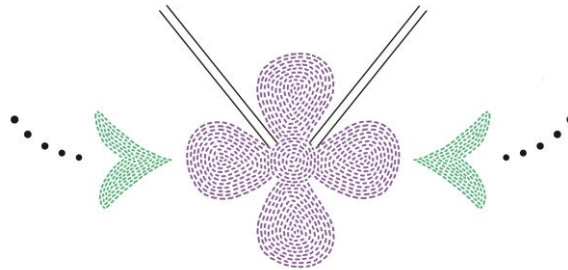


National Inquiry into
Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women and Girls



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
Maison de la famille
Maliotenam/Uashat mak Mani-Utenam, Quebec**



PUBLIC

November 28, 2017

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Danielle St-Onge & Caroline St-Onge

Heard by Jayme Menzies

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1. Letter from the Centre d'aide aux victimes d'actes criminels dated November 11, 2016 (1 page)
2. Ruling from the Court of Quebec (10 pages)

1 MS. JAYME MENZIES: OK, I'm starting the
2 audio. OK. OK.

3 I'll introduce myself. My name is Jayme. I
4 live in Winnipeg and my family is of Métis origin, from
5 Rivière-Rouge, and it's 10:53 a.m. on November 28.

6 Would you like to introduce yourselves?

7 MS. ISABELLE DUBÉ: Yes. My name is Isabelle
8 Dubé. I live in Montreal. I'm from Gespeg, in Gaspésie, so
9 I'm Mi'gmaq and the Commission hired me for the week to
10 provide support to the families and people sharing their
11 testimonies. So, thank you for having me here.

12 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Thank you, Isabelle.

13 Before you introduce yourselves, I just want
14 to confirm you're comfortable with the audio and visual
15 recording. Is that OK?

16 So, maybe you can introduce yourself,
17 Caroline?

18 MS. CAROLINE ST-ONGE: Hello. My name is
19 Caroline. I'm Danielle's mother and I'm from Maliotenam.
20 I'm here with my daughter for her testimony, and I'm very
21 emotional at the moment.

22 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Thank you, Caroline.

23 MS. DANIELLE ST-ONGE: My name is Danielle.
24 I'm an Innu from Maliotenam. (Breathes).

25 OK. I was molested by a family member, an

1 uncle, when I was 5 and 6 years old. The first time it
2 happened, I was five. It was in the fall, and he, the one
3 babysitting us, asked my brother if we wanted to play hide-
4 and-seek, so my brother left to go count. That's when he
5 started touching me over my underwear. That happened twice
6 at home, in the same circumstances, playing hide-and-seek.

7 Then, the summer I was six, I had one of my
8 aunts who is the same age as me. I went to my grandparents'
9 to see her so we could play. I went inside, he was there,
10 and he asked me to follow him to the basement. I went
11 downstairs and into his bedroom with him. In the bedroom,
12 he took me and put me on the bed. Then he lay down next to
13 me and held me and started rubbing himself against my
14 pelvis. I could feel that he had an erection. I didn't feel
15 well, I felt uncomfortable. I didn't know what to do or how
16 to get out of there. He said, "That's how the adults do
17 it." He wanted to show me how... Yes, how the adults did
18 it. I didn't know. I was just six years old.

19 A one point, I was so uncomfortable that I
20 said, "I have to go to the bathroom, I have to go upstairs,
21 to the bathroom." He let me go. I left by the door right
22 away and went to the restaurant just across from my
23 grandmother's. I went in and never said anything to anyone.
24 It's like... It's like it was a bit my fault, I don't know.
25 I didn't feel well, and I remembered that vividly for a

1 long time.

2 Then, when I was 15 or 16, there was... A
3 woman gave a talk at school during an awareness raising
4 week. She told her story about how she was sexually abused
5 by a family member. I was at school and I couldn't speak
6 because of my emotions. There was a lump in my throat and I
7 just listened. I wanted to leave and it was like I had a
8 flashback that I wanted to erase. And when... When she told
9 us her story, I thought, "Hey! Me too! I remember that,
10 that's what happened to me, too!" (Sighs).

11 When that happened, my parents often used to
12 go into the bush without me. I'd tell them that I was going
13 to sleep at home, with three or four friends. When they
14 slept over, we would talk and I told them about... I told
15 them, "Do you remember when the lady came to talk? Me too,
16 I had a flashback, I was molested by..." I told them who it
17 was, a family member, and I told them the whole story,
18 about what I remembered and about my (indiscernible), I
19 remembered. I also remembered the rooms, what was in the
20 rooms, the furniture, the blankets, the curtains, and...

21 After that, I said it another time... Well,
22 with all that, from the time I was 16 I did a bunch of
23 therapy. You know, I told my... Well, I was always trying
24 to find ways to heal, because I was 17 when I started
25 drinking, and 18 when I started using drugs, and it's not

1 just... Drinking Wednesday, Thursday and Friday and still
2 going to school and going to therapy, and it never worked.
3 Sometimes... I didn't know how to get rid of all that, but
4 I thought that when you went to therapy, well, you talk
5 about it, after that... No, it came up all the time.

6 And one time, when we were doing lodges in
7 (indiscernible), they were spirituality lodges, but there
8 was also the psychologist that I was seeing, he came to the
9 lodges too, and he... I said I had been abused, but no one
10 listened. They think that when... Like stress, I told my
11 parents, but they thought maybe it was like stress... What
12 did they call it?

