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1 July 28, 2026
 2
 3 COMMISSIONER DEVINE:
 4 All right. So the first thing, Kevin, we're
 5 going to do is to -- Michael Collins is here.
 6 He's one of the lawyers. And he's going to talk
 7 about the form of consent for -- if you want to
 8 give it for this meeting. And he'll go through
 9 that with you. And if you got any questions to
 10 ask him, and hopefully, he can answer them.
 11 MR. PASTIWET:
 12 Yes.
 13 MR. COLLINS:
 14 I hope Louis (phonetic) can put the form up on
 15 the screen so that you can see it. There's a few
 16 things about the process that is worth
 17 explaining. We're proposing to talk to you
 18 about, you know, some things that may be quite
 19 sensitive to you. And it's your right to
 20 participate or not.
 21 If you want us -- we plan to record the
 22 conversation. And if you want, we can use your
 23 name or not. And we can share the recording and
 24 the details of what you said or not. It's up to

Page 2

1 you. But -
 2 MR. PASTIWET:
 3 Yes.
 4 MR. COLLINS:
 5 - unless you tell us you want us to do that,
 6 we're not going to. And in particular -- so,
 7 here's this form and I'll go through it, but
 8 we'll need the time -- the date and time, your
 9 name, your address. And I'd appreciate it if you
 10 would give me your -- right now, your address and
 11 your telephone number.
 12 MR. PASTIWET:
 13 Kevin Pastiwet.
 14 MR. COLLINS:
 15 Yeah. That's your name.
 16 MR. PASTIWET:
 17 Yeah. My physical address right now is 10 Piwas,
 18 P-i-w-a-s, Street in Natuashish. I don't have a
 19 mailbox.
 20 MS. SPEAKER:
 21 Your phone number?
 22 MR. PASTIWET:
 23 My current phone number -- my working phone
 24 number from now I'm with MIFN is 899-6457.

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1 MS. SPEAKER:
 2 Okay.
 3 MR. COLLINS:
 4 Thank you. And so you know, the first question
 5 for us is, do you want your name to be used
 6 publicly?
 7 MR. PASTIWET:
 8 Yes, I have no issue with that.
 9 MR. COLLINS:
 10 And do you -- as we said, we plan to record the
 11 meeting. But we will keep it private unless you
 12 want it to be public. And if you want it to be
 13 public, we'll put it on our web site.
 14 MR. PASTIWET:
 15 Again, you know, I have no issue -- I have no
 16 issue to be -- this out in the public.
 17 MR. COLLINS:
 18 Yeah. So now, if that's what you want, then
 19 that's great.
 20 MR. PASTIWET:
 21 Yeah.
 22 MR. COLLINS:
 23 We're going to send you a copy of this form.
 24

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1 MR. PASTIWET:
 2 Yeah.
 3 MR. COLLINS:
 4 And we're going to ask you to fill it out and
 5 return it to us. We'll give you a return
 6 envelope.
 7 MR. PASTIWET:
 8 Excuse me?
 9 MR. COLLINS:
 10 We'll give you an -- you know, we'll give you an
 11 envelope. And you can mail it back to us.
 12 MR. PASTIWET:
 13 Yes.
 14 MR. COLLINS:
 15 But you know, we want to be on the safe side
 16 here. So we're going to err on the side of
 17 caution and not -- you -- we won't share your
 18 name, and we won't use your recording unless you
 19 have return the form.
 20 MR. PASTIWET:
 21 Yes.
 22 MR. COLLINS:
 23 So if you'd like -- so we -- if you, you know --
 24 and we'd like to help you get your story out

