

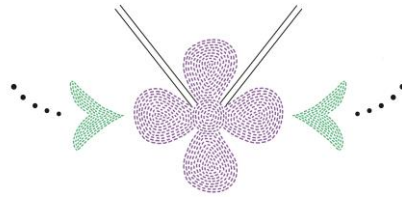
National Inquiry into  
Missing and Murdered  
Indigenous Women and Girls



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 Public Hearings  
Siniktarvik Hotel and Conference Centre - Salon A/B**

**Rankin Inlet, Nunavut**



**PUBLIC**

**Wednesday February 21, 2018**

**Public Volume 47(c)  
Susan Enuaraq & Killaq Enuaraq-Strauss,  
In relation to Sula Enuaraq, Alexandra Degrasse  
& Aliyah Degrasse**

**Heard by Commissioner Michèle Audette  
Commission Counsel: Fanny Wylde**

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**II**

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Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada	Rebecca Kudloo (Representative)

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Heard by Commissioner Michèle Audette	
Commission Counsel: Fanny Wylde	
Registrar: Bryan Zandberg	

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1 MS. SAPOR ENUARAQ: I'm Sapor Enuaraq (Ph.)  
2 and I'm here to support my sister and also my other family  
3 members.

4 MS. NELLY ENUARAQ: My name is Nelly Enuaraq  
5 and I'm here to support my sister and my niece and the rest  
6 of the family here. Thank you for allowing me to be here.

7 MS. FANNY WYLDE: So I would like to ask  
8 both of you to introduce yourself, where you're from and  
9 what was your relation to Sula and her two daughters.

10 MS. SUSAN ENUARAQ: Sula Enuaraq was my  
11 niece and her two daughters were what we -- because we  
12 follow our traditions of having my siblings' children to be  
13 my grandchildren -- they were my inngunatq -- inngunatq --  
14 grandchildren.

15 MS. KILLAQ ENUARAQ-STRAUSS: My name is MS.  
16 KILLAQ ENUARAQ-STRAUSS. I'm from Iqaluit Nunavut. And  
17 Sula was my cousin and her daughters, traditionally, were  
18 my nieces.

19 MS. FANNY WYLDE: Thank you to both of you.  
20 Maybe we could start with Killaq. I know you have  
21 something that you would like to read to share with the  
22 Commissioner.

23 MS. KILLAQ ENUARAQ-STRAUSS: I apologize  
24 because it's quite long. I couldn't really organize my  
25 thoughts. But the first time I met a convicted rapist I

1 was about 10-years-old. Jason was granted release, and  
2 upon that release, our community was warned that he was at  
3 high risk to reoffend. He had sexually harassed and abused  
4 children in 1998.

5 It was a little while after the rumours and  
6 jokes about him had died down when I was at Judo, just  
7 after practice at our old res. He was hanging out by the  
8 canteen where I went to go by pop for me and my brother.  
9 He came up to me and started asking me questions, like, my  
10 name and where I lived and how old I was and if I had ever  
11 tried alcohol. I knew his face because there had been  
12 pictures put up around town. I said nothing as I ran back  
13 to my parents, the pop forgotten.

14 I don't think I told anyone but I'm not sure  
15 why. There was a part of me that felt bad for him and for  
16 the rumours being spread. Another part of me was  
17 terrified. The kind of fear that at 10-years-old I already  
18 knew too well.

19 Carl Jung once said, "Whatever does not  
20 emerge as consciousness returns as destiny." I don't know  
21 if I believe in destiny but I do know that until we start  
22 consciously discussing and opening up about the inter-  
23 generational trauma and abuse, it will continue as a cycle.  
24 And I see that everyday.

25 I think I have a lot of repressed memories

1 that come back in how I feel and how I interact with other  
2 humans. And now, as I get older, I'm starting to get those  
3 memories back. Memories of being friends with the  
4 qallunaat (Ph.) girl who would make me take off my shirt so  
5 she could laugh at how brown my nipples were.

6 This same girl would forcibly hold me down  
7 and make me watch porn, or hold me down and spit in my  
8 mouth starting from when I was as young as about six-years-  
9 old. Yet, for years I was friends with her. She would  
10 constantly treat me poorly and make fun of me, and make me  
11 do things for her, or touch me in ways I wasn't comfortable  
12 with.

13 But I stayed her friend. And I have no idea  
14 why, and I feel very ashamed of myself now. But I also  
15 realize that there are reactions we have when we repress  
16 our emotions or situations. And one of those reactions is  
17 to hold on to those people who hurt us. And Sula did that  
18 with her husband.

19 So many times people have asked me, "If he  
20 was abusive, why didn't she leave," as if it's a simple  
21 question to answer. But it isn't. Because we get stuck in  
22 these cycles and because no-one talks about it. Because  
23 it's so normalized here to stay quiet.

24 She had two gorgeous daughters by him and a  
25 lot of the time, women are told to stay with their husbands



1 for the children, or so that people don't talk poorly about  
2 them. And I know she was also so kind and open. She had  
3 such a big heart, that I knew she loved him no mater what.  
4 I don't know if that's why she stayed but I do know she  
5 often had no choice because she did try to leave when the  
6 abuse got bad.

7 She had gone to the women's shelter, which  
8 was more like a prison, but had stayed the maximum amount  
9 of time and had to return to his home or be homeless.  
10 Then, the week before she was killed, she tried to go to  
11 the shelter again but was turned away by the woman there.  
12 I have heard rumours since then, that this same worker  
13 often turned away women even if the shelter had space.

14 It was only a few days later when I learned  
15 that Sula and her babies had been killed. After my family  
16 told me what little information they had, I remember lots  
17 of people coming to the house to wait until we heard more  
18 news. But the reporters came before the RCMP ever did.

19 My nephew was about the same age as Alex,  
20 who was Sula's oldest daughter, and he had been very close  
21 with her, they grew up together. I took him into the other  
22 room so he wouldn't be around so much pain when he was too  
23 young to understand it.

24 But Sula's mother, Micah and my own mother  
25 will speak more about her and her daughters' murders. I

1 want to talk a little bi about my own story and the  
2 aftermath of Sula's murder and how it has impacted me and  
3 my family.

4 Since everything has happened, I have had a  
5 -- a very hard time forming relationships with people.  
6 Whenever my cousin leaves me to babysit for longer than she  
7 said she'd be, I instantly fear that she's dead, or any  
8 family for that matter. If they're gone longer than they  
9 said they would be. And when -- when the women in my  
10 family start to date someone new, I find myself constantly  
11 checking for cuts and bruises.

12 The year after Sula and her girls were  
13 murdered, I, myself, experienced violence with a weapon for  
14 the first time. A boy from Saskatchewan moved to Iqaluit  
15 and our friend group welcomed him in.

16 We were all at his house after school to  
17 hang out and everyone else had left but me and one other  
18 boy. I was waiting for my taxi and was trying to leave but  
19 he got angry and he took a knife and he threw it at me. It  
20 missed and just cut the bottom of my foot. I don't  
21 remember why he was mad that I was leaving but I ran  
22 upstairs because I was afraid he would get the knife again.

23 I just wanted to get my things and go. But  
24 as I was picking up my backpack, he pushed me onto his bed  
25 and jumped on top of me. He put his hands down my shirt

1 and pants and exposed me to the other boy who was watching.  
2 I was trying to get him off but he was too heavy and it  
3 took a while. But when the -- they heard the taxi, he got  
4 off.

5 Then, as I tried to leave again, I realized  
6 he had taken off my necklace that was very important to me.  
7 The other boy got it from the room and said he wouldn't  
8 give it to me unless I kissed him. These boys were the  
9 sons of a prosecutor and a respected RCMP officer.

10 And I told people about it, I told my  
11 friends and I told my brother. At first my friends  
12 supported me but quickly they started to tell me that I was  
13 being overdramatic, and I needed to calm, down and stop  
14 making it a bigger deal than it was. So I didn't tell  
15 police or any adults because I knew that nothing would be  
16 done. And because -- thank you -- and because of  
17 everything that had happened with Sula, I thought it was  
18 stupid that I was so shaken up by this event because at  
19 least I was still alive, I thought.

20 I was taken advantage of a few more times  
21 after that. I want to point out that it was never by an  
22 Inuk, which is something that I think is important because  
23 in these events, I have really only found healing through  
24 my culture. And, in some ways, I think I've,  
25 unfortunately, become prejudiced as well because I've

1 become afraid of qallunaat and afraid of their anger and  
2 how they've treated me in the past.

3 Only once have I ever reported the sexual  
4 harassment I faced. It was while I was at a boarding  
5 school in BC, the school I got a scholarship for and wanted  
6 to go to because it meant I wouldn't have to be in Iqaluit  
7 anymore.

