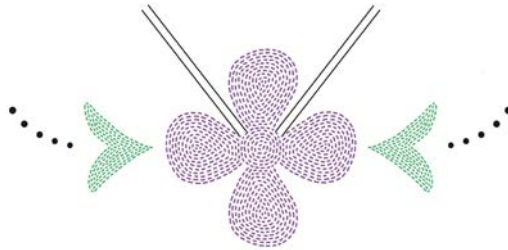


National Inquiry into
Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women and Girls



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

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



PUBLIC

March 14, 2018

Public Volume 293

**Alice Chachai-Weizineau, Francesca Weizineau-Awawish & Céline
Chachai, In relation to Joseph Chachai, Paul Chachai & Georges
Weizineau**

Heard by Sheila Mazhari

INTERNATIONAL REPORTING INC.
41-5450 Canotek Road, Ottawa, Ontario, K1J 9G2
E-mail: info@irri.net – Phone: 613-748-6043 – Fax: 613-748-8246

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Public Hearing 1
Alice Chachai-Weizineau et al
(Joseph Chachai, Paul Chachai & Georges Weizineau)

Montreal, Quebec

1
2 --- Upon commencing on Wednesday, March 14, at 4:16 p.m.

3 MS. CÉLINA CHACHAI: Do we have to tell you
4 our date of birth?

5 MS. SHEILA MAZHARI: No.

6 MS. CÉLINA CHACHAI: No, OK, that's good.

7 MS. SHEILA MAZHARI: But if you want to speak
8 on the recording, could you say your name each time?
9 Because it's easier for the transcription.

10 MS. CÉLINA CHACHAI: OK.

11 MS. SHEILA MAZHARI: Hello, my name is Sheila
12 Mazhari. I'm here with the National Inquiry into Missing
13 and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. It's March 14,
14 2018, and we're at the Hôtel Bonaventure in Montreal,
15 Quebec, with...

16 MS. FRANCESCA WEIZINEAU-AWAWISH: My name is
17 Francesca Weizineau, I'm originally from Opitciwan and I
18 now live in Chapais.

19 MS. CÉLINA CHACHAI: Céline Chachai. I'm from
20 Opitciwan and I was born in Joliette.

21 MS. KATY TANGUAY: Katy Tanguay. I'm here for
22 support, but I'm originally from Pikogan, the Abitibiwinini
23 First Nation. I now live in Ottawa.

24 MS. SHEILA MAZHARI: OK, thank you.

25 MS. ALICE CHACHAI-WEIZINEAU: My name is

Public Hearing 2
Alice Chachai-Weizineau et al
(Joseph Chachai, Paul Chachai & Georges Weizineau)

1 Alice Chachai-Weizineau. I'm originally from Opitciwan, but
2 I now live in Chapais.

3 MS. SHEILA MAZHARI: And when were you born?

4 MS. ALICE CHACHAI-WEIZINEAU: In Opitciwan.

5 MS. SHEILA MAZHARI: And when?

6 MS. ALICE CHACHAI-WEIZINEAU: [Date of birth]
7 1945.

8 MS. SHEILA MAZHARI: Would you like to start?

9 MS. ALICE CHACHAI-WEIZINEAU: Hello to
10 everyone who will listen to me speak as well as my
11 community. I came here to speak about the disappearance of
12 my two brothers. It has been a long time since we lost our
13 two brothers. And also, the disappearance of my little boy
14 who was just 8 months old. I will start by speaking about
15 my two brothers. My sister Céline might help me. It was
16 right at the beginning of the year, when we started going
17 to hospitals. And my two brothers, they came to pick up my
18 two brothers. I don't know if they were sick because I was
19 young at that time, but I still remember a bit. And also,
20 my sister Céline heard about it from our parents, who told
21 us that our brothers never came back. There was also a
22 woman who was hospitalized in Makamik. Her name was Anna
23 Chachai.

24 When I was living there, she saw my two
25 brothers who were also hospitalized there. And then all of

Public Hearing 3
Alice Chachai-Weizineau et al
(Joseph Chachai, Paul Chachai & Georges Weizineau)

1 a sudden, they were gone... They never came back. I would
2 like to know what became of them. We wanted to know more
3 but no one told us where they went, where my two brothers
4 had gone. And us too, my parents, my father said that I had
5 two brothers and that they had lost them at the hospital.
6 We didn't know, they never told us anything, not a single
7 word, we have no idea if they're dead or... Only that they
8 disappeared. That's what my father told me, my mother. They
9 had lost my two brothers. I don't even remember them
10 because I was young.

11 That's what happened. That's what my parents
12 told me. Before we started being hospitalized, before that,
13 we took care of ourselves. The Indians, we would go out
14 into the bush, in the winter, and in the summer, we would
15 go to Opitciwan, the village, the community. Because in
16 those days, there weren't many people. And in the summer,
17 priests would come. They would say, "It's the big summer
18 prayer." Everyone would go. That's when the airplane
19 arrived. Because in those days, there was no road, no way
20 into Opitciwan. The airplane came to pick up the boys. The
21 boys went and hid. But all of those who got caught, they
22 were loaded onto the airplane and we never saw them again.

23 Gone. We don't know what happened to them or
24 if they're dead, we don't know. They never came back to the
25 community. The airplane landed, and they were loaded on.

Public Hearing 4
Alice Chachai-Weizineau et al
(Joseph Chachai, Paul Chachai & Georges Weizineau)

1 They didn't even ask who the boys were. Who is this boy?
2 They were loaded on just like that. And the others, those
3 who were able to get away, they hid in the bush.