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1 there if that's what you want. But if that's
 2 what you want, when we send you the -- when you
 3 return this form, please return it to us and sign
 4 it.
 5 MR. PASTIWET:
 6 Yes. The issue I have here is that I don't have
 7 a printer. No way to print the form out if it
 8 was sent to me.
 9 MR. COLLINS:
 10 We -- we'll send it to you in -- we can send it
 11 to you by mail.
 12 MR. PASTIWET:
 13 That would be -- that would be all right. I
 14 guess you will be sending it to Kevin Pastiwet,
 15 General Delivery.
 16 MR. COLLINS:
 17 All right. General Delivery.
 18 MR. PASTIWET:
 19 Yeah. Natuashish, A0P 1A0.
 20 MR. COLLINS:
 21 All right. Well, we will do that. And we're --
 22 and we'll -- we will try to follow up if you'd
 23 like. But that's -- you know. We'd love to use
 24 your story. And we're very grateful that you

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1 were able to make the time to share it with us.
 2 MR. PASTIWET:
 3 Yes.
 4 MR. COLLINS:
 5 But yeah. I hope you can understand that it's
 6 useful to have these things in writing for us.
 7 MR. PASTIWET:
 8 Yes.
 9 MR. COLLINS:
 10 Thank you. And I think that's what I -- that's
 11 everything I have to say.
 12 COMMISSIONER DEVINE:
 13 Okay. You're good with this, Kevin? Any
 14 questions for Michael before we...
 15 MR. PASTIWET:
 16 No. No, I'm good.
 17 COMMISSIONER DEVINE:
 18 Okay. So I'll just go ahead then. And you know,
 19 you would have familiarity with the process, I
 20 think, and that you spoke just before.
 21 MR. PASTIWET:
 22 Yeah.
 23 COMMISSIONER DEVINE:
 24 The way that -- I'll just go over what we tell

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1 everybody. The way that we do it is that we --
 2 I'll just open it up for you to talk about
 3 related topics that you want to talk about that
 4 you have on your mind today. And I may cut in
 5 sometimes if there's things that I'm not clear
 6 about, or I may ask the occasional question.
 7 But for the most part, I want -- I'll kind of let
 8 you do the free flow. Because once your
 9 conversation is interrupted, it's an
 10 interruption. And then you might lose your train
 11 of thoughts, kind of thing. So the whole idea is
 12 to allow you to speak. And if you have any
 13 questions throughout at any time, then certainly
 14 ask me.
 15 MR. PASTIWET:
 16 Yes.
 17 MR. SPEAKER:
 18 Okay. With that, sir, you can start.
 19 MR. PASTIWET:
 20 Well, I want to start off saying that I want to
 21 talk about my late son. His name was William
 22 Wave Rainbow Rich, born September 8, 2003 --
 23 2004, I mean. My son was born in Happy-Valley
 24 Goose Bay Hospital. And most of his life --

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1 throughout his life, he was living in Natuashish.
 2 And me and her mother went our separate ways in
 3 2014.
 4 To speed up things, my son was abusing solvent
 5 abuse while -- between 2015, 2016, or 2017. And
 6 I think the CSSD, you know, got involved with him
 7 while I was living in Sheshatshiu in Goose Bay at
 8 the time.
 9 I recall, in 2018, 2019, my son was placed in
 10 the group home in Sheshatshiu, in -- with CSSD.
 11 I -- he was there, I believe, a couple months.
 12 Because, at that time, I was living in
 13 Sheshatshiu. And he would come by and visit me
 14 and his other siblings with my other
 15 relationship.
 16 To go forward, I know -- I lost my son in
 17 2004 (sic), September 6. He died -- I'm not
 18 really sure how he died. But just trying to get
 19 the pieces together. And he was still -- he was
 20 under CSSD.
 21 COMMISSIONER DEVINE:
 22 All right.
 23 MR. PASTIWET:
 24 CSSD sent him out to St. John's. I have inquired

