INQUIRY RESPECTING THE TREATMENT, EXPERIENCES AND OUTCOMES OF INNU IN THE CHILD PROTECTION SYSTEM

English Transcript | Volume 9

Commissioners: Retired Judge James Igloliorte, Dr. Mike Devine and Anastasia Qupee

Thursday | Natuashish | 20 April 2023

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: Tshenashkumitin, Joachim and also tshenashkumitin Nympha for your prayers – Joachim, prayers – and also for your service of the smudge.

Welcome back, Christine, thank you for being so brave and willing to continue.

We know that yesterday was very painful for you. It affected all of us, but somehow we are better people for having heard what you had to say. We will never understand how much pain you have gone through, but we appreciate that you shared those experiences with us. And it is wonderful for us to see the love you have for your family, as well as for your community and the love that they share for you.

We know that you wanted to come back this morning and continue your testimony. We also have [redacted]., and Joachim, who's going to be presenting to us today.

C. RICH: [Mushuau-aimun spoken.]

INTERPRETER NOAH (providing English translation): I'm – I'm happy that I came back again, and I wanna thank you. Thank you, all of you.

There's some other – there's some stuff that I didn't tell on my story. I'm – I am alcoholic. I am – I used to drink – I drink a lot even – in the past when I – I was drinking a lot in the past, even when my children was around, that time. I am alcoholic.

One of my – one – my – when my son committed suicide, he did it at my sister's place – at my sister's house – and he saw – she – she saw him – someone lying on the ground outside and she didn't know who it was. She saw someone walking by, and called the – called that person out: I saw – I see something but I don't – I don't – couldn't recognize it.

And also my late granddaughter, her child was taken away and we went up there for visitation. And every time when we went to visit the – her – her child, the CSSD were really, really keep an eye on us. My granddaughter was telling them: Why are you doing this to us? Why are you keep – keep an eye on us?

And when we – every time when we did a visitation to – to my granddaughter's child, they were carrying their note – note, and I think they were writing everything down. What – whatever we do in – in the – in there for visitation of my granddaughter's child.

And next day, that morning when we went back, she wouldn't go back, and someone was – someone was asking or giving her something to get something for her, and she wouldn't go back. We was – when – then we went to the airport – we went – went to the airport and she wouldn't – she wouldn't come with – with us when we were going home.

She said to me: I gotta go back – I gotta go back there and get the bag. And – and she told – she said to me that I will – I will come home tomorrow.

So after I went – we went back home, we waited for her. I – I waited for her to come home, she – she didn't came home. And after a while, I waited for her over one week, and then I heard that she was missing.

My brother was here with me that time and she – he was staying with my sister, and I told him: Can you – can you make – make a call? He told – he told me that: My phone is been cut off, I couldn't make a call. After – when – when – when I had a phone call and after the – I – my – my – [Mushuau-aimun spoken].

[Dialogue between Interpreter Noah and C. Rich in Mushuau-aimun.]

INTERPRETER NOAH: After –

[Dialogue between Interpreter Noah and C. Rich in Mushuau-aimun.]

INTERPRETER NOAH: When my – after when my other daughter went – went to Goose Bay, she – [Mushuau-aimun spoken].

[Dialogue between Interpreter Noah and C. Rich in Mushuau-aimun.]

Someone called me and – and mentioned to me that she left – she inboxed me, she said, on – on the Facebook – what – and wrote it down that someone is trying to beat me up. Someone is trying to hurt me.

[Dialogue between Interpreter Noah and C. Rich in Mushuau-aimun.]

So when we got to Goose – we went back to Goose Bay and I seen there's a lot of people searching for her. I took my – my great-granddaughter with me and my – my great-granddaughter was calling her – her – her mother. She keep calling her mother out.

I also wanted to tell another story about my nephew. He – he was staying – he was staying in my house. He will – he left – he left, went out somewhere, it was – it was bad weather and there was a bingo going on when – when he went out. And I cooked – I – I cooked for him, and I was thinking that when he comes back he will eat.

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: Paula, could you get me some tissues?

C. RICH: [Mushuau-aimun spoken.]

INTERPRETER NOAH: While I waited for long, we were – we went to sleep and then I didn't – I didn't heard him come in, and then we heard a loud bang in – in the – in the house.

[Dialogue between Interpreter Noah and C. Rich in Mushuau-aimun.]

I didn't – I don't know where the noise came from but there was a loud bang in the house or out – coming from outside or inside, I don't know, she said.

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: Was that here in Natuashish?

C. RICH: Utshimassit.

INTERPRETER NOAH: Davis Inlet.

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: Okay. Thank you.

C. RICH: [Mushuau-aimun spoken.]

INTERPRETER NOAH: We ran – we ran outside and checked around the house. So we went back inside and there was a room in there that we put all the stuff in there and – and we – the door was closed, we close that door – the bedroom door. And there was a gun in there, too. All (inaudible) things were in there – in that room, and the door has always been closed in that room.

When I opened the door, I saw all the blood all over the floor. Then – then I started screaming – yelling, screaming right away when I saw – when I saw the – the blood on the floor.

It was a same shotgun – a shotgun or rifle – [Mushuau-aimun spoken] – a shotgun. It was the same shotgun that my late daughter shot himself, and this is the same shotgun that he was – that he was – shot himself.

He was – there was a blanket covering – that cover – covering himself and when he shot him – himself. My late husband told me that – don't go – don't go – don't encourage yourself to go in there and – and see it 'cause it – are you – don't cry out – don't cry out too much 'cause the – the – you will wake up the other – the other little ones in the – in the house. He – he said that: I will – I will go up to the cops and – and I'll look for the cops and – to tell them.

I never – I – I didn't move anywhere else, just sit – I was just sitting there in the chair and then I heard the Ski-Doos came – came by. It was – it was the cops and my – my husband.

And the – and the cops came in, then they told us to – to go – to leave. Ask – they were asking every – every one of us to leave and for me, I couldn't leave. I couldn't – I couldn't leave him. I felt like: He's gonna come back. I couldn't leave.

They took us down to my uncle's house and that's where we were – that's where we were staying at. I was very afraid of my sister and – and to go to tell her and I was – I was scared I would – she would blame me or she would – I was scared to be blamed, if – if I told her that.

And one time a friend of mine, his son – his son commit suicide.

She told me to come up to – to her place where – where his son was – committed suicide and she told someone, someone gave me – someone came down and told me to – to go to her house and so I went up there – I went up there to her house and there was blood all over. And – and I have to – I was cleaning up where – where – where there was all – all the parts on – I can – I – I saw the – the – I saw the – the – the – the skin part that was on – all over the floor and the teeth also.

My friend, her sister wasn't there – wasn't there yet. She didn't – she didn't came back on the – in the community yet, her – my friend's sister. But she was – she was going to – but she was going to help me cleaning up.

C. RICH: [Mushuau-aimun spoken.]

INTERPRETER NOAH: She – she needs a break. I can't go on. I'm very – it's – it's very – it's heavy, she said.

P. RALPH: Does she want to finish for the day or does she want to take ten minutes?

[Dialogue between Interpreter Noah and C. Rich in Mushuau-aimun.]

INTERPRETER NOAH: She'll – she'll take a break and finish it after.

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: Thank you.

INTERPRETER NOAH: Okay.

Recess

