

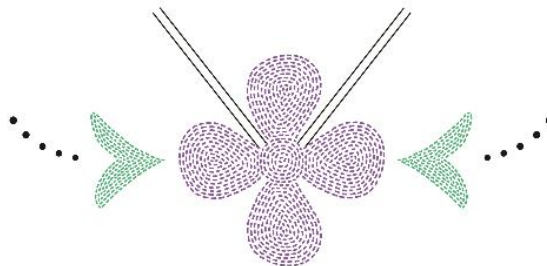
National Inquiry into
Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women and Girls



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**

**Public Hearings
Montréal, Quebec - Bonaventure Hotel**



Translation

Friday, March 16, 2018

Public Volume 70

**Maurice Kistabish and Beatrice Reuben Trapper,
In relation to Kathleen Kistabish Reuben**

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

INTERNATIONAL REPORTING INC.

II

Appearances

Assembly of First Nations	Jeremy Kolodziej Legal Counsel
Assembly of First Nations of Quebec and Labrador (AFNQL)	Non-appearance
Concertation des luttes contre l'exploitation sexuelle	Non-appearance
Conseil des Anicinabek de Kitcisakik	Non-appearance
Directeur des poursuites pénales et criminelles	Anny Bernier Legal Counsel
Gouvernement of Canada	Anne Turley Legal Counsel
Government of Québec	Non-appearance
Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami	Non-appearance
Innu Takuaikan Uashat mak Mani-Utenam (ITUM)	Non-appearance
Naskapi Nation of Kawawachikamach	Non-appearance
Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada, Saturviit Inuit Women's Association of Nunavik, Ottawa Inuit Children's Centre	Beth Symes Legal Counsel
Femmes autochtones du Québec	Anne Curley Representative, Pauktuutit
Regroupement Mamit Innuat	Non-appearance
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	Non-appearance

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Commission Counsel: Marie-Audrey Girard

Grandmothers, Elders, Knowledge-Keepers: Melanie Morrison,
National Family Advisory Circle (NFAC), Sarah Nowrakudluk
(NFAC), Laurie Odjick (NFAC), Sedalia Fazio, Louise Haulli,
Audrey Siegl, Pénélope Guay, Kathy Louis, Oscar Kistabish,
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Clerk: Maryiam Khoury
Registrar: Bryan Zandberg

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Exhibits

(No exhibits)

Montréal, Quebec

1
2 --- Upon commencing on Friday, March 16, 2018, at
3 11:59 a.m.

4 **MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** Good Morning! Good
5 morning, Commissioners. I'd like to introduce to you
6 Maurice Kistabish and Beatrice Reuben Trapper. Beatrice is
7 Maurice's aunt. They are here today to share the story of
8 Kathleen Kistabish Reuben, Maurice's mother and Beatrice's
9 sister.

10 Kathleen's children always believed that
11 their mother had drowned, but they recently found out that
12 she had been murdered. This is the story that Beatrice and
13 Maurice will be sharing with us today.

14 First, before we commence, I would like to
15 ask the Clerk to please swear in Beatrice and Maurice.

16 **MR. BRYAN ZANDBERG:** *Bonjour. Oui,* Beatrice,
17 in English? Good morning, Beatrice.

18 Do you swear that the evidence you will give
19 today will be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but
20 the truth, so help you God?

21 **MS. BEATRICE REUBEN TRAPPER:** Yes.

22 **MR. BRYAN ZANDBERG:** Thank you.

23 **MS. BEATRICE REUBEN TRAPPER:** Thank you.

24 **MR. BRYAN ZANDBERG:** That's it? That's all?

25 Thank you.

1 In French, yes, okay. So, Mr. Kistabish, do
2 you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing
3 but the truth, so help you God?

4 **MR. MAURICE KISTABISH:** I didn't understand.

5 **MR. BRYAN ZANDBERG:** Oh, it's definitely my
6 French! I will start again. Do you swear to tell the truth,
7 the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

8 **MR. KISTABISH:** Yes, I swear.

9 **CLERK:** Thank you. Thank you.

10 **MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** Beatrice and
11 Maurice, thank you very much for being here with us today.
12 To start, I would like to ask you to introduce yourselves
13 to the Commissioners. Perhaps we could begin with Maurice
14 and after, Beatrice, could you please introduce yourselves?

15 **MR. MAURICE KISTABISH:** Good morning. I'm
16 just going to introduce myself, I'm just going to explain
17 who I am as well, I'm going to say it in my mother tongue,
18 the language of my mother and the language of my father. I
19 want to thank the Inuit woman -- I thank you. I'll like to
20 thank you to be here. (Speaking in Native language) I am
21 gonna speak my dad's language. (Speaking in Native
22 language) In English? I have to? Thank you very much
23 anyway, bye.

24 **MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** And Beatrice, if
25 you could introduce yourself, please?

1 **MS. BEATRICE REUBEN TRAPPER:** I'm very
2 grateful for being able to speak in Cree, my language. It's
3 the language my sister spoke; she always spoke in our
4 native language. She was Maurice's mom, and every time we
5 talked to each other, it was always in Cree.

6 Today, it's a very painful day. It's
7 difficult to turn away from what I bear, but I really do
8 want to share what has happened. I even thought -- I
9 thought that I was really going to hurt them. I've never
10 wanted to tell them what we knew and what the police had
11 told us.

12 What happened, about my sister -- when I was
13 told what had happened, it really affected me. My late
14 husband told me -- well, he died, I've been a widow for 20
15 years ago. And today, I'm going to tell my story and share
16 it with you.