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1 some things that was happening to my son while he
 2 was in St. John's, in group home under CCSD
 3 supervision, I believe.
 4 COMMISSIONER DEVINE:
 5 Okay. So one thing I just want to clarify.
 6 The -- you said you lost your son on what date,
 7 sir? On what year?
 8 MR. PASTIWET:
 9 September 6, 2024.
 10 COMMISSIONER DEVINE:
 11 Okay.
 12 MR. PASTIWET:
 13 I mean November 6. I mean November 6. My
 14 apologies.
 15 COMMISSIONER DEVINE:
 16 November. Okay. Okay, sir. Go ahead.
 17 MR. PASTIWET:
 18 While he was in -- after he was placed in
 19 St. John's, he was still under the age of 18
 20 years old. Many things has transpired while he
 21 was in St. John's. He -- I -- as a parent -- as
 22 a parent, you know, as his dad, and just speaking
 23 to his mom recently, that my son was given
 24 depressant pills without our consent, without any

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1 knowledge of me, as a dad, or his mother.
 2 I know my son changed a lot when he was in
 3 St. John's. Because I would go out to St. John's
 4 for appointments and other things. Sometimes I
 5 would meet my son there. He wasn't himself
 6 anymore when he was in -- placed in St. John's.
 7 What I mean he wasn't -- he was not himself
 8 was the kid that I knew when he was -- when I was
 9 around in Natuashish with him, he seems like he
 10 lost his culture, his identity as an Innu. He
 11 would talk about -- he would talk about the
 12 culture in a different way. He said, "You know,
 13 I don't know that culture. It's not my culture."
 14 That, you know, to me is very -- was very,
 15 very disturbing for me to hear from my own son,
 16 who was an Innu kid. He must heard it somewhere.
 17 He must heard it someone, or someone must have
 18 said something to him to talk in this way.
 19 Just again, you know, like I said, I've been
 20 trying to get, you know, information -- as much
 21 as information after his death. I'm speaking to
 22 his mom again recently, like I said. His mother
 23 said the same thing. He changed a lot when he
 24 was in -- placed in -- when CSSD took him and

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1 when he was placed in St. John's.
 2 My son was abusing solvent abuse in
 3 Natuashish. In St. John's, he started to get
 4 into heavy drugs. That's my understanding. He
 5 started doing cocaine, into drinking, marijuana,
 6 and popping pills. Still, today, just hearing
 7 from people that knew my son, that my son died,
 8 he was -- him and his friends were drinking and
 9 doing drugs that the night -- that night he died.
 10 And I've been trying to communicate the medical
 11 examiner that directly how he died. And -- but I
 12 have no -- I haven't been successful. And still,
 13 today, I'm trying to get to the bottom of it, how
 14 my son died, you know, and other things. I guess
 15 I'm looking for answers, put it that way. I'm
 16 looking for answers how he died.
 17 I know he was -- there was times he would be
 18 placed at the hospital under Mental Health Act.
 19 And just by learning through -- and his mother
 20 said the same thing. We learned that our son was
 21 start having seizures after taking these pills --
 22 depression pills or whatever pills were given to
 23 him since he was in St. John's.
 24 Our son, William, was a very healthy boy. He

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1 was born healthy. No complications with the
 2 birth. No complications with his health in --
 3 whatsoever. But after him being in St. John's
 4 and being distributed by these pills, whatever
 5 they were, you know, I -- you know, I'm assuming
 6 it's depression pills. But he told me once that
 7 they didn't -- he doesn't know what he was
 8 taking. But the doctor told him that he needs to
 9 take them. And the doctor didn't explain to him
 10 what were those pills for.
 11 And you know, my son died in the care of CSSD.
 12 And you know, at 18 years old, I think, you know,
 13 you are given an option. That's my understanding
 14 from other, you know, foster kids that I know
 15 that...
 16 He was still -- when he was 18, he was still
 17 under the radar with CSSD. He was still -- his
 18 case, I guess, was active. I don't know how
 19 the -- what way else to explain it. He was --
 20 more likely, you know, in plain language, he was
 21 still in the care of CSSD. He had workers. He
 22 had a social worker. That's my understanding,
 23 after his death.
 24 I have never heard anything from CSSD after

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1 his death. I have never heard from anybody. I
 2 have heard maybe one or two, three people that
 3 knew my son, that worked with my son, that worked
 4 in group home that knew him very well. But
 5 nothing from the department of CSSD. No one has
 6 reached out to me. I don't believe anyone has
 7 reached out to his mother, Charlotte. I went out
 8 -- I went out to St. John's, you know, when his
 9 body was there. His mother and his daughter --
 10 his sisters were there.

