I thank you from my heart for coming
9 today.

10 **COMMISSIONER BRIAN EYOLFSON:** I also want to
11 thank each and every one of you for coming here today and
12 sharing with us about this terrible incident that happened,
13 and I just want to acknowledge your strength in being able
14 to tell us about this and shed some light on it, just not
15 telling us but sharing with everybody who is watching. It's
16 such a difficult thing, so I really want to acknowledge
17 your strength in doing that.

18 Also, I just want to acknowledge everybody
19 that's here with you for support. I just admire the way
20 that you've come together in this circle to share with us
21 in a supportive way.

22 So thank you so much for coming here and
23 telling us.

24 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Thank you very
25 much.

1 So, I'll speak in French. I imagine
2 Mr. Shilton will be able to translate for you. In passing,
3 he's done a remarkable job.

4 Like my colleagues, I join in saying, my
5 spirit, my heart and my love for what you have shared with
6 us, what you have shown us about the suffering, the
7 injustice, the incomprehension of feeling isolated for all
8 these years.

9 Twice this week I have heard that it's
10 because of or thanks to the media that our case or our
11 injustice has resonated with authorities, while in real
12 life we hope that when we request something, it should
13 happen.

14 So a nod to those who have supported the
15 families.

16 And I have also heard you when you spoke
17 about the fact that there were no autopsies. As a
18 Commissioner, I need to seek a better understanding of what
19 happened. I need to see the report. I believe you mentioned
20 a coroner's report. You'll send it to us, so it will be an
21 official filing as part of this exercise as evidence. So
22 we'll read it.

23 We have a person joining the team in a
24 position within the Inquiry, Maryse Picard, along with
25 Fanny's work. I need to understand that and the entire

1 background of it.

2 Obviously, we know that there are people in
3 the Government of Quebec who are following the work of the
4 National Inquiry, and there will be places where we will be
5 able to discuss, question and surely we'll have informal
6 responses, but there is a formal way through institutional
7 hearings and such.

8 So, that's what I want to understand and
9 know.

10 And what concerns me is healing. You have
11 lived with this for decades. So, in your recommendations, I
12 didn't hear about being supported, but I understood
13 somewhere that talking about it helps. So, I don't know
14 what your... in terms of health and social services for
15 your nation, what support there is to help you through that
16 loss, but also the silence from the justice system. So,
17 what concerns me is what support is there for you.

18 For our part, you know, the Inquiry has a
19 beginning and an end. So, again with Maryse Picard, we will
20 ensure that your support when you return to the community,
21 that an intervention plan is in place or has already begun
22 with the team... it's a small team, but a dedicated team,
23 Natasha and Maryse. So, that's important to me.

24 I know that Fanny is very dedicated to the
25 families. She remains in contact with the families, and my

1 office is across from her office. So I'll ask her where we
2 stand with all this.

3 And regardless, I know that there are women
4 here outside the circle. In the circle, we have already
5 been in touch over social media. So, I say again, I'm
6 available to see if I have any questions too as part of the
7 Inquiry's mandate.

8 You have all my admiration and the
9 commemoration that you held for your loved ones, you did
10 that and it's also part of the Inquiry's mandate to propose
11 recommendations to the government on how we should honour
12 our stolen sisters, our spirit brothers too, as in your
13 case, and you have given a good example.

14 So people across Canada have heard you, and
15 there are already people are also doing what you are doing.

16 I thank you very much, very much, and I'm
17 happy to have seen my kokum here again, who whispered to me
18 "Hello, my sister." So I'm your aunt, in the end, and not
19 your little sister. If I ever return to Manawan or
20 Wemotaci, it would be a pleasure to see you women again.

21 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** I have a question.
22 There was someone who was supposed to take part in this
23 circle. He was the Chief at the time. He apparently has
24 information. Can he send it in writing to add to the
25 information on record?

1 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Yes, yes, yes.
2 The process is still open for the truth-gathering process.
3 It is still open. We will make an announcement soon in the
4 media, on the website, when it will close, but you still
5 have time. It's important that that be done. Thank you very
6 much for the information.

7 So, I'd like to invite my kokums... yes,
8 sorry, Angèle, yes.

9 **MS. ANGELE PETIQUAY:** With the commemoration
10 we had this summer, on June 26, we also made bookmarks.
11 Throughout the movement, fundraising, in all our
12 activities, we always used the title [translation]
13 "Remembering, supporting." That was our slogan. And now we
14 have the poem from Victor Hugo:

15 "You are no longer where you were, but
16 you are everywhere I am."

17 And it's in Attikamekw too. It was
18 translated into Attikamekw. And I'll leave you with that.
19 If anyone wants it, we would be pleased to share it.

20 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** If you accept,
21 it will be part of our travels, this bookmark, here in our
22 spiritual items that are given by families, your items, and
23 you can also always put, in the basket there, as we say,
24 artistic expressions, a poem, a painting, a drawing, a
25 text, a song, a CD, anything that is created to honour our

1 loved ones. That is truth for us too, proof.

2 So yes, we'll take it with...

3 We'll ask Fanny... our grandmothers will
4 come to the front. Our grandmothers will come here. And
5 Ms. Wylde, Fanny, will call a family at the same time to
6 come receive, if you accept, a gift from the National
7 Inquiry on behalf of Marion, Brian, Qajaq, me and the
8 entire team.

9 **MS FANNY WYLDE:** Before we give out the
10 gifts, I would like to ask the Commissioners so we can
11 adjourn this session? Thank you.

12 So the session is adjourned, please. Thank
13 you.

14 **(GIVING OF GIFTS)**

15 --- Upon adjourning at 7:06 p.m.

TRANSCRIPTION CERTIFICATE*

I, Nadia Rainville, certify that this is a true and accurate transcription of the digital recording provided of this hearing.

Nadia Rainville

Nadia Rainville

March 26, 2018

* This certificate refers to the original transcript in French.