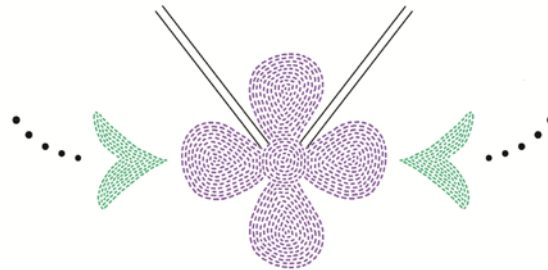


National Inquiry into
Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women and Girls



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

**National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women and Girls
Truth-Gathering Process – Part 1
Statement Gathering
Hôtel Bonaventure
Montreal, Quebec**



PUBLIC

March 14, 2018

Public Volume 296

**Cécile Ottawa, Manon Ottawa & Lucie Quitich Ottawa, in relation
to Maxime**

Heard by Daria Boyarchuk

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& Lucie Quitich Ottawa

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Heard by:
Daria Boyarchuk

List of exhibits: none.

1 Montreal, Quebec

2 --- Upon commencing on Wednesday, March 14, 2018, at 9:53
3 a.m.

4 **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** Hello, my name is Daria
5 Boyarchuk and I'm hearing private testimonies for the
6 National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women
7 and Girls. We're in Montreal, at the Hôtel Bonaventure, on
8 March 14, 2018. It's 9:53 a.m., and we're starting with a
9 private hearing for Ms. Cécile Ottawa's testimony about a
10 baby who went missing from the hospital. His name is
11 Maxime... His last name, is it... Maxime?

12 **MS. CÉCILE OTTAWA:** Uh, Cécile Ottawa.
13 Ottawa.

14 **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** Yes. OK. Perfect. But
15 we'll introduce...

16 **MS. MANON OTTAWA:** Manon Ottawa. I'm Cécile's
17 niece.

18 **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** Thank you. OK.

19 **MS. LUCIE QUITICH OTTAWA:** Lucie Quitich
20 Ottawa. *(Gesturing to Cécile)* My sister-in-law.

21 **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** OK, your sister-in-law.
22 Thank you.

23 **UNIDENTIFIED PERSON:** *(Indiscernible)* Ottawa.
24 My sister-in-law, Cécile.

25 **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** Thank you.

1 **MR. EDWARD CHILTON:** Edward Chilton,
2 translator-interpreter.

3 **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** Thank you.

4 **MR. GILBERT NIQUAY:** Gilbert Niquay,
5 counselor and helper.

6 **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** Thank you. OK, thanks
7 for the introductions. Now, Cécile, we're ready for you to
8 start your testimony. As I explained earlier, just tell
9 your story and speak freely, and then...

10 **MS. CÉCILE OTTAWA:** [*Note: Ms. Ottawa speaks*
11 *in Atikamekw and the words transcribed here are the*
12 *translation provided by the interpreter, Mr. Edward*
13 *Chilton.*]: Hello. My little brother Maxime was... You could
14 say lost, because he got sick.

15 **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** And was it...

16 **MS. CÉCILE OTTAWA:** Eczema. It was eczema.

17 **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** Eczema, OK. And can you
18 tell us his last name? And his date of birth, if you have
19 it.

20 **MS. CÉCILE OTTAWA:** It was February...
21 January 30! January 30, 1954.

22 **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** 54, OK. And how old was
23 he when he went to the hospital?

24 **MS. CÉCILE OTTAWA:** Six.

25 **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** Six months, OK. Six

1 months, and what's the name of the hospital?

2 **MS. CÉCILE OTTAWA:** La Tuque.

3 **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** La Tuque. Is it Saint-
4 Joseph Hospital, in La Tuque?

5 **MS. CÉCILE OTTAWA:** Yes.

6 **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** OK. Thank you. Please
7 go on.

8 **MS. CÉCILE OTTAWA:** My parents never heard
9 about him again. The only thing they were told was that he
10 had been moved, transferred to another hospital. But which
11 hospital? They weren't told anything. (*Indiscernible*) about
12 him being transferred. After that, they never heard
13 anything more.