11 It's -- you know, it's very, very
 12 disheartening to see an Innu kid with no help
 13 while he was in care. Just give him pills. That
 14 was the offer they gave him. They gave him pills
 15 for his -- if he had mental health, he -- if he
 16 had -- he was -- if he was suffering trauma, if
 17 he was suffering with other, you know, things,
 18 you know, physically, mentally. I knew my son --
 19 you know, I knew my son was sexually abused. He
 20 told me that before his death.

21 There was never, never help. Not once, you
 22 know, the department or his social workers reach
 23 out to me when he was in St. John's. No one. I
 24 had never heard. I would hear from other people.

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1 I would call them third-party people. That's how
 2 I know. And that's how I hear these things that
 3 was happening to my son.
 4 And I know one worker who was very concerned to
 5 me -- concerned for my son. He told me that he
 6 was very concerned for my son. Because they were
 7 giving him something, and he changed. He wasn't
 8 himself anymore.

9 COMMISSIONER DEVINE:

10 So if I can just ask a question. What kind of
 11 accommodations did he have? Where did he live in
 12 St. John's?

13 MR. PASTIWET:

14 I knew he was living in a group home. And I
 15 guess, after 18, he was still under the group
 16 home, my understanding. But he was living with
 17 his common-law boyfriend in St. John's. But my
 18 understanding from this lady that after my son
 19 died few days was he was still under care of
 20 CSSD.

21 And I don't know if that's true or not. But I
 22 never have those answers. Because I've been
 23 trying to communicate CSSD about my son, what
 24 happened to him, and what was -- why -- what was

Page 15

1 those pills? What was those things, you know.
 2 Again, like I said, my son was very, very healthy
 3 young boy. He was -- he loved sports. He loved
 4 volleyball.

5 It seems like, you know, his life was taken
 6 away by the system. His identity, his culture as
 7 an Innu young man completely out the door, like
 8 burnt. His whole life was burned to the ground
 9 because the system has failed him -- to help him.
 10 Like I said again, when he -- I knew when he was
 11 in Sheshatshiu group home, no one from CSSD or
 12 his -- whoever the social worker was, trying to
 13 reach out to me and said to me, Kevin, you know,
 14 can you take your son? Can your son live with
 15 you? Can your son stay with you instead of him
 16 going to St. John's? There were many, many
 17 questions that needs to be answered that are not
 18 answered today.

19 I know his grandfather -- his grandparents
 20 loved him very much. And they were concerned,
 21 too. They want him to come home. But under some
 22 reason, he signed a paper that I don't know what
 23 paper it is. He signed the paper when he was 18.
 24 And I don't have that answer. What paper did he

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1 sign? And I -- like I said, I've been trying to
 2 get these answers. And I haven't.

3 It's like my son was put in the care and
 4 shuffled somewhere on the island. And after his
 5 death, nobody ever mentioned to his name. Nobody
 6 ever -- it's like he never exist to CSSD. But as
 7 a family, as a father, he will always be -- exist
 8 with me. And it hurts to think about my son,
 9 what happened.

10 And these -- this could be preventable. This
 11 -- he could have -- if I was asked to help him or
 12 find a way for help him, I would do my best to
 13 find him help, either through Indigenous
 14 Services, through counselling, and so on. And
 15 there are many, many, many -- like I said, many,
 16 many answers that have been unanswered by the
 17 system.