13 MS. ISABELLE DUBÉ: Post-traumatic?

14 MS. DANIELLE ST-ONGE: Yes, that's right.
15 Maybe they didn't notice... Hear, maybe they didn't want to
16 hear that... After that, I let it go.

17 Then in 2007, something happened with my
18 abusing uncle's side of the family, and it was like we were
19 fighting, we weren't speaking, and that's when I told...
20 Well, they heard that I was molested by someone in their
21 family.

22 Then in 2010 I called the police to file a
23 complaint. I called them. When I called the police, well, I
24 had a friend who was a police officer, and he told me, "I'm
25 not the one you should talk to, you should talk to the

1 investigator." They transferred me to the investigator. So
2 I said, "I want to file a complaint." We hadn't been
3 speaking to the rest of the family for three years. So, I
4 said, "I want to file a complaint." So he told me that
5 since I was the only one and that there had never been any
6 other complaints, I might have to wear a mic and go see the
7 molester and ask him why he did what he did. I didn't have
8 the guts to do it, to go see (indiscernible), and he might
9 have just shut the door on me anyways. I said, "Oh yeah,
10 like in the movies!?" He said yes. I had to think about it.
11 I didn't want to see him again! So I said, OK, I'll wait a
12 little bit, because my grandmother was really sick at the
13 time, not dying, but I thought she might pass away soon. I
14 said I'd wait so that my grandmother didn't have to go
15 through that. I decided to wait before filing my complaint.
16 Right.

17 In 2012, I became depressed. I wanted to
18 talk about it, but I didn't know how, and I kept thinking
19 about it... My grandmother died in 2011, and my grandmother
20 and I were... She was my grandmother, my mother, my friend,
21 and we were always together. When she was gone, it's like
22 we lost a part of ourselves too, and I became depressed in
23 2012. I didn't go out anymore, I stayed at home, I didn't
24 see anyone and I just took care of my... My baby and my
25 children, and the only place I went was to my mother's. If

1 I left the community, it was to go into town, but with my
2 parents. I felt comfortable with them, but if I was with
3 other people I was scared of running into him, because I
4 knew... He had already heard that I had told my parents
5 that he had molested me.

6 And then, in 2012, my parents knew a woman
7 from La Tuque, from Lac (indiscernible).

8 MS. CAROLINE ST-ONGE: Lac du
9 (indiscernible).

10 MS. DANIELLE ST-ONGE: Yes. And they
11 explained because they felt guilty that he had done that to
12 me, because at first it made me sad too that they had left
13 me with him. I still think about it. I held it against
14 them. But when I went to therapy, it was for residential
15 school victims (indiscernible), a special therapy for that,
16 and when I went... Well, there was no room for me, and at
17 one point they called me and I got a sponsor. They found me
18 a spot maybe because I had depression or... I went. It was
19 a three-week therapy, and it helped me and I felt liberated
20 because I was only with other people who experienced... The
21 same things as me, so we understood each other. I left
22 there in April. I started in March, and I left at the
23 beginning of April, and I felt good.

24 Then I came back to my life here, and
25 following the therapy, I decided that I was going to file a

1 complaint, and that I would continue what I had put
2 aside... What I learned in therapy was that I had to report
3 him so that I could move on with my life. So I called my
4 parents in early May and said to my mother, "We're going to
5 go to the police station. I'll tell you when, I'll be
6 ready, but I'm going to report him. I have to report him to
7 move on. If not, I'll stay stuck in the same place."

8 We went on May 13, 2015... Uh, 2013. I filed
9 my complaint and reported him and it took... It took a
10 while for the prosecutor... Well, how it works is that
11 they... They went to see him, and he was never there, the
12 accused, and it's like it was always to his benefit. "Oh, I
13 have somewhere to go, I'll be back later... Tut-tut..." And
14 in 2014, that's when I saw the prosecutor and I was told
15 that it was... That according to the judge I could take him
16 to court because they asked me if I could testify and I
17 said yes. So when they told that to the judge, he said he
18 would give me a preliminary investigation date.

19 At the same time, in October 2014, I got
20 pregnant, and my preliminary investigation was in January
21 2015. And then we went, we were like... They asked me to
22 testify and his lawyer started asking me questions, "Were
23 you..." That was harder, that part. "Do you remember what
24 kind of underwear you had on? And what you were
25 wearing?" All that kind of stuff. I remembered, but inside,

1 you know. And they asked, "How long... Why are you
2 reporting him now, and not before?" When your family is
3 very close, like it was until 2007, I couldn't just say,
4 "OK, I'm going to report him." And it (indiscernible)... It
5 would (indiscernible). You think you're going to ruin
6 everything.

7 After the preliminary investigation, the
8 judge said that there had to be a trial, that I would... It
9 wasn't, how would you say it... Not approved, but "it's
10 your time to go." They said they would wait until after I
11 gave birth. So I gave birth in May 2015 and my court date
12 was for September 2015. You go to court, you wait and you
13 wait, and it gets postponed. Oh! Then they said, "We'll
14 schedule it for February." Argh! It's hard! While I was
15 waiting, as the victim, I couldn't sleep two weeks
16 beforehand because of the stress leading up to February. I
17 started acting differently at home, my children, I don't
18 know, I treated them... I wasn't myself. I was stressed out
19 and not sleeping. I was tired and scared.

