

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

English Transcript Volume 44

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

Wednesday 6 November 2024

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COMMISSIONER DEVINE: Okay, so we're ready to get back. Thank you.

So our next person up is Kenny Milley. And so I just wanna – as I mentioned to you a few minutes ago, Kenny, is that it's just for you to tell your story. This is your time, so take your time. There's no need to rush or anything. And also to know that if you can only do it so long today, you can come back another time.

Now this is our last week to come down for meetings like this, but there are other ways that we can also talk to you further if you can't, you know, get it done, what you have to say for this week.

And with Anne, she's doing the translation, so try and remember that, you know, speak for so long – short periods, and then Anne will do the translation. And so if you see me making a motion like this, if you're looking this way at all, I'll motion that it's time to give Anne a chance to – are you okay with that?

K. MILLEY: (Inaudible.)

COMMISSIONER DEVINE: All right, thank you.

[Dialogue between K. Milley and Unidentified Speaker in Sheshatshiu-aimun.]

K. MILLEY: My name is Ken Milley, and – shit.

[Dialogue between K. Milley and Unidentified Speaker in Sheshatshiu-aimun.]

K. MILLEY: [Sheshatshiu-aimun spoken.]

I guess I can speak English, too, I guess.

The foster parents that abused me and that really hurt, the stuff that they did to me; even today I have scars, right?

It hurts when you think of it, what they did.

The foster parents that abused me, I had cigarette burns all over my body, like I was an ashtray.

I was fed in a dog cage. That's how bad it was.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Is it okay if I sit here?

K. MILLEY: [Sheshatshiu-aimun spoken.]

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Sorry.

K. MILLEY: It is hard. I had a – pretty much a bumpy road. It was really bad.

Even today, I still have my scar, what they did to me.

Sometimes I think, can I overcome all this? It's impossible.

And the foster parents molested me too, right? Even today I dunno how I'm still here. All the pain I was been carrying. I was – well I'm 46 – over 30 years. I haven't told no one about this. This is my first time.

I almost took my life a couple of times, just because what they did.

It hurts so much.

INTERPRETER NUNA: [Sheshatshiu-aimun spoken.]

K. MILLEY: [Sheshatshiu-aimun spoken.]

INTERPRETER NUNA: He said he's nervous; he's gonna take a little break.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Inaudible)? You want some water?

K. MILLEY: I'm good.

Pretty much all my life, I think, I was abused. I was beaten with a belt, too. My

brothers and sisters was beaten, too. Every time he – my – one of my family members started beating my sister with a belt, so I ran – ran after him. So I tried to help my sister, and he turned around and he started beating me. For eight years.

[Sheshatshiu-aimun spoken.]

[Dialogue between K. Milley and Interpreter Nuna in Sheshatshiu-aimun.]

INTERPRETER NUNA (providing English translation): He's saying that his foster parents really hurt me. Yeah. It hurts me – doesn't feel well enough to continue his story, but he's trying his best.

K. MILLEY: Gonna get some air.

INTERPRETER NUNA: He's asking for a break.

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COMMISSIONER DEVINE: Okay, people, we'll start again now, please sit.

K. MILLEY: Well, I grew up in a – an alcoholic family, all right, so – I thought I could had a better life, growing up, but – there's gaps I gotta fill, there's gap filling up.

When I was young, I started doing drugs when I was 11 years old, in order to numb my pain. I probably would have finished school if I didn't have this in me.

I probably would have finished school, but I didn't. I've been carrying this pain so long.

We've been in group homes too, right? Place to place, I was – too many foster parents, right?

[Dialogue between K. Milley and Unidentified Speaker in Sheshatshiu-aimun.]

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: He's having a lot of anxiety and chest pains. He doesn't want to continue right now.

INTERPRETER NUNA: He's overwhelmed and he's having some anxiety.

COMMISSIONER DEVINE: So, would it be okay to stay for a minute, 'cause we could say a prayer before you go. Okay?

Penote, could you say a prayer before we go, or Kenny goes?

ELDER ANTUAN: I'd like to say a prayer for Kenny. It's so hard for a young man to tell his own whole story. I know the situation. I was in that boat too, but not really as bad as he was done by the people, other people.

I was taken away from my parents at a early age. I was eight years old when I was transferred to St. John's, to Mount Cashel. I didn't have anybody. There was only one other child was there with me was Dave, Elizabeth's husband, Elizabeth Penashue's husband. There was only two of us.

Every time we used our language they would punish us, slap on both of our heads, anywhere, anywhere they can hit us with the stick. I can see it. I can feel it. That's why it reminds me of him; why he was done this kind of punishment that he has, when he was at the – whatever the group home was.

They really wanted to punish us when they – when we were doing our language, when we'd speak our language. And that's why I said it's very difficult for a person, especially when he was a young person, was done by another person, to punish him or punish her, the way they were punished before.

So I think I have to dedicate this prayer for Kenny and all the people who are gone before us, and they were the done same thing, same thing, same thing, over and over. I will say a prayer for the – Kenny and

everybody who was in situation with this group.

[Sheshatshiu-aimun spoken.]

Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you very much for being so brave (inaudible) what happened to you. Keep on telling your story, keep your voice. Keep the voice.

COMMISSIONER QUPEE: Hold on.

[Sheshatshiu-aimun spoken.]

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