4 MS. SHEILA MAZHARI: But it was only the
5 boys?

6 MS. ALICE CHACHAI-WEIZINEAU: Yes, only the
7 boys, not the girls. That's what happened. It's been a long
8 time since... They were taken away like that, the boys were
9 taken away.

10 MS. SHEILA MAZHARI: And what authorization
11 did they have, the people flying the airplane?

12 MS. ALICE CHACHAI-WEIZINEAU: We didn't know
13 them. Nobody knew who they were. Because in those days, very
14 few white people visited our community. We were isolated,
15 completely isolated.

16 MS. SHEILA MAZHARI: And what year did this
17 happen?

18 MS. ALICE CHACHAI-WEIZINEAU: Maybe... around
19 1945. 1945.

20 MS. SHEILA MAZHARI: 1945.

21 MS. ALICE CHACHAI-WEIZINEAU: Yes. That's
22 what happened.

23 MS. SHEILA MAZHARI: And what are your
24 brothers' birth dates?

1 MS. ALICE CHACHAI-WEIZINEAU: No, I don't
2 know, I was young. I don't remember. But anyway, I remember
3 my older brother. He was tall. He was tall and my other
4 brother, he was average. But I don't remember their ages.
5 But anyway, they were well...

6 MS. SHEILA MAZHARI: How old were they?

7 MS. ALICE CHACHAI-WEIZINEAU: They were, my
8 older brother, maybe around 20 years old and the other one
9 was probably about 15 years old. Probably around 15 years
10 old.

11 MS. SHEILA MAZHARI: (Indiscernible)

12 MS. ALICE CHACHAI-WEIZINEAU: Yes.

13 MS. SHEILA MAZHARI: So, they were taken away
14 in an airplane?

15 MS. ALICE CHACHAI-WEIZINEAU: Uh-huh. That's
16 what... I don't even know if they were actually sick. They
17 were taken away like that and brought to Makamik, the
18 hospital. There was the woman that I told you about, it was
19 her who had two, who was there, and all of a sudden, they
20 disappeared. We don't know where they put them.

21 MS. SHEILA MAZHARI: And your brother who was
22 20 years old, what was his name?

23 MS. ALICE CHACHAI-WEIZINEAU: Joseph.

24 MS. SHEILA MAZHARI: Joseph? And his last
25 name?

Public Hearing 6
Alice Chachai-Weizineau et al
(Joseph Chachai, Paul Chachai & Georges Weizineau)

1 MS. ALICE CHACHAI-WEIZINEAU: Chachai.

2 MS. SHEILA MAZHARI: Can you spell that? Can
3 you spell that for the recording? The last name, can you
4 spell it?

5 MS. ALICE CHACHAI-WEIZINEAU: C-H-A-I... No I,
6 C-H-A-C-H-A-I.

7 MS. SHEILA MAZHARI: And the brother who was
8 15 years old, what was his name?

9 MS. ALICE CHACHAI-WEIZINEAU: Paul. Paul
10 Chachai.

11 MS. SHEILA MAZHARI: P-A-U-L?

12 MS. ALICE CHACHAI-WEIZINEAU: Uh-huh.

13 MS. SHEILA MAZHARI: OK.

14 MS. ALICE CHACHAI-WEIZINEAU: They were the
15 brothers I never knew. I don't know anything about what
16 became of them. They went to Makamik, after that, we never
17 saw the two of them again. That's what my father told me.
18 They never came back; I don't know where they are. In those
19 days, we were virtually isolated. No one looked after us.
20 Even if my father would have wanted to look for them or
21 speak to someone, maybe they wouldn't have listened,
22 wouldn't have looked for my brothers. As I said, We aren't
23 able to... Because in those days, nobody looked after us. The
24 Indians, we were on our own.

1 MS. SHEILA MAZHARI: Do you believe that they
2 actually arrived at the hospital?

3 MS. ALICE CHACHAI-WEIZINEAU: They were there
4 because there was a woman who spoke to them, all of that,
5 who saw that they were there. And then all of a sudden,
6 they disappeared.

7 MS. SHEILA MAZHARI: And what was the name of
8 the hospital? The hospital?

9 MS. ALICE CHACHAI-WEIZINEAU: Makamik, that's
10 what they called it.

11 MS. SHEILA MAZHARI: Is that a community or
12 is that the name?

13 MS. ALICE CHACHAI-WEIZINEAU: In Amos. In
14 Amos. It's beside Amos, yes.

15 MS. CÉLINA CHACHAI: In Abitibi.

16 MS. ALICE CHACHAI-WEIZINEAU: Yes.

17 MS. KATY TANGUAY: Makamik is a place, and
18 Amos is another.

19 MS. FRANCESCA WEIZINEAU-AWAWISH: Makamik,
20 that's the name of the hospital. And Amos is another
21 reserve, a community.

22 MS. ALICE CHACHAI-WEIZINEAU: Now we'll talk
23 about the disappearance of my little boy. Because again, in
24 those days, there was no one... The children, they were taken
25 away like that. My little boy was loaded on in atikanigan,

Public Hearing 8
Alice Chachai-Weizineau et al
(Joseph Chachai, Paul Chachai & Georges Weizineau)

1 a baby carrier. He just had a fever. My son had a fever, he
2 was hot, very, very hot, and I took him to where there was
3 a clinic. They had just started building a clinic. There
4 was a nurse, there were two nurses there. They sent my baby
5 away. They told us, "I will send him away because he's very
6 hot and he's burning up." They sent him to Amos, to the
7 hospital in Amos. I loaded my baby on with other babies.
8 They were loaded on in baby carriers. In those days, never,
9 you couldn't go along with your child. You had to send them
10 to the hospital. In those days, it was 1963, something like
11 that.