14 **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** OK, and was it the
15 parents who went to the hospital to ask the doctors? And
16 was it the doctors who confirmed that he had been
17 transferred, or...? How did it happen?

18 **MS. CÉCILE OTTAWA:** The child was transferred
19 alone. Nobody was with him: neither of his parents, nor any
20 other Atikamekw person. And they heard he had been
21 transferred to Quebec City.

22 **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** To Quebec City.

23 **MS. CÉCILE OTTAWA:** I was 11 when my little
24 brother was moved. Transferred.

25 **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** So do you know how much

1 time they spent at the hospital in La Tuque? How long, how
2 many months or days...

3 **MS. CÉCILE OTTAWA:** After a year. He was in
4 the hospital in La Tuque, after that he was transferred to
5 Quebec City.

6 **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** A year? Twelve months?
7 *(Whispers)*.

8 **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** Do you have the death
9 certificate?

10 **MR. EDWARD CHILTON:** No. That's what she said
11 earlier, that they didn't get a slip. Not a slip, but... a
12 death certificate.

13 **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** Oh, OK.

14 **MS. CÉCILE OTTAWA:** And did you ask someone
15 in the family? Did you ask to see the medical record? Or
16 something... no?

17 **MS. MANON OTTAWA:** No. Not yet. We took some
18 steps to get the death certificate. The birth certificate
19 to confirm that Maxime really existed.

20 **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** Yes.

21 **MS. MANON OTTAWA:** We found his baptism
22 certificate. So Maxime was born in Amos on January 30,
23 1954. He was...

24 **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** '44 or '54?

25 **MS. MANON OTTAWA:** 1954. He was baptized on

1 January 31, 1954. He was confirmed on July 28, 1954, in La
2 Tuque.

3 MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: Confirmed in La Tuque,
4 OK. Was that the day he was admitted to the hospital?

5 MS. MANON OTTAWA: Yes.

6 MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: OK. Did his parents...
7 Did his parents take him to the hospital?

8 MS. MANON OTTAWA: No.

9 MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: OK, he went alone.

10 MS. MANON OTTAWA: Yes, the Manawan priest
11 took him. Father [J-M. H.] got the baby evacuated. He sent
12 him to the hospital because he had eczema on his face.

13 MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: Who is he exactly?

14 MS. MANON OTTAWA: [J-M. H.].

15 MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: [J-M.] and his last
16 name?

17 MS. MANON OTTAWA: [H].

18 MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: [H.] ... can you just...

19 MS. MANON OTTAWA: [*Spelling the last name*].

20 MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: [*Spelling the last*
21 *name*].

22 MS. MANON OTTAWA: [*Spelling the last name*].

23 MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: OK, I'll ask you to
24 confirm it afterwards. (*Laughs*). OK, that's fine. Thank
25 you. So you never received the death certificate. And

1 that's since 1954.

2 *(Whispers).*

3 **MR. EDWARD CHILTON:** She says her little
4 brother Maxime was gone for two years. And she used to
5 wonder if he would ever come back.

6 **MS. CÉCILE OTTAWA** *(still speaking in*
7 **Atikamekw)**: Sometimes I would think, "My little brother,
8 when he left, maybe he was stolen, kidnapped. Or maybe he
9 was sold by the one who sent him to the hospital." We never
10 got anything back, like the *tikinagan* or his personal
11 items. We don't know where any of his things ended up.
12 That's why sometimes I think that my little brother is
13 alive. And sometimes I think that if he is alive, we should
14 know if he is. At the beginning, when it started, it was my
15 sisters-in-law who talked about it at first. They said
16 maybe we should try to track him down. And my brother,
17 Henri Ottawa, he told his daughter Manon she should try to
18 do something to track down Maxime again.

19 **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** And who is Henri
20 Ottawa? Who is Henri Ottawa?