18 And you know, to be honest, the system has
 19 failed many people, many, many children. Many,
 20 many families are torn apart when their kids are
 21 taken --

22 COMMISSIONER DEVINE:

23 We sure have a lot of stories, you know.
 24

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1 MR. PASTIWET:
 2 Yes.
 3 COMMISSIONER DEVINE:
 4 From what you're saying, yes.
 5 MR. PASTIWET:
 6 And you know, this is not about getting money or
 7 anything. This is about getting my story out
 8 there that this will be preventable, happening to
 9 other kids, other Innu kids or other Indigenous
 10 kids. It doesn't matter, whoever it is, people
 11 that CSSD, underneath their care, non-Indigenous
 12 or Indigenous people. And there's many, many,
 13 many out there that are broken and torn apart.
 14 And I know a lot. I know a lot of those
 15 people. I know a lot down the coast here in
 16 Labrador that have been in care of CSSD. As soon
 17 as they get -- as soon as they're turned 18,
 18 they're sent back home. No services after.
 19 They're just, like, send them home to a pack of
 20 wolves. And they have no -- they have no way of
 21 their history and knowledge, no identity. Just
 22 broken guitar strings.
 23 COMMISSIONER DEVINE:
 24 Yeah.

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1 MR. PASTIWET:
 2 And I -- you know, I really, really like to know
 3 what happened to my son, what pills were given to
 4 him, what services were given to him. Because I
 5 have no knowledge. The only time I ever heard
 6 was he's in hospital under the Mental Health Act.
 7 That's all. Those were three simple words I
 8 heard. You know, I never get called from CSSD
 9 when he was in hospital. I would have to hear it
 10 from third-party people, not from the department.
 11 COMMISSIONER DEVINE:
 12 Right.
 13 MR. PASTIWET:
 14 And it's heartbreaking, you know. The mother is
 15 -- the mother is more devastated. Because the
 16 mother took care of that boy and carried that boy
 17 nine months in her womb. She did the hard work
 18 for nine months. And she'll be struck with this
 19 pain for the rest of her life. Because the
 20 connection that she had with the baby in her
 21 womb, when the -- when her son was in her womb.
 22 And sometimes, too, you know, I blame myself
 23 for my son's death. Wish I was there. Wish I
 24 knew -- you know, I would see my son -- like I

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1 said, I would see my son when I was in
 2 St. John's, you know.
 3 I never knew he was into heavy drugs. He
 4 never mentioned to me. I knew he was smoking
 5 marijuana. That's all I knew. Every time I
 6 would see him, you know, he would tell me I'm
 7 using -- I'm smoking marijuana. But never once
 8 mentioned to me about heavy drugs or drinking.
 9 I believe, November 6th, maybe the 7th or the
 10 9th of my birthday -- my birthday was 9th --
 11 November 9th. Three days before my birthday, I
 12 get this devastating news. And I believe it was
 13 on my birthday this lady called me -- reached out
 14 to me, who was a former worker. How I knew there
 15 was a party at that -- where he was living, a
 16 lady lived across the street and called me and
 17 told me, you know, this happened that night when
 18 your son died. There was heavy drinking. Him
 19 and his boyfriend were (inaudible) partying.
 20 Heavy drugs were involved. And more likely, he
 21 died from alcohol or drug overdose.
 22 And if my son was brought home or me or his
 23 mother -- I don't know how much communication
 24 they have with their mother. I don't know.