12 MS. SHEILA MAZHARI: 1963?

13 MS. ALICE CHACHAI-WEIZINEAU: Yes. Because I
14 (indiscernible). 1963. Yes... There was a woman who was
15 hospitalized, it was my cousin. Her name was Philomène
16 Weizineau, but she died. She died, but she told me, "Your
17 baby is there. I went to see him all the time, every
18 morning, every night. I saw him, he was doing really well.
19 He was healthy." That's what she said. "When we saw him,
20 when he was bathed, he would play in the water, he was very
21 healthy. But then all of a sudden, one morning, I went to
22 see him again. That's when they told me, 'He died last
23 night.'" But why would he have died if he was healthy? So
24 my cousin came to see me too, and she told me, "They stole
25 your baby. He wasn't sick." That's what she told me. "They

1 stole your baby. He isn't sick, he isn't dead." That's what
2 she told me. And he was very healthy.

3 And it was right after we were told that my
4 baby had died. My father said, "We will have his little
5 body brought back here. We will bury him here in
6 Opitciwan." He had all his money together to have the
7 little body brought back. Then, they immediately told us,
8 "He's already been buried." That's what they told us. And
9 why would they have buried him? Why did they bury him so
10 quickly? When we received the news, my father had always
11 insisted that we bring him back to Opitciwan, that we bury
12 him in Opitciwan. Then they told us immediately that he had
13 already been buried, that they had already buried him..

14 **MS. SHEILA MAZHARI:** Buried in the cemetery..

15 **MS. ALICE CHACHAI-WEIZINEAU:** Maybe. Because
16 we, we wanted to bury him in Opitciwan, we wanted to bring
17 his body back. My father wanted to pay for it; he had the
18 money. He wanted to pay for it to be brought back by
19 airplane to Opitciwan, the body, because they told us he
20 was dead. And then they tell us that he's already been
21 buried. I couldn't believe it.

22 **MS. FRANCESCA WEIZINEAU-AWAWISH:** They didn't
23 even tell us the cause of the baby's death.

24 **MS. ALICE CHACHAI-WEIZINEAU:** No, nothing. We
25 never got anything. Not even any clothes. His clothes,

1 everything... His baby carrier, nothing. They never brought
2 anything back. They never sent anything back to us.

3 MS. SHEILA MAZHARI: And what was your son's
4 name?

5 MS. ALICE CHACHAI-WEIZINEAU: Georges.

6 MS. SHEILA MAZHARI: Can you spell that?

7 MS. ALICE CHACHAI-WEIZINEAU: Georges
8 Weizineau.

9 MS. FRANCESCA WEIZINEAU-AWAWISH: G-E-O-R-G-
10 E-S.

11 MS. ALICE CHACHAI-WEIZINEAU: Georges.

12 MS. FRANCESCA WEIZINEAU-AWAWISH: And his
13 last name? W-E-I-Z-I-N-E-A-U.

14 MS. SHEILA MAZHARI: And when did he die?

15 MS. ALICE CHACHAI-WEIZINEAU: I don't know
16 the date, but it was probably in November, something like...

17 MS. SHEILA MAZHARI: In 1963?

18 MS. ALICE CHACHAI-WEIZINEAU: Yes, 1963.

19 MS. SHEILA MAZHARI: And his date of birth?

20 MS. ALICE CHACHAI-WEIZINEAU: It was... Maybe
21 June 21.

22 MS. SHEILA MAZHARI: 1963.

23 MS. ALICE CHACHAI-WEIZINEAU: 1963. I gave
24 birth to him in Amos.

25 MS. SHEILA MAZHARI: And he was 8 months old?

1 MS. ALICE CHACHAI-WEIZINEAU: 8 months old.

2 He was young.

3 MS. FRANCESCA WEIZINEAU-AWAWISH: I think he
4 was less than... June 21, July, August, September, October,
5 November... five months.

6 MS. ALICE CHACHAI-WEIZINEAU: At the time, I
7 thought he was so young. Yes, maybe.

8 MS. SHEILA MAZHARI: You were never given the
9 cause of death?

10 MS. ALICE CHACHAI-WEIZINEAU: No, nothing. I
11 didn't get anything. All they told me was, "Your baby is
12 dead." That's all. They didn't tell me how he died. What
13 did he die from? That's what they told me. It took a long
14 time to accept everything. I was at home, I was waiting for
15 him, I kept going to the airplane, just in case he came
16 back. I couldn't accept his death right away. That's
17 because they told me that he was dead, but I didn't know if
18 he was actually dead. Because the woman who saw him, she
19 said that he was very healthy. "Your baby isn't dead; they
20 stole him from you." That's what she told me, the woman.

21 MS. CÉLINA CHACHAI: In my opinion, I think
22 he was put up for adoption. That's what I think. That's
23 what I think. (Indiscernible)

24 MS. SHEILA MAZHARI: Can you repeat that a
25 little louder?

1 MS. CÉLINA CHACHAI: In my opinion, I think
2 he was put up for adoption, or else, was sold. That's what
3 I think. That's what I think, personally. After everything
4 she told me, that's what I think. I'm pretty sure that my
5 uncle isn't dead.

6 MS. ALICE CHACHAI-WEIZINEAU: Why would he be
7 dead when the woman said that he was healthy? It wouldn't
8 make any sense for him to die like that. He isn't dead. It
9 was really hard to accept. Even today, when I think about
10 him... What became of him? Is he alive or dead? Because they
11 never... I never found out anything. The death, the paper was
12 torn up.