8 A group of students had spent the night  
9 watching movies with blanket all over the floor and a giant  
10 pile of people, it was a very cuddly atmosphere. I fell  
11 asleep between two friends but was woken up soon after.  
12 The lights had been turned off and most people had left  
13 except for me and the two friends who had also, I thought,  
14 fallen asleep. I was awoken because the person behind me  
15 had started to undress me and was penetrating me with their  
16 fingers.

17 The next day I went to the school nurse  
18 because I wanted to get a note to get out of class. I  
19 wasn't planning on telling her what happened but it -- it  
20 just kind of happened. I think I had a bit of a panic  
21 attack. And so she took me to the RCMP, but there, they  
22 told me that it didn't count as rape because the person  
23 stopped when I woke up. I didn't realize that in my sleep  
24 I had given consent.

25 I had to spend the rest of the year on a

1 tiny, isolated campus with my rapist and not once did I get  
2 any support. I felt so small and so alone, and felt like  
3 there was nowhere to go, and no-one to talk to about it. I  
4 fell into a deep depression that meant I never left my bed.  
5 I gained over 60 pounds in a year from just lying there. I  
6 never brushed my hair and I started to get dreadlocks. I  
7 wouldn't shower or brush my teeth.

8 I was already on antidepressants but the  
9 doctor we saw at the local Wal-Mart clinic gave me a new  
10 one to try. And from the start, it made me sick and I had  
11 to puke everyday for the first month. My roommate even  
12 found me once passed out on our floor in my own puke. The  
13 doctor said it was just adjustment period.

14 I have tried to ween off this drug many  
15 times since then because my body does not react well. But  
16 because of how strong the withdrawal is, it has made me too  
17 sick to be able to stop taking it. And no matter how many  
18 doctors I speak to about it, they say that I just need to  
19 keep taking higher doses. It doesn't help my mood and it  
20 never has. And the doctors, instead of listening to me,  
21 told me I'm not supposed to drink with it even though I  
22 don't drink.

23 Even now, three years after being at that  
24 school, I struggle everyday to get out of bed and I have  
25 left university after failing a semester because I would

1 get terrible panic attacks whenever I tried to leave my  
2 room.

3 I moved back to Nunavut where I was -- where  
4 I tried to get help through our mental health resources but  
5 the support is lacking. I was scheduled to see the  
6 psychiatrist who came up once a month. The problem with  
7 that is that this is a new psychiatrist every month, it's  
8 never the same person.

9 The first doctor I saw took notes and gave  
10 me these notes so I could give them to the next doctor.  
11 Reading them, her comments were judgemental and full of  
12 bias. She commented that I was dressed in a skirt and  
13 shirt, which was inappropriate for the weather. Never mind  
14 the fact that it was summer and I'm Inuk.

15 She took down notes that don't even make  
16 sense, like that I did yoga to help me cope. But I hate  
17 yoga. I've never once done it. And she also painted my  
18 mother in a very negative light despite the fact that I had  
19 explained to her that my mother is one of my main supports.

20 These are the notes that the second  
21 psychiatrist was given but she had no chance to read them  
22 because they are so booked full in the two days that they -  
23 - that they're in town that all I had time for was to  
24 restate everything that I'd said before. And this is a  
25 constant cycle.

1 From the time I was in grade five, I've been  
2 going to counselling services and never getting any help,  
3 just being asked to relive the same thing over and over,  
4 because it's always a new person, there's nothing  
5 consistent.

6 But the second psychiatrist diagnosed me  
7 with Bipolar II and PTSD, both very serious -- serious  
8 things after only speaking to me for half an hour. She  
9 gave me medicine with no refills so the next doctor to see  
10 me could refill them, even though I told her that I was  
11 planning to move to Montreal and would not have access to  
12 someone who could prescribe these medicines. She didn't  
13 listen, though.

14 I even went to the emergency room once  
15 because I was having such a large panic attack that my  
16 father was very worried. When the doctor saw me, she told  
17 me that the only way I would get help was if I left  
18 Nunavut, my home and my family.

19 So I did leave. I moved to Montreal and  
20 through the Truth and Reconciliation Services, I was given  
21 the names of two indigenous counsellors. But both of those  
22 professionals were booked full so I was given the name of  
23 another woman. She was not indigenous but had spent many  
24 years travelling Nunavik and working with indigenous youth  
25 there. She said that she understood our way of life and

1       our traumas.

2                       But, also, she told me that I was only  
3       depressed because I was fat and I should exercise more.  
4       And she told me that alcoholism is normal in indigenous  
5       communities and that I should just try to stay away from  
6       alcoholics.

7                       But the thing is, I shouldn't have to  
8       isolate myself from my loved ones. They should be given  
9       support to beat the disease of addiction. My Anaana once  
10      told me that she waited until her children didn't need her  
11      anymore and that's when she became an alcoholic.

12                      But a child never stops needing their  
13      parents and it was with her alcoholism that came other  
14      issues. My parents' relationship became rockier than ever  
15      and I started to become closer to my father even though as  
16      a child, my Anaana was my hero.

17                      I had always seen my mother a strong,  
18      eloquent and powerful Inuk woman. She raised me to be  
19      proud of our culture and food and traditions, and to be  
20      proud to be a woman. But it was hard to see her like that,  
21      through that positive lens when I was driving her to the  
22      bars where she would introduce me to her drunk friends.  
23      These drunk friends often made comments about my body,  
24      would hug me for too long and would kunik my cheek but  
25      purposefully miss so they could kiss my mouth.



1                   Sometimes she would bring family members to  
2                   the house after being at the bar, and they'd continue to  
3                   drink. I've had drunk family crawl into my bed with me  
4                   when I was asleep and wake me up by smashing their face  
5                   into mine trying to kiss me with tears and snot all over  
6                   their face, and they wouldn't leave for hours.

7                   And the stereotypes that non-indigenous  
8                   Canadians have of us started to cloud my own eyes. Instead  
9                   of being proud of my mother, I started to ignore the  
10                  amazing things she had done and taught me because I was too  
11                  hurt to pay attention to how much she has helped Inuit move  
12                  forward and has helped me move forward.

13                  And she really has made a lot of differences  
14                  with her contributions. She has travelled the world to  
15                  talk about our language and culture. Everywhere in Nunavut  
16                  I go, people know her name. Any Inuit community I go to,  
17                  even down south, people know her name. This is despite her  
18                  own history of violence and abuse.

19                  She has always been a hard worker and  
20                  someone who is not afraid to call people out, something  
21                  that Inuit are often not comfortable doing because of the  
22                  backlash we might face. Because, even in our own  
23                  territory, there is such a disconnect between Inuit and  
24                  non-Inuit, or at least in Iqaluit where I grew up. And I  
25                  truly believe that this disconnect contributes to how our

1 society looks and treats -- looks at and treats Inuit  
2 women.

3 Growing up in a segregated society, because  
4 that's what Iqaluit is, and it pretend that it isn't  
5 segregated, it means that Inuit, and Inuit women  
6 especially, often have very negative self-image and, often,  
7 are treated very differently than our non-Inuit  
8 counterparts. This leads us to not knowing how much we  
9 deserve to be treated well because we've never -- because  
10 we've never seen it. In school and in health care, we're  
11 treated like we're stupid, crazy sluts.

12 There are qallunaat predators who live in  
13 Nunavut and prey on young, broke, Inuk girls by offering  
14 them a home or some money. They view us as stupid objects  
15 they can treat poorly because that's all many Inuit women  
16 have every know. There is very little respect for us but  
17 that's not just within the predators. Non-Inuit who live  
18 in Nunavut tend to think of the word, "Ghetto," as  
19 synonymous with Inuk.

20 There is an entire high school that has  
21 classrooms that are disgustingly disproportionate to our  
22 population. And it isn't just because Inuit aren't meant  
23 to be in schools that they're put into all of the lower  
24 level classes, and don't get the opportunity to even attend  
25 classes that are even recognized by university. And this

1 is because we're told from the time that we're in  
2 elementary school, by our teachers, that they dumb down  
3 their class for the native kids.

4 And the favouritism is obvious and  
5 disconcerting. Who would want to be in that environment?  
6 Not to mention the fact that classes are taught in English,  
7 which is the second language of most Inuit kids, and whose  
8 parents speak English as a second language, if they know it  
9 at all.

10 How are Inuit supposed to get the same help  
11 with homework if their parents can't speak the language  
12 it's in? And how are Inuit students supposed to find the  
13 same amount of time to work on school if they live in  
14 overcrowded, dilapidated houses and can't afford the  
15 internet for Google, and have to get jobs of babysit to  
16 help support their families. Not just because they want  
17 spending money like so many other people our age, but  
18 because they need help to feed the home.

19 The difference in socioeconomic security is  
20 astounding and, yet, it's the Inuit who are blamed.  
21 Nunavut means, "Our land," and while I'm happy we've become  
22 diverse and host so many other cultures, we shouldn't be  
23 treated as second class citizens here.

