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

Transcript | Interview Private Session

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

Friday April 11, 2025

[Dialogue between Commissioner Qupee and D. Rich in Sheshatshiu-aimun.]

D. RICH: I was here the first – when you guys came in, I think.

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: You can speak all Innu-aimun or you can speak all English, whatever you want to do.

D. RICH: Yeah.

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: This is your chance.

D. RICH: I'll speak some of it, I guess.

I came in the last time and spoke, and I didn't know it's all – I thought it was only all things about just – back then, they were talking about kids and that.

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: That's right.

D. RICH: But now I'd like to talk about a little bit, though. But the thing is I didn't know I could – I was talking to the lawyer, the lady there one time. I said is it all that we should put forward too?

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: That's true

D. RICH: He said no. I said I wanted to say about the health thing in the hospital and that they're not doing – it's nothing that they're doing, it's – not much, you know, they're short of staff and everything.

Yeah, I'm going to start right now.

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: We understand.

D. RICH: Yeah.

Well, I'm gonna start with – I was listening to the – I was here for a little bit the other day. I thought it was for the public, too, but I came in to sit down and listen, and they were talking about the Innu, about how these things came about, about the things, you know, that's happening in this – after we settled.

It never starts until we settled in here in Labrador, and that's when – like I said there before, I said, it might have been people in a country. They have lots of – they haven't got no time to – you know, they've got lots of time to work, no time for stress. It's just hunting, wood gathering, getting water, and the ladies, they were busy, too, at the same time. And everybody was busy.

And after we came from the country, I guess, because back in the '70s, I was old enough. We would been staying in the community then, and I noticed what's happening because parents got involved with alcohol 'cause they got nothing to do. Like, the hunting is gone, the trapping is gone, and that's when it all went downhill. And it's very, very, very – I guess I would say sad, because kids were left behind every time they wants to go somewhere.

But in the country, you were sticking – stick with your family. I mean, the whole family stayed in one tent. They have lots of fun. They have (inaudible), you know? They enjoy themselves. We have – we never have no TV, but we have a lot of stories, and one good thing about the stories is when grandfather or my dad used to tell stories and we just lying there, just listening and just, you know, just vision it our way, you know? Just make it come alive in our own minds, and it's so good. There was no – there was nothing restricted, like in these days now.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Inaudible.)

D. RICH: Yeah, and it's very, very good. And then – and we stayed in Churchill. We – not yet, but they were starting to drinking when we came – as I was, maybe six or seven years old. And there was so much going on there and there was so much, you know, fighting. And I think this is the reason why so many people or kids are mad. I used to be mad, too. I used to be upset, but it never come to my mind to – you know, I was hurt, yeah. I was hurt real bad because of the abuse. I wasn't physical abuse, but I

guess I got the worst of it, is the – what do you call – emotional abuse.

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: Yeah.

D. RICH: There's times I walk around in the community. I was almost – I was about 10 years old, I believe. And I used to walk around the community and I used to have these anxiety attacks, and I didn't even know what's going on.

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: Yeah.

D. RICH: And I stood up there one day, I went to the church and I just – I don't know what's wrong with me. I just said I wish I could cut myself up and I wouldn't know the problem, I guess. I said, let's see what's going on there.

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: Yeah.

D. RICH: But I went to the hospital and the doctor told me: Maybe you need to go to the country and go weekends. So me and my aunt and his friend and – friends – we went up, and oh man, I felt good, right good. I felt it was really – like, you enjoy- I listen to them talk and, like, it was really good for me.

And my dad went – we went – when we went to the country – after a couple of days in the country and the stuff that I had in my body was just gone. It's – I come to the point that I realized when I go to the country, I feel very good. I'm not scared no more, and the anxiety I used to have about the – like, it just left me. And it was really – but I was growing up. I learned to – you know, my dad gave up drinking then, and then we used to go a lot in the country. And then we – trapping and that, I enjoyed it. And that's the big thing, I think, when people come in, in the community, when everything was, you know, lost in – doing what we used to do in the country.