Page 20

1 Because the mother never said anything. It's
 2 never mentioned how much communication CSSD had
 3 or social worker had with the mother. But they
 4 never had a communication with me directly, as a
 5 father.
 6 I was his father, even though me and her mom
 7 went separate ways. I was entitled to be his
 8 father. I was always entitled to be his father.
 9 He was my responsibility. He was my son.
 10 And again, like I said, you know, I'm looking
 11 for answers. I don't want other kids that are
 12 before the system or families, parents,
 13 grandparents to go through what me and their
 14 mother went through, losing our son. He was only
 15 -- you know, he was only 20 years old, 20 years
 16 old. He had a lot of dreams. He had a lot of
 17 goals. And he would tell me those goals and his
 18 dreams. But those came short because the system
 19 has failed him. The system has failed him. The
 20 system has failed me and -- as parents. The
 21 system has failed the grandparents. The system
 22 has failed Natuashish itself, the community.
 23 In general, every child that's before CSSD
 24 removed from home, removed from their community,

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1 removed from their language, their culture.
 2 My son would never have been a non-Indigenous
 3 (inaudible) person. He was an Indigenous person.
 4 He was Innu. He -- you know, the reason I say
 5 that, no matter how much the world, the system,
 6 Canada, general, they cannot make me as a White
 7 person. Because I'm Innu. And I'll always be
 8 Innu. And I'm proud to be Innu. They can do so
 9 many things in their ways. Because the system
 10 lives by paper.
 11 Innu don't live by paper. They live off the
 12 land, the water, the animals, the sacred drum,
 13 the shaking tent, the sweat lodge. That's how we
 14 survived.
 15 Our people were never sick with heart rates,
 16 heart attacks, with diabetes, this disease that
 17 we have today. My grandparents, who survived and
 18 lived off the land, born on the land, were very,
 19 very healthy people. Then we came across to
 20 colonialism. We became drunks. Our people were
 21 never drunks when they were out on the land. Our
 22 people were never addicted to drugs. They were
 23 addicted to hunting and respecting the animals.
 24 They were -- those were -- that's where their

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1 addiction was, helping families to survive on the
 2 land.
 3 And we have this system and this world that's
 4 failed many, many people, not only Indigenous but
 5 across Canada, many, many, many people. Families
 6 are torn apart. At the end of the day, the kids
 7 are the ones that are affected the most.
 8 I have lost my kids -- my other kids that I
 9 have currently at home today. They are home
 10 today because I had to fight through the court
 11 system to get them back. My lawyer didn't want
 12 me to fight through the courts. My lawyer told
 13 me we'll lose this case. We have a small chance
 14 to get your kids back.
 15 Well, I said, it's up to the judge, who is
 16 going to decide, not you, who is just my lawyer.
 17 You work for me. That's part of your job to work
 18 for me. Ten months, we went to court, me and my
 19 partner. We got our kids back home today.
 20 They're home today. They're happy.
 21 And when they were in care, we heard stories
 22 from our social worker who said our kids are
 23 acting out, you know. They're doing this and
 24 that. Your son is fighting at school.

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1 They've been home since February 14 of this
 2 year, five months -- over five months. They've
 3 been attending school here. And I pick up -- I
 4 pick up my kids at school. My wife picks them
 5 up. We never heard any complaint from the
 6 teacher saying your son is fighting in school.
 7 And like I said, you know, it took us 10 months
 8 to get them in our home. And they're happy kids.
 9 They love it here.
 10 At the beginning, they didn't know Natuashish
 11 because they've never been here before. Because
 12 I remember, February 15, we flew from Goose Bay.
 13 And we had to go all these small, little
 14 communities: Rigolet, Makkovik, Postville. When
 15 we landed in Rigolet, they were expecting a big
 16 airport, like Toronto or you know, St. John's, or
 17 somewhere, Montreal. Because they've been in
 18 those places. And my -- two of them said, "Where
 19 are we? Are we lost? Is the plane taking us the
 20 wrong way?" But I said, "It's part of the north.
 21 That's how we are."
 22 And they see people driving in snow machines
 23 to the airport. And he said, "Are we lost?
 24 Where are we, dad?" I said, "This is part of