20 So then I was sitting at home, waiting for
21 the court date on the next Tuesday. A police officer
22 knocked on our door on the Friday before the court date. I
23 said, "Yes?" He said, "I've got your papers." I asked,
24 "Why?" Jokingly, I said, "I hope they didn't postpone
25 it!" He didn't laugh and he said, "Yes, they did." I

1 started crying and he said, "Are you completely ready for
2 Tuesday?" So I called my parents and said, "They've
3 postponed it again." I went back and looked at the date. It
4 was postponed until April. So I went... We waited.

5 April finally came. The same thing happened;
6 I couldn't sleep for two weeks beforehand. It's always the
7 same thing. The month of April came and I showed up with my
8 witnesses, and they came back and the prosecutor came over
9 to me in the afternoon, around 2 or 3 p.m., and said: "It's
10 been postponed." I said, "Why? I'm so ready, I have to do
11 it now." He said, "Since you have witnesses, well, he has
12 witnesses too. We have to assess his witnesses." Can you
13 believe it! I was so pissed off! Sorry, but can you
14 imagine, making me go through that again! I said, "When is
15 it going to be?" I was told they would call me. When I got
16 home, I was even more upset than when I hadn't been
17 sleeping and my children... They put up with me, with that.

18 After that, they called me in September.
19 When I met with the prosecutor in the morning, I said, "I
20 hope it's going to happen this time!" You know! After
21 three, four attempts, on top of the waiting time since
22 2013, it was 2016 by then. I said, "I hope this time it
23 happens because I'm even more ready than before." So we're
24 sitting there, it's 11 a.m., and it gets postponed to 2
25 p.m. So we're waiting and waiting, and then... Then he pled

1 guilty and he was given 10 years on the list of sexual
2 offenders, a two-year restraining order for him not to come
3 near me or to my workplace or home, and 2 years of not
4 being allowed near children under 16, and he had to pay
5 fees to two charity organizations.

6 So, that was in September 2016. I work at
7 the Council. So he came to my workplace because he's a
8 fishing officer. He came to my workplace and I called the
9 police and said, "Look, this man can't be in my workplace."
10 Because when I got the papers from the court, they didn't
11 say that he couldn't come to my workplace, but I went to
12 the court to get the stenographer's copy. It said that he
13 couldn't come to my workplace. You know? So I called the
14 police and said, "Look, this guy can't be in my workplace."
15 He said, "It's a public place." Because I work for the Band
16 Council. Right. Then, (indiscernible), that couldn't be
17 right, because it's a workplace, regardless of where I
18 work.

19 So then he came back in... Between September
20 and December 2016, he came back at least three times. I
21 didn't stop calling. He came back twice this summer, but
22 one time he came in and I was with my colleagues and he
23 looked me straight in the eyes and turned around and... My
24 work colleagues noticed and said, "Did you see what he did?
25 He was looking at you." And when I see him around, you

1 know, I'm scared of him! I know he wouldn't, but still...
2 You know, he molested me. I couldn't say anything and I
3 suffered through it, and it's like he's bullying me. He
4 would do it whenever I saw him around.

5 Then in July, a lawyer called me. Some
6 Indigenous women gave my name, because it wasn't his first
7 time to be... Well, they talked about him in the news and
8 it turns out I wasn't the only one. I said, "Look, my case
9 is done. I don't know if you need me, but I've already been
10 to court." And I said, "Can I ask you a question?" She
11 said, "Yes. What is it?" I said, "The stenographer's paper
12 and the papers with the court order that I received weren't
13 the same. But he still comes to my workplace and they keep
14 telling me it's a public place and they say... In the
15 stenographer's copy, it clearly says that he can't come to
16 my workplace." She asked me to send them to her. So I did.
17 She told me that he couldn't come to my workplace, no
18 matter where it is. If I'm in a supermarket, he's the one
19 who has to leave. (indiscernible) they explained.

20 OK. The month of... I sent her this and the
21 lawyer lady sent the two documents to the prosecutor. In
22 August 2017, this year, I received another document saying
23 there had been a mistake, and that as of August 2017 he was
24 no longer allowed in my workplace. OK. I'm like, alright,
25 I'm happy now. That's dealt with.

1 But in October 2017, I got a call from
2 CAVAC. They told me I had to go to court. I asked them why.
3 They want to change their request because he wants to get
4 in the Band Council. I said, "Why? I'm not the one who
5 decided that, the judge did." "No, they want to change it
6 and they absolutely want you to be there to defend
7 yourself." It took three and a half years of my life, I was
8 scared, I was stressed, and for him, it took a year... A
9 month and a half to get his sentence amended.

10 I went. I told myself that I had to go to
11 defend myself. I went back there. I went in and they called
12 me up, having payments (phon.) then, "Where do you
13 work?" And all those questions. I said, "I work for the
14 Council." I explained it to them. "Do you know which
15 department?" "Well, I work with the political department
16 too." OK. When it was his lawyer's turn, he said, "When you
17 were young, at the time you said you were abused..." I
18 looked over at the judge, you know? We were talking about
19 my work. I started crying because I didn't know what was
20 going on. Did they bring me to court for the same thing
21 again or... Then they asked for a postponement. I came back
22 and he started explaining his job, and now he can come to
23 the Council, but with... He has to call the police, the
24 police then have to call me, but... Do you know, I just
25 want to say that sometimes justice... I was a victim, he

1 damaged me, and for his job he can just go directly and
2 even... Those three and a half years were tough... It made
3 things hard, you know, my parents and... In all those
4 years.