Like, but now, they goes in just part time, and it's good. I like when we goes in. I got cabins in – I got a cabin in the country right now, and – up the road, and it's really, really good to go there just to have peace, you know. I take my grandchildren in and talk to them about the old days, about there was no TV. I sat them up, two of them, and I said there was no TV back then, and he said to me: Grandpa, he said, you must be lying.

I said these things, I said, you know, it's – I said, everybody have it now. I mean the people distracted by everything, like the phones. I mean, I got my family, my sons and daughters coming for supper Sunday nights and Sunday suppers. Everybody was sitting down, we weren't talking to each other. Everybody was just – I said: You shut off your phones when you come in here, I said, spend time with each other. We never see each other.

But it is real good, you know, to realize where we came from and how we cope with it. You know, my family is really – I'm really happy now. I mean, we – that's when all the broken homes came from, from that alcohol. Like, we were doing good, me and my wife. We didn't want – I didn't wanna go what we came to, but there's so much stress, I guess, and we start drinking and we got separated.

We were – we got separated and the kids were all, you know, going places and – but I think that's where their – the kids are – were hurt, you know. And they started drinking on their own at a young age, and I – we can't say anything because we done it ourselves. But when I give up drinking, that really, really –

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: How long ago was that?

D. RICH: That was '96.

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: Wow.

D. RICH: When we separated. We were separated in '96.

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: Yeah, when did you give up the drinking?

D. RICH: Not very long after.

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: Yeah.

D. RICH: And I give up drinking. I came and – we were separated then for almost 18 years.

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: Yeah.

D. RICH: And I was working in Voisey's Bay then and my kids were – my grandchildren were talking to me and my wife was there and usually take the phone over, you know, and say – and he told me one day, he said: Maybe we should get together. What would you say? Watch our grandchildren grow.

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: That's so cool.

D. RICH: I said: I'll think about. And I think about it there, and I said this will be my second chance for me.

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: Were you both sober?

D. RICH: Yeah, we were both sober then.

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: Cool.

D. RICH: And I said to myself, you know, maybe I should. This is technically a second chance for me to raise my children. And my wife was – he had two – three – two stepdaughters and a stepson. And then I said, yeah. Okay, I said. There's one thing I wanna ask you, I said. And I have one boy, too, outside marriage. And I said: One thing I'd like to ask you, we never ask, throw stuff at each other, our mistakes, what happened in the past.

And then – and that day, he never – we never even brought up, not even that time. And, like, he was drinking so much, I guess, and they didn't – you know, two of them were drinking, they were fighting all the time. I remember walking through the house there one day, pick up my kids. It's my turn to take them. And they were fighting, him and his boyfriend.

They had a little baby there and they were fighting over the baby and I said to the fellow there, I said: What's going on here? He said: He wants to take the baby. But, I said, if you give her the baby, I said, you're not gonna raise her yourself. You can't do it. Give it to her. He'll take care of it. And I said: You should go out and go for a walk, I said, just cool off a bit.

But – and that's when, you know, I love the children, even though they're not mine. I have a friend of mine there who visit for a supper one day and the kids – my daughters, the two girls, they both graduated school (inaudible) I suppose, but you know. And they both graduated and went to – one of them went to Corner Brook and one is going this summer – this fall. And it was a blessing for me.

They were only three years old, the girl, when we got back together. And my wife told me one day, he said: We should tell them? I said: Why would you wanna hide from that, you know? They're gonna get hurt over it. Just let 'em know who is the father, and growing up, he'll know, you know, I'm the dad. I'm the dad, I said, no matter what, I am going to be that.

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: Right.

D. RICH: And I kept him. And it really – and a friend of mine came over to the house and said to me, he said: How can you do it? I would never do it, he said. I said, I found when I sobered up, I said, I found faith in God. I said: I believe I have the love of God unconditionally. You know, I said: I have learned to accept the things I can't change.

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: Yeah.

D. RICH: And that was it. It's a blessing to do what I want, to raise my children. They were all grown up when I went back with my wife. But when I had a chance to raise the little boy and the two girls – I only had three girls, too, two girls and one boy, and it really – it was really a blessing for me, I'd call it, to restart again, to pick up where I lost all the years. And it's very, very – now we're together again, we – I dunno, we travel a lot and we goes everywhere, now the girls are grown up. I'm glad that I sobered up. And I work with the Mary May Healing Centre.