17 I'm 76 years old, and I'll leave this story
18 to my nephews, whom I love very much. This is why I'm
19 sharing what happened to my sister; it was 50 years ago
20 that this incident happened. My nephews have grown up since
21 then. They already have their own grandchildren, and
22 perhaps they even have great-grandchildren, I'm not sure.

23 The situation is very serious; it's etched
24 in my mind and I've kept it inside for such a long time,
25 this story from my past. I didn't want to hurt them, my

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Maurice Kistabish and
Beatrice Reuben Trapper
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1 nephews, so I kept the details to myself and this pain has
2 hurt me a lot, has made me suffer a great deal. I kept it
3 to myself because I didn't want to share it with anyone.

4 When my husband was alive, I was always
5 telling him "Let's tell them, let's tell them." And he'd
6 say, "No, you're going to hurt them a lot, especially the
7 men," because it was especially the men who would be
8 affected. And I've watched them get married and they've
9 treated me well since their mother died. They always came
10 to see me when they needed something or they wanted my
11 cooking tips, they were always coming to ask my advice, my
12 nephews. Now, only four of them are still alive.

13 I'm going to tell my story, I'm going to
14 tell you what happened, what happened to my sister. I'm
15 going to talk about it today and get this story out,
16 because it hurts me. I miss her. She was only 43 years old
17 when this happened.

18 When I was given the news, my parents were
19 still alive, but they were old. The police came to our
20 house to tell us what had happened. My parents didn't
21 understand English or French so we had to translate the
22 news for them, my husband Harry and I, that's what we did.

23 The police gave us all the details, the
24 remains that had been found, particularly when they brought
25 them to the hospital to do an autopsy. And he said to us,

1 "I can't tell you if it's drowning or something else,"
2 because there wasn't any water in her lungs. It's as if
3 they had simply thrown her body into the water; the back of
4 her head had been crushed and that's where the water got
5 in.

6 They told us they couldn't confirm it was a
7 drowning, but something had happened. They saw two men
8 taking her towards the river; there was one who was
9 dragging her. I think they brought her there after they did
10 what they had wanted to do to her and then, they just
11 tossed the body in the water.

12 There were three who went towards the lake,
13 but only two came back. So the police said they were going
14 to investigate to find out what had really happened. So we
15 asked my parents what needed to be done or whether to stop
16 the case right there. My mother said that it shouldn't be
17 let go, dropped. But it was very painful for them. They
18 didn't want to leave things open for the police to really
19 investigate what had happened.

20 So, my parents didn't want the case to
21 proceed. So we let things be, and we stuck to the idea, or
22 my parents stuck to the idea, that it was a drowning. But
23 that wasn't the truth, when they told us she had drowned;
24 it's something I always kept to myself, I never shared it
25 with anyone.

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1 Not too long ago, maybe two years ago, we
2 had a circle like this one and we were sharing our
3 experiences and that's when I started to talk about it, and
4 I let it go.

5 I really hurt them, made them suffer with
6 this truth, Maurice and other brothers and sisters; in
7 fact, there were two. There were two brothers and sisters
8 when I shared this story, and I can tell you that it has
9 hurt me a lot too, as I, I was alone, because my husband
10 had already passed.

11 And I remembered my late sister. She was
12 always so nice to me, and she took such good care of me,
13 she visited me often. And one day, she said to me, "Take
14 care of my kids for me, always keep an eye on them." At
15 that time, none of them were married and it was always like
16 that; I've always helped them. Later, when they got
17 married, each time they went through a rough period, I was
18 always there for them. I've helped them throughout their
19 lives.

20 I think God gave me strength and continues
21 to give me strength to do it, and the only person who's
22 above me is God, who watches over me, who takes care of me
23 and who takes care of every one of us. It's He who controls
24 our lives.

25 The burden I'm carrying is still very heavy,

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1 what happened to my sister. But it's God who gives me
2 strength to share my story with you. Even if it hurts me,
3 it's God who comes first.

4 I'm doing okay. My granddaughter is taking
5 care of me. I have many great-grandchildren, Maurice takes
6 care of me, my grandchildren too. Everyone takes very good
7 care of me. Maurice makes sure that I have everything I
8 need, he's always checking up on me, making sure that I'm
9 okay. And I can tell you that yes, I'm doing pretty well in
10 my life now. Sometimes, my leg hurts, I have a bad leg.

11 And today, I can say that I've let it go and
12 the more I talk about it the better I feel, I feel
13 relieved.

14 So, they're now able share this story, they
15 can tell their children what really did happen to their
16 grandma. That's how I see it, and now, I want to thank you
17 for listening to me.

18 **MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** Beatrice, I will
19 have a question for you. Can you - could you let us know a
20 little bit about Kathleen, how you remember her, how she
21 was?

22 **MS. BEATRICE REUBEN TRAPPER:** I don't hear
23 you.

24 **MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** Do you want to put
25 the Cree interpretation? Beatrice, can you hear? Is it okay

1 now?

2 So can you ---

3 **MS. BEATRICE REUBEN TRAPPER:** I'm really
4 deaf.

5 **MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** Can you tell us a
6 little bit about Kathleen, how you remember her, your
7 sister?

