

Public Hearing

Audience publique

Commissioners / Commissaires

The Honourable / L'honorable J. Michael MacDonald,
Chair / Président

Leanne J. Fitch (Ret. Police Chief, M.O.M)

Dr. Kim Stanton

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II
Appearances / Comparutions

Mr. Jamie VanWart	Commission Counsel / Conseiller de la commission
Mr. Roger Burrill	Commission Counsel / Conseiller de la commission
Ms. Sandra McCulloch	Counsel / Conseillère

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Halifax, Nova Scotia

--- Upon commencing on Wednesday, March 30, 2022 at 9:31 a.m.

REGISTRAR DARLENE SUTHERLAND: Good morning. The proceedings of the Mass Casualty Commission are now in session, with Chief Commissioner Michael MacDonald, Commissioner Leanne Fitch and Commissioner Kim Stanton presiding.

COMMISSIONER MacDONALD: Commissioner Stanton will be joining us virtually today.

Hello, and welcome. Bonjour et bienvenue. We join you from Mi'gma'gi, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq.

And once more, we begin by remembering those whose lives were taken or were harmed, their families and all those affected by the April 2020 mass casualty in Nova Scotia.

A reminder to members of the public that you are now welcome to join us in person for these proceedings, and we would invite you, if you so wish, to register on our website.

You will recall that on Monday we heard from a witness panel of the first three RCMP officers to arrive on the scene in Portapique on the night of April 18th, 2020. Constables Adam Merchant, Aaron Patton and Stuart Beselt added to our understanding of what happened and why, building on the factual record we are assembling through our Foundational Documents. Thank you again to the Constables for their participation.

And today, we will hear from Ms. Debra Thibeault, a resident of Portapique and a Participant in these proceedings. Ms. Thibeault has offered to provide relevant information regarding the -- what has been referred to as the "blueberry field road".

As you saw on Monday, questioning will be led by Commission Counsel, today Mr. Jamie VanWart, who will be asking questions determined in

1 consultation with the Participants. Following those initial questions, Commission
2 Counsel will meet, as we referred to as a caucus, a meeting, with Participant Counsel to
3 determine if there are any remaining questions to be asked as well as who should ask
4 them.

5 Later today, Commission Counsel will present Foundational
6 Documents focused on 2328 Hunter Road and Highway 4 in Wentworth. Those
7 documents address the homicides of Sean McLeod, Alanna Jenkins, Tom Bagley and
8 Lillian Campbell.

9 As you can see, piece by piece, document by document and
10 witness by witness, we continue to build our understanding of what happened and why
11 it happened.

12 Mr. VanWart, I would ask you to please begin questioning of Ms.
13 Thibeault.

14 Thank you.

15 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Good morning, Commissioners. Before I
16 begin with Ms. Thibeault, I'd just like to take a moment to address three exhibits that
17 relate to proceedings on prior hearing dates. And I'm asking, Madam Registrar, if these
18 could be entered as exhibits.

19 The first relates to March 1st, 2022 when we heard from Darryl
20 MacDonald, the transcript of an interview that Darryl MacDonald had with the Mass
21 Casualty Commission on February 8th, 2022, COMM No. 0053351. If that could be
22 entered as an exhibit, I believe it will be Exhibit 278.

23 **REGISTRAR DARLENE SUTHERLAND:** That's correct.

24 **--- EXHIBIT No. 278:**

25 COMM0053351 - Statement of Darryl MacDonald

26 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Next, in relation to Foundational
27 Document Portapique April 18 and 19, the -- if we could enter COMM0052008, this is an
28 updated version of the transcript of a 9-1-1 call involving the children. And if that could

1 be entered as an exhibit. I believe 279 would be the exhibit number.

2 **REGISTRAR DARLENE SUTHERLAND:** Correct.

3 **--- EXHIBIT No. 279:**

4 COMM0052008 – 9-1-1 Transcript Calls of children

5 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** And finally, with regards to the
6 Foundational Document Overnight in Debert, if we could enter the surveillance video
7 capturing Angelina’s Pizzeria, which is COMM No. 0010029, and if this could be entered
8 as Exhibit 280.

9 **--- EXHIBIT No. 280:**

10 COMM0010029 - Angelina’s Pizzeria Surveillance Video

11 **REGISTRAR DARLENE SUTHERLAND:** Correct.