13 MS. SHEILA MAZHARI: He just had a fever?

14 MS. ALICE CHACHAI-WEIZINEAU: He had a fever
15 and he was hot. That's what she said, the woman over there,
16 in Amos, the one that was hospitalized, her name was
17 Philomène, Philomène Weizineau. She's my cousin. She said,
18 "Your baby is very healthy. You lost your baby. They stole
19 him from you." That's what she told me. He isn't dead. He
20 isn't dead. He's alive. They didn't want to show me his
21 little body, that's what they told me. I wanted to see it,
22 the little body. They didn't want to show me.

23 MS. SHEILA MAZHARI: And what day was he sent
24 to the hospital, when was it?

1 MS. ALICE CHACHAI-WEIZINEAU: I don't know, I
2 don't remember. He probably stayed there for about a month.

3 MS. SHEILA MAZHARI: For one month before he
4 died?

5 MS. ALICE CHACHAI-WEIZINEAU: Yes.

6 (SHORT BREAK)

7 MS. ALICE CHACHAI-WEIZINEAU: You will...
8 they'll only see this on the reserves, the statements I'm
9 making? Will they only be seen on the reserves? Or
10 everywhere?

11 MS. FRANCESCA WEIZINEAU-AWAWISH: The
12 statement that she just gave, will everyone see it, or...

13 MS. SHEILA MAZHARI: Because you chose public
14 consent?

15 MS. ALICE CHACHAI-WEIZINEAU: No.

16 MS. SHEILA MAZHARI: Is that what you want?

17 MS. ALICE CHACHAI-WEIZINEAU: Yes, because if
18 there's a chance that he's still alive and he sees this...
19 That's what I think. That's why I want it to be published.
20 Maybe he's alive.

21 MS. FRANCESCA WEIZINEAU-AWAWISH I'm pretty
22 sure that he's alive.

23 MS. ALICE CHACHAI-WEIZINEAU: Because they
24 didn't want to... Even though we wanted to pay for the coffin

1 to be brought back to Opitciwan, they didn't want that.
2 They said they already buried him.

3 **MS. CÉLINA CHACHAI:** Exactly, if my sister... I
4 don't know if it's possible to ask them where he was
5 buried? The death certificate and the name, the cause.

6 **MS. FRANCESCA WEIZINEAU-AWAWISH:** The cause
7 of death, when he died and when he was buried in Amos.
8 These are all unanswered questions surrounding his death...
9 It's a death... What did he die from or if...? I don't know how
10 to put it. If... If... If he was actually sick when they took
11 him there, or if it was just so they could put him up for
12 adoption. These are all the questions we're asking
13 ourselves.

14 **MS. CÉLINA CHACHAI:** If it's possible, a
15 medical record, is it possible --

16 **MS. FRANCESCA WEIZINEAU-AWAWISH:** Even if
17 it's been years, is it possible to still get the medical
18 records? Even if it's been a long time? These are all of
19 the questions we're asking ourselves.

20 (Indiscernible interjections)

21 **MS. ALICE CHACHAI-WEIZINEAU:** I would like to
22 have all of that, everything that I didn't get, even though
23 I asked for it. I didn't get anything, not one single piece
24 of paper. Not even my little boy's clothes, his baby

1 carrier, nothing. Nothing was sent back to Opitciwan, to
2 return his belongings.

3 MS. SHEILA MAZHARI: And you've already tried
4 asking for these things?

5 MS. ALICE CHACHAI-WEIZINEAU: Yes. This is
6 the second time I'm asking.

7 MS. SHEILA MAZHARI: Who did you ask?

8 MS. ALICE CHACHAI-WEIZINEAU: Once, I gave a
9 statement in Sept-Îles. There was a meeting like this. I
10 gave a statement. I spoke about my baby that I lost.

11 MS. SHEILA MAZHARI: And for the medical
12 records, you contacted...

13 MS. ALICE CHACHAI-WEIZINEAU: Not even, no. I
14 didn't contact them, I just spoke with them.

15 MS. CÉLINA CHACHAI: In those days, we didn't
16 have a telephone, not even any phone lines. In those days,
17 we didn't have any telephones. So, we didn't have any way
18 of contacting the nurses, those who were taking care of my
19 baby when he was in the hospital.

20 MS. SHEILA MAZHARI: Do you remember the
21 names of the doctors or nurses?

22 MS. ALICE CHACHAI-WEIZINEAU: Yes, those who
23 were in Opitciwan, yes, but not in the hospital over there.
24 The girls who came, the nurses who came to Opitciwan,
25 people always went to see them, the whole family, they came

1 from everywhere, all over. In the summer, we gathered
2 there, in Opitciwan.

3 MS. SHEILA MAZHARI: So, the nurse who cared
4 for your son, what was her name?

5 MS. ALICE CHACHAI-WEIZINEAU: That I don't
6 remember. The one who sent him to the hospital, I don't
7 remember.

8 MS. CÉLINA CHACHAI: She wasn't with him,
9 with the baby. She, she didn't go on the airplane. Even
10 though he was young (indiscernible). So, how could the
11 nurses keep her informed if even before... since we also
12 didn't have a telephone in Opitciwan.

13 MS. ALICE CHACHAI-WEIZINEAU: Exactly. It
14 took a very, very long time. Before, also, his things were
15 in my room, because I still lived with my father and he
16 didn't have a house and you went into the forest
17 (indiscernible). I was in a room with all of it. My mother
18 was in another room and my husband was gone. It's because
19 it was my first baby. All of his clothes were still hung
20 up, everything. I didn't want to take them down. Take them
21 down and put them in a box. It was my sister and my mother
22 who came. They picked everything up when I left to go home.
23 When I got home, there was no... We had a mattress for the
24 baby to sleep on and they took all of it. That's when I

1 started screaming... (indiscernible) They came, they took
2 everything away from me. That's what I said.