5 In November 2016, I saw on Facebook that he
6 was being awarded! He helped several women, while I was
7 damaged by him, you know, the dialogues (phon.) we had...
8 They were giving him an award. I made a complaint and said,
9 “How can you award him, the man who damaged me and...” Do
10 you know, it’s like abusers, molesters are always put on a
11 pedestal and the victims are always down below, trying to
12 climb up and... It’s tough. And all my relatives that were
13 there, they... They were also affected and he just walks
14 around like nothing happened. It’s hard, you know.

15 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Thank you for sharing,
16 Danielle. Can I ask you a question? During the court
17 process, was any support provided to the victims, you, and
18 also for your parents, things like that at the beginning?

19 MS. DANIELLE ST-ONGE: There was my
20 psychologist... Well, the guy who worked for the community.

21 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes.

22 MS. DANIELLE ST-ONGE: He came but...

23 MS. JAYME MENZIES: By...

24 MS. DANIELLE ST-ONGE: And CAVAC came with
25 me, but after...

1 MS. JAYME MENZIES: OK. But that was arranged
2 through the court.

3 MS. DANIELLE ST-ONGE: No, I called to ask
4 them to come with me.

5 MS. JAYME MENZIES: OK. And nothing for your
6 parents.

7 MS. DANIELLE ST-ONGE: No.

8 MS. JAYME MENZIES: ... Your children...

9 MS. DANIELLE ST-ONGE: No, nothing. But my
10 son, he was a victim of (indiscernible) all the time
11 (indiscernible) was abused (sobs). I'm sad and ... (sobs).

12 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Is there a sentence or an
13 order that you think would have been fairer? What sentence
14 do you think the judge should have...

15 MS. DANIELLE ST-ONGE: Well, it's in the
16 long-term, you know. I wanted to report him, to end this. I
17 wanted to go to the end, and I took the time, but other
18 women might not want to report because they know that my
19 case took an eternity.

20 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Uh-huh.

21 MS. DANIELLE ST-ONGE: ...Almost four years,
22 three and a half years, and after that you have to live
23 with other people bullying you... I still experience that,
24 even my family gets bullied. You have to report him, yes,
25 but you also need to help the people after.

1 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Uh-huh. So, is there a
2 process you think would be more appropriate than the legal
3 system, a court like that?

4 MS. DANIELLE ST-ONGE: Well, taking less
5 time.

6 MS. JAYME MENZIES: OK.

7 MS. DANIELLE ST-ONGE: Taking less time for
8 the victim because it's long and hard.

9 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Uh-huh. Does your uncle
10 live here too?

11 MS. DANIELLE ST-ONGE: Yes.

12 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes.

13 MS. DANIELLE ST-ONGE: We see him, I see him
14 and...

15 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Mm.

16 MS. ISABELLE DUBÉ: Throughout everything you
17 went through, and especially from the moment you reported
18 him, what was the range of emotions you went through?

19 MS. DANIELLE ST-ONGE: Oh, there was stress,
20 fear, you know, sometimes shame, too. When a woman is
21 sexually abused, her life isn't like that of a normal
22 woman, you know? A normal woman, relationships are... Well,
23 you have relationships, but that's not what I experienced
24 because I wasn't able to say no to men. I didn't know what
25 a normal relationship was supposed to be like. I said yes

1 to most men I was with. And now, today, when I look at
2 myself... They used to talk about me when I younger too,
3 because I said yes to everyone. (Sobs) A woman
4 (indiscernible) doesn't respect herself. He took my
5 childhood, my girlhood, my womanhood. (Sobs).

6 MS. ISABELLE DUBÉ: What impacts do you think
7 this has had on your family? You talked about it a little,
8 your children, your parents. What do you think? Your story
9 must have affected them too.

10 MS. DANIELLE ST-ONGE: Uh-huh. Yes. When I
11 said that... I'm the only girl; I have three brothers. I
12 protect... Well, when I told them my story, they couldn't
13 believe it. But I've always asked them not to take sides,
14 because they speak to family. I respect them, but I've told
15 them not to get involved in my life, "I'm telling you what
16 happened to me because I just want you to know what
17 happened because we're going to... you're going to hear
18 things about me and..." Sort of defeated, they... We
19 heard... When he... When his award was taken back, I was in
20 the news... They saw what I had posted on Facebook, that he
21 was receiving an award while I... How I wrote that...

22 MS. CAROLINE ST-ONGE: He was being valued.

23 MS. DANIELLE ST-ONGE: Yes. He was being
24 valued and I've been devalued. I wasn't trying to get
25 valued either, but what was pissing me off... He was

1 standing there, all proud and... Barely two months before
2 he had gone to court and pled guilty to being an abuser.

3 MS. JAYME MENZIES: But the Inquiry's
4 commissioners will listen to your testimony. Do you have
5 any suggestions for them regarding police investigations,
6 educational support, justice, anything? A message for them
7 directly?

8 MS. CAROLINE ST-ONGE: (In Innu).

9 MS. DANIELLE ST-ONGE: Uh-huh.

10 MS. CAROLINE ST-ONGE: (In Innu).

11 MS. DANIELLE ST-ONGE: Like the justice, you
12 know, to take the time to assess why they're going to
13 court, what the case is. If, for example, it's about an
14 argument, that can take the time it takes, but if it's
15 abuse...

16 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Uh-huh.