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: Yeah.

D. RICH: I work with them and I'm waiting for the callback again. And I told the clients it's – what it really meant to be sober, and it's not only the alcohol is a problem. It's a lot of stuff that we – 'cause we were on our own when we were little kids, I said. We need somebody who can – a father figure who can show you, to speak. And I said, we need to stop hating each other. We need to love each other, you know.

I know every – each one of you – we have a big circle – listen to you talk, it just – the only thing missing is love, 'cause we can't accept it from – we don't trust anybody no more, because from our parents. I said our parents were the same thing. They were shocked, they were – when we came together.

And I still want to help my community. Yeah, I want to see it change. That's true; I wanna see it change. There's so much drugs and so much stuff going on. And I said: We're missing a big thing here. I said: We're barking up the wrong tree when we wanna get rid of drugs. The person that was dealing drugs or selling drugs, he used by the – I said we're not having a battle here with flesh and blood.

I said the higher power is – the enemy of this world is the Devil himself. I said he came to steal, to kill and destroy. I said he came to steal, to kill and destroy. I said we – the people, I said, they got the same problem as we have with addiction. They don't work, and they find a way to get money for themselves.

I said we can't hate anybody. The Bible told us we can't hate anybody, love your neighbour. I said how can we hate if we wanna accept, you know, what everyone. And it is so true – it's so true. I said to them, you know, when it first – I said to the girl yesterday, when the first Adam and Eve, there were two of them, who was Satan used to tempt them to take that apple. I said there was nobody else. There was only two of them.

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: Yeah.

D. RICH: And who was the one who tempted them?

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: Yeah.

D. RICH: Who was using them? I said it was the snake.

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: Yeah.

D. RICH: But now, there are so much of us and the Devil is using each one of us to say stuff to each
other, hurt each other, I said. We've got to realize I'm not saying we're the Devil itself.

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: Yeah.

D. RICH: It's just with so much hurt, people, you know, hurting each other, and that's how. I said there's one thing – that's what my sister-in-law told me one day. I said: There's one thing I'd like to – I wouldn't have come in our community. I said it would be nice if we had the first, the full gospel come in here so we could know what we're dealing with, because we're not told things in our church.

That's what – when I first went to the church there, the priest came in, the pope was told and the priest told me, he came to my house, he said what do you like about the church? I said I love everything.

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: Yeah.

D. RICH: I said I love the good news.

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: Yeah.

D. RICH: He said to me, he said there are things that you shouldn't mention in the Bible. I said what? So I called the pastor – and I was only a new Christian then – and I called the paster himself and I said, you know – and he said to me, yeah. You've got your Bible there? I said, yeah. He said 2 Corinthians, verse 4, I think it was. He said read it. I said you read it. I wanna hear it from you.

He says: All scriptures were given by God so we know where we're heading. And that really turned – you know, made up my mind that this is the truth. And the other thing is – and I said I wish the gospel would come in first, which was really, really what we – would make a difference. Yeah.

And I love the country. I love staying in the country. My dad was a trapper, and then I used to go and visit my father in hospital, you know. And I used to pray for him.

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: Yeah.

D. RICH: And he couldn't believe it, I guess. He told my mom, he said I never knew – I never thought I would see my son would pray for me.

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: Yeah.

D. RICH: Yeah.

I told my dad when – I always pray for him, yeah. He was a good man. He was a good Christian, too.

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: Yeah.

D. RICH: He believe in the gospel.

I said, Dad, I said, maybe you should come to church with me. He was smoking.

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: Yeah.

D. RICH: I said if you accept God in your life, I said, the Holy Spirit is all we talk about in church, in our church, in the Catholic church. But he can come alive in you and take over your body. Like me, I said. I used to curse, but he controlled me. I said God is real. I gave up drinking, I gave up smoking, and I saw my dad stepping out. Maybe he wants to go home, I think.