3 But I never heard any news about him, never.
4 Not even a death certificate, nothing. I once asked, "It's
5 closed because it's been a long time." That's what they
6 told me.

7 **MS. FRANCESCA WEIZINEAU-AWAWISH:** Who did you
8 ask?

9 **MS. ALICE CHACHAI-WEIZINEAU:** I think I asked
10 a nurse if we could have the birth certificates because I
11 had lost mine. "Oh no, I can't find them right now." That's
12 what I was told.

13 **MS. SHEILA MAZHARI:** What year was this?

14 **MS. ALICE CHACHAI-WEIZINEAU:** I was still in
15 Opitciwan and it was 1980, something like that. It's not
16 too far away from Opitciwan. They asked that. It was
17 impossible, they said, because it had been a long time
18 since it happened, this whole ordeal. Every thing's been
19 scattered, that's what he told me. And I didn't do anything
20 after that. That's it, I'd like to get some news about him,
21 if he's alive or dead. Because I don't know anything. They
22 just told me that he died, that's all. Even when we wanted
23 to bring the little body back, they just said, "Already
24 buried." My father wanted to pay for him to be brought back

1 to Opitciwan. We wanted to bury him in Opitciwan. That
2 didn't happen.

3 MS. CÉLINA CHACHAI: Can I ask you a
4 question? Who told you that?

5 MS. ALICE CHACHAI-WEIZINEAU: What?

6 MS. CÉLINA CHACHAI: Told you the news.

7 MS. ALICE CHACHAI-WEIZINEAU: It was them.
8 The nurses.

9 MS. CÉLINA CHACHAI: Did she tell you in
10 person or... There was no telephone.

11 MS. ALICE CHACHAI-WEIZINEAU: They came to
12 our home.

13 MS. SHEILA MAZHARI: Someone came to your
14 home?

15 MS. ALICE CHACHAI-WEIZINEAU: The nurses,
16 because they probably had telephones, definitely. In
17 Opitciwan, yes. Because we didn't have any telephones in
18 those days. And they came to tell me that my baby had died.
19 Because I went to the clinic and went to ask about him and
20 they always told me, "He's still at the hospital in Amos.
21 He's still there." That's what they told me. I would go and
22 ask for any news about him. He disappeared. I don't know if
23 he's dead or not. No, it's never that.

24 (Interjection in Atikamekw)

1 **MS. CÉLINA CHACHAI:** I'm trying to ask her
2 about the father, he wanted to have the child, he would
3 have wanted to see the little body? And I'm trying to ask
4 her who it was that went to see him. And she's telling me
5 that it was Mr. Desjardins (Phon.).

6 (Interjection in Atikamekw)

7 **MS. ALICE CHACHAI-WEIZINEAU:** ... security
8 really, but it's the guards who were there to...

9 **MS. SHEILA MAZHARI:** To watch over?

10 **MS. ALICE CHACHAI-WEIZINEAU:** Watch over
11 things, anything urgent. It's... They broke everything, they
12 worked on his...

13 **MS. SHEILA MAZHARI:** So, this gentleman, he
14 (indiscernible)?

15 **MS. ALICE CHACHAI-WEIZINEAU:** This gentleman,
16 it's been a long time since he was there.

17 (indiscernible interjection)

18 **MS. SHEILA MAZHARI:** This Mr. Desjardins
19 (Phon.), you said that he saw your son?

20 **MS. CÉLINA CHACHAI:** No, no.

21 **MS. ALICE CHACHAI-WEIZINEAU:** No. To have the
22 little body brought back...

23 **MS. FRANCESCA WEIZINEAU-AWAWISH:** He asked,
24 the child's father, my grandmother, asked Mr. Desjardins
25 (Phon.) to have the baby's body brought back.

1 MS. ALICE CHACHAI-WEIZINEAU: We wanted to
2 pay to have it brought back by airplane. And they, along
3 with the nurse, they weren't (indiscernible). They just
4 told me right away, "We already buried your son. We can't
5 have him brought back. The body has been buried." I don't
6 understand why they would have buried him so soon.

7 MS. FRANCESCA WEIZINEAU-AWAWISH: Without her
8 consent.

9 MS. ALICE CHACHAI-WEIZINEAU: They buried him
10 immediately.

11 MS. SHEILA MAZHARI: Have any women or girls
12 in your family gone missing as well?

13 MS. ALICE CHACHAI-WEIZINEAU: No, just my two
14 brothers (indiscernible). But well, that's just to my
15 knowledge.

16 So... the inquiries are not just being done to
17 help us mourn, if they're really dead. To help us mourn
18 because right now, I... Where are the bodies?

19 (Very emotional statement, indiscernible
20 interjection)

21 MS. CÉLINA CHACHAI: You see, I didn't even
22 know my brothers. They just told me that they disappeared.
23 My little baby, I loved him a lot, I thought that we had
24 enough time together. And every morning, I would go get
25 him. I would take him in my arms, and I would play with my

1 little nephew. And when he left, it... too much, it was a big
2 shock that (indiscernible). When we found out, it was hard
3 for me. It's a tragedy of my childhood, having lost my
4 little nephew.

5 **MS. FRANCESCA WEIZINEAU-AWAWISH:** Are you
6 haunted by it?

7 **MS. CÉLINA CHACHAI:** Yes. We still...

8 **MS. FRANCESCA WEIZINEAU-AWAWISH:** We still
9 have unanswered questions. We still have unanswered
10 questions.