24 When Nunavut became a territory, we were  
25 promised that the federal government would send

1 professionals to train Inuit in all fields necessary to run  
2 our territory. Instead non-Inuit saw the opportunity to  
3 move somewhere for a few years where they'd make a lot of  
4 money by southern standards. Why not share that with their  
5 friends and family?

6 To this day, Iqaluit is a temporary home for  
7 transient, young adults who very rarely interact with  
8 anyone aside from the other transient people. This makes  
9 it so hard, as an Inuk, to feel comfortable with people who  
10 don't bother to try to understand our culture, our  
11 language, or our traditions when they're living in our  
12 lands. And I say this as someone who, myself, I have lost  
13 my language and I moved away from Nunavut at 16 because it  
14 was too painful a place to live.

15 I'm pretty qallunaat in a lot of ways.  
16 Actually, one of my favourite jokes is because I'm half  
17 Inuk and half qallunaat, I'm too brown for privilege but  
18 too white to dance.

19 Truly, though, I have had so many more  
20 opportunities and so much more access to things outside of  
21 Nunavut because of the fact that my father isn't from here.  
22 And I'm so thankful, everyday, for the exposure to the  
23 south and having exposure to the predominant language of  
24 Canada. I have been so lucky to have places to go when  
25 Nunavut was an unhealthy place to live. Not many other

1 Inuit have those options.

2 Even so, I was raised in Nunavut. And I was  
3 raised seeing and living through trauma that I do not  
4 think, for one second, I would have experienced had I grown  
5 up in a part of Canada that is given proper resources.

6 Now, it may seem as if I've gone a bit off  
7 topic. This is an inquiry into missing and murdered  
8 Indigenous women and girls, not my own blog. But the thing  
9 is, all of these disparities and prejudices are  
10 contributing to the ever growing number of missing and  
11 murdered Indigenous women.

12 Every day that people ignore the ways they  
13 are part of -- part of the problem. That we are all  
14 perpetuating acts of colonization in our everyday actions.  
15 With consciousness, it starts to become our destiny. There  
16 is a long way to go, not just for the government but for  
17 all Canadian citizens and for Inuit as well.

18 But we've been trying. For years and years  
19 we have been fighting to be heard. So, please, don't let  
20 this inquiry become just another broken promise by the  
21 government.

22 Now, here I have a few recommendations. The  
23 first one is proper mental health resources and addiction  
24 treatment centres in Nunavut. My mother was given  
25 treatment for a short period but had to be sent to Ontario

1 away from her family and her home to be able to help her  
2 heal and cope with PTSD.

3 Then, when she was supposed to return to  
4 complete her rehabilitation, the nurse who was handling her  
5 paperwork lost it and she wasn't able to go back. If she  
6 had been anywhere else, this never would have happened and  
7 she would have had the access to support and health coping  
8 mechanisms to ensure that addiction wasn't the only way to  
9 deal with things.

10 I -- I also believe that we need mandatory  
11 cultural sensitivity training led by Inuit for people of  
12 all levels of government, and for anyone who wants to come  
13 up to Nunavut to make money.

14 We need proper education within our schools.  
15 Don't segregate Inuit into lower level classes. Just give  
16 us the equity we need to get on the same level as non-Inuit  
17 students. It's -- studies have been done that show that  
18 children who grow up in adversity often, if given the  
19 proper resources and support in terms of school and  
20 education, they thrive. They have so much more emotional  
21 intelligence and, therefore, are able to do really well as  
22 long as they have that support.

23 I also want to see more teaching that talks  
24 about Inuit history before colonization, because we have  
25 very little pride as Inuit now. But if we are taught, and

1 if our classmates are taught about our way of life before  
2 qallunaat were introduced, before qallunaat taught us to  
3 see ourselves as savages, we might have more pride and the  
4 qallunaat might have more understanding of how complex and  
5 wonderful our traditional belief systems, politics and  
6 societies were.

7 And I believe that in not sharing this in  
8 our education system, it's another way to just keep the  
9 image of savages up because people tend to see only the  
10 ways we've reacted to colonization without understanding  
11 just how intelligent and hardworking Inuit have always  
12 been.

13 The last recommendation I have is mandatory  
14 Inuktitut language classes with the proper curriculum for  
15 all students in Nunavut. This will teach non-Inuit  
16 students to respect us and our culture, as well as  
17 understand just how hard it is for many Inuit to go to  
18 school in a totally different language.

19 It will also give us the respect we need to  
20 find strength and pride. With that strength and pride, we  
21 can move forward as Inuit to create a healthier future and  
22 we can finally be given a chance to speak for ourselves.  
23 Thank you.

24 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** Thank you, Killaq. Now, I  
25 believe Susan would want to read something.

1                   **MS. SUSAN ENUARAQ:** Yes.

2                   **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** And after you will be done  
3 with the reading, I would have a few questions for both of  
4 you.

5                   **MS. SUSAN ENUARAQ:** I -- I always want to  
6 say, "Testing, testing," whenever I am in front of the  
7 microphone. Testing, testing, one, two, three.

8                   In the wake of the acquittal of Gerald  
9 Stanley I appear before this inquiry. There has been much  
10 discussion of racism and victimization following the  
11 verdict. Why is service so different to our peoples? Is  
12 it because of the historical context of how European  
13 colonizers perceived our ancestors?

14                   The only way the colonizers could steal the  
15 lands were to consider the inhabitants as savages. This  
16 way our ancestors were not considered to be humans. Even  
17 our -- even in our land titles, it is generally so  
18 different that there is a legal term for aboriginal land  
19 title. The title is, "Sui generis," in a class by itself.  
20 With this title, brings our fiduciary obligations by the  
21 Crown from which their nation stands on.

22                   The evening that our angels were killed --  
23 and this is what me and my family member -- members call  
24 them, "Our angels." The evening that our angels were  
25 killed, my husband went for a drive. He came back almost



1 instantly as our houses were relatively close to each  
2 other. He told me that there is something going on at  
3 Sula's house as it was cordoned off with police tape. I  
4 said to him, "I bet you Sylvain is bootlegging."

5 It turns out that it was much more serious.  
6 I was on Facebook when I started to worry, as one of my  
7 nephews posted that she was the best sister he ever had.

8 I called my brothers who was living in Pond  
9 Inlet at that time. I'm going to do this in Inuktitut  
10 because -- I think she doesn't have what -- she can read  
11 though. Yeah. Yeah. From here.

12 **INTERPRETER FOR MS. SUSAN ENUARAQ:**

13 (*Speaking in Inuktitut*). When our angels got murdered, I  
14 realized I was told through Facebook that she was a  
15 favourite sister. When I called my brother -- when I  
16 called my brothers I asked, "What's happened to Sula?" No,  
17 our in-law answered the phone and he couldn't answer what's  
18 happened to Sula.

19 "Sula was murdered," was the answer. And  
20 the phone that I was holding on, I threw it. I threw it as  
21 hard as I could. My husband was with me and I told him in  
22 English, "Sula's been killed. She has been killed."

23 So once I was able to compose myself, I  
24 grabbed the phone again. "What about my grandchildren?"  
25 "They got killed too." And I threw the phone again. And I

1 told Carmen (Ph.), "My grandchildren are killed." I told  
2 my common-law that my grandchildren were killed too. My  
3 grandchildren were murdered...

4 **MS. SUSAN ENUARAQ** ...So I threw the phone  
5 again in the same despair that I had experienced moments  
6 before.

7 I'm going to switch back to English. My children were not  
8 home at that time so we went and got them as well as my  
9 niece Nubiya (Ph.) who was very close to Sula and the  
10 girls. When they got home we told them. My daughter was  
11 crying and her reaction was very stunned.

12 My son Levi just walked out of the house and  
13 he didn't come back for quite a while. I had to ask my  
14 friend to ask her husband to keep an eye out for him, ask  
15 where Levi had gone, was visible from their house.

16 We didn't hear anything from any officials.  
17 CBC knew what was happening before we did. In fact, Sula's  
18 Uncle Moe, Marias (Ph.), knew before we all did. He called  
19 up Joe in Pond and directed him to go tell my brother  
20 Upitaaq (Ph.) so he would not hear from the media.

21 Everything was in a blur but somehow I  
22 connected with James and Carlene (Ph.). We went to the  
23 RCMP station to see if we can get any information. They  
24 wouldn't give us any information. So James said that we  
25 are going to stay at the -- at the detachment until we get

1 information. We stayed there for about an hour until,  
2 finally, the police told us that three people were  
3 confirmed dead, and a dog and two children.

4 The travesty continued from thereon. Even  
5 though we knew that it was the girls, the police or the  
6 coroner's office would not give us any information. Micah  
7 and Jeannie (Ph.) remember the timelines more than I did.  
8 The bodies were not released for a long time.