I went out and go see him by the doorstep there in church. I see him throwing a big – his smoke. He throw a big cigarette. He said: I don't know what's wrong with me. He said he called God there in church and he can't smoke now. He said I don't like the taste of it all of a sudden. And he gave up smoking then. That's why, I mean, there's more to it, you know, than going – big difference. That's how.

When I prayed there, when we have a big meeting there about the drugs and that, I prayed. They told me to come. I was so – I came in. I didn't wanna go first. I came in.

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: Yeah.

D. RICH: And the Chief told me, he said: Can you open the prayer? At that time, I said I'm so scared. I said we're not fighting flesh and blood here. It's the Prince of Darkness. I prayed everyone in the meeting.

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: Yeah.

D. RICH: I prayed their houses, that the enemy of this world wouldn't come to them.

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: Yeah.

D. RICH: Because he said he's going to be kicked out of this because he's real.

That morning, I look at the Facebook, and this guy almost commit suicide. They caught him. They cut him loose. And there was a guy who was ganged up, a young fellow, a teenager was here. He was sent to the hospital. His mother is my niece.

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: Yeah.

D. RICH: And I talked to my niece there, I said I wish people would know that the Devil is real. And then somebody came to me, he said: That was a very powerful prayer you prayed. I said: If I maybe – if I never prayed that prayer in each household, you know, the Devil would come get his way.

I said God is real and the Devil is real, and the love of God is real. That's what I keep telling the client. I said you don't have – you might think we have love outside of God, but if we believe in God and accept God, I said, we're gonna have the love that overflows in you that you share it – you wanna share it with everybody. It overflows in you. Yeah.

But I felt like I just want to tell you where it came from. But –

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: We're very happy that you have.

D. RICH: Yeah.

I don't mean to – I would say, you know, brag about it. But it's – if we only knew God, we would be heard.

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: You want to pray for us now?

D. RICH: Yeah.

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: And our work.

D. RICH: Yeah.

COMMISSIONER QUPEE: Mm-hmm.

[Sheshatshiu-aimun spoken.]

Peace; a safe journey back home. I pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: Amen.

Well, I wanted to say thank you. Thank you so much.

D. RICH: Yeah.

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: I'll let Nashtash speak first.

COMMISSIONER QUPEE: [Sheshatshiu-aimun spoken.]

D. RICH: [Sheshatshiu-aimun spoken.]

I want to talk about the health.

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: Please.

D. RICH: The (inaudible) – I don't know what it's called.

Okay?

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: Of course.

D. RICH: Okay.

I'm trying to talk about the system. There's not enough doctors in this – where we're staying. I'm not saying they're not doing their jobs, but there's shortages of doctors and there's shortages of, you know – when I was in – when I said I was in St. John's – I'm a diabetic and I used to go – I used to walk a lot. I went to every park, I guess, walking with my family.

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: Yeah.

D. RICH: And I was doing good. I didn't have insulin. I didn't take insulin because I'm Type 2. And when I came home, I notice I needed something, 'cause my sugars was high and the medication wasn't helping. And I came in, they were – I had high blood pressure and I'm trying to get the doctor to see me, but they keep telling me this is not the right place. And I said is this the hospital? And, you know, me and my daughter – my daughter Christine, his name is – he had a high blood pressure. He's only young.

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: Yeah.

D. RICH: And she kept going and going. He said headaches, you got headaches? I said that's the high blood pressure. But they can't give us anything. And then the COVID hit and then the – and on top of that, they can't do anything. They shut down the hospitals and the clinics. I went in there and then I seen doctor there, doctor – my father's doctor.

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: Yeah.

D. RICH: He just give me a little shot there. He said my sugars were then up to 30.

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: Yeah.

D. RICH: And he gave me a shot and then he said, oh, you're good now. I went home. It just popped up again. And I went to see him again, maybe next day, and I said I wants insulin. That's what I want. I know what I have and I know what my body needs. And he said no. He said you gotta

have your own doctor. But I went in and I had to beg him. I said: You took care of my dad when he was sick.

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: Oh yeah.

D. RICH: You was there. You gave him, and you knows what I need. I'm just a walking bomb here that's gonna – I'm gonna get a stroke. And he finally gave it to me. He said: I'll give it to you. I'll send it down to clinic and the nurse will show you how to use it.