11 **MS. CÉLINA CHACHAI:** I wanted (indiscernible)
12 my little nephew to come back. When I waited for the
13 airplane, I would tell myself, "It's him, it's him, he's
14 coming." I've had all of these questions for so long, I
15 still have them today. When I think about it, I get angry.
16 Angry at the nurse, angry at the airplane pilot. I tell
17 myself that they couldn't bring the body back because he
18 was supposedly buried. They took him from us, that's
19 certain. But I really think that he was adopted. That's
20 what I think. Given that they didn't... We didn't get the
21 death certificate and we never saw the body. That's what I
22 think.

23 I don't even know if they're dead. How could
24 I... Maybe it will just stay the same. Still these unanswered
25 questions. Maybe one day there will be news. I don't know.

1 That's too hopeful to say, to find him. I will try to hand
2 in the paper.

3 **MS. FRANCESCA WEIZINEAU-AWAWISH:** Can I just
4 say, it's not fair that my grandmother never got her baby
5 back and that she wasn't able to bury him (indiscernible),
6 I think that's unfair. If only we knew the names of the
7 nurses so that we could do some kind of research, but she
8 doesn't remember the names. You told me that they took care
9 (indiscernible).

10 **MS. ALICE CHACHAI-WEIZINEAU:** Sometimes I
11 feel like a part, it's as if a part of... How do I put it? A
12 part of my body was stolen, was taken away from me. That's
13 how I feel. And to have... so that I can find peace.

14 **MS. FRANCESCA WEIZINEAU-AWAWISH:** To get
15 answers to all of our questions.

16 **MS. ALICE CHACHAI-WEIZINEAU:** Really for
17 continuity for what we're doing today. There will be
18 nothing for our children, our grandchildren. We have to...
19 They don't have any rights...

20 **MS. KATY TANGUAY:** I would like to add
21 something, OK? Should I take this? I don't know if it will
22 provide any hope. I was born at Amos hospital in December
23 1963, when he might have also been in the same hospital. It
24 was close. And I'm convinced that it's possible to get some
25 answers. Maybe not all of them. But I, I'm sure that...

1 Because my birth certificate, well, I have signatures.
2 There are traces. So, it's... Just maybe that can inspire
3 some hope, OK? It might not provide any answers, but I
4 think... Anyway. It's funny, I'll leave with you afterwards...

5 **MS. FRANCESCA WEIZINEAU-AWAWISH:** We stayed
6 with you when we ate earlier.

7 **MS. ALICE CHACHAI-WEIZINEAU:** There is also
8 something else I'd like to talk about. Because the
9 grandchildren, in the morning, still there, it's... She,
10 it's... She has another sister, her twin sister. The twin
11 sister, all of her children were taken away from her.
12 Because I babysat the two of them, I babysat them when they
13 were little. I was the one who raised them, the twins. At
14 first, they told me, (indiscernible). And I've never been
15 to (Indiscernible). I was going to work there. [Child 1].
16 [Child 1] and the other one's name is [Child 2].
17 (Indiscernible), do the cooking. In (Indiscernible), we had
18 nothing, not even... We didn't have... The children went to
19 school, the two little ones, we babysat them, the little
20 boys. But they were mature. They knew how to take care of
21 themselves. I always did the cooking. I liked them a lot. I
22 helped them a lot. She had a little boy, he was around 7 or
23 8 years old, and he came to see me. I cared for them and I
24 dressed them. Sometimes I put them to bed, sometimes we
25 played during the day. In the morning, we washed them.

1 The DYP, they would always come to our home.
2 The DYP, they would sit and watch what we were doing.
3 Sometimes, they would come at noon when the children were
4 eating. We didn't know why, why they did that. We weren't
5 doing anything! We helped the children a lot, to dress
6 themselves, to get ready for school, all of that. We made
7 them food three times a day, so that they could eat. And
8 then one morning, they came, and they took all of the
9 children away. Just like that. They're still there. We
10 still haven't gotten them back.

11 **MS. SHEILA MAZHARI:** Who?

12 **MS. ALICE CHACHAI-WEIZINEAU:** The children,
13 they took them all away.

14 **MS. CÉLINA CHACHAI:** Who took them away, who?

15 **MS. FRANCESCA WEIZINEAU-AWAWISH:** Her name is
16 [Child 2], the DYP. They still haven't given them back to
17 us.

18 **MS. CÉLINA CHACHAI:** And they don't even want
19 to place them in our community. They placed them outside of
20 it. And now they're in a youth centre. And so, today, right
21 now, she is most likely in isolation, so... A person can't
22 stay... They need to call us and give us some news.

23 **MS. ALICE CHACHAI-WEIZINEAU:** I called. All
24 they say is, "He's asleep." That's what she tells me. "He's
25 asleep. He's still asleep." "How is it that he's always

1 sleeping?" I asked. When I left, I called again and every
2 time, they told us, "He's asleep, he's very tired." Why is
3 he tired? (Indiscernible)

4 MS. CÉLINA CHACHAI: You're right. 12 years
5 old.

6 MS. ALICE CHACHAI-WEIZINEAU: 12 years old.
7 Banished there. He does things sometimes, he cuts his... he
8 cuts himself. He's had enough of the camp because he's fed
9 up with being placed like this. It's been almost two years
10 since he was placed. His mother, she doesn't pay for
11 anything. She is completely fine, the mother. She can take
12 care of her children. Sometimes, she goes and stays in
13 Opitciwan, sometimes she rents a place in Chapais, like us.
14 She travels around like that.