9 We heard more about the incident from CBC.  
10 As far as I remember the RCMP never came to our house. As  
11 far as I remember they never went to Jeannie's house, they  
12 never went to James' house. I tried to call in a favour  
13 because I was a prosecutor at that time. I called my boss  
14 and said, "John, can you please call the cops to tell them  
15 to give us more information. Do you have any information?"  
16 He too was vague.

17 Inspector Gallagher(Ph.), who was in charge  
18 of the RCMP in Nunavut at that time, gave me a call because  
19 we knew Frank. And, again, all he could really say was  
20 that three people have been confirmed dead at the house,  
21 and a dog and two children. And that the bodies were taken  
22 for autopsy.

23 As I said, the bodies were not released for  
24 a long time. My siblings and I all went up to Pond Inlet  
25 and we were there for a long time. I left Pond before the

1 bodies arrive as I had already made arrangements to go to  
2 Inuvik for the truth -- Truth and Reconciliation hearings.  
3 I, myself, was in residence.

4 It was on our way to Inuvik that I got  
5 daddy-o (Ph.) drunk. I got so drunk that I didn't remember  
6 anything from the last drink I had to the time I woke up.  
7 I almost got addicted to that right away because I did not  
8 remember for a few hours. And I had absolutely no memory.  
9 And that felt good when I woke up. The next few days after  
10 that, when we were in Inuvik, I did that again.

11 I have, myself, decided that I will not do  
12 that again. That I will not get daddy-o drunk. However, I  
13 struggle to this day with alcohol. It has impacted me and  
14 my family in ways that I could take back. The help that  
15 was offered was for a very short period of time.

16 I often wondered what would have happened to  
17 me had I not already had a nervous breakdown as a  
18 prosecutor. We like to think that when we are wearing our  
19 rosy glasses that Inuit will be helped as much as possible  
20 to keep them employed within all levels of government  
21 because of Article 23 of our land claim.

22 As a prosecutor, even before our angels were  
23 killed, I was asking for help because it was really hard to  
24 prosecute my own people when we have always been told to  
25 have compassion and empathy towards each other. When I was

1 a prosecutor, I saw pictures of women that had been killed.  
2 They were part of the cases that we had to work with. Most  
3 of these women killed were from the hands of their  
4 significant other. We had to look at these cases as just  
5 that, cases.

6 My nervous breakdown occurred after an  
7 incident on an airplane. And when I told my boss the next  
8 day, he just gave me a flippant remark. The case that we  
9 had gone to prosecute, by the way, was an aggravated  
10 spousal assault.

11 To this day, I don't know if there has been  
12 any remarks to the jury done in Inuktitut. I have done the  
13 jury remarks, opening remarks to jury in Inuktitut, in my  
14 language. No-one celebrated that. That was the last case  
15 I was involved in for close to a year as in that afternoon,  
16 the same day my boss gave me a flippant remark, I had a  
17 doctor's appointment. It was the start -- start of the  
18 sick leave that would turn out to be for over a year. I  
19 went for treatment for PTSD in Guelph.

20 As -- as a child I had endured trauma from  
21 the hands of a pedophile White teacher. With this trauma,  
22 I thought of myself as a second class citizen, which we  
23 truly, still are. And until the treatment, I thought only  
24 aboriginal peoples owned trauma. I found that we are not  
25 the only ones that suffer from trauma.

1                   Thankfully, I met the right people in  
2                   treatment. The right people were my boys, and cat in the  
3                   hat. To this day, they are part of my healing journey.

4                   I went for treatment in December 2010, I  
5                   came out of treatment in February 2011, I was eased back to  
6                   work by April, and by May I knew that PPSC, Public  
7                   Prosecutions Service Canada, would not do anything to help  
8                   me. So I resigned. My resignation date was for when my  
9                   holidays were done.

10                  It is during my holiday that our angels were  
11                  killed. Our angels were killed on June 7, 2011. This was  
12                  the day before my baby's 16th birthday. The next day I  
13                  told my baby -- I told her and I said, "Killaq, I'm sorry I  
14                  cannot celebrate your birthday today." I was supposed to  
15                  go back to prosecuting for about a month but after the  
16                  incident with our girls I could not go back.

17                  Coincidentally, I told the boss that I  
18                  cannot prosecute anymore as I cannot respect criminals  
19                  anymore. And this boss made another flippant remark. He  
20                  said, "As if you respected them in the first place."

21                  Dr. Johnson (Ph.) and Dr. Gabba (Ph.) were  
22                  my last family doctors -- and this was 2010 to 2012 -- that  
23                  truly cared. But the mental health profession would not  
24                  take me seriously unless I had my White husband with me.  
25                  This is the only time they truly listened.

1                   We found out later, through media, that Sula  
2                   had tried to go to Qimaavik, the women's shelter but was  
3                   turned away. And this was the night before she was killed,  
4                   before our angels were killed.

5                   One of my memories of Aliyah, the little one  
6                   -- the little one in that picture right now. It seems in  
7                   our families our -- every second baby has very short hair.  
8                   She had very short hair. It looked -- people used to ask  
9                   if she was a -- yeah, that's her. People used to ask me if  
10                  my daughter was a boy because she had very short hair.  
11                  Even when she went to Kindergarten she still had that kind  
12                  of hair.

13                  One of the memories I have of Aliyah is that  
14                  she came to our house with Sula and Alex one -- one morning  
15                  because I was on holidays, and she had a brush cut. Yeah,  
16                  complete brush cut. I asked Sula, "How come you did this  
17                  to Alex?" And she said Sylvain -- by the way, the husband  
18                  was Sylvain Degrasse, they were common-law, they were  
19                  engaged -- had cut her hair so that it will grow into --  
20                  grow stronger.

21                  One of the things that I found out later,  
22                  after Sula had passed away, after she -- we shouldn't even  
23                  say passed away -- after Sula had been killed. After she  
24                  had been killed, my Anikuluk (Ph.) Jolene (Ph.) told us  
25                  that Sylvain came -- kept their engagement ring in the safe

1 because it was more valuable than Sula, it cost more than  
2 Sula.

3 We looked for that ring when we went to the  
4 house. We couldn't find it. We wanted to give it to  
5 Jolene, her sister, so Jolene can smash up the ring. But  
6 we never found that ring.

7 As someone with PTSD and depression,  
8 whenever I get stressed out, suicide is always in the back  
9 of my mind. Everyday when I'm stressed out, I think to  
10 myself, I wish I was dead. Suicide is very close. I lost  
11 two siblings to suicide. My older sister and my younger  
12 brother. The remaining sisters and I took a pact, we took  
13 a living pact. We said that we will never commit suicide.

14 I make a promise to my children that I will  
15 never commit suicide. I choose to live because live is  
16 wonderful, even though we go through hardships. It is  
17 wonderful to wake up in the morning and to look out the  
18 window, no matter what the weather is.

19 Recommendations, there is extreme poverty in  
20 Nunavut. There are people going hungry everyday. The cost  
21 of living is so high that people cannot afford food. If I  
22 want to go out on the land and hunt, I need a \$12,000  
23 machine, I need at least 30 -- \$50 worth of gas, I need to  
24 have maybe a gun that is worth maybe \$500. And, of course,  
25 my scope has to be a Leupold -- is a lifetime warranty kind



1 of scope. It's an expensive one. Yeah.

2 So I can afford now to go hunt, but I was  
3 not working for over a year. I was working, I was helping  
4 my niece when she was going through nursing school. It was  
5 not a paid employment, but it was the most important -- one  
6 of the most important jobs I've ever done. It helped to  
7 ensure that my niece, Nubiya, graduated from nursing  
8 school. She is now a registered nurse. I am proud of her.

9 I'm proud of myself too, I am a lawyer. But  
10 I can never go back to being a lawyer. I thought about it  
11 because I was broke, I needed money. But I don't think I  
12 can ever go back to being a lawyer again. I loved being in  
13 court, I -- I was good at it. People knew I was just like  
14 being at home when I was in court.

15 Women and homelessness. If there had been  
16 transitional housing, could there have been many deaths  
17 that have been avoided. My dream was that Sula's house --  
18 the ones where she was murdered will be turned into a  
19 transitional housing. Qimaavik, the women's shelter, they  
20 ask for funding, every year, from the government. It  
21 should be a given. Right now Agvvik (Ph.) society is going  
22 through a financial, criminal audit so I don't know what's  
23 going to happen to the women's shelter in Iqaluit.

24 It is no fun to be homeless. I was couch-  
25 surfing for over a year. It is through the love of my



1 giving him information. And as it turns out Micah's -- was  
2 also not getting any information -- the parents of Sula and  
3 grandparents of Alex and Aliyah.