12 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** Thank you.

13 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** And while I am entering exhibits, perhaps
14 it’s easiest for Madam Registrar if I enter two exhibits that I will be referring to with Ms.
15 Thibeault, the first being COMM No. 0053577, which is an aerial photo of the
16 Portapique area that Ms. Thibeault made some markings on on March 23rd. And if that
17 could be marked as Exhibit 281.

18 **REGISTRAR DARLENE SUTHERLAND:** So exhibited.

19 **--- EXHIBIT NO. 281:**

20 COMM0053577 - Aerial Photo with Markings

21 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** And the next exhibit that I will be referring
22 to is COMM No. 0051447, which is a bundle of 17 photographs taken by Ms. Thibeault,
23 and if that could be marked as Exhibit 282.

24 **REGISTRAR DARLENE SUTHERLAND:** So exhibited.

25 **--- EXHIBIT NO. 282:**

26 COMM0051447 - Bundle of Photographs(17) provided by Debra
27 Thibault

28 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** Thank you, Mr. VanWart.

1 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** So as the Commissioners have set out,
2 we will be hearing from Ms. Thibeault today. Ms. Thibeault is part of the information
3 that was provided to the Mass Casualty Commission with regards to the first
4 Foundational Document, the Portapique April 18-19, 2020, which has been entered as
5 Exhibit 3.

6 Specifically in that Foundational Document from paragraphs 47 to
7 54, there is a section on the “blueberry field road” with references to information
8 provided by Ms. Thibeault. Ms. Thibeault was interviewed by the Mass Casualty
9 Commission on February 7, 2022, and this transcript of this interview has already been
10 entered as an exhibit. It’s Exhibit 210.

11 All of this information is available on the Mass Casualty
12 Commission’s website.

13 At this point, I would like to invite Ms. Thibeault to the stage.
14 Good morning, Ms. Thibeault. Thank you so much for being here
15 today.

16 If we could begin, perhaps you could spell your last name.

17 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** T-h-i-b-e-a-u-l-t.

18 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** And at this point, Madam Registrar will
19 administer an oath.

20 **DEBRA THIBEAULT, Sworn**

21 **--- EXAMINATION IN-CHIEF BY MR. VANWART:**

22 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Thank you, Ms. Thibeault.

23 Are you comfortable, you have water and the lighting’s okay?

24 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** I’m looking at you.

25 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay. Now, if you could perhaps just
26 speak close enough to the microphone that your voice is picked up. I think the
27 microphone can bend.

28 Thank you.

1 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Testing. Yeah.

2 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Perfect.

3 So I understand you are a former resident of Portapique.

4 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Yes.

5 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay. And you lived there for
6 approximately five years.

7 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Yes.

8 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay. In April of 2020, you were living at
9 the address of 2 Cobequid Court?

10 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Yes.

11 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay. And who else lived at 2 Cobequid
12 Court with you?

13 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** I was full-time, but my husband was
14 part-time because he travelled the world.

15 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay. Thank you.

16 And Madam Registrar, if you could please put up Exhibit 281. Oh,
17 sorry, COMM Number 0053577. If you could scroll down a bit more. Thank you.

18 Ms. Thibeault, do you remember this image?

19 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Yes, I do.

20 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay. And do you remember writing the
21 pen marks on the image?

22 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Yes, I do.

23 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay. Now, perhaps you could go
24 through what's written in blue and explain to the Commissioners what this sets out.

25 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** I can't see.

26 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** You can see it in this ---

27 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Where do you want me?

28 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** --- in the monitor in front of you if that -- if

1 you can see it okay. Perhaps starting from the left going to the right.

2 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Cobequid Court ---

3 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay.

4 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** --- that's marked in blue, and then it
5 has -- before you get to the end, there's Bayview, and then my house, and right there,
6 there's a -- the blueberry field.

7 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay. So where it's written 2 Cobequid
8 Court, you've indicated that's your house?

9 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** (Inaudible response.)

10 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay. And you -- there -- underneath it
11 you see an opening and you can see structures. And perhaps, could you describe your
12 residence?

13 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** It's like a ranch style little bungalow
14 with three big garages and a shed and lots of land.

