



## Public Inquiry Respecting the Treatment, Experiences and Outcomes of Innu in the Child Protection System

**IN THE MATTER OF the Investigation into the Treatment, Experience and Outcome in the Child Protection System of FAITH RICH (deceased on or about May or June 2021)**

### **ORDER**

**WHEREAS** pursuant to the Application of Steve Rich and Mary Agathe Rich (the “Applicants”), parents of **Faith Rich** (born January 3, 1999), the Commissioners of the Inquiry Respecting the Treatment, Experiences and Outcomes of Innu in the Child Protection System (the “Inquiry”) ordered an Investigation (the “Investigation”) pursuant to s. 4(2) of the Inquiry’s Terms of Reference (Order-in-Council 2022-103);

**AND WHEREAS** the Investigation is conducted with the consent of the Applicants and they may withdraw their consent at any time, terminating the Investigation.

**AND WHEREAS** Counsel for the Applicants and Inquiry Counsel have conferred together and consulted with Counsel for Parties with General Standing;

**AND WHEREAS** it is anticipated that the Investigation proceeding will be a formal hearing process;

**AND WHEREAS** it is anticipated that the Inquiry will issue a final Order setting out the particulars of the proceeding, and that Parties with standing will have an opportunity to provide their input;

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT** the Inquiry will investigate the following:

- i. Outline of Faith’s experience in the child protection system, inclusive of youth services, while in the care and custody of the Manager;
- ii. Faith’s experience in out of province placements and the sufficiency of any reintegration planning and supports to transition back into her home community, including access to supportive, mental health, and addictions services, and related to any educational and medical assessments;
- iii. Faith’s experience as a parent with involvement of the child protection system, including the barriers to placement of Faith’s children with family and within the community and access or lack of access to mental health and addictions

- services as a parent, as well as supportive services in Faith's capacity as a youth/young adult who had been in care;
- iv. CSSD's role in facilitating family and Innu care and contact with Faith and her children; and
  - v. Communication and barriers to communication between CSSD, Faith, and the Applicants, in particular with respect to the last planned access visit between Faith and her children.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT** the Inquiry will not investigate the following:

- i. The manner and immediate cause of Faith's death.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT** evidence in respect of the investigation may be collected through an investigative process consisting of interviews, affidavits and interrogatories, resulting in a report to Commissioners.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT** Parties are expected to identify to Inquiry Counsel any factual issues or disputes at an early stage and as soon as they are known to the Party.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT** Inquiry Counsel prepare a statement of facts.

**DATED** this 5<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2025.



**The Hon. James Igloliorte**  
Commissioner



**Ms. Anastasia Qupee**  
Commissioner



**Dr. Michael Devine**  
Commissioner