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: Right.

D. RICH: A dietician. And the dietician, I don't know why the medication was in hospital and it was out of date, waiting for the nurse 'cause the COVID hit.

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: Yeah.

D. RICH: They haven't got time. And when I went in there and I said to them, I said give me the medication, I said. I'll know what to do with it. I said: I got friends here who are diabetics.

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: Yeah.

D. RICH: That I knew her, a lady here, I said, who can show me how to use it. And they gave it to me. I don't know why they gave it to me, you know, maybe to shut me up. But they gave it to me, and I went to the lady there, and I said – and he showed me how to use it. He said just, like, take it slowly, he said. Take it six – 10. No, around 10.

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: Yeah.

D. RICH: And then you just gradually you – if it goes down a bit, you can – and I've been doing that. And then I finally got it controlled.

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: Okay.

D. RICH: And which was – I couldn't believe it. I can't get nothing out of them.

And then my foot got – I don't know what they call it now. A sore there.

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: Oh yes.

D. RICH: There's a hole there.

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: Yeah, circulation problems from the diabetes, yeah.

D. RICH: Yeah, a circulation problem. If I didn't wait a year or two for that, that would never happen, I don't think.

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: Right.

D. RICH: And I started feeling – I said I started feeling in my – this foot. I said: I can feel it now. There's no circulation there, its get cold and everything, eh. I said I never used to feel this. I said I have this diabetes myself for – when I was 18 years old. I learned to take care of myself, I said. And if you help me, I said, I could've saved my foot. I had a little thing cut off there and they – and I went to St. John's. I think they just want to cut it off because I've been back and forth to the hospital there for one year – one year.

And they kept saying to me, you know, there must be infection in the bone. And then I come up every night for six weeks, day, morning –

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: Yeah.

D. RICH: – and night, to get IV put in. It got infected again after the surgery, and I went in to see the nurse that Saturday and he said to me: You know, if you – I'll send you to St. John's. You go and see a doctor. Prepare to stay long, he gonna cut your foot right there. And I said: What? He said you got infection in the bone.

I said: I came in the other day. I said: That was a week ago. I know what I have here, and I was talking to the doctor – not you, somebody else. I said: When you guys notice somebody who has – who's a diabetic like me, when you see a sore in the foot, you don't assume or anything. You just don't send them home with nothing. You start them off with a diabetic. That's what I

would do if I was a doctor. And then he said – and he said to me – and then –

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: How long ago was that?

D. RICH: That was a couple of years ago.

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: Okay.

D. RICH: I had two years – two years – going back and forth to the clinic.

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: Yeah.

D. RICH: Yeah.

They couldn't save it, because one year they have a gathering there. I went back in there, as there was six doctors there. I went in to see them. I said: I've been seeing nurse but no doctors. What can you do this? You're the doctors. You should be a part of this. Shouldn't just told me in some way just to clean it up. He said come to – Saturday, he said, come to the doctor at the hospital. And they put tests on it. They put something there.

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: Yeah.

D. RICH: Like, calf – blood pressure. And he said to me, you know something? He said: Your numbers are good, but I don't know if they give me the right treatment for it. That was then, before when it first – and they sent me and I said: Just give me a doctor. They wouldn't do the IV again because you're gonna lose it anyway.

I went up. I said just give me the medication, I guess, I said. Just to hold me off then. So I took them for one week only, the medication, and I walked in to the clinic. They told me, I said, they told me – I said to the nurse, they told me that I need – I said, do a CAT scan again. Oh, that don't work no more. I said how come? You get X-rays, you said they didn't work; CAT scans, you said they didn't work.

I said only have infection there, but how can you go that fast to the bone? I said Saturday I came in, Sunday I got on medication, and the medication don't kick in after 24 hours. That's what the doctor told me one time. And I said: Something wrong here.

And then I just – and I believed him when he said that they gonna really cut it off. And I prayed and I said myself, I said: Lord, I don't know what to do here. I said this time I need you, I really need you. I don't wanna lose my foot. I prayed and prayed and prayed and prayed, every day as I goes to the nurse to get a dressing done, prepare for me to go to St. John's to get it cut off.