8 **MS. BEATRICE REUBEN TRAPPER:** What memories
9 do I have of my sister? I can talk to you about my sister.
10 She was a responsible person. She was always taking care of
11 our parents, she had a lot of respect for our parents.
12 That's how I saw her. I was always helping her, even when
13 her kids were small. We lived in a tent, I was 12 years old
14 and I spent a summer with them, I lived with them when I
15 lived with her children. And she treated me so well and she
16 was like that with everyone. She spoke well of other people
17 and always gave food to others when they were lacking. And
18 that's what I remember, when I was 12. And when she died, I
19 was 27 years old.

20 She was always coming to see my kids, and
21 she'd kiss them, she'd hug them. She was a good cook;
22 that's it, those are my memories of her. I was still in
23 school, and I babysat her kids and one day she said to me -
24 - we didn't have money, we weren't using money and she said
25 to me, "You do so much for me" and she bought me clothes, a

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Beatrice Reuben Trapper
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1 dress, some shoes and a sweater, and that's what I wore to
2 school. That's how she paid me; she gave me big hugs, she
3 said to me, "I love you so much. I really love you."

4 I was a good student. She gave me clothes
5 and I'll never forget what she did for me. She bought me
6 clothes so I could go to school, and when I was growing up,
7 she was always doing nice things for us.

8 Once, my parents left for the territory,
9 they left to go hunting and she came to our place, and she
10 brought some things, some (indiscernible), she gave them to
11 my father and she said "You're going to eat this." They
12 were so happy! He gave her a big hug to thank her.

13 And she did the same for others. She was
14 always preparing food and she'd give it to others. That's
15 how she was. She was really nice, kind. She was always
16 doing something for other people, even when we were in the
17 territory. I saw how she was taking care of her children;
18 she'd make peat bags or moss bags for her babies.

19 She wasn't the type of person to get angry.
20 She was always laughing. And that's what I remember about
21 her, her smile, her laughter, and I miss it so much! There
22 are so many things that I could share, about the type of
23 person she was. Even with her children -- she loved her
24 children so much, she took such good care of them.

25 It's difficult and it's sad, when you lose

1 someone, especially someone who wasn't even sick. It was so
2 sudden. That's what hurts so much. And I know my parents
3 were unhappy about the way she died, that she hadn't been
4 sick, it was something that was done to her and they
5 carried that inside them. They never spoke about it, they
6 kept everything that had happened to their daughter inside,
7 and it caused them a lot of pain. It was very painful for
8 them.

9 My mother left us at the age of 80 and me,
10 I've almost reached that age! I'll be celebrating my
11 birthday this month. I still have a sister, I still have
12 three sisters. There are two sisters, Helen and Francis. We
13 were all girls in my family. My parents didn't have any
14 sons. There were seven of us.

15 **MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** Beatrice, when did
16 you decide to let Maurice and his siblings know what
17 happened to Kathleen and how?

18 **MS. BEATRICE REUBEN TRAPPER:** It's been only
19 two years since I told them. I had never said anything to
20 them when they were young. Even after they got married, I
21 never told them and this was something I carried with me
22 and I always thought, "This is only going to hurt them."

23 My late husband had told me not to talk
24 about it because it was going to hurt them and me, and I
25 believed it. So, I had kept it to myself, I always

1 respected what my husband said to me.

2 But one day, two years ago, we were all
3 together in a circle and it was during an event, in a
4 gathering and we were asked if anyone had been keeping
5 something inside for a long time that was affecting them
6 and the person was asked to share. And I thought, "This is
7 the time to talk about it." And Maurice was there and his
8 brother Allan was there.

9 And yes, it did hurt them when I spoke about
10 what had happened, and Maurice was married at the time, but
11 it was still very painful for him. And there, I finally --
12 I got it off my chest, and it was important for them, it
13 was important for me that they forgive me for having kept
14 it to myself all that time, for having repressed it for all
15 those years. I asked for their forgiveness, I asked them to
16 forgive me for not telling them sooner and for keeping it
17 to myself for such a long time, but I didn't want them to
18 be hurt. And that's how it happened.

19 **MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** Thank you, thank
20 you Beatrice. Maurice, I wanted to ask you if you could
21 share with the Commissioners your mother's story from your
22 perspective?

23 **MR. MAURICE KISTABISH:** In 1967 -- I will
24 speak in French, because the translations, anyway -- I
25 don't want to confuse people if I switch from English to

1 French.

2 I will just speak in French, so it will be no problem for
3 the translators.

4 In 1967, the year, some of you may remember,
5 it was the year of the Expo and at the time it happened,
6 there were eight of us kids: six boys and two girls. And in
7 1967, me, I was 18-19 years old and my brother Oscar was
8 two years older than me, and the other siblings were
9 younger than me. The last two, Allan and Isaac, they don't
10 remember their mother because they were too young.

11 And we weren't yet, let's say, prepared for
12 that, for it to happen. I myself wasn't ready. And
13 probably, if we compare it to what is happening today, the
14 young people today, they're better prepared to deal with
15 these tragedies. Probably also because I spent seven years
16 at a residential school, until the age of 16. So, I only
17 had a couple years to get to know my mother. The seven
18 years I spent at the residential school took me away from
19 my mother. And I was too young as well, to enjoy my
20 mother's presence before I went to the residential school.

21 What I do remember, though, is the love my
22 mother had for her children; that, I felt it, I saw it. She
23 always cared for us despite the lack of financial
24 resources, the little resources they had. She raised us
25 well, just as -- my father too.

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1 Yes! She made the best bannock I have ever tasted.