4 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** So I believe you mentioned  
5 that it took a long time before the bodies were released.  
6 Are we talking about days or weeks? Can you specify how  
7 long?

8 **MS. SUSAN ENUARAQ:** At this point it's just  
9 hearsay because -- or maybe it's not hearsay because my --  
10 Micah and Jean said it on the record yesterday -- was six  
11 weeks. One of the things we forgot to mention was I  
12 imagine their heads to be off because I -- Sylvain was a  
13 hunter so he had powerful guns. And that's what -- what I  
14 imagined. And Micah said one of the girls had no head  
15 left. And when the coffins finally made it to Pond Inlet,  
16 there was a coffin that said, "Please, I'm sorry, do not  
17 open these coffins."

18 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** When the bodies came back,  
19 did the family have to pay for the expenses for the  
20 transport of the bodies?

21 **MS. SUSAN ENUARAQ:** I don't think so. I  
22 think it's normal practice that when there's been a  
23 criminal investigation that the family will not be paying  
24 for the bodies.

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

1                   **MS. SUSAN ENUARAQ:** And I should -- I should  
2 say that Jeannie and her -- Jeannie especially, did a lot  
3 of fund raising for all of us to go to Pond Inlet. The  
4 airlines gave us quite good discounts too. And there were  
5 many of us. Many of us went to Pond Inlet.

6                   **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** Can you tell me more about  
7 Sula? How she was, her childhood, her personality.

8                   **MS. SUSAN ENUARAQ:** My brother and Micah,  
9 the -- the father and mother of Sula and Jolene, divorced  
10 when Sula was quite young. And that's a picture of my  
11 brother up there. The divorced when they were quite young  
12 but there were times when Sula was living in Rankin Inlet  
13 and she also lived in Iqaluit as well.

14                   And she was very happy. She -- she had a  
15 smile -- she had a smile, she had a very warm, loving  
16 heart. She loved every single one of us with so -- so  
17 extremely. And she was happy. She was a happy girl.  
18 That's what -- I think that's what I remember most about  
19 Sula.

20                   And we, as a family, had -- had discussions.  
21 If they had to go, it's a good thing they all went because  
22 Sula would not have been able to live without her girls.  
23 She would -- if she was the only one killed, I know she  
24 would not have rested in peace. Her soul would not be able  
25 to rest in peace.

1                   **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** Can I ask how old were the  
2 children?

3                   **MS. SUSAN ENUARAQ:** I think Aliyah was seven  
4 -- no, Alex was seven and Aliyah was either three or four.  
5 Yeah, about there. Right now we have a baby in our family  
6 so she's three and she would've been about the same age.

7                   **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** And also you mentioned  
8 that Sula had went to the women's shelters in Iqaluit and  
9 that she has spent a maximum of her time there. What is,  
10 exactly, the maximum of the time?

11                   **MS. SUSAN ENUARAQ:** I think the maximum time  
12 that they could be at the Qimaavik -- at the shelter -- is  
13 two months.

14                   **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** Okay. Thank you. And  
15 what kind of supports do you have right now, Susan?

16                   **MS. SUSAN ENUARAQ:** I almost swore.  
17 Absolutely nothing. I have absolutely no help. The mental  
18 health system in Nunavut is a farce. It truly is a farce.

19                   **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** Have you ever been  
20 knocking on doors and been refused some support?

21                   **MS. SUSAN ENUARAQ:** Yes. When I was in  
22 Iqaluit, I went to see a mental health specialist, I think  
23 he was a psychiatric nurse, and I started seeing him in  
24 January last year. I had -- it's like pulling teeth. I  
25 wanted to go to Mamisarvik, a healing centre for Inuit.

1 It's -- that tooth hasn't even been pulled out yet.

2 I said, "Call me when," -- in our last  
3 appointment, the mental health person said, "My supervisor  
4 will get in touch with you." That supervisor -- must have  
5 been in February last year -- has never called.

6 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** And ---

7 **MS. KILLAQ ENUARAQ-STRAUSS:** I've been  
8 waiting. I've been calling mental health in Iqaluit for  
9 over a month now and I've left so many voicemails and  
10 messages. And never once has anyone answered, and never  
11 once has anyone called me back.

12 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** Was there any kind of  
13 support offered to the family while you were going through  
14 Sula's death and waiting for the bodies to come back?

15 **MS. SUSAN ENUARAQ:** There was an offer for a  
16 short period of time but we were so in grief that we could  
17 not access. Joamie School where Alex used to go to school,  
18 little children were affected deeply because one of her  
19 classmates -- one of their classmates had been killed by  
20 their father. And they sent a very touching cards and  
21 things like that to my brother, and that touched my brother  
22 very much.

23 But they said that there's going to be help,  
24 specialists that are available for us. We didn't even  
25 access that because we were so in grief and so fluffed.

1           **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** Thank you. I will have a  
2           few questions for you, Killaq, if you don't mind. When --  
3           if we take a few steps back, you mentioned that at six-  
4           years-old you were abused by another woman. Did you ever  
5           signal that to anybody?

6           **MS. KILLAQ ENUARAQ-STRAUSS:** I didn't. She  
7           told me -- the first time anything happened, I think I was  
8           six and it was -- she had put on pornography and she told  
9           me that I'm not allowed to tell anybody, and that we'll get  
10          in trouble if I tell people. And she always made sure to  
11          tell me, like, "Our parents can't know about this. This  
12          isn't -- like, this is for adults so you can't tell your  
13          parents about it." So not -- and as a kid I -- I took her  
14          word for it. I didn't really -- really understand why I  
15          couldn't tell anyone but I -- I didn't.

16          **MS. SUSAN ENUARAQ:** If I may add, Killaq  
17          came home with a haircut one day and that was without a  
18          permission. That's the same girl.

19          **MS. KILLAQ ENUARAQ-STRAUSS:** She had asked  
20          to practice on me and I didn't really want the haircut but  
21          she was very good at making me do things that she wanted me  
22          to do, and making me feel like I had to do it in order to,  
23          like, be worth her time and things like that.

24          **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** And also, you mentioned  
25          about an event with boys from high placed individuals

1 within the officials. Did you ever file a complaint on  
2 that?

3 **MS. KILLAQ ENUARAQ-STRAUSS:** I didn't file  
4 complaints for those because I was afraid that it wouldn't  
5 be taken seriously because his mother was a prosecutor and  
6 the other boy, his -- yeah, the other boy, his mother was  
7 an RCMP officer. And also because everyone told me that it  
8 wasn't against the law. Everyone I spoke to about it, my  
9 friends, they all told me that it was just playing around  
10 and things like that and that it wouldn't be taken  
11 seriously.

12 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** And then you finally  
13 decided -- you took the courage to report a sexual  
14 harassment to the RCMP. And, correct me if I'm wrong, but  
15 you were -- you were rejected. You -- you weren't  
16 believed. Am I correct?

17 **MS. KILLAQ ENUARAQ-STRAUSS:** He's -- the  
18 officer said that he believed me and he said that he felt  
19 very sorry for me. But that because I hadn't said, "No,"  
20 that it didn't count as rape. And that because I hadn't --  
21 hadn't -- because the person stopped when I woke up and  
22 they realized I woke up, that they couldn't do anything  
23 about it because, technically, they stopped when I wanted  
24 them to.

25 **MS. SUSAN ENUARAQ:** If I can interject here



1 as well, again, I'm -- I'm her mother so I'm allowed. The  
2 night I -- I believe the night that it happened, Killaq  
3 called me very distraught, crying and could not saymak  
4 (Ph.) -- what's saymak in English -- could not stop crying.

5 And I told her, "I'll see if my boss will  
6 allow me to go to Victoria to go see you," because I knew  
7 with this amount of her being distraught there was  
8 something she wasn't telling me. And she didn't tell me  
9 when I went to Victoria. But she told the nurse. They,  
10 essentially, didn't believe her or something. They did  
11 absolutely nothing.

12 **MS. KILLAQ ENUARAQ-STRAUSS:** The nurse told  
13 -- asked me if I told anyone and I told her that I told two  
14 of my close friends. And she asked to have a meeting with  
15 us. So we went to the nurse's office and she closed the  
16 door and she said, "You guys aren't allowed to tell anybody  
17 about this because you don't want to ruin this person's  
18 reputation."

19 And because it was an international school  
20 and the student wasn't from Canada, they said, "You could  
21 be ruining this person's only chance at an education. And  
22 so if you," -- like, she said, "If you wanted to send this  
23 person home, you can. But I don't recommend it because  
24 that's ruining their life."

25 And then even after the rules that we set in

1 place was that this student wasn't allowed into my dorm  
2 house. But just a little while after, I walked into my  
3 room and none of the doors locked on campus, all of the  
4 bedrooms had doors you could open. And I walked in and my  
5 iPad was on my bed so I went to open it and I saw on it  
6 selfies that this person had taken while lying in my bed.  
7 And they did nothing when I told them that.