21 **MS. CÉCILE OTTAWA:** My brother Henri Ottawa;
22 he asked his daughter Manon, here, to keep trying to look
23 for Maxime.

24 **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** Was this recently?

25 **MS. MANON OTTAWA:** It was before he died, in

1 2011. In 2010!

2 **MR. EDWARD CHILTON:** 2010, yes.

3 **MS. MANON OTTAWA:** A few weeks before he
4 died. One week.

5 **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** And Manon, have you
6 done anything to...

7 **MS. MANON OTTAWA:** I started looking into it.
8 I only knew Maxime because he was my father's brother, but
9 that's it. Yes, I didn't know him. He was sick and he had
10 been taken away. That's all I knew. I started doing some
11 research in 2015.

12 **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** What did you do
13 exactly?

14 **MS. MANON OTTAWA:** I asked people about him,
15 I asked my aunts. Because I didn't know anything about
16 Maxime at that point. Just his name and that he was my
17 uncle. So I started doing some research, asking my aunts
18 some questions. What year was he born? What did he have,
19 where was he born? What hospital was he brought to? And
20 that's what I did to begin with. After that I searched
21 through the registry at the presbytery.

22 **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** OK.

23 **MS. MANON OTTAWA:** I didn't find anything
24 about my uncle there. His name wasn't in the registry.

25 **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** The registry at the

1 presbyt...

2 **MS. MANON OTTAWA:** The presbytery, yes.

3 **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** Ah. Where?

4 **MS. MANON OTTAWA:** In Manawan, in Manawan.

5 All my aunts, uncles, they...

6 **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** The others are all in
7 it?

8 **MS. MANON OTTAWA:** Yes. Their date of birth,
9 of confirmation, everything. It was all in there. Even the
10 date of death of one of my uncles who died in a hunting
11 accident. But Maxime's name wasn't listed. So that made me
12 wonder why his name wasn't on the list. When I started
13 looking into it, my cousin Gérald went to look at the
14 registry in La Tuque. And that's when he found the
15 information, the baptism certificate, in La Tuque. Wemo,
16 his certificate was in Wemotaci.

17 **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** Which certificate
18 exactly?

19 **MS. MANON OTTAWA:** Baptism certificate.
20 *(Whispers).*

21 **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** You have the
22 certificate? A copy of the certificate?

23 **MS. MANON OTTAWA:** Yes, yes, I have his
24 certificate.

25 **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** Do you have it with

1 MS. MANON OTTAWA: Just, yes. Just the

2 (*Indiscernible*).

3 (*Whispers*).

4 MS. MANON OTTAWA: My father used to say,
5 "I've never known anyone to die from eczema." I know that
6 he had told me about my niece. My niece had the same thing,
7 and he said, "But that's what my little brother had. He had
8 eczema."

9 MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: On uh (*Indiscernible*).

10 MS. MANON OTTAWA: Yes, that's right.

11 MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: I have a question for
12 Ms. Cécile, you probably know. Did the parents, your
13 parents, visit Maxime at the hospital during the year he
14 was in La Tuque? Were there any visits? Was there anything?

15 MS. CÉCILE OTTAWA: No, I'm not aware of them
16 having gone there to visit.

17 UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: There was no way to...

18 MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: To go there.

19 UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: To go there. There were
20 no means of communication either.

21 MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: Yeah.

22 UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: That's why the parents
23 never went.

24 MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: I understand.

25 MS. CÉCILE OTTAWA: What happened back then

1 is that people were evacuated from the community by plane.
2 And we couldn't go with them because either there wasn't
3 enough room on the plane or we just weren't allowed to go
4 with them.

5 **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** And where were you? You
6 weren't living in La Tuque then. Where did you live?

7 **MS. CÉCILE OTTAWA:** Manawan.

8 **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** In Manawan, OK. Thank
9 you. OK.