2 When it happened, as I was saying, we
3 weren't prepared. When they told us she had drowned, we
4 thought "She drowned." It's, when there is a tragedy, a car
5 accident or a drowning, you always tell yourself, "Okay, it
6 happened suddenly, it happened that way."

7 Then, two years ago, it was in 2016, my
8 mother had died in 1967, and I realized my Aunt Beatrice
9 was saying to us, "I need to talk to you, I have to tell
10 you something." It was at least a year, six months, she had
11 been saying to me: "I have to talk to you, I have something
12 to tell you." We, we thought it was -- I don't know,
13 something else.

14 Okay. And then, when she told us, it was a
15 big blow for sure. I collapsed in my chair and the reaction
16 I had, my nose started to bleed; I don't know why, but
17 anyhow. Finally, I found out what she wanted to say, my
18 aunt. And me, like she said, I have married since then.
19 I've been with the same woman for 42 years, I have
20 children, I have seven children. I have 13 grandchildren
21 and I have eight great-grandchildren.

22 So, when I found out, two years ago, I
23 thought -- this was always -- not hidden, but they never
24 told us why she had died. We, we always thought she had
25 drowned, she had drowned, okay. And I remember, my brother

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1 Oscar, we'd go past the river, because our community is on
2 the Harricana River, and we go past the river. And Oscar,
3 he always said, "This is the river that took our mother."
4 That was a long time ago.

5 So, that's how it happened, and right after
6 my aunt opened up, I said to myself, "Oh my God! What am I
7 going to do?" Especially for my kids. You know, in a
8 family, you have a mother, you have a father, and I see the
9 example of my wife and me, I see my children, my
10 grandchildren, my great-grandchildren. It's happiness; it's
11 happiness when -- for them, they love to see their parents,
12 they love to see (Speaking in Native language), they love
13 to see their great-grandfather. It's joy for them. But me,
14 for me, my children did not experience the joy of knowing
15 their grandmother and their great-grandmother too.

16 That's what is hard. What is also hard is
17 the way she died. She was murdered, she was killed. And as
18 they told my aunt, she had a hole in her skull and that's
19 where the -- also, she testified that there were two sets
20 of footprints on each side, shoe prints as if someone was
21 dragging her to the river. So, she was knocked out, she was
22 killed, then they threw her in the river. This is not a
23 drowning; that's the shock, she was murdered, she was
24 killed, now.

25 I went to see a psychologist, I went -- to

1 the clinic. We have a clinic in Pikogan, I went to see
2 those specialists and I said, "How am I going to tell my
3 children?" Because they need to know, even though they know
4 her only through photos. Do they need to know? Because we
5 never told our children, each of my children, how she died.
6 We simply said that she drowned. Even my nieces don't know,
7 because they asked my aunt: "What happened to our
8 grandmother?" That's what they asked. But she was too --
9 she still wasn't sharing what she knew.

10 I don't know how to do it, tell my children.
11 For the good of my children, of my children, should I do as
12 my aunt did for us? I'm not upset with her, my aunt, for
13 what she did; she did it to protect us. She did it so we
14 wouldn't feel pain.

15 But I remember, at the funeral, I couldn't
16 go near the casket, because living without my mother, it
17 was impossible, because she's the one who raised us, she's
18 the one who fed us, she's the one who took care of us. And
19 all the people here, around the room, if we didn't have a
20 mother, we wouldn't be here. So I'm telling you, by the
21 way, everyone here owes nine months of rent! [Laughter]
22 Just kidding, that's the way we speak, Indigenous people,
23 sometimes, to break the tension, for -- sometimes, you have
24 to kid around!

25 The hardest part in all this, is that I

1 don't know how my children are going to take it. It's
2 because they love -- my children love their father very
3 much, they love their parents very much and for them, it's
4 unthinkable that, were we to leave, both of us -- they told
5 us that, anyway. On the other hand, the experience I have
6 had, I can tell you that, between losing a father and a
7 mother, if I had to choose to lose one of them, I would
8 choose to lose my father, then afterward, my mother, if
9 life --

10 After it happened, we were -- as I said,
11 there were eight of us kids, six boys and two girls. And
12 not long after, we were placed here and there; me, I lived
13 with my aunt, at my uncle's house, I had a bit -- it was
14 like that for about two years. We were separated and my
15 sister Agnès (ph), one of my sisters was taking care of the
16 children, her brothers and sisters. You can't ask a young
17 girl to -- she was 16 years old, my sister, my little
18 sister, 15 or 16 years old. She was taking care of her
19 younger brothers and her sister, it was --

20 And me, I left. I kept thinking, losing my
21 mother, it makes no sense in my life. I left my community.
22 For over 15 years I stayed away from my community and I
23 went to stay with my grandparents, my mother's parents, in
24 Matagami. I was in Matagami for five years, where the
25 [inaudible] community is, you go right past it on the way

1 there. I never stopped once in five years, after my mother
2 died.

3 And at a certain point, my father --
4 the trapping ground is closer to Matagami, where I was
5 working. I often went to see my father at his trapping
6 ground. He came to see me in Matagami, but I never went to
7 my community in those five years. At one point, my father
8 said to me: "That's enough, come back home." So, I left my
9 job and I moved. I said, "I work, and I have a family." "We
10 have a job for you." "Okay, but I have a family, I need a
11 house." "We're going to give you a house."