8 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** So if there was rules in  
9 order for him not to access your dorm room, was the school  
10 aware of the incident?

11 **MS. KILLAQ ENUARAQ-STRAUSS:** Yes. I told  
12 the school nurse and the school nurse told the Dean of  
13 students as well as the head of the college, as well as my  
14 house parents who were the -- the two adults who lived in  
15 our dorm house and led our activities. The only support I  
16 got was from the house parents. And even then -- even  
17 then, they didn't have much power aside than to ask the  
18 student not to enter the house. But they can't be there at  
19 all times of the day to see whether or not they were in my  
20 room.

21 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** And this happened when you  
22 were how old? In what year?

23 **MS. KILLAQ ENUARAQ-STRAUSS:** I was 17 so  
24 2015 or 2014.

25 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** Thank you. And you moved

1 to Montreal. Can you tell me, again, exactly why you moved  
2 away?

3 **MS. KILLAQ ENUARAQ-STRAUSS:** So I -- I left  
4 university and travelled for a little bit. And after my  
5 travels, I had planned to move back to Iqaluit -- Iqaluit  
6 but while I was there, I had been seeking treatment for my  
7 -- what had -- what had been diagnosed as anxiety and  
8 depression. I had been seeking treatment for that and was  
9 given the chance to speak to these two psychiatrists who  
10 really had no idea of what was going on in Nunavut and had  
11 no idea of how -- how to help or how to really do anything  
12 other than try to give me new medication.

13 And there was very little effort on their  
14 part to follow up, or to do any -- any sort of after care  
15 or anything like that. Each -- and this is just this one  
16 time. Throughout my entire life growing up, I have had  
17 maybe one consistent counsellor and that lasted for less  
18 than a year.

19 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** And that services is  
20 provided in Nunavut you're talking about?

21 **MS. KILLAQ ENUARAQ-STRAUSS:** Yes. Those  
22 were provided in Nunavut. And then -- so after I had seen  
23 these psychiatrists, I realized that I wasn't going to get  
24 the help I needed in Iqaluit. And I had spoken to this  
25 doctor who said that the resources in Nunavut were totally

1 lacking. And she didn't say it with any malice or ill  
2 intent, she was legitimately saying that she doesn't think  
3 I can be helped within the territory.

4 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** So now that you do live in  
5 Montreal, what kind of support do you have?

6 **MS. KILLAQ ENUARAQ-STRAUSS:** So I'm not  
7 currently being supported because when I did attempt to  
8 access counselling services through the truth and  
9 reconciliation services, I was given a few names but the  
10 wait -- the wait time was always quite a few months. And  
11 then when I finally did see someone, I moved to Montreal in  
12 July and I only saw someone October.

13 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** In July 2017?

14 **MS. KILLAQ ENUARAQ-STRAUSS:** Yes.

15 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** Okay.

16 **MS. KILLAQ ENUARAQ-STRAUSS:** And in October,  
17 the woman that I finally got a chance to see was not -- I  
18 was not compatible with her and I didn't do great with what  
19 she was saying. And she was -- I found -- quite  
20 condescending and patronizing of what I had gone through.  
21 So I tried to get in touch with the other indigenous  
22 psychiatrist or psychologist but they were full up until  
23 2018.

24 And so because of that I've decided now to  
25 actually go back to Iqaluit because even if the health --

1 help there isn't consistent, at least I actually get the  
2 appointments.

3 MS. FANNY WYLDE: And what keeps you going  
4 on a day to day basis?

5 MS. KILLAQ ENUARAQ-STRAUSS: I think that  
6 one of the few things that has really helped me is thinking  
7 about all the people we've lost to suicide and how I felt  
8 when I learned that family members and friends had died by  
9 suicide. And knowing that I could never put my family  
10 through that, knowing that the only -- the only thing that  
11 I could never do -- that I would never be forgiven for is  
12 that.

13 And, in my day to day, I -- I got a dog and  
14 that sort of forces me. I have to get up and take care of  
15 him, take him for walks and feed him. And it might seem  
16 very mundane, but at the same time, having that  
17 responsibility and having -- having that -- that support,  
18 even though he can't talk and he can't understand me, it's  
19 really nice to pretend he can. And he's really cute so  
20 that kind of makes me happy.

21 And that -- at this point, it's all through  
22 family and friends. Every -- every -- every inch of the  
23 way it's been family and friends who have been supporting  
24 me.

25 MS. FANNY WYLDE: Thank you. Is there

1 anything that you would like to add, Susan or Killaq? I  
2 will now -- oh, you have something to add?

3 **MS. SUSAN ENUARAQ:** I just thought of  
4 something but it came out [Speaking in Inuktitut] I can't  
5 remember it now I'm phased.

6 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** It's okay. I will now  
7 leave the space to the Commissioner to ask questions if she  
8 has some, or comments and maybe it's going to come back to  
9 you afterwards. Commissioner.

10 **MS. COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** And, of  
11 course, we're not in court here, I'm not a judge so I won't  
12 stop you. If it wants to come back, I hope it comes back.  
13 But I'm pretty sure, with the technology, you can always  
14 write back or call Fanny or me. It's going to come back.

15 Before I start, I have a comment and this  
16 inquiry have that name -- has that name National Public  
17 Inquiry for the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and  
18 Girls. It does.

19 And thanks, because we have so many women  
20 across Canada, for many, many years that demanded this  
21 inquiry, push or lobby. And Bernie and many women that we  
22 met are one of them. But also in this mandate, and I'm --  
23 as a mom and as a Commissioner, there's that important part  
24 to paragraph that says that we have also the mandate to  
25 examine all form of violence that women, us, and young

1 elders, the LGBTQ2S community are facing to the end 2018,  
2 or the moment we were born.

3 So you are at the right place. And your  
4 text, I didn't feel you were reading it. It was very  
5 powerful. Very, very powerful. So I have to say that I am  
6 very honoured that it was meant to be, I guess. You said  
7 you don't like destiny but I'm proud that it was me sitting  
8 with you in this circle to be able to receive your truth.  
9 And your truth, for us, matter. Merci beaucoup.

10 And, Susan -- Susan, even what you said --  
11 read, or -- it wasn't reading for me. It was very, very  
12 painful, the two of you, frustrating, or, you know, we're  
13 human being. You must know that. We're not only  
14 prosecutor, which I'm not and I've never been, and I don't  
15 think I will, getting too old. But it -- it hurts.

16 And sometimes it brings back the hope and I  
17 have question. And I'll do my best. And I know Fanny  
18 understand my Franglais but I'll -- I have, like, few  
19 question and the two of you can respond of course.

20 When you say you made those calls to get  
21 help, to get the proper support for your mental health, or  
22 for the -- the trauma, or for what you're going through,  
23 why there's no answer on the other end of that call?

24 **MS. KILLAQ ENUARAQ-STRAUSS:** I ask the same  
25 question. I have no idea. There is an alarming amount of

1 disrespect towards Inuit in the healthcare system in  
2 Nunavut. Whether it's for mental health or physical  
3 health, the way that Inuit are treated by medical  
4 professionals is as if we don't deserve to be healed, as if  
5 we don't deserve the services.

6 And, I mean, I have my uncle who -- he -- he  
7 was diagnosed with Stage 4 cancer and he is, like so many  
8 other Inuit, who are only diagnosed in the late stages  
9 because we don't even have cancer screening technologies in  
10 Nunavut. And often times, Inuit are told that their pain  
11 is caused by alcoholism or drug abuse instead of actually  
12 being thoroughly examined and properly seen.

13 And, I mean, I've gone to the hospital so  
14 many times and just been sent home with Tylenol. No matter  
15 what it is, always the answer is Tylenol. And there's  
16 never any actual appointment where you feel as though  
17 people are listening and anything -- any help will be made.

18 So I think that, in a lot of ways, it's just  
19 a lack of respect for the people who need help. And a lack  
20 of understanding for what we need help for. And that's the  
21 only thing I can think of that makes sense as to why I  
22 haven't heard back from the resources.

23 **MS. COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** It -- it  
24 -- my question, it's the same for you, Susan. I think you  
25 mentioned that when you go with your husband, who is



1 Canadian?

2 **MS. SUSAN ENUARAQ:** Yeah, he's -- he's --  
3 he's a White man.

4 **MS. COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Okay.

5 **MS. SUSAN ENUARAQ:** Yeah.

6 **MS. COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Do you  
7 see a difference? You mention it.

8 **MS. SUSAN ENUARAQ:** There's a difference.  
9 We're -- we're not together anymore. We had a break --  
10 breakdown in our marriage about five years ago. And I  
11 think it might have, at one point, to do with what happened  
12 to Sula and her girls because I became an alcoholic and the  
13 -- the anger was too hard to bear.