15 MS. SHEILA MAZHARI: She has (indiscernible)
16 Canadian?

17 MS. ALICE CHACHAI-WEIZINEAU: Anyway, she got
18 divorced, based on what she... two years ago.

19 MS. CÉLINA CHACHAI: Two years ago. It was in
20 April 2015, in 2016 they were placed. In 2016.

21 MS. ALICE CHACHAI-WEIZINEAU: Two girls and
22 two boys. The girls are tall, the little boys aren't that
23 tall.

24 MS. SHEILA MAZHARI: Can you spell the name
25 of [Child 2]?

1 MS. CÉLINA CHACHAI: [Child 2].

2 MS. ALICE CHACHAI-WEIZINEAU: [Child 2].

3 MS. CÉLINA CHACHAI: [*Spells the name*].

4 MS. SHEILA MAZHARI: Do you know the last
5 name?

6 MS. ALICE CHACHAI-WEIZINEAU: No, I don't
7 remember. [Name removed].

8 MS. SHEILA MAZHARI: Alright, we will ask the
9 DYP-

10 MS. ALICE CHACHAI-WEIZINEAU: The DYP has
11 that!

12 MS. SHEILA MAZHARI: ... the file.

13 MS. ALICE CHACHAI-WEIZINEAU: She doesn't
14 want to speak about it anymore. I say it all the time, she
15 isn't there, she has a roommate in Chapais. She doesn't
16 want to speak about it anymore. That's why I say... She's
17 disheartened, why? She did nothing. Why are you keeping
18 them there? Why does she not have any family?
19 (Indiscernible) [Child 2], I don't know if I wrote his
20 name.

21 MS. SHEILA MAZHARI: And why did she come to
22 your sister's home?

23 MS. CÉLINA CHACHAI: Pardon?

24 MS. SHEILA MAZHARI: And why did she come to
25 your sister's home?

1 MS. FRANCESCA WEIZINEAU-AWAWISH: I wasn't
2 there at that time.

3 MS. ALICE CHACHAI-WEIZINEAU: Because I used
4 to go and help her, my daughter, I went over to their home.
5 But the children were missing too much school. That's why.

6 MS. FRANCESCA WEIZINEAU-AWAWISH: It was the
7 school that notified us.

8 MS. ALICE CHACHAI-WEIZINEAU: It was the
9 school, because they were missing too much... When the mother
10 saw that, she came back and went there. All of them, they
11 always went to school and I made them their food. I was
12 there when they took the children away. It's been almost a
13 year since I've been there.

14 MS. FRANCESCA WEIZINEAU-AWAWISH: On top of
15 that, one of my nieces has started to lose her native
16 language, seeing as she's been placed with a family-

17 MS. ALICE CHACHAI-WEIZINEAU: She doesn't
18 speak anymore! She has completely lost her language.

19 MS. FRANCESCA WEIZINEAU-AWAWISH: Yes, I saw
20 her again in October. At that time, she spoke a lot more
21 French than our language. She had a hard time understanding
22 our native language.

23 MS. SHEILA MAZHARI: And what is your native
24 language?

25 MS. FRANCESCA WEIZINEAU-AWAWISH: Atikamekw.

1 MS. ALICE CHACHAI-WEIZINEAU: She keeps
2 losing more and more. It hasn't been that long, really, but
3 it's been two weeks since we saw her with her mother and
4 us, her grandparents. She keeps losing more and more. She
5 says, "I don't understand."

6 MS. SHEILA MAZHARI: And the names of the
7 four children, are?

8 MS. FRANCESCA WEIZINEAU-AWAWISH: [Child 3]

9 MS. ALICE CHACHAI-WEIZINEAU: That's the
10 oldest one, that's the mother.

11 MS. FRANCESCA WEIZINEAU-AWAWISH: [Child 4].
12 There is [Child 5]. The other is [Child 6]. Two boys and
13 two girls. We got...

14 MS. CÉLINA CHACHAI: One social worker was
15 able to have one of my nephews placed in Opitciwan, but
16 there are still my nieces. We want... I would like it better
17 if they gave the children to my sister.

18 MS. ALICE CHACHAI-WEIZINEAU: My other one.
19 Because it was me who first said, "Your babies are there,"
20 the twins. After, my other twin was... "Why did they take
21 away my children? I didn't do anything! I'm a good person!
22 I don't drink! Why did they take away my children?" That's
23 what she says. Sometimes she gets disheartened. Her
24 daughter, we don't know what's become of her over there.
25 They won't let me speak to her. Before, they used to let me

1 speak to her, I spoke with them. They spoke about being
2 disheartened, that they were fed up. "Why are they still
3 placed there when I... What did I do for them to treat me
4 this way?" That's what she says.

5 They always tell me, "He's asleep, he's
6 asleep." Why is he always asleep? "He's sleeping," whenever
7 I call there. I haven't been able to speak to him. He's in...
8 I called my son in Opitciwan, I called my sister, I told
9 her, "Tell [Child 1] that she's calling, see what happens
10 so that we can find something out." It goes nowhere. I'm
11 not allowed there anymore. I don't know what's going on.
12 When I was leaving, I called my son so that he could get
13 some news, because he's in Opitciwan. I said he's calling
14 there, that he's looking for news, why can't we speak to
15 them. Usually, I spoke to them over the telephone and then
16 they called me. All of a sudden, nothing happened. They
17 always tell me he's asleep. "He's in his room, he's
18 asleep." I don't know what's going on.

19 Because he's fed up. He's tired of it. He
20 said, "I'm going to kill myself; I'm going to kill
21 myself! It won't be long because I'm so fed up! I've had
22 enough!" That's what he told me. "I've done nothing wrong.
23 Why do they treat me like this?" That's what he said. "I've
24 done nothing wrong." I said, I tried to help him. I'm often
25 the one who takes care of the children.