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1 Newfoundland and Labrador."
 2 And as we got further and further, he asks
 3 these -- all these questions. Because they've
 4 never been this far in their life. Because we
 5 lived in Goose Bay and Sheshatshiu until me and
 6 my partner -- we got -- we separated in '22. And
 7 we got back again in 2025.
 8 And they have all these questions about north.
 9 "Dad, what are we going to do? Are we going to
 10 survive here?" You know, "What if power goes
 11 out? What if, you know, a big snowstorm goes
 12 out?" I said, "I was part of that as a kid. My
 13 outdoors was the playground." And they love it
 14 here.
 15 And I haven't heard any -- the reports I heard
 16 from social workers, I never heard anything, or
 17 the school reports that they were -- when they
 18 were in foster home, I never heard that from the
 19 school. They're doing good in school. And I
 20 always check up with their teacher. "How are
 21 they doing today?" "Oh, they're the best kind."
 22 And that -- you know, that gives me something to
 23 think, you know.
 24 Kids were affected when they were in the

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1 foster home. Because when you're in a foster
2 home, you don't get the same affection as your
3 parents. You don't get the same love, the care,
4 the attention.

5 And I'm really happy, you know. They're home
6 with us now, and they're happy. They're making
7 friends here. At the beginning, they didn't know
8 anybody here, only kids from school. They didn't
9 want to go to school. I said, "School is the key
10 to be out there to see the real world. If you
11 complete school, you'll make it out."

12 But again, you know, it hurts me so much to --
13 you know, they ask -- the 10-year-old, my son
14 asked about his brother. Because he met him.
15 "What happened to my brother?" I said, "You
16 know, your brother is no longer with us."
17 And he's all -- he has all these questions. And
18 I just tell him, you know, "He's gone. That's
19 all. He's gone." You know, maybe one day, he'll
20 take time with him, to be with him. The -- you
21 know, your son -- your brother was in care.

22 And like I said, my wife -- my ex-partner, I
23 mean, is the one it hurts the most. He's going
24 to bear that pain the rest of her life. I will

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1 bear that pain for the rest of my life. The
2 system won't bear that pain. Because that's not
3 their son.

4 The policies they have has failed many, many,
5 many people. I have seen people die -- commit
6 suicide after they were in -- removed from their
7 parents. Not only in Natuashish and Sheshatshiu.
8 On the coast of Labrador, I know people that
9 commit suicide. Got into heavy addiction because
10 there was no help.

11 It's like children are money figure for the
12 government, dollar signs for the foster parents,
13 for the system. They don't see them as
14 Indigenous. They see them as money.

15 You know, that's all I can say. The system
16 has failed me as parents, community in
17 Natuashish, and the families. The community is
18 going to be in pain for my son. Because he was
19 from here. And he was Innu. And the system will
20 just forget about him. It's like, "Oh, he's
21 gone. Where's the other one?" That's how the
22 system works.

23 Today, it's not called residential schools.
24 It's called CSSD today. Similar what happened in

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1 Fifties, Sixties Scoop, it's happening still
2 today, in Canada. It's like, you know, like, the
3 guy who did the Inquiry, Sinclair, talk about,
4 you know, kids in care has failed. Canada has
5 failed Indigenous families, Indigenous children.

6 And you know, I don't think one of his
7 recommendations ever been implemented by Canada
8 or the provinces. I believe there were 100 or
9 94, 96 recommendations made to the Inquiry team.
10 But there's none.

11 And there are many out there that are fighting
12 against Canada. Fighting for Indigenous people
13 to have their own system, to run their own
14 system. Like a good friend of mine told me, you
15 have -- we have all -- you guys -- you people --
16 he's a -- he's a non-Indigenous person. He's a
17 retired lawyer. He told me, you, Innu, have
18 social workers that are young as -- a lot of them
19 probably don't have kids. So then when it comes
20 to -- for them to kids, they don't know what to
21 do. They just shove them around or here and
22 there.