And the doctor, the specialist, the foot doctor himself, came in, but his assistant came in. And he said to me: Where's your bad foot. Right there. Because I noticed – nurses would tell me, I never looked at it – the nurses told me something wrong here. I said: What's wrong? I never seen it heal so fast. I said, well, thank God.

When I get to the hospital there, they looked at it and he said – the first thing – the assistant came in first and looked at it and he said: Where's your bad foot? Right there. He took my sock off, he said where is it? He's healed, he told me, he said. It was, I said. And then he – I never said nothing, and he said it to me, he said: God is real, eh. That's what he said to me, without me spoken to him about it. Yeah.

And it was hard. So I just came back home. He just told me, just moisturize it all the time, 'cause it's no need to. It's not gone in your bone. He said if it was gone in your bone, you'd be sick.

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: Yeah.

D. RICH: And then I came back and I really, really got healed.

I went to the – this is after, too, when I went to the St. John's. I came in; the nurses told me one day, he said: What would you like to see – things done - when the COVID hit. I said don't close your – don't close the hospitals or the station there.

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: Yeah.

D. RICH: The clinic. And he said to me, you know, I – yeah, he said, and then in the meantime, when I was going back and forth to the hospital in here, to get my dressing changed, the nurse was gone. He didn't show up. He went to the hospital, they said. And I really wanted to get my dressing changed because you can see the blood right through it.

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: Mm-hmm.

D. RICH: And they take me to – I went to – I said: I'm gonna go to Goose Bay, I suppose, I said, since you can't –

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: Yeah.

D. RICH: – do it here. And there are people still waiting. My auntie was there and he passed away, a true diabetic, too. He passed away. He was falling asleep on a wheelchair.

When I came back from the hospital, I walked in the clinic there 'cause I used to go there when there's – on the weekends, 'cause you can't do it on the weekdays. And I walked in, I said: I need a dressing changed. Oh, he said, we'll book. I said it will only take a few minutes. There's nobody here; all the chairs are empty. Then: No, they're coming in. So I went home.

I went back to the clinic, I said the lady's supposed to be – the other nurse is supposed to be in dinnertime. I got in there around, almost dinnertime. And I was so upset, my auntie was still there, falling asleep on a wheelchair.

I walked in the clinic, I said who's in charge here, anyway? You know, I'm not mad at you guys, I'm just mad at the system because it's too much. And the girl was sitting there, the girl who was doing appointments and that, and he got mad, I guess, with me. He said – I said: You're only a secretary here. I got nothing against you, it's just the system that, need to be done something with it because what happened, I said. They were closing everything in Goose Bay. That was the big fire we had, remember, in Lab City?

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: Mm-hmm.

D. RICH: They take everybody from –

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: Yeah.

D. RICH: Yeah.

I said to them, where are the doctors in Lab City gone? Are they running away, too? I said: Just bring them here, in Goose Bay, set hospitals up there, because we were about 9,000 people in Goose Bay.

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: Yeah.

D. RICH: And (inaudible) is about the same – less than Lab City. And this is the – they put everybody who was coming here from the hospital. Yeah. It's just not right. They're not prepared for any – anything happens here. They should get something done with that.

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: Thank you. Thank you for your insights.

D. RICH: Yeah, and I worked in long-term right now.

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: Yeah.

D. RICH: I work in long-term with somebody.

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: Yeah.

D. RICH: And he fell off a bed. That's why the family want me to be in for – I've been going back and forth there ever since July. And nobody ever comes around, maybe once in a while. And when I look for a nurse, that he needed a change, they haven't got time enough. They haven't got enough staff to do it. He said I'm gonna wait for somebody who's on a break, maybe two – I need three people – two people.

And, yeah, and there – he's sad to see it's not done the way it's supposed to. Because there are people, I said, in – they have a big eating area there for the Elders, and I watch them. I said after having a good meal, I said, sometimes I like to go down to the

room and lie down myself, and how come they left her in the seat just passing out there.

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: Yeah.