17 MS. DANIELLE ST-ONGE: You know? In the news
18 I saw a story about a young girl from... who was my age, 5
19 or 6 years old, and he pled... They asked... How do you
20 say? He gave a...

21 (In Innu).

22 MS. CAROLINE ST-ONGE: His statement.

23 MS. DANIELLE ST-ONGE: Yes.

24 MS. JAYME MENZIES: OK.

25 MS. DANIELLE ST-ONGE: It took so long, and

1 the young girl had forgotten her story, you know. It takes
2 too long...

3 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Uh-huh.

4 MS. DANIELLE ST-ONGE: For... It's really
5 hard to go through these trials. I'm someone, for example,
6 who remembers a lot, which means that I never forgot that
7 moment; it's seared into my memory. I even remember little
8 things, like when we would go on trips or things like that.
9 I have a really good memory. So when I went to court, I
10 didn't mind testifying because I could remember everything.

11 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Uh-huh.

12 MS. DANIELLE ST-ONGE: But when it's all
13 present for a young girl, after that they lose their
14 credibility... Because they get mixed up in their stories,
15 the years. Not everyone remembers things that well, you
16 know? They should take the time to assess the time frame
17 required when someone files a complaint, otherwise... Look,
18 my case lasted three years and six months. That's a long
19 time when you're a 12-year-old girl.

20 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Uh-huh.

21 MS. DANIELLE ST-ONGE: ...You forget things
22 sometimes.

23 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Uh-huh. You're right.

24 MS. DANIELLE ST-ONGE: I could suggest that
25 they assess how much time...

1 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Uh-huh.

2 MS. DANIELLE ST-ONGE: Look, for him, it took
3 a month and a half. Straightaway. He wanted to get in the
4 Council, he took me to court, it wasn't that... Even though
5 it was two years. He still had 11 months before being
6 allowed in my workplace. But no, he wanted to come back and
7 it was straightaway, the court... They summoned me one day,
8 whereas for me it took a very long time.

9 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Uh-huh.

10 MS. DANIELLE ST-ONGE: But I don't think
11 about that anymore, and... Also, I filed my complaint in
12 May and it took until August or September for the police to
13 go see and ask if he had molested me. It took all summer.

14 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Uh-huh.

15 MS. DANIELLE ST-ONGE: But I'd filed my
16 complaint. Why didn't they go see him? It's the time it
17 takes to... To do all that, the court process, justice. So
18 that's what I'd like them to review and assess.

19 MS. JAYME MENZIES: (Indiscernible) Do you
20 have any other questions?

21 MS. ISABELLE DUBÉ: Yes. Well, speaking of
22 the court process, was there anyone, like lawyers or anyone
23 else, who explained to you how it worked?

24 MS. DANIELLE ST-ONGE: Well, there was the
25 prosecutor, but when you're not... He asked for an

1 anticip...

2 MS. ISABELLE DUBÉ: Anticipation?

3 MS. DANIELLE ST-ONGE: Yes. What's that?

4 MS. ISABELLE DUBÉ: Good question.

5 MS. JAYME MENZIES: I don't know the word in
6 French, sorry.

7 MS. ISABELLE DUBÉ: Anti... *anticipation*.

8 MS. JAYME MENZIES: *Anticipation*? Who did he
9 ask that from?

10 MS. DANIELLE ST-ONGE: Oh, he asked... Can we
11 stop? I'll go get my paper.

12 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes.

13 MS. DANIELLE ST-ONGE: From the court.

14 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes.

15 MS. DANIELLE ST-ONGE: Where are my shoes?

16 OK. Good. Wait. Because yes, he asked to not... A thing...

17 (SHORT BREAK)

18 MS. JAYME MENZIES: We're resuming. One
19 moment, Danielle, I'll just...

20 We're resuming at 11:30 a.m. Yes, thank you.

21 MS. DANIELLE ST-ONGE: OK.

22 MS. JAYME MENZIES: So, you're going to
23 present a document. Can you tell us about it, what you
24 understand about it?

25 MS. DANIELLE ST-ONGE: Yes. I got two

1 (indiscernible), two orders with different dates. So, I was
2 telling you about [*confidential information - five lines*
3 *blacked out*].

4 And I forgot to mention that the guy who
5 abused me is a member of my... Well, I said that he's a
6 family member, but he also claims to be the high spiritual
7 chief. His name is Léo St-Onge.

8 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Thank you for sharing
9 that.

10 MS. DANIELLE ST-ONGE: Yes, sharing...

11 MS. ISABELLE DUBÉ: He's a highly ranked
12 person.

13 MS. DANIELLE ST-ONGE: Yes. It's...

14 MS. ISABELLE DUBÉ: Like you said, in the
15 community.

16 MS. DANIELLE ST-ONGE: Yes. Highly ranked,
17 and...

18 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Even today, still.

19 MS. DANIELLE ST-ONGE: Yes, even today.

20 MS. JAYME MENZIES: OK. Thank you. I have no
21 other questions for you.

22 Do you have questions for Danielle?

23 MS. ISABELLE DUBÉ: I don't have any more
24 questions.

25 MS. JAYME MENZIES: We can speak to your

1 mother and we'll come back to you after, if you think about
2 anything else to add.

3 MS. DANIELLE ST-ONGE: Uh-huh.

4 MS. JAYME MENZIES: I also want to say that
5 if you think about something tomorrow, or this evening,
6 Wednesday, you can come back and we can talk some more. So
7 it's not the end for you today.