10 **MS. MANON OTTAWA:** It was always my sister-
11 in-law who babysat my brother. Whenever my parents left, it
12 was always my sister-in-law Lucie who babysat. Lucie
13 Quitich. My hope for today is that the work that was
14 started continues. It can't stop here. Since the door is
15 open, I want to keep working, researching, so that it
16 doesn't happen again one day. Because a lot of people are
17 involved at the moment. That's why we have to keep going,
18 not give up. We have to continue talking about it. So that
19 the Indigenous names aren't always... Say involved, or that
20 they do more than they have done to us in the past. That
21 is, the children who were stolen or kidnapped you could
22 say. So that it doesn't happen again, reoccur.

23 **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** It reoccurs, it still
24 (*Indiscernible*)?

25 **MS. CÉCILE OTTAWA:** Yes. So it doesn't happen

1 to children again, so that the door doesn't close. So that
2 the work continues.

3 **MR. EDWARD CHILTON:** You wanted to know if
4 it's still happening, or if there's something else to tell,
5 or what?

6 **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** Well, if you want to
7 keep going, yes, I have questions for you too. Like how do
8 you think the Inquiry's commissioner can help you in your
9 process? What would you prefer, what's your advice, how can
10 we, the Commission, help you? To track down what happened
11 to Maxime and all the other babies who went missing during
12 those years?

13 *(Speaking in Atikamekw).*

14 **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** Can you translate what
15 she just said?

16 **MR. EDWARD CHILTON:** The lady asked her the
17 question, what did she want to ask from the Commission?
18 What was she hoping for?

19 **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** What requests.

20 **MS. MANON OTTAWA:** What hope there was. And
21 Manon told her that it's like what they talked about
22 yesterday: they want help. And Gilbert said... It's the
23 same thing, said differently, but the same thing. To
24 explain the question a bit better.

25 **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** Yes. Thank you.

1 **MR. EDWARD CHILTON:** I'll ask the question.

2 (*Asks the question in Atikamekw*). So I'll repeat the
3 question: I asked her, so that she understands properly,
4 what does she want to get out of this? What does she want
5 the Commission to do for her, to help her in her process?

6 **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** Thank you.

7 **MS. MANON OTTAWA:** (*Speaks in Atikamekw with*
8 *Cécile*). I was telling her. Because... For our family,
9 Maxime's family, it's been hard to get the documents from
10 the hospital. And we would like for the Commission to help
11 us get the documents and help us find out the truth about
12 what happened to baby Maxime. Because there is still... My
13 grandmother died, and there are still questions. She never
14 talked about it, but I saw her cry. I always saw her cry.
15 Why was she crying? I don't know. But today, I understand
16 her. I think of how hard it must have been. It's hard for
17 me, because I have two children and... I can't imagine
18 being told that my baby died in hospital and not being able
19 to go get him, to go see him. But we want to get... That's
20 why I want to get answers. We want to get answers. She
21 wants to get answers. She sleeps with that, the questions
22 she has. This morning she told me, "I thought about it
23 yesterday. (*Indiscernible*) what happened to my little
24 brother?" She sleeps with all these questions. And so do my
25 aunt and I. It's inhumane. I can't imagine it. I have

1 children and... It's hard on them, it had to be hard on
2 them, too. And we want the Commission to help us find some
3 answers. To find answers and, if my uncle is alive, to find
4 him. We want there to be a DNA databank to help the
5 children doing research.

6 **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** The children who went
7 missing, yes. And how do you think we could commemorate
8 baby Maxime and all the other babies that were taken away
9 like that? How can we honour them? The Commission can help
10 you commemorate their story, what happened. How do you
11 think you could, I don't know how...

12 **MS. MANON OTTAWA:** Of course...

13 **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** A ceremony, do you
14 think a ceremony for all the babies? Because every day,
15 it's the third day here in Montreal and... We're hearing
16 the same story in each testimony, the same story about what
17 happened in that hospital during those years, and it
18 continues and it's...

19 **MS. MANON OTTAWA:** (Indiscernible). It's very
20 powerful like... (indiscernible).

21 **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** Yes. Like a ceremony to
22 give a voice to all the children? What would you prefer,
23 Cécile?