14 So for us to get help, if I wanted to be  
15 taken seriously, I would take my husband along because they  
16 -- and the funny thing is, the medical professions --  
17 professionals, would ask him questions instead of asking  
18 me.

19 The only time medical professionals took me  
20 kind of seriously was if I happened to mention that I'm a  
21 lawyer. That's when they kind of changed their thinking.  
22 I have a torn ligament, ACL and right here, and I was going  
23 back and forth to the health centre here in Rankin Inlet  
24 for maybe six months.

25 I -- I was going to go see another doctor

1 and I asked my coworkers, "How do they take -- how can they  
2 take me seriously?" And jokingly, someone said, "Cry." So  
3 when I went to the health centre here in Rankin, there were  
4 two doctors that saw me. Again, they didn't take me  
5 seriously at all. I said to them in their face, crying, "I  
6 am a lawyer. If you're treating me like this and I cannot  
7 advocate myself to you, how are you treating my people who  
8 are not lawyers, who have less education to deal with you?  
9 How can -- what's happening to them?"

10 So they finally referred me to Winnipeg to  
11 go to -- for an MRI on my knee. That's when we found out I  
12 had a torn ACL and a torn medial 90, whatever the ligament  
13 is. And when they -- when the health centre called me to  
14 tell me that, I wanted to give them the finger. In fact, I  
15 did towards the health centre because, basically, it was,  
16 "See? I'm serious." They have a really hard time keeping  
17 -- taking us seriously.

18 My brother, the one we talk about -- Sula's  
19 father, had been going back and forth to the health centre  
20 in Pond Inlet for a very long time. He has pictures of  
21 bloody stool that he wiped himself with, showed it to the  
22 nurse. Still Tylenol. I think -- I like to say that  
23 Tylenol is the new -- the new blanket that they gave -- TB  
24 blankets. That's how I see Tylenol to be as.

25 **MS. COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** My --

1        merci. My other question with the -- the -- the health  
2        system, I am very -- this is -- tried to translate this,  
3        shocked, or -- I am really shocked. Mental health  
4        professional comes to Iqaluit. Still the same today in  
5        2018?

6                    **MS. KILLAQ ENUARAQ-STRAUSS:** Yes, this  
7        happened last year. It was just in 2017 that it was a new  
8        person every time. And that's only even if you can get on  
9        to the waiting list for psychologists. I think the only  
10       reason they actually took me seriously enough to put me on  
11       the waiting list was that I said I'm going to start self-  
12       medicating, like, to get them to...

13                   **MS. COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Where you  
14       here right now, it's written, they hear it, I hear it, we  
15       hear it. So we cannot pretend that we didn't hear it. So  
16       we have to make sure that we ask the right question when  
17       it's the institutional hearing. Merci beaucoup for that.  
18       And going back to the shelter, the shelter, is it a non-  
19       profit organization? Or it's under the government of  
20       Nunavut?

21                   **MS. SUSAN ENUARAQ:** It's run by the Agvvik  
22       Society, which is a non-profit organization. And they  
23       basically beg for funding every year.

24                   **MS. COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Yeah.  
25       Thank you. And you said that [Speaking in French] you said

1 women, apparently, are often -- or it happen before that  
2 they were turn away? You can explain?

3 **MS. KILLAQ ENUARAQ-STRAUSS:** Yes. I -- I  
4 would like to say, and I said it before, that these are  
5 rumours.

6 **MS. COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Okay.  
7 Perfect.

8 **MS. KILLAQ ENUARAQ-STRAUSS:** I don't -- I  
9 haven't spoken to anybody at the shelter. I've spoken to  
10 people who go to the shelter, and I've spoken to people who  
11 had previously gone to the shelter as well as other people  
12 who work closely with -- with these people. But it's never  
13 been confirmed. It's just rumours.

14 But the fact that these rumours exist and  
15 it's not just me hearing them, I know other people who have  
16 heard the same thing in all -- all social circles. So,  
17 yes, it's just rumours but, at the same time, it's scary  
18 that -- to think that this could be a reality.

19 **MS. COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Right.  
20 Because if you -- my question about -- the other question  
21 would have been, it -- it was -- is it lack of staff? Or  
22 you mentioned funding and how many shelter do you have in  
23 your territory?

24 **MS. KILLAQ ENUARAQ-STRAUSS:** Not nearly  
25 enough. The one in -- the women's shelter in Iqaluit is --

1 first of all, it's not even in Iqaluit, it's in Apex, which  
2 is a little -- like, it's still Iqaluit -- I guess it's a  
3 suburb but it's not quite. But still, it's very far away  
4 from the actual town and it's a very small, old building  
5 that, in my opinion -- I've been there a few times visiting  
6 -- looks kind of like a prison. And there's that, as well  
7 as they just reopened the girls' group home.

8 **MS. COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Okay.

9 **MS. KILLAQ ENUARAQ-STRAUSS:** But I believe  
10 that funding is one of the main issues because I know that  
11 there was a report and there's currently an investigation  
12 into how money was being spent that they got and things  
13 like that. So I don't know the results because it's --  
14 it's ongoing. But I do know that there has been talk about  
15 the issues with funding and how people choose to use the  
16 money.

17 **MS. COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Okay.

18 But beside that, it's a big need I'm pretty sure.

19 **MS. KILLAQ ENUARAQ-STRAUSS:** Without a  
20 doubt. There's -- not just in Iqaluit but all over  
21 Nunavut, it's -- it's a huge, huge resource that we need  
22 because until we start getting the proper mental health  
23 resources and until we start to relearn how to be healthy  
24 communities, there's going to be violence against women and  
25 children. And I think the capacity is very, very limited.

1 And I'm not sure about other communities but from what I've  
2 heard, it's also very limited.

3 **MS. COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** A  
4 shelter, it's -- it's -- it's there because it's layers of  
5 realities, violence and you want to protect yourself. Is -  
6 - is there any program here to prevent the family violence  
7 and help women to say, "There is program for you, or  
8 services." Do you have this here?

9 **MS. KILLAQ ENUARAQ-STRAUSS:** I don't know  
10 for sure. I know that as a young woman growing up in  
11 Nunavut, I have never been offered any counselling or  
12 opportunity to talk about these things. Or any -- nobody's  
13 ever come to the high school to say that these are options  
14 available. Nobody has ever really reached out to say that,  
15 "We do have some resources and here they are."

16 And there's never really been much -- much  
17 discussion through school and things like that of what to  
18 do if you're in these situations. A lot of the times  
19 people are being told to be quiet about it. And being told  
20 not to talk about it because in such a small community, in  
21 a lot of ways it could be dangerous.

22 **MS. COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Okay.

23 **MS. KILLAQ ENUARAQ-STRAUSS:** Do you all have  
24 any other ---

25 **MS. COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** And you

1 mentioned that CBC was more aware about the loss of your  
2 niece and your granddaughters. The police, because of lack  
3 of resource serve like a ---

4 **MS. SUSAN ENUARAQ:** I don't know what their  
5 excuse was because there has to be an excuse. CBC was our  
6 only source of information. It would have been nice if CBC  
7 would've called us to let us know what they know. But they  
8 didn't do that. That's not their mandate.

9 **MS. COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Right.

10 **MS. SUSAN ENUARAQ:** But we heard more from  
11 the media than we did from the RCMP and the coroner's  
12 office.

13 **MS. COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Do you  
14 think because there's not enough officer, or ---

15 **MS. SUSAN ENUARAQ:** With the magnitude of  
16 the incident, they would have had all the resources. They  
17 would have pulled all of their resources to this magnitude  
18 of incident.

19 **MS. COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** You  
20 mention about the mental help and having proper services in  
21 your recommendation. And I hope we'll have a copy, or know  
22 we taped it and -- but it's always a -- a gift for us to  
23 receive also any information coming from you. But do you  
24 think that the RCMP needs to have also that cultural  
25 sensitivity training or other institution?

1                   **MS. SUSAN ENUARAQ:** I think any institution  
2 needs to have cultural training. The Truth and  
3 Reconciliation mandates reconciliation. And it mandates  
4 things like this.

5                   **MS. KILLAQ ENUARAQ-STRAUSS:** And also just  
6 to point out how it works in Nunavut. Unlike in other  
7 parts of Canada, we don't have a territorial police force  
8 or anything like that. We -- I guess the best way to say  
9 it is we rent our RCMP officers. Like, we have -- the  
10 government has an agreement with the RCMP.

11                   So I know Quebec has Surete du Quebec and  
12 things like that. We don't have that. We only have these  
13 RCMP officers. And many of them come and live in a  
14 community for maybe a year or two before being sent to a  
15 new place, or being sent to a new place.