15 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay.

16 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** There's a laneway right down in front of
17 it to the beach, and then in the front of my drive yard is the blueberry field.

18 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay. And there's also a marking made
19 in red on this image. Can you describe what you've indicated there.

20 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** That's the rope that was -- that was
21 across. There was two posts and there was like a nylon rope that -- with a loop that
22 went around the posts with -- anyway, that's what it was.

23 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay. Well, maybe it will be easier if --
24 Madam Registrar, if we showed Exhibit 282, COMM Number 51447, and perhaps we
25 could start with the third photograph.

26 So Ms. Thibeault, do you recognise this photograph?

27 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Yes, I do.

28 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay. Do you know who took the

1 photograph?

2 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** I took them.

3 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay.

4 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** I'm always taking pictures.

5 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay. Do you -- do you recall when you
6 took this photograph?

7 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** It was before the -- before the, the
8 crime, yeah.

9 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay, so before April 18th?

10 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Yeah.

11 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay. And what is depicted in this
12 photograph?

13 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** What was that?

14 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** What is depicted in this photograph?
15 What is this a picture of?

16 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** The picture of is -- the fence is my
17 yard. You see the fence on the side where it's -- it's like a ranch -- a farm-style fence ---

18 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay. So ---

19 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** --- it would be your -- it would be your
20 left. And it just shows that, you know, when you're on Cobequid Court, you know, like
21 you're coming down, like you've got the Tucks, and you're looking and you see the
22 blueberry field from anywhere on Cobequid. But that's right where my property is, so I
23 mean, you just see that across. You wouldn't really know there is a road there.

24 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay. Well, perhaps we could start from
25 the left -- your left side of this photograph, and immediately on the left there is part of a
26 fence. Whose fence is shown in the photograph there, on the left?

27 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** On the left is mine.

28 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay. And then followed, if you continue

1 working from left to right, there are some trees.

2 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** M'hm.

3 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** And then there's an opening. And what is
4 the opening?

5 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** The opening is the blueberry field.

6 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay.

7 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** What I -- yeah.

8 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay. And so in relation to the red mark
9 we saw on Exhibit 281, the mark that you drew on that exhibit, where is that -- is --
10 where is -- how does that relate to that mark that you drew on the other exhibit, 281?

11 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** It just shows where the posts were.

12 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay. And what -- can you describe what
13 -- I know the photo is blurry, but can you help describe what is depicted or shown in this
14 photograph?

15 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Well, it shows how close it is to my
16 property and my front yard. I mean, I'm always looking at it because it's part of where I
17 am. This picture shows that there were two posts there, there was a nylon rope across,
18 and we had put red reflectors so you would see it so you wouldn't go through it.

19 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay. So if you look at the opening on
20 the right side of the photograph, you can see some objects sort of floating across the
21 entrance. Do you see that, Ms. Thibeault?

22 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Yeah.

23 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay. What are we looking at?

24 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** You're looking at like a reflector, like a
25 safety thing so you won't drive through with your side-by-side, four-by-four. It's mostly a
26 safety thing . So you put a rope up you have to have something on it.

27 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay. And those objects that I described
28 as appearing floating, what are they attached to?

1 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** That's like a Styrofoam that has a cut in
2 it that's slipped onto the rope, you know ---

3 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay.

4 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** --- so you can hang it, and those other
5 ribbon-like that reflect, they're just tied and they come down that you see all the time on
6 fences or just to let people know that, "Hey, there is a fence here."

7 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay.

8 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** So that's what that is.

9 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** And is there anything attached to the
10 Styrofoam or the materials that are hanging down from the rope?

11 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** The Styrofoam is just cut so it hangs
12 there, you know, like it secures it, it's like a doodle, how you slip that open and you put it
13 on.

14 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay.

15 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** And like the ribbons are tied in like a
16 knot and they hang down on the rope.

17 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay. And approximately how high is the
18 rope off the ground?

19 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Probably about my waist, maybe.

20 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** About ---

21 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** It's not -- it's not low, low, but maybe
22 my waist.

23 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay. And are you able ---

24 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** It's a good ---

25 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** --- to express that in feet or metres or
26 centimetres?