8 MS. DANIELLE ST-ONGE: Uh-huh.

9 MS. JAYME MENZIES: And even if you think of
10 something next week, you can call us or write to us. So,
11 you don't just have today to talk; we have a relationship
12 now and we can add messages to your testimony anytime. OK?

13 MS. DANIELLE ST-ONGE: Uh-huh.

14 MS. JAYME MENZIES: OK.

15 MS. DANIELLE ST-ONGE: Can we take a break?

16 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes.

17 MS. DANIELLE ST-ONGE: OK.

18 MS. JAYME MENZIES: We'll take a break, no
19 problem.

20 MS. DANIELLE ST-ONGE: OK. (In Innu).

21 (SHORT BREAK)

22 MS. JAYME MENZIES: We're resuming. OK. We're
23 resuming at 11:50 a.m.

24 When you're ready.

25 MS. CAROLINE ST-ONGE: *Kuei!* Hello, my name

1 is Caroline. I'm Danielle's mother. I'll start at the
2 beginning, when she made her statement and she asked me to
3 come with her, and I didn't know about anything. I knew she
4 had been molested and all that, but... When she made her
5 statement, I didn't know anything. I went with her to the
6 police station, and that's when I learned what happened to
7 her. And, deep down, maybe I'm happy she did it that way,
8 and that she hadn't told me earlier. Maybe I wouldn't have
9 been able to go with her, but I was learning about it as
10 she made her statement.

11 It's so hard for a mother, and for the
12 father too. You feel guilty when you learn your child was
13 abused because you're responsible for them from birth...
14 For the rest of their lives. I'll be Danielle's mother
15 until my last breath, and her last breath. And I felt so
16 guilty.

17 Even today, when it gets brought up, like
18 now, talking about it, and even when (indiscernible), when
19 a woman talks about the abuse she's experienced or...
20 There's always a twinge of pain inside.

21 As for me... There are services everywhere,
22 but sometimes you don't know, or you're so hurt at the time
23 that you... You don't think about them, and when you're
24 feeling better after, you forget about it, so it remains.
25 It remains. There are services and counselors everywhere.

1 Back when I experienced things like... I was abused, and it
2 seems like those services didn't exist back then, and today
3 they're everywhere, because sometimes we forget and... To
4 use those services.

5 And now, for the process, the lengthy... The
6 lengthy justice process, I deplore that service and it
7 seems to me that when you report someone, you're the victim
8 and it's the prosecutor who takes your case... You don't
9 have your own lawyer, it's the prosecutor. What we
10 experienced, what I saw, what my daughter experienced, I...
11 There's no bond with the prosecutor, because he's in a
12 rush, you know, he's going this way and that, he comes back
13 over, he... Yes, sometimes he would take five minutes to
14 quickly explain something, but you don't have time to go
15 over everything, you know?

16 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Mm.

17 MS. CAROLINE ST-ONGE: And you don't dare ask
18 questions because his cases are already... He's in the
19 doorway, explaining things from the doorway. When you have
20 a prosecutor, when... You report something, there should be
21 a bond with him, so that you feel comfortable and can ask
22 questions. And especially, I think we don't have time to
23 ask questions because you see the person and they're too
24 quick, they leave, and that's what used to happen. It
25 lasted until...

1 MS. DANIELLE ST-ONGE: I changed prosecutors
2 twice.

3 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Uh-huh.

4 MS. CAROLINE ST-ONGE: It wasn't the same
5 one.

6 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Mm!

7 MS. DANIELLE ST-ONGE: Twice, without knowing
8 who I would end up with... Because him, he has his own
9 lawyer that he paid for, you know? Whereas I get whoever I
10 get. It was a woman one day, then another day it was a man,
11 then the same man again, then at the end it was the woman,
12 and... You don't know who to talk to anymore, how... They
13 just look at your case and say, "OK, sure." When you're the
14 victim, I think you end up with (indiscernible). Yet he
15 hired the best lawyer for himself. But we're in the ...
16 Well, the best! He still lost, OK? But, you know, when he
17 stayed with him, I mean... When you have the same, you get
18 a better idea, right?

19 MS. ISABELLE DUBÉ: The people who are
20 supposed to defend you don't even know you.

21 MS. DANIELLE ST-ONGE: Uh-huh.

22 MS. ISABELLE DUBÉ: They know you through
23 your file.

24 MS. CAROLINE ST-ONGE: Uh-huh. I deplore the
25 way it works. It's like she said: the prosecutor, the

1 prosecutor's assistant, and obviously even the CAVAC, to a
2 certain point, they're all human beings, I understand that
3 they get sick, that it's another...

4 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes. Mm.

5 MS. CAROLINE ST-ONGE: Even with the
6 counselors? How often did they change?

7 MS. DANIELLE ST-ONGE: Yes, (indiscernible)
8 three counselors.

9 MS. CAROLINE ST-ONGE: One got sick, so the
10 other... It makes it so hard for the person who's reporting
11 and... Even those around you change. I get that they're
12 human beings, and they get sick, but it's awful when it
13 happens, you know, for the person.

14 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Mm.

15 MS. CAROLINE ST-ONGE: And I'm not saying
16 it's harder for us because it's a family member, but it's
17 not easy when it's within the family.

18 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Mm.

19 MS. CAROLINE ST-ONGE: With social media, we
20 experienced a lot of things...

21 (In Innu).

22 At one point, it said... OK, maybe it was
23 just on Facebook, but Facebook is open to everyone, and it
24 said that it wasn't her uncle who had...