16                   So there's very little chance for them to  
17 actually spend time and spend positive time with Inuit in  
18 the communities and with the communities as a whole to  
19 really understand what they're doing. And -- yeah, and  
20 they don't make any effort to -- to contribute to the  
21 community and they don't go out of their way to be part of  
22 it.

23                   I know we previously had a special  
24 constables program -- but that was before I was born even I  
25 think -- which saw Inuit in positions working closely with



1 the RCMP officers to be, sort of, a community liaison,  
2 like, someone as a go between who understood the language  
3 and was raised with the cultural practices.

4 But, in general, there is a complete lack of  
5 understanding of traditional justice systems and  
6 traditional ways of life that may impact how people behave  
7 and things like that. So, yeah, I forget what we were ---

8 **MS. COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** [Speaking  
9 in French] You wanted to add something?

10 **MS. SUSAN ENUARAQ:** Yes, I almost forgot.  
11 We Facebook and in my Facebook comment last night I said  
12 that - that we are going to testify. And one of my cousins  
13 reminded me that we have lost many cousins to murder  
14 through the -- through the hands of others.

15 My -- one of my favourite cousins, he's --  
16 he is passed away now -- lost a daughter and, actually,  
17 that was one of Kayak's (Ph.) cases in prosecution. And we  
18 lost a cousin, his girlfriend killed him. We lost a cousin  
19 who, to this day, still has not been found.

20 **MS. COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Oh, dear.

21 **MS. SUSAN ENUARAQ:** He's a -- his name is  
22 Benjamin Palluq. And my cousin Jeela grieves. But I don't  
23 know how she grieves because my cousin Benjamin has not  
24 been found. We don't know -- he -- he was in Iqaluit so we  
25 imagine he's dead. But that's the only thing we can do is

1 imagine him being dead because he has not been found.

2 **MS. COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Sorry  
3 about that. Well, in the work we do, they're part of the  
4 energy that we're putting, and the hope and calls for  
5 action at the end of this important journey that we know  
6 that it's also for our boys, our men, our brothers and  
7 grandfather. It's for -- for -- for all of us so...

8 Would you accept -- it's so nice to speak  
9 French. Would you accept a gift from us?

10 **MS. SUSAN ENUARAQ:** Even I understand that -  
11 - you've got to -- As a present? I know un petit peu. I  
12 understand a wee bit. You and I, Facebook friends this  
13 evening. I'll see to it. I'll ask my beautiful  
14 grandmother here to explain about this gift.

15 **MS. BERNIE POITRAS WILLIAMS:** I'm sorry, I  
16 don't speak French or anything. Je t'aime. Oui, I know.  
17 I just want to say Howah (Ph.) Susan and your family and  
18 your support here too. I've been -- I was very honoured to  
19 explain the significance of these eagle feathers that  
20 started this journey from my home in Haida Gwaii on the  
21 west coast of BC. You would know where it is. Queen  
22 Victoria.

23 **MS. KILLAQ ENUARAQ-STRAUSS:** (Indiscernible)

24 **MS. BERNIE POITRAS WILLIAMS:** Oh, well,  
25 you've got another family here too. This journey started

1 as gifts from my homeland -- started off with over 400  
2 eagle feathers that made this journey as gifted to the  
3 family members.

4 And then there's a call out by Terry-Lynn  
5 Fern (Ph.) and Audrey Seagull(Ph.) and that and so we've  
6 been blessed on this journey that family members -- even a  
7 hoop dancer -- young hoop dancer, and sun dance people and  
8 elders, and family members from all across Canada that has  
9 very kindly donated these eagle feathers to the family  
10 members and their support and that.

11 And I want to explain about -- I was  
12 reminded yesterday to make sure, like, I share what the  
13 eagle means in my territory to -- it's a universal one that  
14 the eagle represents the -- he is -- or she is the  
15 universal bird also but it is, like, the closest messenger  
16 to the creator to bring your prayers, your hurts, your  
17 pain, everything. So I wanted to share that.

18 And there is, for you and your mom and for  
19 too -- of your support family, the members here too. But I  
20 just want to say Howah to you again for sharing your --  
21 your story and I know your family, Micah, that has shared  
22 this also with us too. Also, along with the eagle feathers  
23 is the -- the ---

24 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Oh, come on. You  
25 too?

1           **MS. BERNIE POITRAS WILLIAMS:** I'm not going  
2 to tell the story on that one. It's a, make a tea, cozy  
3 and I'm going to have to share it now that ---

4           **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Oh, come on.

5           **MS. BERNIE POITRAS WILLIAMS:** --- that  
6 Michelle and I actually thought that they were toques and  
7 that so ---

8           **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** They didn't know us.

9           **MS. BERNIE POITRAS WILLIAMS:** But also along  
10 with that we have some Arctic cotton and also some Labrador  
11 tea that we'd like to give to you and say Howah to you  
12 again and that -- yeah, that will go to Susan. Okay.  
13 Howah.

14           **MS. SUSAN ENUARAQ:** Merci. Oh, my God.

15           **MS. BERNIE POITRAS WILLIAMS:** I'm not going  
16 under there, no.

17           **MS. SUSAN ENUARAQ:** No, not on that, no.

18           **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Yeah, yeah. I have  
19 to go with you. But you bring me home to your home.

20           **MS. SUSAN ENUARAQ:** Thank you.

21           **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** Thank you. Merci. As a  
22 closing, Esther would like to share a song for -- with the  
23 family and also the public. So I would like to invite  
24 Esther here.

25           **MS. ESTHER POWELL:** Hi everyone -- The

1 testimonies given are the real truths but I'm a nurse  
2 representing the health team. This has to stop. These --  
3 these can be ratified -- Everything that was shared with  
4 the concerns and issues, with the lack of health care  
5 services and resources, what they shared is 100 percent  
6 true.

7 I am speaking as a nurse who has worked in  
8 Nunavut for 11 years. But I'm also proof that we can hire  
9 our own to look after our own. And I wanted to -- I asked  
10 Kayak (Ph.) if we can end the note with Amazing Grace. The  
11 things that we listen to and deal with on a daily basis can  
12 be heavy. And I really enjoyed our meeting -- staff  
13 meeting that we had.

14 Inuit are very spiritual -- in a higher  
15 power even if we didn't know the name, Ruti (Ph.), God, we  
16 knew someone always looked after us, we knew someone helped  
17 us survive, helped my parents survive, my grandparents.

18 I'm from Rankin Inlet, I would like to  
19 reilliterate (Sic.) the hospitality at -- Rankin Inlet  
20 having lived here for ten years now. I grew up in Arviat  
21 (Ph.). I want you all to feel welcome here in Rankin.

22 There is going to be a community feast to  
23 welcome everyone. Don't forget to bring your ulu and  
24 cardboard as a plate. Bring your loose -- I forget to  
25 bring an ulu sometimes because I'm so eager to eat that I

1 leave my house with nothing. And then I run to my sister's  
2 who lives right next door to borrow a ulu. So if you can  
3 get a ulu, bring a ulu with you. Salt will be provided.

4 The feast will be at the community hall, the  
5 complex, which is named after my great-grandfather,  
6 Siniittuq, he was my great-grandfather. And I'm named  
7 after my great-great grandmother Maani Ulujuk, and that's  
8 what the school here is named after. So I take great pride  
9 in living in Rankin, being in Rankin. And I want to say,  
10 again, that I want you guys to all feel welcome in Rankin.  
11 Please feel welcome in Rankin Inlet.

12 Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound that  
13 saved a wretch like me. I once was lost but now I'm found,  
14 I was blind but now I see. I'm going to sing only the  
15 first verse. If you want, you can sing with me. This is  
16 to help get rid of the heavy load and it -- it's also a way  
17 that Inuit release because when we all come across a hard  
18 that Inuit release because when we all come across a hard  
19 time, we always pray. That's what we always do, Inuit.  
20 Thank you. Feel Welcome.

21 **MS. FANNY WYLDE:** Commissioner Audette, I  
22 would like to adjourn this hearing and also adjourn this  
23 second day of the hearings in Rankin. Thank you.

24 **MS. COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Merci.  
25 We'll take five minutes.

1 --- Exhibits (code: P01P11P0203)

2 **Exhibit 1:** Folder of 11 digital images displayed during  
3 the public testimony of the witnesses.

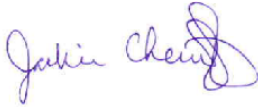
4 **Exhibit 2:** Statement of MS. KILLAQ ENUARAQ-STRAUSS,  
5 read during her public testimony (ten pages,  
6 double-sided).

7 --- Upon adjourning at 5:17 p.m.

8

LEGAL DICTA-TYPIST'S CERTIFICATE

I, Jackie Chernoff, 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.



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Jackie Chernoff

May 8, 2018