27 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Five-five, I am. So halfway.

28 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** So half of five-five?

1 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Yeah, because it's -- you can see it's a
2 nice size, it's up a little high there, but you couldn't -- you know, you -- you'd want to
3 stop and take it down to drive through it, or you had to be high like that in case you were
4 on a bike ---

5 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay.

6 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** --- so you could see it.

7 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** And are you able to give information
8 about the rope? Can you describe that to the Commissioners?

9 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** About this rope?

10 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Yes.

11 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** It's like a fisherman rope, kind of like a
12 sturdy, a strong, can't break it really easy. It's really good for all weather, especially
13 down there.

14 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Do you recall what it was made out of?

15 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Nylon is what all -- it's twisted, you
16 know, like -- it's like I say, it reminds me like almost like a fishermen's net. It's nylon, it's
17 really sturdy, heavy-duty, and it's strung across.

18 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay. And how thick was the rope?

19 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** I think I have a picture of it I submitted
20 to show it.

21 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** And I'm guess I'm asking within the
22 timeframe of this photograph, which was sometime ---

23 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** It's thick.

24 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** --- before the 18th. And can you give a --
25 an estimate in, like in inches or centimetres, how thick it would be?

26 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** It's not my strong subject. Yeah.

27 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** And how do you -- if you wanted to
28 access the Blueberry Field Road through the entrance, how would you go about

1 removing the rope?

2 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** I would stop my vehicle and I would go
3 to the left side here. You know, where that fence is, my fence ---

4 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay.

5 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** --- there's a loop, and I just remove the
6 rope, swing it across, throw it over, drive through and then put the rope back up.

7 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay. Is there any lock or anything you
8 have to ---

9 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** No lock.

10 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay. Any rope, knot that you have to
11 untie?

12 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** No, it's just a loop.

13 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Perhaps we could move to the second
14 photograph in the bundle of 17 photos that's Exhibit 282?

15 And, Ms. Thibeault, do you recognize this photograph?

16 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Yes, I do.

17 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay. And who took this photograph?

18 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** I did.

19 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay. And do you remember when you
20 took the photograph?

21 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** It was before the crime.

22 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay. And can you -- perhaps starting on
23 the -- from the right side of the photograph, can you describe what it shows?

24 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** You can see the other post and it has
25 the -- looks like -- you'll see that white -- it's like somebody stapled -- I wish I could point
26 to it. It has "Private Property", which was there when we had bought our land. It was
27 already there, "Private Property" and "Emergency Exit" or something like that.

28 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay. So immediately on the right, I see

1 a metal object going from the bottom of the picture to the top of the picture. And next to
2 it, I see a post with a white sign on it. It's the second post that you're talking about?

3 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Yeah, I'm talking about the one with the
4 -- it's got all the rocks around it and you see a couple logs cut up and ---

5 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay.

6 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** --- they're bracing it. And then it has,
7 like, a rope to it that's tied to a tree, a sturdy tree beside it to give it strength so it won't
8 blow over, because that's not cemented down. It's only like a dug hole. And ---

9 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay. And just to confirm, so the post
10 with the white sign on it, ---

11 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Yeah.

12 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** --- is the post that the rope that spans the
13 entry way is attached to?

14 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Yeah.

15 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay.

16 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** That's the sturdy side.

17 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** And what is the post with the white sign
18 on it? What material is it made out of?

19 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** The post?

20 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Yeah.

21 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** It's thick wood. So it reminds me of,
22 like, almost like posts you'd have for a deck. Pretty wide. And yeah.

23 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay. And when you say it's pretty wide,
24 again, I ---

25 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** It's solid.

26 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** It's solid. Okay. And knowing that you're
27 not -- you've indicated that you're not good with measurements, but would you have an
28 estimate about the thickness of the post, in either centimetres or inches?

1 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** It takes both my hands to put it around.

2 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay. So you ---

3 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** No math here.

4 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** So you held your hands about six inches
5 apart? Is that fair? Or?

6 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Yes, like that. Like a normal square,
7 solid post.

8 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** And again, talking in the time from -- of
9 when this photograph was taken, do you know how old the post was?

10 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** How old the post was?

11 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Yeah. How long it had been there for?

12 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Since I was there, 2016.