23 And I think I -- you know, I talked about my
24 other kids before in my other meetings before.

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1 And you know, I don't know if I'm allowed to say
2 this on the record. You know, I -- I'm -- I'll
3 be starting working with Innu Round Table
4 August -- in a few weeks. I'll be one of the
5 Innu reps. Because I applied for a job. And I
6 had the interview. And they told me that I have
7 the knowledge and the experience to help advocate
8 families, advocate children. Because I've been
9 there before. I was in that spot.

10 And I'm really -- you know, I'm really happy,
11 you know, where life is going. Today, I'll
12 always, always going to miss my son. That's it.

13 COMMISSIONER DEVINE:

14 Thank you. Okay. Well, Kevin, first of all, I
15 just want to express my sincere condolences on
16 the loss of your son. I can't begin to fathom,
17 you know, the depth of sorrow that you and your
18 wife would have in -- regarding your son.

19 And you know, the Inquiry has heard a number
20 of stories about how the system has failed the
21 Innu. And as you know, we're getting towards the
22 end. And we will be making a set of
23 recommendations. We've gotten lots of feedback
24 from the community, from many different people in

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1 community at community meetings. Over a hundred
2 people, I think, spoke to us. And -- so we've
3 got a lot that we have to kind of put together
4 and really speak on behalf of the Innu, I think,
5 is the best way to say it that I can think now.

6 And you know, these system things and you
7 know, the drugs that your son was prescribed and
8 you know, you didn't know. You weren't asked or
9 informed are not uncommon, unfortunately.

10 The other thing I wanted to say, and -- is
11 that -- and you just mentioned it at the end, you
12 said when you were advocating on behalf of your
13 children. And you spoke to us -- I don't know
14 when that was exactly. But you spoke to us. And
15 I found it remarkable how strongly you advocated
16 and how persistent you were.

17 And I often talk about myself as being -- I
18 can be very persistent. But sometimes that gets
19 into stubbornness. And so it's good to be
20 stubborn sometimes that you, you know, keep on,
21 keep on, keep on. And that's the way that I saw
22 you in that. And you succeeded.

23 So it's a long, hard journey, I'm sure,
24 for that when you're doing that. But in that

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1 very useful to the Inquiry. And it could have a
2 lasting value beyond. We won't be able to use it
3 unless you return our form.

4 MR. PASTIWET:

5 Yes.

6 MR. COLLINS:

7 So please, we will send that to you.

8 MR. PASTIWET:

9 Yeah.

10 MR. COLLINS:

11 And I will be very grateful if you could return
12 it to us. Thank you.

13 MR. PASTIWET:

14 Yes.

15 MR. COLLINS:

16 And thank you for speaking to us today.

17 MR. PASTIWET:

18 Yes.

19 COMMISSIONER DEVINE:

20 Thank you again. Enjoy the rest of your day,
21 sir.

22 MR. PASTIWET:

23 Yes. Okay. Bye.

24

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1 regard, things seemed to have worked out. And
2 you have your kids back, which is -- you know,
3 that's a good -- very good thing to hear today.

4 But I also thank you for talking to us today
5 and sharing your story and wanting it to be made
6 public so that people can hear. You know, here
7 is yet another situation of a terrible tragedy
8 that has happened. And, as you said, you know,
9 to prevent this from happening in the future. I
10 mean, that's what we all want and want to work
11 towards.

12 So I thank you for that. And all the best to
13 you and your family, sir.

14 MR. PASTIWET:

15 Thank you.

16 COMMISSIONER DEVINE:

17 Okay.

18 MR. COLLINS:

19 And if I could add --

20 COMMISSIONER DEVINE:

21 Yes.

22 MR. COLLINS:

23 (Inaudible) this was a -- I really enjoyed

24 everything you said. It was information that --

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1 COMMISSIONER DEVINE:

2 Okay. Bye.

3

4 (Private conversation with K. Pastiwet concludes.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Beverly Guest, of Elite Transcription, of
St. John's, in the Province of Newfoundland
and Labrador, hereby certify that the
foregoing pages, numbered 1 to 32, dated
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