12 And my father was a councillor, he and the
13 Chief were partners in crime, they were two buddies. They
14 arranged for me to have a house, and I already had a job.
15 So I went back. And in the five years that I had been away,
16 I saw that the kids had all grown up -- the young girls,
17 and --

18 In Matagami, I was staying with my
19 grandparents. I saw what they did with me, they always had
20 good intentions towards me. And now I know why, because
21 they knew what had happened. At one point, I had been
22 staying with my grandfather for almost a year, six months,
23 and my grandfather told me "That's enough, you need to
24 start working." Okay, he was acting like my father. That
25 same day, I found a job and I've been working ever since.

1 I started a family, and I went back to my
2 community. The most important, in this, as he said, at the
3 beginning -- my mother was a Cree from Waskaganish, and my
4 father was an Algonquin from Pikogan. When I was young, I
5 remember, I was always with my family on my mother's side,
6 with her family. That's how I learned Cree, because we were
7 living in clans; the Trapper Reuben family was there, the
8 Kistabish family there. That's where I learned Cree, by
9 listening. That's why I speak -- I thanked my mother for
10 that, I thank Beatrice for that, and I thank my father
11 because I learned to speak Algonquin.

12 My mother's presence is always here. Even my
13 sisters -- as you can imagine. Let me tell you something:
14 at the time of the tragedy, my younger brothers Isaac and
15 Allan were playing in the back. You know how brothers are
16 when they're young? They're always bickering, fighting,
17 then one of them inevitably starts crying; I think it was
18 Isaac, the youngest. He was sobbing, he was saying, Mommy!
19 Mommy! She had already left, his mother. And my next-door
20 neighbour heard them, her name was Philomène, she heard
21 them and she thought -- I found out later, she said: "When
22 I heard the little guy sobbing, me too, I started to sob,
23 because the little guy, he will never see his mother
24 again."

25 That's why my aunt, my uncle, my

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Maurice Kistabish and
Beatrice Reuben Trapper
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1 grandparents decided not to tell us how she died; they
2 wanted to protect us. Now, today, was it the right thing to
3 do? Yes and no. But now, it's up to me and Oscar, my
4 brothers, to figure out how to tell our children, each one.

5 We don't want to get together -- because
6 we're four children -- four of Kathleen's children are
7 left, four boys, because recently, the baby of the family
8 died, last summer. In fact, it was the baby of the family,
9 he's the one who blamed me for not telling him what kind of
10 mother she was. Myself, I wasn't able to say what she was
11 like -- I couldn't do it.

12 Okay -- okay, I need to get through this.
13 Because on top of this, she was young -- she was 43 years
14 old. Me, I'll be 70 this month, on March 24. Me, I saw, I
15 was able to see my children grow up, my children were able
16 to know me, my grandchildren have known me -- but not her.
17 She didn't even see her grandchildren, she only got to know
18 her children. And she loved us!

19 Now, it's over -- yes, it's over, but the
20 grief is always there. And now -- I had even -- I need to
21 say things that nobody -- at one point, I said to myself:
22 "I think it may be better if I too left this world,"
23 tendencies -- we often have bizarre thoughts, suicidal
24 tendencies. "Maybe it'd be better if I went?" Then I would
25 remember my children, I always thought of my mother. I

Hearing-Public
Maurice Kistabish and
Beatrice Reuben Trapper
(Kathleen Kistabish Reuben)

21

1 said, she didn't have the luxury, she didn't have the joy
2 of having her children, her grandchildren, so no, I'm going
3 to keep on living for as long as I can.

4 So I decided to live. And I think I will be
5 able to, because I am okay now. I grieve, but I will be
6 able to get through it, with God's help, with the help of
7 whomever, the Creator (Speaking in Native language). Also,
8 I have a wonderful wife; we've been together for 42 years.

9 Two or three years ago, I had a Christmas
10 dinner, I started to count how many of us there were; there
11 were 37 of us. So it's a big family, for my age. [Laughter]
12 That's when I said, okay, I have to keep going! Life is
13 important! Life -- maybe for us, it is not important,
14 sometimes, it is not important, what we're good for, but
15 it's the the children's joy, it's the grandchildren's joy.
16 They love to see you. Everyone is -- it's the feeling.

17 Now, the biggest -- the biggest step I have
18 to take is how to tell my children. So perhaps there's
19 someone here, an expert, the steps I need to take. I don't
20 know yet.

21 I'm going to end there, by telling you that
22 I've taken an important step -- that is, two steps: the
23 story of the residential schools, and my mother's story.
24 Now, I know -- [silence]

25 Thank you -- I thank you for your support. I

1 tell myself, life is so beautiful, and life is too short
2 not to enjoy it. The joy of being a parent, the joy of
3 being a grandfather, the joy of being a great-grandfather,
4 and also the joy of watching your children have fun, when
5 you see the children talking to each other, laughing
6 together, that's this joy that keeps me going. It's that
7 joy that keeps me going, let me tell you; I want to live
8 for another 30 years! [Laughter]

9 I thank you very much. Thank you for your
10 support. Thank you.

11 **MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** Maurice, Beatrice,
12 I want to thank you for joining us here this afternoon to
13 share this, to share the important message, Maurice, that
14 you also shared with us at the end. Thank you for telling
15 us about Kathleen, as well.

16 I was wondering if, before concluding, there
17 is anything else you would like to add?

18 **MS. BEATRICE REUBEN TRAPPER:** [Sound issue] -
19 - one of her children, a girl, she's 10, and then the
20 seven-year-old left home; she wanted to be independent.
21 They were older. There was Maurice and Oscar, who had been
22 placed elsewhere. Mainly, they took care of themselves, and
23 the other boys had been separated, had been placed in
24 different homes. Allan and Noah were placed in different
25 homes; they were placed with relatives, in a Cree home.