24 **MS. CÉCILE OTTAWA:** How could we commemorate
25 the children who went missing? It would be nice to have a

1 commemorative plaque in our community to teach the next
2 generation of children about what happened. The plaque
3 would be there so that everyone can see it and know what
4 happened to the children who went missing. Some children
5 were sold, especially in the Manawan community, Father [H.]
6 did a lot to get the children sold.

7 **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** Yes.

8 **MS. CÉCILE OTTAWA:** Like she says, it was
9 like child trafficking. Because Father [H.] made money off
10 of that. He sold children to non-Indigenous people.

11 **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** Do you know if it's...
12 I'm sorry, go on. I'll ask my question after.

13 **MS. CÉCILE OTTAWA:** Maybe that's how we could
14 have a commemorative plaque for those children.

15 **UNIDENTIFIED PERSON:** Because there are
16 several Manawan mothers who lost their children in Amos. At
17 the same time, we could put them together. In the
18 commemoration. Because a lot of children went missing. When
19 the mother gave birth, right away the others... The other
20 children... Gone... So commemorations, include all the
21 children of Manawan in a commemoration.

22 **MS. CÉCILE OTTAWA:** What could be done right
23 away, now, is to prepare a traditional ceremony in honour
24 of the children who went missing or were taken. And it
25 would be for all the children of the Manawan community who

1 are missing or were stolen or sold. It would be, right now,
2 as soon as possible, holding that ceremony in memory of the
3 children who are missing. Because there are many.

4 **MS. MANON OTTAWA:** When we talk about... We
5 don't have a death certificate. If you don't have a death
6 certificate, right away that makes it a case of
7 disappearance. That's how it is for anyone. It's the same
8 for (*Indiscernible*), too. The memory. Nobody, in the list
9 we have, a two-page list. There are babies who died and
10 nobody got a death certificate for any of the babies who
11 died in Amos (*Indiscernible*). They're all cases of
12 disappearance. There are even parents who died on the list
13 we have. Many parents -fathers, mothers- died and they
14 never received the death certificate of their child who was
15 on the list of all the children. I'm talking about the
16 children who were, if I may say so, buried in mass graves.
17 But we don't know if the children were actually buried in
18 the mass grave. They're on the list, but we don't know if
19 they really died, we don't know. Because we never got a
20 death certificate for those children. They're all cases of
21 disappearance.

22 **UNIDENTIFIED PERSON:** Even people who had
23 given birth, or mourned. They had passed (*Indiscernible*)
24 death certificate (*Indiscernible*).

25 **MS. MANON OTTAWA:** The commemorative ceremony

1 that you mentioned, it could be nice to do a type of...

2 **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** Yes, I wonder if...

3 Doing something like that for all the children. So that the
4 families can participate by writing names and everything,
5 yes. I think that's a good idea, too.

6 **MS. MANON OTTAWA:** I had already asked. I'm
7 part of a prayer group in Manawan. I'm part of a pastoral
8 committee. And I had talked about holding a mass for these
9 children. And the priest had said, "We're not going to talk
10 about the children who died, because we don't know if they
11 died. We'll talk about the children who are missing."
12 Because he also always... He's not sure that those children
13 died. So he said, "We'll hold a mass for all the children
14 who went missing."

15 **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** Missing, yes. And
16 another thing I wanted to ask: You spoke about the father
17 who stole, who sold the children. Do you know if anything
18 ever happened with the complaints, the investigation,
19 everything that happened when the Manawan police... Did
20 anything come of it? Do you want the Commission to help you
21 and the other families? By pursuing these investigations?

22 **MS. MANON OTTAWA:** Yes.

23 **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** That way, we can
24 identify the man in the media. Say his name so that we can
25 just give... Yes, it's not a commemorative ceremony, but

1 it's like an acknowledgement that that man, he was the one
2 who...

3 **MS. MANON OTTAWA:** He keeps getting brought
4 up in the hearings, yes.

5 **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** Yes, hearing, yes.