13 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay. And you've already given some
14 information, but perhaps I could ask you directly, what's your knowledge about how it's
15 affixed to the ground?

16 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Pretty good.

17 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay.

18 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** It's dug. It's like a dug hole.

19 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay.

20 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** And the wood is put in it and then
21 there's, like, lots of mud, gravel. And there was rocks around it and some little stubs to
22 support and keep it in place. That's why there's extra rope around it tied to secure it
23 more.

24 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay.

25 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Yeah.

26 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** And how do you know that?

27 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Because I helped put it back together
28 before with my husband. He had to dig and secure it better because it had blown over a

1 bit. So we just had to secure it better. Yeah.

2 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay. And do you remember when you
3 and your husband helped put it back together?

4 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** It was before this, before the crime.

5 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay. And you've already mentioned
6 this, but I just want to be clear and give you an opportunity to say any other information
7 you have on this. But the white sign you see affixed to the post, do you recall what was
8 written on that sign?

9 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** It was "Private Property".

10 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay.

11 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** And I think it was "Emergency Access".
12 Something like that. But I mean, you'd have to go really close and look at it to see that.

13 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay.

14 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Yeah.

15 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** And do you recall how -- approximately
16 how high the post was?

17 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Gee, I think it was almost as tall as --
18 not quite as tall as me.

19 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay. And you're just over -- how tall are
20 you?

21 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Five five, I think.

22 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay. And just to complete your
23 description of this picture before I move on, if we go continuing over to the left side of
24 the picture, again we see a fence. And whose fence is that?

25 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** That's my fence.

26 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay. And then the fence ends and it
27 appears as though there's some gravel or something not grass in front of the fence.
28 What are we looking at there?

1 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** You mean the gravel right there?

2 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** In front of the fence, yes.

3 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Yeah, that's where I park my car
4 sometimes.

5 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay.

6 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Right there, like, it's closer than what it
7 looks like in this picture. Just gives an idea that where my posts are there, like my
8 fence, where that blueberry road begins.

9 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay.

10 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** That's why -- you know, right there. It's
11 just ---

12 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay. And if you could try to explain with
13 this photograph, giving -- using -- now we have the reference points of your fence and
14 the area where you park your car, if you were travelling from Cobequid Court to the
15 blueberry field road, how would you -- can you describe how one would do that with
16 reference to this photograph?

17 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** So you just back out of this gravel, turn
18 your car, and stop. You're right there.

19 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay. So if you are -- if your car was
20 pointing towards the top of the photo then, would you be facing -- would you be ---

21 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Blueberry field; right?

22 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay.

23 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** The rope.

24 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** So that's how you would enter the
25 blueberry field road?

26 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Yeah.

27 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay.

28 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** From Orchard Estate.

1 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Perhaps we could continue on to
2 paragraph -- photograph 4. Again, do you recognize this photo ---

3 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Yes, I do.

4 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** --- as well? Okay. And who took this
5 photo?

6 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** I did.

7 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay. And do you recall a timeframe of
8 when this photo was taken?

9 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** This was before -- I mean, the tree is
10 not even there anymore.

11 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay. And when you say ---

12 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** And ---

13 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** --- this was before, before what?

14 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Before the crime. Yeah.

15 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** And if we could -- again, we see a fence
16 on the left side of the photograph.

17 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Yes.

18 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** And whose fence is that, just to ---

19 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** That's my fence.

20 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay. And then beside the fence, there's
21 a post? There's a post?

22 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Yes, there is.

23 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay. And what -- and what -- can you
24 describe this post? Again, like, what -- how it's affixed to the ground, what it's made out
25 of? Or what do you know about this post?

26 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** It's got the same post as the other side.
27 The thickness. They're identical. This side is a little weaker than that side. It's not as
28 secure. As in the other side is more stable in the ground, ---

1 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay.

2 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** --- because it's braced against that
3 tree.

4 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay.

5 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** So this side is dug the same way. It
6 does have the gravel and the rocks. And it has a few little -- see the logs that are there
7 holding it up a bit? But it -- I mean, it's as secure as we could get it. And I don't even
8 think that white sign there is -- I think that's gone too.