1 That's what my father wanted, and that's what they did.
2 They were all placed with Cree families. I kept the girl
3 for 10 years; that's what I wanted to say.

4 **MR. MAURICE KISTABISH:** Perhaps, to add -- at
5 the time, it's because the justice system, it wasn't like
6 it is today. Today, people have to, the justice system,
7 needs to be more -- when there's a --

8 Let me tell you: I know a bit about what's
9 happening in the world, I read a lot, I watch the news a
10 lot. We, Indigenous people, we're like a minority. We're
11 treated like second-class citizens; what happens to an
12 Indian, oh well... that's one less. Indigenous people in
13 Canada are like black people in the United States, black
14 people in Montréal. It would appear that, when this
15 happens, these things, if it had been a non-Indigenous
16 person, there would have been more services. That's what we
17 experience; that's the reality.

18 When I lost my mother, I was part of the
19 labour force for 15 years and, in the outside world, I
20 witnessed the discrimination against me. I was even
21 arrested once. He was the one who provoked me, and I, I
22 reacted, I just responded. When the police came, it was the
23 white man who confronted me, he was the one who --, and
24 when the police came, they picked me up right away, me,
25 they took me away. Why? Because the other one was in the

1 right, and yet the story -- that's not what had happened;
2 he provoked me. Me, I was taught, I was shown to respect
3 people. My father said to me, "Respect -- when someone
4 comes to your home, welcome them, give them some tea, some
5 bannock." That's the respect he taught us. My mother too,
6 that's what she did. She offered food. It's how most
7 Indigenous people are raised. This is how our parents
8 raised us.

9 And when you have to contend with the system
10 in a city, that's not what happens. It appears that there
11 is no respect for the individual. Now, is this going to
12 change? It may have changed a bit, but improvements are
13 still needed. Go anywhere in the city and you see it; me, I
14 see it. Yet, I am a person who speaks to everyone. I'm not
15 shy, I go to see, even -- I'll even take the first steps to
16 connect with a non-Indigenous person. Most -- we,
17 Indigenous people, the non-Indigenous people accuse us of
18 these things: "You, you're always keeping to yourselves."
19 But I'm not like that.

20 This needs to change. We, too, we need to
21 change. If the other has to change, I, too, I need to
22 change. It's by doing this that we need -- what my parents
23 taught me, I put it into practice. That being said,
24 everyone is free to do whatever they want. Now, everyone is
25 free to do what -- it's the freedom of expression, it's

1 freedom, because I know that, some people are perhaps more
2 shy -- I don't know. This discomfort needs to be
3 eliminated, too. If I was --

4 At one time, I wasn't able to speak in front
5 of a mic; I would shake, but I got over it. I think that if
6 I was able to do it, so can you. Yes. You can do it. Thank
7 you very much, the people who are here; may you live well,
8 and continue to enjoy life.

9 Thank you again.

10 **MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** Thank you very much
11 Maurice. If I may, I have one last question. You just
12 mentioned -- you said that things need to improve. Do you
13 have any recommendations that you want to share with us
14 about how to improve? How do you see these improvements?

15 **PAUSE/BREAK**

16 **MS. MOREEN KONWATSITSAWI:** I'm asked to try
17 to check that the cameras are all in sync with the mic.
18 Okay.

19 **MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** So, we'll pick up
20 where we left off.

21 Beatrice, I would like to ask you - you
22 mentioned that when the police came and met with your
23 parents, they said something about tracks. Could you
24 confirm -- could you tell us in more details what exactly
25 the cops said?

1 didn't want to go further, they didn't want an
2 investigation, and they wanted to put an end to it. I
3 remember the pain that struck my parents, but that's what
4 they wanted and we respected their wishes. So the police
5 didn't pursue it any further and simply closed the case.

6 **MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** Thank you,
7 Beatrice. Maurice, so, before the break, you were talking
8 to us about recommendations you wanted to make. So, could
9 you please continue with what you were going to tell us?

10 **MR. MAURICE KISTABISH:** The recommendation
11 that -- I'm used to working in an office, I'm a councillor
12 in my community and the presence of my Chief, David
13 Kistabish, who's here, I really appreciate that he's here
14 and we support one another.

15 As for the recommendations, I'm used to
16 doing that. When there's a break-in or when something
17 happens in the city, be more attentive; the police forces,
18 legal services too, listen to both parties and not just one
19 version over the other. Officers who are cops -- me, I
20 recommend to these people to learn about the history of the
21 Indigenous people in order to know how to react. Because
22 sometimes by knowing a group, by knowing us, Indigenous
23 people, it's another version that you have, as a
24 non-Indigenous person.

25 Because, I will give an example: there is

1 one who is living in our community, his name is Sylvain
2 Nolet. He's living in our community because he is in a
3 common-law relationship with one of the women in our
4 community, and his brother is racist. He told us. It's a
5 lack of understanding in the city. Even if Pikogan, we are
6 connected -- there are some who are still reluctant. But if
7 you go to Val-d'Or, it's another thing -- I don't know.

8 Maybe we, our part, it's to raise awareness
9 in schools, raise awareness when there are activities, be
10 involved in activities. Because discrimination, racism,
11 it's what children learn from their parents. The way
12 children act and behave comes from what they are taught by
13 their parents.