6 **MS. MANON OTTAWA:** Maybe it's time to
7 investigate his (*words in Atikamekw*).

8 **MR. EDWARD CHILTON:** Father [J-M. H.] already
9 died.

10 **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** Yes. Oh well...

11 **MR. EDWARD CHILTON:** It would be good to...

12 **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** Even so, yes.

13 **UNIDENTIFIED PERSON:** Start (*Indiscernible*)
14 before, if there really are a lot of dead people...

15 (*Laughs*)

16 **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** We can do a posthumous
17 investigation, of course.

18 (*General approval*).

19 **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** And after we're done,
20 you'll announce the name of this man? Father... We'll write
21 his name, his last name. OK?

22 **MS. MANON OTTAWA:** We'll do a declaration for
23 the name, it's just a name...

24 **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** Oh you can just give
25 the... yes. I'll give you a paper. We can do that, too, and

1 I'd like to see a copy of the certificate. I'll make a copy
2 and you can keep the original. Is there anything else you
3 want to share this morning?

4 **UNIDENTIFIED PERSON:** (*Indiscernible*) lived
5 in (*Indiscernible*) wasn't able to go out because we had a
6 photo, for what there was...

7 **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** Oh (*Indiscernible*),
8 yes.

9 **UNIDENTIFIED PERSON:** Yes. Just to...

10 **MS. MANON OTTAWA:** Because...

11 **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** If you have something
12 like... If you have photos, documents, surely we can make
13 copies.

14 **MS. MANON OTTAWA:** But the picture I have
15 here, it isn't the picture of baby Henri.

16 (*Laughs in the room*).

17 **MS. MANON OTTAWA:** Maxime! Because I have a
18 grandson named Henri.

19 **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** I taught so!

20 (*Laughs in the room*).

21 **MS. MANON OTTAWA:** But it's a picture... I
22 looked it up on Google. And I showed it to my aunts, and
23 asked what type of eczema the baby had when he was taken
24 away. She pointed out a picture. I don't know if it can
25 give you an idea of what baby Henri had. Baby Henri, I

1 didn't mean baby Henri! Baby Maxime.

2 *(Whispers in the room).*

3 **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** OK. No, but that's
4 good.

5 **UNIDENTIFIED PERSON:** And I think that...
6 *(Indiscernible)*. Simple *(Indiscernible)* still.
7 *(Indiscernible)*.

8 **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** Oh, thank you. It
9 isn't...

10 **MS. MANON OTTAWA:** It isn't baby Henri. Uh,
11 baby Maxime! It's just a picture I found when I looked up
12 what kind of eczema baby Maxime had. My aunt pointed this
13 out. She said he was like this. He just had a little,
14 like...

15 **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** OK.

16 **MS. MANON OTTAWA:** Not the whole face, just
17 the cheek.

18 **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** Yes. Can I show the
19 Commissioner, just in front of the cameras? Just... This
20 picture here. OK. Here, Manon showed us... This isn't a
21 picture of baby Maxime, but it's a generic picture of a
22 baby with eczema on its face. Thank you. Thank you, Manon.
23 Is there anything else you would like to say? Would you
24 like us to say a prayer? We can say a prayer after? With
25 the grandmothers in our room over there, if you wish? The

1 small circle.

2 **UNIDENTIFIED PERSON:** (*Indiscernible*).

3 **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** Oh, OK! (*Laughs*). Yes,
4 if you want, we can do that here on camera, and after we
5 can do it (*Indiscernible*), too. As you wish, whatever you
6 want. We can say the prayer, too, if you want.

7 (*Speaking in Atikamekw*). (*Laughs*).

8 **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** I understood what she
9 said!

10 **MS. CÉCILE OTTAWA:** We can pray everywhere.
11 (*Speaking in Atikamekw*).

12 **MS. MANON OTTAWA:** (*Pointing to Lucie*)
13 Because she's the one who used to take care of baby Henri,
14 and then of Cécile.

15 **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** Oh, it was you! You
16 used to take care of...