9 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay. As far as the signage that you see
10 depicted on the photo, can you explain, starting with the number 3 at the top and
11 working your way down, what you can recall being on each of these signs?

12 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** What do you want to know about the
13 three?

14 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay. We'll begin with the three ---

15 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** What it means?

16 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** --- but start -- there's a white sign
17 beneath the three. What was ---

18 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** "Private property".

19 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay.

20 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** And below the white sign, what ---

21 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Moose crossing.

22 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** It was just a joke.

23 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay. And I think to the right of the post
24 you can see some again what I would describe almost as floating images, but what do
25 you -- what can you see to the right of the post?

26 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** What those -- what that is, is those red
27 ribbons that were tied to the rope hanging down and we replaced them because they
28 were faded afterwards. But they were to show you there's a rope there because

1 looking, you don't always see the rope unless something is hanging down from it.
2 There could be an accident. It's a safety thing.

3 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay. And earlier, when you were talking
4 about if you were to access the "blueberry field road" through this entrance point
5 removing the rope and it was looped onto a post, is it this post that it's looped on?

6 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Yes, number 3. See the "3"?
7 That is the one that the -- the loop is always put on that side
8 because the other side is more solid.

9 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay.

10 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Yeah.

11 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** And with regards to the other post, you
12 said you and your husband at one point did some work on the post and that's how you
13 had knowledge about how it was affixed to the ground.

14 Did you ever do any work on this post?

15 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Yes.

16 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay. When you were living at 2
17 Cobequid Court, how often would you observe this entranceway?

18 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Every day because when I'm on my
19 verandah, doorstep, I just look -- it's -- I'm in that direction looking. And when I park my
20 car, it's right there, so all the time.

21 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay. And how often would you see the
22 rope in place or the rope not in place at the entranceway?

23 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** I observed people coming and going,
24 taking the rope down, vehicles going, so it's not uncommon to see it down every day.
25 Some people put it back, some don't. It's good have it -- I just go and put it back
26 because sometimes there was a couple almost crashes, you know, coming around the
27 corner and running into each other, so.

28 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** And did you ever use this entranceway

1 yourself?

2 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** All the time.

3 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay. And for what purpose would you
4 use it?

5 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Well, at first I had property on that side.

6 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay.

7 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Blueberry -- "blueberry road" was the
8 road that I had deeded access to for my other property, but I used this road all the time
9 on my side-by-side and I would use -- drive my car up and down it to take the road out.

10 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay. And do you recall in or -- in April
11 2020, were you using the road at all at that time?

12 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** I was always -- I was always over
13 there.

14 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay.

15 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** I used it on foot, I used it with my side-
16 by-side, sometimes SUV and sometimes my car. If it was a bad storm I didn't or when
17 the ground got too soft and trucks come in, it was more difficult to use it because you'd
18 have to balance your tire, you know, on a side. But he's done so much work to it, it's
19 just a beautiful road.

20 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay. And so in April of 2020, if you
21 were using the road with your vehicle, for what purpose would you be using the road?

22 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** I got tired of the potholes inside and it
23 was in better condition, so I -- it's a fast way out.

24 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay. And when you say "out", where
25 are you travelling to?

26 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Out of Orchard Estate. I could go that
27 way and get out really fast and I could cross the road and take the back roads and go to
28 the highway.

1 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay. And so if -- and what vehicle
2 would you be driving to -- if you took the road to the highway?

3 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** I would use an SUV most -- if it was a
4 little -- depends on the weather of it, right, like.

5 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay. And do you have any memory of
6 the -- like the state of the road back in April of 2020, what kind of condition it was in, of
7 the "blueberry field road"?

8 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** I did.

9 I'd have to ask my husband now because of my ---

10 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay. Well, thank you.

11 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Yeah.

12 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** So now I want to ask you about --
13 specifically about April 18, 2020, okay?

14 And we've already heard in -- during the presentation of the
15 Foundational Document that you left Portapique on the 18th of April, 2020 during the
16 day. Do you remember?

17 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Yes.

18 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Yeah.

19 And did you make any observations with regards to the
20 entranceway to "blueberry field road" that we still see depicted on -- in this image when
21 you left?

22 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Everything was -- everything was in
23 place.