D. RICH: And then – and I said to the girl there, I said – he said – can you take care of this guy first before you do something? No, we gotta do the plates and everything. They took care – they gotta take care of it. I said: I don't think that's in your job description to do that, you know. Take care of, you know –

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: Before the people.

D. RICH: Yeah.

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: Yeah.

D. RICH: They should – they got a kitchen there. The kitchen or the cook or somebody could do that. It's not right. We need something. We need a bigger hospital When they built the first hospital there, Goudie Building, it was too small. Now they change it to a government building now, it was now.

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: Yeah.

D. RICH: I don't know what happened in that.

And they build another hospital and it's not big; about the same size, I guess, 'cause that one got two-story high, don't it? Not even, I don't think. But not even a year, they got more hospitals than offices in there. They got to spend more money in the back of the hospital to build offices again, because we're not the only people who are using it, Sheshatshiu or North West – the North Coast, all across here are using it.

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: Yeah.

D. RICH: And the hospitals there now, there are people – I gotta niece there who was in hospital. Stayed in emergency for three, four days, I think. Then they went to Intensive Care.

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: Well I'm going to thank you, first of all.

D. RICH: Yeah.

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: For the first part of your presentation.

D. RICH: Yeah.

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: Showing us how good people like yourself, thoughtful people thinking about the community –

D. RICH: Yeah.

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: – makes this such a special place.

D. RICH: Yeah.

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: All the time we hear about intergenerational trauma, and you understand that, and we're learning that from so many people.

D. RICH: Yeah.

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: But also, we believe there's intergenerational resilience in this community. People like you, who want to help one person at a time –

D. RICH: Yeah.

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: – realize that they can change their lives, just like you did.

D. RICH: Yeah.

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: So we're so grateful for that.

And the second part, where you're telling us that you have to heal the community as well and have the facilities to heal the community.

D. RICH: Mm-hmm.

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: So I just want to say thank you for thinking about your community and coming to tell us that.

D. RICH: I wanted to speak to, there – I never because there's so much. They came in – and I won't take long. There were – we have a big gathering there, talking about drugs and alcohol. But people are so – but I never said it in there, but I share it to everybody I know. I said: If we want our community to be healed, we have to come in (inaudible.)

I said: I heard people talking there, and they start pointing fingers and saying stuff to people.

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: Yeah.

D. RICH: I said: What we're doing there, I said, we just were like a lion out there, scaring everybody off. I said: It would be nice if somebody, maybe the dealers, could come in themselves. But they're afraid. Maybe the family of the dealers, you know, those – you know, they would come in too. I said: We can heal if we work together. But what we do is fight each other when we gets in meeting, who's got the highest say.

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: Yeah.

D. RICH: I said that's not it's all about. We're looking for healing (inaudible) come to us before we goes out. Yeah, that's what really –

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: Yeah, we hear you.

D. RICH: Yeah.

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: We continue to support you, especially the way that you're willing to help everybody else. We really appreciate that.

D. RICH: Yeah.

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: And your community will appreciate it.

D. RICH: Yeah, and my – and one thing I never said about my daughter, she took stroke. He had a stroke. I was working in the home there, when my brother – my son-in-law called me. He said: Your daughter can't feel – he said he can't move one side.

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: Yeah.

D. RICH: And I knew it was a stroke. And I said – then I prayed right there before – after he hung up. He said the ambulance is here, and I said I pray to God. God, I said, I don't want this to be worsen. And he's all right now, but he – trouble with speech a little bit.

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: Yes, yeah.

D. RICH: But he can walk around. He still – he drives.

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: Yeah.

D. RICH: And I thank God for that.

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: Well, thank you for your faith.

D. RICH: Yeah.

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: We appreciate it.

Thank you so much, David.

COMMISSIONER QUPEE: Tshinashkumitin.

D. RICH: Okay.

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: Yeah, thank you.

D. RICH: It's good to be here, to be honest with you.

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: And it's good to have you here.

COMMISSIONER QUPEE: Yeah.

D. RICH: Yeah.

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: I'll tell the boys to turn off that tape.

Thanks, David.

D. RICH: Yeah.

COMMISSIONER QUPEE: Thank you very much.