17 **MR. EDWARD CHILTON:** Baby Maxime, not Henri.

18 **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** Yes, yes, yes. I'm just
19 going to direct the camera toward you. There. What do you
20 remember about baby Maxime? Would you like to share with
21 us? Your memories...

22 **MR. EDWARD CHILTON:** I can't really
23 understand what she's saying, but... Bring the mic closer
24 and... Because I can't really understand her either.

25 **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** Oh. Did you understand?

1 MS. MANON OTTAWA: I'll translate.

2 MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: I'm sorry, *tu, vous!*

3 (*Laughs*). I've started using *tu** for everyone now. You can
4 translate, that's fine. I'm sorry. Thank you very much.
5 What was baby Maxime like? What do you remember about him?

6 MS. LUCIE QUITICH OTTAWA [*speaking in*
7 *Atikamekw, translated by Ms. Manon Ottawa*]: Baby Maxime was
8 born on January 30, in Amos. Julie, my mother-in-law,
9 brought him to Manawan. I helped her take care of her baby.
10 I took care of him; I slept with him. Two months after they
11 came back to Manawan, my mother-in-law and Maxime went
12 hunting and trapping out in the woods and I took care of
13 their baby and their children, Henri and the younger ones.
14 I took care of the baby and bathed him. I was taking care
15 of their baby and I started seeing a sore. I asked my
16 mother-in-law, when they were back in Manawan, I asked why
17 the baby had...

18 MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: Yes, red, yes.

19 MS. LUCIE QUITICH OTTAWA [*speaking in*
20 *Atikamekw, translated by Ms. Manon Ottawa*]: She told me
21 there must have been something that was causing her baby to
22 have...

23 MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK: What was your age? How
24 old were you then?

25 MS. LUCIE QUITICH OTTAWA: I was 20. I didn't

1 have children right after getting married. So I took care
2 of my little brother's baby. I took care of that baby like
3 he was my own baby. I took very good care of him; it was
4 like he was my own baby. Even when my mother-in-law was
5 there, I took care of her baby. When she did her chores,
6 the cleaning, I took care of the baby. When the baby's
7 condition got worse, his mother took him to the dispensary.
8 The dispensary was by the lake. It was made of log. And
9 that's where my mother-in-law brought her baby. And they
10 gave her creams to put on his cheek. But I put the cream on
11 all the time, and it didn't help, his condition just got
12 worse. In the spring, around May... July, Father [H.] came
13 to see us and said that he was going to send the baby to
14 the hospital in La Tuque. He called the plane to come get
15 the baby. We brought him to the shore... That is, baby
16 Maxime's mother brought him to the lake shore for him to
17 take the plane. Because parents weren't allowed to go with
18 their children. So they sent the baby on its own on the
19 plane, in its tikinagan, its baby carrier. The baby was
20 flown out by himself in the plane, and someone picked him
21 up in La Tuque. I don't know where. There were no phones.
22 It's like a telegram.

23 **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** Did you find one?

24 **MR. EDWARD CHILTON:** They used a telegram to
25 communicate because there were no phones in the community.

1 **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** OK. Was this the
2 Catholic priest?

3 **MS. MANON OTTAWA:** Yes. (*Speaking in*
4 *Atikamekw*).

5 **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** And you'll give me the
6 name afterwards.

7 **MS. LUCIE QUITICH OTTAWA:** When the baby was
8 in La Tuque, we couldn't get any news about him, because we
9 didn't have a phone and there was no road to go to La
10 Tuque.

11 **MR. EDWARD CHILTON:** Ms. Cécile said earlier:
12 since there were no means of communication, or phones, they
13 used a telegram system. But when there was an evacuation, a
14 plane would come pick up the evacuee. That's what happened
15 with baby Maxime. He was evacuated by plane. But there was
16 another way, too. But it was extremely slow. There was a
17 member who had a big boat. People who wanted to go visit
18 patients at the hospital in La Tuque would take that boat
19 and go toward *Casy*. To get to *Casy*, there was a caterpillar
20 tractor that would take the people from the dock to *Casy*.
21 From *Casy*, they could take the train. It took a very long
22 time. At least three days to get to La Tuque. Those were
23 the means of communication they had at the time.