25 MS. DANIELLE ST-ONGE: Abused.

1 MS. CAROLINE ST-ONGE: Abused her, that it
2 was me.

3 MS. DANIELLE ST-ONGE: That my mother was the
4 one who abused me.

5 MS. CAROLINE ST-ONGE: They said that, you
6 know. At some point, I have my son, he's not Lucien's
7 son... His father isn't Lucien. You know, it's so mean!

8 MS. DANIELLE ST-ONGE: My other brother and
9 even his aunt and, "you said you loved me," and... Geez!
10 That's just being mean for no reason. And you have children
11 who are... My eldest is 20. He saw all that, and my niece
12 saw it all. Everyone in our family has been hurt by this...

13 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Uh-huh.

14 MS. DANIELLE ST-ONGE: ... after.

15 MS. CAROLINE ST-ONGE: It isn't easy.
16 Especially when it's in the community. Everyone knows
17 everyone else. It's like you fart and the neighbour hears
18 it, you know? And everyone had seen what had been posted on
19 Facebook. And how can you feel? The day after it happened
20 on social media, my partner and I went into town to get a
21 coffee and go to the mall, and Lucien said to me:
22 "Caroline, let's go on, they're the ones suffering the
23 most." We went on and... But it hurts, whether you like it
24 or not, and it hurts most when it comes from your family.
25 If someone else had said that, I would have told him to

1 go...

2 MS. DANIELLE ST-ONGE: To hell.

3 MS. CAROLINE ST-ONGE: But when it's a family
4 member, it stays with you. You look at them and think...
5 You don't understand how they can do that to a family
6 member, say such horrible things. And sometimes I wonder if
7 women and girls will speak up after seeing everything we
8 went through? There will be fear.

9 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Uh-huh.

10 MS. CAROLINE ST-ONGE: I ask myself that
11 question sometimes. Because the day they posted all that,
12 my daughter got a lot of supportive messages, but in
13 private. They didn't want to post them publicly because
14 they were scared.

15 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Uh-huh.

16 MS. ISABELLE DUBÉ: Yes.

17 MS. CAROLINE ST-ONGE: You know? But they,
18 the family members, didn't see how many people told us not
19 to give up, to keep going. They didn't see that, because it
20 was in private.

21 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Uh-huh.

22 MS. DANIELLE ST-ONGE: Even today, some
23 people post stuff but they (indiscernible) no one. What
24 she's talking about was them actually using my name, and
25 they would tag me, and name my father, mother and my

1 brothers. But today, when other family members post
2 something, I know right away that they're talking about me,
3 you know? It hasn't stopped.

4 I've even asked a friend who's a lawyer, I
5 said, "I need you, I want to know what I can do, I'm
6 panicking." He said, "Do you want the advice of a friend or
7 a lawyer?" I said, "Both." "Forget about them. You're
8 stronger than them." You know? They post stuff and they're
9 the worst. That's how I see them. I have to move on instead
10 of continuing to listen to them and read that... But I can
11 say that since I started the process, in 2013, I've
12 respected myself, my children, my family, my parents, my
13 brothers, my sisters-in law, and their children, and I've
14 never posted a thing on Facebook. Nothing.

15 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Uh-huh.

16 MS. DANIELLE ST-ONGE: Except that one time
17 when I saw he was being awarded at the Dialogue de la vie.
18 That's the only time I posted something. And yet, I know a
19 lot of stuff, but for the sake of my family, myself, my
20 children, I've never said a thing on social media and I'm
21 proud of myself. Otherwise it's like (indiscernible) it
22 never stops, so... That's how it was, for me. I'm the one
23 who spoke up and that's how it works, with respect. That's
24 how I could tell you how that happened.

25 MS. ISABELLE DUBÉ: I may have a last

1 question for you both. Following the legal process, after
2 all that, during the Inquiry Commission, how do you feel
3 now?

4 MS. DANIELLE ST-ONGE: Well, I feel good. I
5 feel good, but I... I wouldn't say I've turned a new leaf,
6 that keeps coming back up, you know? It's ingrained in...
7 My counselor told me that it's there to stay, I just have
8 to learn to accept it. Accept what happened to me. I'm
9 working on it, but I can't change it. I was abused, I'm a
10 girl who was abused, and I'll always be a girl... (Sobs),
11 but I just have to learn to live with it. I'll never be
12 able to erase it. I have to keep moving forward. My
13 children, my partner, my family—I'm fighting to keep going
14 forward. That's how I see it.

15 Thank you for listening to me.

16 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Mm.

17 MS. ISABELLE DUBÉ: Thank you.

18 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes.

19 MS. ISABELLE DUBÉ: Did you want to add
20 anything, Caroline?

21 MS. CAROLINE ST-ONGE: Yes. Throughout the
22 three and a half years of the process, we always held
23 ceremonies. My husband does them, and we got help from
24 other leaders to continue and to continue going on, and
25 still today we have sweats, ceremonies, and all that. And

1 at one point I learned something about guilt throughout
2 those three years and it's that the only guilty person in
3 this whole story is him, the abuser.

4 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Mm.

5 MS. CAROLINE ST-ONGE: I trusted him to take
6 care of my children and if I'd known what he was going to
7 do, obviously I wouldn't have left my children with him.

8 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Mm.