14 Let's be honest: when they treat us like
15 kawish (ph), children, they hear it, they see it. It stays
16 with the young people; when they grow up, they use their
17 parents' words, imitates their parents' actions, their
18 parents' behaviour. We must educate our people from the
19 start.

20 Our role, us, the First Nations, is to make
21 this happen: to give information sessions, know our
22 culture. Just an example: when they say "Indian time,"
23 this, it means, everyone is familiar with this expression
24 which means "relax, it's coming." When you go to a meeting,
25 and someone is late, it's not ideal, but -- we have that,

1 "Indian time." And what do you want us to do? We can't
2 change an entire decade for -- so, it's to know us in this,
3 in what we are.

4 Going back to the tragedy: when my aunt told
5 us about it, I went to speak to some Elders, because I, I
6 also speak Algonquin. I asked them, and right away the
7 answer was: "She was killed, she was murdered"; that was
8 the first thing they said. So people knew about it too;
9 they didn't want to tell us. It was unmissable.

10 I also want to return to another case, my
11 younger brother Allan: there was a tragedy in his case. I
12 just spoke to my brother earlier, and he said, "If mom had
13 been there, it may not have happened," because a mother is
14 always there to care for her children. I'm not blaming this
15 on -- but the usefulness of a mother, that's it, to protect
16 her children.

17 So, just, the Hervieux family, I love them,
18 I'm very fond of them. I'm very fond of the mother, I knew
19 her. Mrs. Hervieux, by the way, she's a good mother. And
20 one more thing: what I want to say to the children, I've
21 seen some children here, the message I have for you is to
22 listen to your parents! That's the recipe for a good and
23 beautiful life. Always listen to your parents -- even when
24 you're grown up. It's the most important lesson. So this is
25 the recipe: listen to your parents! [Laughter] Thank you.

1 **MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** Maurice, I would
2 also maybe, just to clarify one thing: in which community
3 did this tragedy happen? The tragedy ---

4 **MR. MAURICE KISTABISH:** It's true, we
5 completely forgot. My community is about three or four
6 kilometres from the town of Amos and the tragedy occurred -
7 - well there's a place where the Indians used to hang out,
8 a bar. And there was a man, he was called Tarzan; he a was
9 big, strong guy. What he did, he abused our women, abused
10 our mothers; in other words, he *cruised* around, tried to
11 pick up our mothers. And when it didn't work -- her husband
12 would always defend her. More often than not, the husband
13 would take quite a beating because of Tarzan, because he
14 couldn't have her, in other words.

15 When my aunt told us that, my brother Oscar
16 wasn't there, I told him and he said -- right away he named
17 the two suspects. We know the two suspects. But the problem
18 is that these two suspects are not longer around, they're
19 dead now. So --

20 **MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** Can you clarify for
21 us -- really, the community, I didn't understand where it
22 was, exactly?

23 **MR. MAURICE KISTABISH:** The community I'm
24 from is called the community of Pikogan, we are
25 Abitibiwinis (ph). It's an Algonquin community and the

1 reason my aunt is here, it's because in this community,
2 there are a lot of people who were originally from
3 Waskaganish. My mother was originally from Waskaganish, and
4 another, the Diamond family, if you know Billy Diamond, the
5 one who signed the James Bay Agreement -- 40% of the
6 population comes from that family, the Diamonds. Me, I
7 don't come from that family; we, we're the Reuben family
8 (Speaking in Native language). And there's another family,
9 the Trappers, the Frank family. Let's just say that it's
10 very -- we even have a Vincent Sioui with us! [Laughter]
11 We're very -- we have a good mix of people.

12 And it's typically -- as a community, we're
13 a special community. We speak Algonquin, we speak French,
14 we speak English and we speak Cree. And there's also
15 Atikamekw. It's very -- that's what's great. Especially
16 Vincent Sioui, he's a specialist -- I think he has a PhD,
17 I'm not sure. It's good to have him. We adopted him right
18 away! [Laughter] The Pikogan community is an Algonquin
19 community which is located three or four kilometres from
20 the town of Amos, which has a population of roughly 30,000.

21 And we have a good relationship with these
22 people, for example, I mean today, which wasn't the case in
23 those years, in the years of the tragedy. There was always
24 some form of discrimination happening then. But there is
25 less now. We even inter-marry and we play together. I can

1 say that we have a good relationship with the
2 non-Indigenous town. Anything else?

3 **MS. MARIE-AUDREY GIRARD:** No, that's great. I
4 want to take the time to thank you; thank you for being
5 here with us today. Before concluding, I would like to
6 leave the floor to the Commissioners, if there are
7 questions.

8 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Do you want to
9 go first?

10 **COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON:** Thank you.
11 Thank you, Beatrice. Thank you, Maurice.

12 I just have one question. In 1967, what was
13 the police force in Pikogan like at that time?

14 **MR. MAURICE KISTABISH:** You mean SQ, or
15 municipal? What kind of police there was? SQ.

16 **COMMISSAIRE QAJAQ ROBINSON:** Thank you.
17 And I think, Beatrice, you already said
18 this, but when your parents said to the police they didn't
19 want it to be investigated further, the police listened?

20 **MS. BEATRICE REUBEN TRAPPER:** It caused them
21 a great deal of suffering, because they were told how
22 brutally she had died. They said, "Well okay, we lost her,
23 she lost her life," so that's how they saw it. So the
24 police respected my parents' wishes because they were old
25 too.