24 **MS. LUCIE QUITICH OTTAWA:** When I... I
25 couldn't ask about the baby, because there were no phones.

1 And there was no road either. And... The only time I heard
2 about Maxime, was when I asked... It kind of stayed...
3 After Maxime died, we couldn't do anything. The parents
4 couldn't go ask for the papers. They couldn't go ask to see
5 the body. They couldn't ask to go see the body, because
6 there was no phone. There was no way of getting to Quebec
7 City. Quebec to Manawan was a long trip. There was no road,
8 they couldn't, travel was very limited.

9 **MS. MANON OTTAWA:** And afterwards, when I
10 asked... When my father asked me to look into it, I had
11 called him and that's when all the questions about the
12 death started coming up again.

13 **MS. LUCIE QUITICH OTTAWA:** *(Atikamekw)*.

14 **MS. MANON OTTAWA:** She often wonders if the
15 baby really died or not. She always wondered if the baby
16 really died or if he was alive. And if he's alive, he would
17 be 64 now.

18 **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** How old?

19 **MS. MANON OTTAWA:** 64 years old. And since
20 the meeting with Francis, it's always, it's very strong.
21 Ever since the meeting, she's been convinced that the baby
22 is still alive. She thinks about it all the time.
23 Sometimes... She often thinks... She often thinks that the
24 baby is still alive and that he would be 64. They probably
25 changed his name. He's probably not called Maxime anymore.

1 **MS. LUCIE QUITICH OTTAWA:** I still hope that
2 I'll find him one day. Maybe he can find us. I'd like the
3 case to remain open, and I'd like to get help finding him.

4 **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** The Commission...

5 **MS. LUCIE QUITICH OTTAWA:** The Inquiry
6 Commission, yes.

7 **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** Thank you. Another
8 testimony, heard by Commissioner Audette. And I'll speak to
9 her, too, to provide details, answer the questions. If you
10 have questions about your story. But for your story to
11 remain confidential (*Indiscernible*), what I learned this
12 morning cannot leave this room. So everything remains
13 confidential because it's a private story. But still, we'll
14 see what steps we can take to help you find the baby.

15 **MS. MANON OTTAWA:** Find the answers.

16 **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** Who (*Indiscernible*),
17 yes.

18 **MS. MANON OTTAWA:** For the certificate, did I
19 just give it to you? Or...

20 **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** Yes, yes. Here I
21 created a testimony after the recording. I'll give it to
22 you so you can listen (*Indiscernible*).

23 **MS. CÉCILE OTTAWA:** The ceremony that could
24 be held for the commemoration, it could be held at the
25 Manawan Pow-wow. Because a lot of outside people attend the

1 Manawan Pow-wow. We could hold the traditional
2 commemorative ceremony then. What we could do for the
3 ceremony, is to prepare in advance. Prepare some items.
4 Like a quilt with the names of all the missing children.

5 **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** Ceremonial items that
6 you could prepare beforehand.

7 **MR. EDWARD CHILTON:** Yes, we have to make
8 them beforehand.

9 **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** Thank you. Is that OK?
10 *(General approval)*.

11 **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** It's 11:16 a.m. and Ms.
12 Cécile Ottawa's hearing has come to an end. Thank you.

13 **MR. EDWARD CHILTON:** Thank you.

14 **EVERYBODY:** Thank you very much.

15 **MS. DARIA BOYARCHUK:** Thank you. *(Laughing*
16 *and speaking in Atikamekw)*.

17

18

LEGAL DICTA-TYPIST'S CERTIFICATE*

I, Félix Larose-Chevalier, hereby certify that I have transcribed the foregoing and it is a true and accurate transcription of the digital audio provided in this matter.



Félix Larose-Chevalier, August 6, 2018

* This certificate refers to the original transcript in French.