1 (SHORT BREAK)

2 **MS. ALICE CHACHAI-WEIZINEAU:** Why me?

3 (Very emotional statement, indiscernible
4 interjection)

5 It's always me... They are my children.

6 (SHORT BREAK)

7 **MS. ALICE CHACHAI-WEIZINEAU:** I don't know if
8 (indiscernible) but I will start asking that they get
9 returned to us. They've been placed, but the mother is fine,
10 there is nothing wrong. She can take care of her children.
11 She sometimes says, "Why did they take my children away? I
12 can take care of my children," she says.

13 What does he do in Opitciwan? He babysits
14 other people's children, the others go shopping in town, he
15 babysits the children. That's what he does in Opitciwan. My
16 other one. My other son. He's raising his sister's children.
17 He said he was going to come back to Chapais. I don't know
18 if he came back. He said, "There is no point in me staying
19 in Chapais. There's nothing here. I don't have any children,
20 I have nothing." That's what he said when he left, left to
21 go to Opitciwan. "I get so bored there," he said.

22 **MS. CÉLINA CHACHAI:** Can I ask you a
23 question?

24 **MS. ALICE CHACHAI-WEIZINEAU:** Yes.

1 **MS. CÉLINA CHACHAI:** A question that might be
2 a little difficult to answer. The fact that you lost the
3 children, does it bring up feelings from the past?

4 **MS. ALICE CHACHAI-WEIZINEAU:** Yes. Yes, it...
5 it's as if everything was taken from me, everything I had.
6 That's it. I was always with them and now, they don't want
7 us anymore... They didn't even come back for Christmas. We,
8 they kept them that week, all alone at home, they were all
9 alone over there. This is what he told me, "I was all alone,
10 I was so bored." They didn't even send them home for
11 Christmas. We had prepared the rooms where they were going
12 to sleep in at my daughter Francine's home, because she was
13 angry with her husband, and it was there that they wanted to
14 place them in a room there. We got everything ready in the
15 room for their arrival. They didn't even let us have them
16 for Christmas. We don't know what's going on, what they want
17 us...

18 No one in the family drinks. We are good
19 people. We celebrate the holidays, but no one drinks. We
20 have fun, even if we don't drink. There were lots of gifts,
21 lots of gifts for the children. We got them gifts. Why did
22 they not want the children to come back home? Maybe they're
23 scared that we would keep them, that we wouldn't send them
24 back. But why don't we know what's going on? Because it's
25 been two or three, four days since we've been trying to get

1 a hold of them. But they always tell me, "He's asleep, he's
2 in his room." Or even, "He's with someone. I can't bother
3 him." That's why I say, when... before leaving, I called my
4 son, I told him that he should look into it, we don't know
5 what's going on over there. "They won't let me speak to
6 [Child 3] anymore," I told him.

7 I encourage him a lot, I encouraged him a
8 lot, [Child 3]. I told him, "Be good, maybe they will let
9 you leave this summer. We will go on trips when you get out.
10 We will go on trips all over the place when you get out." I
11 gave him encouragement like that. "Be good. Don't do
12 something that..." Like cutting his... He went to the hospital.
13 He cut himself. That's what he told me. "I'm going to kill
14 myself," just like that. "I'm tired of being here," that's
15 what he told me. My daughter, she told me, "What did I do to
16 be treated like this? They're keeping me away from my family
17 because they're in Chicoutimi." And us, we don't always have
18 enough money to go and visit. We've only gone once this
19 year. We went to see him.

20 We need help too. It's as if they wanted to
21 take our children. We're healthy, nothing is wrong. His
22 mother is healthy.

23 (Indiscernible) The twins...

24 (Very emotional statement, indiscernible
25 interjection)

1 "Life's hard, why? Why?" He says he's tired
2 of living.

3 (Indiscernible)

4 There's one last thing I'd like to talk
5 about.

6 **MS. SHEILA MAZHARI:** Did you want to add
7 anything else?

8 **MS. ALICE CHACHAI-WEIZINEAU:** It's as if they
9 stole my children from me and I can't even call them. I
10 call, but they always tell me, "He's asleep, he's here or
11 there, he's doing this or that." It's as if they don't want
12 me speaking to him. Maybe something serious happened. I
13 don't know. Because he told me, "I'm going to kill myself
14 if I have to stay here." That's what he told me. "I've had
15 enough." He could be fed up, he's been moved around for a
16 long time, when he did nothing wrong. I would at least like
17 them to bring him to Roberval. Because there are people in
18 Roberval. Us, we aren't everywhere. Those in Opitciwan,
19 they go to Roberval to buy things. He could see people,
20 whereas over there, he doesn't see anyone. No one goes to
21 Chicoutimi. (Indiscernible) Whereas when he went to
22 Roberval, he saw people. He saw the people who came to
23 Roberval.

24 That's why I wanted them to move him to
25 Roberval. That didn't happen.

1 That's enough of all that.

2 MS. CÉLINA CHACHAI: I just wanted to say
3 (indiscernible), because even if it doesn't solve the
4 problem, it will help all of the other families who
5 experienced similar things in those years. In the 60s. Even
6 before that. We can support one another and that will help.
7 Don't give up. (Indiscernible)... to have continuity in
8 everything we do, I, I would say to you, morally, the
9 hardship will end.

10 --- Upon adjourning at 5:16 p.m.

11 LEGAL DICTA-TYPIST'S CERTIFICATE*

12
13 I, Félix Larose-Chevalier, hereby certify that I have
14 transcribed the foregoing and it is a true and accurate
15 transcription of the digital audio provided in this matter.

16

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20

Félix Larose-Chevalier

21

August 6, 2018

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* This certificate refers to the original transcript in French.