1 What I think -- her life is gone. Just leave
2 it at that. So they didn't investigate because they were
3 old (Speaking in Native language).

4 Because my parents, they were really hurt.
5 They just want to leave it like that. I was thankful, but
6 still it was inside of me all these years. So I let it out
7 two years ago, but it's still there.

8 So he's talking about his brother Allan. He
9 came to me last summer and he talked about his mother. I
10 know he kept it all these years. So that's why I let it go,
11 let it come out. So I talked to him. He came over at my
12 house. I think he was five or six, seven years old at that
13 time. And the youngest was five years old, Isaac. He
14 passed away this summer. So my parents, they left it like
15 that, but we still - we couldn't - I couldn't able myself
16 to tell him about exactly how the mother died and all that.
17 It was just too painful. I was young at that time too. I
18 had a lot of children with me. I appreciate it. I let it
19 out myself.

20 **COMMISSIONER QAJAQ ROBINSON:** Thank you and
21 thank you for sharing it with us, both of you. Thank you,
22 thank you very much.

23 **COMMISSIONER BRIAN EYOLFSON:** Thank you.

24 I don't have any more questions. I just want
25 to say thank you, Maurice, Beatrice, for coming here and

1 telling us what happened to Kathleen and telling us a bit
2 about her and sharing that with us all here today and
3 talking about -- telling us about your family and how
4 you've dealt with that. I just really appreciate you coming
5 and participating and letting us all know. So miigwetch.

6 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Thank you very
7 much. Thank you very much to Counsel Girard for all the
8 questions; it clarified a lot, and obviously, my colleague,
9 Ms. Robinson, who is also a friend, thank you very much.
10 Thank you Brian.

11 It was -- I saw a lot of courage, to have
12 dealt with this all these years, 47 years! And seeing not
13 only the resilience, but the forgiveness, too, from
14 Maurice, the willingness to understand how Beatrice could
15 have lived this, this is a life lesson you taught us. It's
16 a life lesson and I have a lot of respect.

17 So, I want to say a huge thank you to you.
18 The work we do, it's not even work any more, it's a
19 passion; we're here with you and we will continue to walk
20 beside you during this historic inquiry, this great
21 commission.

22 There are also five little people dear to me
23 who are supporting me: my children who barely see their
24 mother, who see their mother more through FaceTime. They
25 came here today to tell you they are with you. My daughter

1 said to me, "I carry them in my heart, Mom, and I'm okay
2 with sharing my Mom with all these survivors and all these
3 families."

4 So, on behalf of my family, and my
5 colleagues and particularly the National Inquiry team, we
6 would like to offer you a gift, if you accept? (Speaking in
7 Native language)

8 **(GIVING OF GIFT)**

9 **MS. LAUREEN "BLU" WATERS-GAUDIO:** (Speaking
10 in Native language)

11 Your strength and your courage is much like
12 this gift. These feathers came from a community member
13 here, this particular community, and he is from
14 Restigouche. He went to his house because we ran out of
15 feathers and he disassembled one of his sacred items to
16 gift to the families. That's how much the Inquiry and the
17 people who come and support it love our people, because
18 we're so grateful that we hear your story and we understand
19 you, and we want to make recommendations to stop our women
20 and girls, trans into spirit from being murdered and going
21 missing.

22 This - what's the word - this routine that
23 we do here with the feathers originated in British
24 Columbia, and the matriarchs of the families out there
25 decided they were going to do this for the Inquiry. So they

1 sent hundreds of feathers, hundreds that people donated and
2 collected so they could be given to the families. So these
3 feathers can take your prayer to the Creator because that
4 eagle is the one that flies the highest. So they started
5 this tradition and we are carrying it on.

6 We'll be returning to Vancouver, and what I
7 hear already is there's 200-300 feathers waiting to gift to
8 the families because they feel your pain. They understand
9 your story and they want to help you with your journey. So
10 that's what these feathers represent, as well as they have
11 some seeds for you to plant in the ground, and when they
12 grow, you see the beauty, because we see the beauty of your
13 family member that you explained to us. So these will be a
14 tribute to hear, these flowers and these plants that will
15 grow.

16 So they're going to offer you this as a
17 thank you. It's only a small gift, but we can never give
18 you as much as you would need to take away the pain, but we
19 hope through this offering, this eagle feather and these
20 seeds will help you on the next part of your journey.

21 So for this I say miigwetch, hai-hai to your
22 family.

23 (SHORT PAUSE)

24 MS. MOREEN KONWATSITSAWI: So, (translating
25 self) thank you everyone. We are going to stop for lunch.

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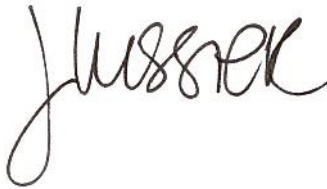
1 Lunch is served, most people have already eaten. So,
2 please, we will take about 30 minutes. I know it's a little
3 quick, but we do have a long day and we have another family
4 coming in. There is another family coming to testify, and
5 it's very important that we allow everybody to eat. It's
6 very important to eat, and there are many glasses of water
7 as well, please, drink water! [Laughter] So, please take
8 care of yourself and we'll be back in 30 minutes. Thank
9 you. 30 minutes. (Speaking in Native language)

10

11 --- Upon adjourning at 13:46

LEGAL DICTA-TYPIST'S CERTIFICATE*

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julie Lussier', with a large, stylized initial 'J'.

Julie Lussier

May 22, 2018

* This certificate refers to the original transcript in French.