9 MS. CAROLINE ST-ONGE: So, he's the only
10 guilty one. It's not that I'm... I haven't forgotten about
11 it, but I tell myself that it's him. I trusted him
12 completely. I trusted him. At one point, the first time my
13 daughter told me about it, I held her in my arms and we
14 cried together and I asked for her forgiveness. Forgiveness
15 for leaving her... For leaving her with him. But after I
16 asked for her forgiveness, I understood that the only one
17 guilty here was him.

18 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Mm.

19 MS. CAROLINE ST-ONGE: And I think that if
20 there are people who... If it isn't easy for them to get
21 counselling or anything, there are still ceremonies that
22 help a lot. A lot, quite a lot. And that's open to anyone.
23 And even the counselors, the services, they should have
24 more information about the services. OK, there's something
25 going, there you go, the front line counselors are there.

1 Oh! Then things calm down and people forget.

2 MS. ISABELLE DUBÉ: Yes.

3 MS. CAROLINE ST-ONGE: Huh? Whoops! Another
4 event, another tragedy happens and look! Services and radio
5 ads, everything, then everything calms down and... There
6 should be more awareness, information... It was all undone
7 (phon.) on the radio. To find the time to... And here, the
8 ads are... I don't listen to the radio much, but when I...
9 Sometimes I hear, "Yes, yes, there was a ceremony." They
10 should hold one every day.

11 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Uh-huh.

12 MS. CAROLINE ST-ONGE: Like how do you call
13 them? Not ads, but clips, you could say. That's what I
14 think. I'm not saying that there aren't any in the
15 community, but to continue to promote the services and
16 inform people.

17 MS. ISABELLE DUBÉ: That's a good idea.

18 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Uh-huh.

19 MS. CAROLINE ST-ONGE: So, you know, that's
20 it. So that when something happens, you can get help.

21 MS. ISABELLE DUBÉ: Uh-huh.

22 MS. CAROLINE ST-ONGE: Because when you're on
23 the spot, you don't think about it. Like us, when she
24 walked, hey, we still had our ceremonies, all that, you
25 know? But I don't know today, right now, you listen to me

1 and it's like... Pffft! A small relief. And when you're
2 there, you relive it, you feel it, and in the meantime, I
3 pray for the person, for the testimony to go well, for her
4 to feel well. And I admire my daughter.

5 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Mm!

6 MS. ISABELLE DUBÉ: Oh, yes!

7 MS. CAROLINE ST-ONGE: I admire her a lot,
8 and I think I cried more than she did when she made her
9 statement. Sometimes, she's the one who was supporting us,
10 and we were always with her and her father and I walked
11 with her. This is the first time her father isn't with us,
12 but it still went OK.

13 So, thank you.

14 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Mm!

15 MS. ISABELLE DUBÉ: Thank you.

16 MS. CAROLINE ST-ONGE: I hope that...

17 MS. DANIELLE ST-ONGE: We'll help more people
18 with the Commission.

19 MS. JAYME MENZIES: I hope so too.

20 MS. CAROLINE ST-ONGE: That's what I hope.

21 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Uh-huh.

22 MS. CAROLINE ST-ONGE: Break the silence.

23 MS. ISABELLE DUBÉ: Yes, exactly.

24 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Uh-huh. Thank you for
25 being here today. As I said, we might make copies of your

1 documents and if you have other documents, like poems or
2 artwork that helped you, we'll copy those too. You can have
3 dinner with us and watch the fire here (indiscernible),
4 whatever you want (indiscernible).

5 MS. CAROLINE ST-ONGE: She has a lot there.

6 MS. DANIELLE ST-ONGE: I have some at home
7 too.

8 MS. JAYME MENZIES: OK, I'll just take copies
9 here.

10 MS. DANIELLE ST-ONGE: I'll go get the ones
11 from the stenographer, all the papers...

12 MS. JAYME MENZIES: OK.

13 MS. DANIELLE ST-ONGE: ... And I'll bring
14 then back, I'll be back in a bit...

15 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes.

16 MS. DANIELLE ST-ONGE: ... With that.

17 MS. JAYME MENZIES: OK.

18 MS. DANIELLE ST-ONGE: And I'll make copies.

19 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Bring them back whenever
20 you can, the office is right here. If I'm not here, there
21 will be someone else in the room who can make copies, OK?

22 MS. CAROLINE ST-ONGE: OK.

23 MS. DANIELLE ST-ONGE: OK.

24 MS. CAROLINE ST-ONGE: So with the name,
25 they'll know which person the meeting was with...

1 MS. JAYME MENZIES: Yes, we have records for
2 each one.

3 MS. CAROLINE ST-ONGE: Uh-huh.

4 MS. DANIELLE ST-ONGE: (In Innu).

5 MS. CAROLINE ST-ONGE: Well, give her yours.
6 (Indiscernible).

7 MS. JAYME MENZIES: I'll just finish this, if
8 you don't have any other...

9 MS. CAROLINE ST-ONGE: No, no, it's done.

10 MS. JAYME MENZIES: OK.

11 MS. DANIELLE ST-ONGE: OK. (Indiscernible),
12 because I have three orders.

13

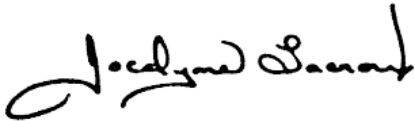
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END OF RECORDING

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LEGAL DICTA-TYPIST'S CERTIFICATE*

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jocelyne Lacroix". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jocelyne Lacroix, August 17, 2018

* This certificate refers to the original transcript in French.