24 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay. Do you remember how you left
25 Portapique on the 18th?

26 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Main road. Main road out.

27 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay. And when you say the main road -

28 --

1 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Cobequid up Orchard Road out.

2 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay. Do you remember what time of
3 day you left?

4 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** I thought it was in the afternoon.

5 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay. And do you remember where you
6 were going?

7 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** I was going to the city.

8 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay. And do you have a specific
9 memory of looking at this entranceway to "blueberry field road" as you left on the 18th?

10 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** I always look.

11 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay.

12 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Can't help but look.

13 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay. And so ---

14 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** You know, I'm conditioned to look after
15 it because when I bought the property, I was told by the previous owner, "Oh, just make
16 sure the rope's up all the time and that", so I did.

17 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay. So is your memory of the 18th
18 when you say that it was -- well, describe how it was on the 18th. Let me ask ---

19 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Like any other day. Nothing was out of
20 place ---

21 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay.

22 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** --- except ---

23 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** If it had been out of place, what would
24 you have done?

25 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** I'd go over and put it back together.

26 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay.

27 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Yeah.

28 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** And the three photographs that we've

1 gone through which have been part of Exhibit 282, how accurate of a -- of a depiction is
2 that of how the entrance would have looked on the 18th?

3 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** You mean compare this to how -- like
4 the 18th.

5 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Yes.

6 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** So I would say that it would be more
7 red, the ribbon. We'd see maybe a few more of them because this is not really -- it
8 looks more faded here. I don't know if it's the light. The three -- it was -- it's very
9 similar. I'll say that.

10 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay.

11 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Normally that's how it would look, was
12 what you see right there.

13 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** When did you return to Portapique after
14 the 18th of April, 2020?

15 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** It was within three days. I think it -- I
16 was thinking maybe it was the second, but they wouldn't let me down there. And then
17 they did.

18 I think it -- maybe it was a Wednesday and only I was allowed down
19 to check my property because they told me that my house burnt.

20 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay. And when you say "they", who are
21 you talking about?

22 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** The RCMP.

23 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay. So I appreciate from your answer
24 you may not have a clear -- a specific day that you returned, but can you express it in --
25 was it days, weeks, months, like?

26 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** No, within three days.

27 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay. Within three days.

28 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** I wasn't allowed to stay. Just allowed

1 to go down and see what was left of my property.

2 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** And when -- when you were away from
3 Portapique on the 18th to whenever you returned, where was your husband?

4 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** He was in Halifax. I don't know if he
5 just came back.

6 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay.

7 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** He was in Halifax.

8 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay. And what can you remember
9 about when you returned to Portapique after the 18th?

10 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** You mean like how they had the RCMP
11 at the front of the road to stop everybody?

12 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Well, what do you remember when you
13 arrived back at 2 Cobequid Court, your residence?

14 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** They escorted me to the ---

15 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay.

16 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** --- to my house.

17 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Who's "They"?

18 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** One of the officers had a vehicle and I
19 had to follow him, and he took me around the loop, so I didn't go by -- when I went by,
20 like, a couple of places that were burnt and that.

21 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay. And who was with you?

22 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** I was by myself the first time. I came
23 out by myself. I came up through everybody's property because I'm at the -- I have to
24 pass everybody.

25 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay. Did you make any observations
26 with regards to the entranceway to the blueberry field when you returned back to
27 Portapique after April 18th, 2020?

28 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Well, I didn't have much time. Like, I

1 had to see my property and get out of there. So it looked like the rope was down but
2 there's people, like, you know, everywhere. So, no, not really, like, picking it apart or
3 anything because it was like I'm on my property, I've only got so many minutes and I
4 have to go.

5 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay.

6 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** And people everywhere.

7 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay. And when you say, "People
8 everywhere," who were these people; do you know?

9 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Police.

10 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Police, okay. And how long were you at
11 home for?

12 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Twenty (20) minutes, maybe. In and
13 out, like, you know, checking to see; surprised my house was there.

14 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** When do you next recall assessing the
15 entranceway to the "blueberry field road" after April 18th?

16 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Do you mean when I came back with
17 my husband?

18 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Yes.

19 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** There was a lot of activity. There's
20 police everywhere, bomb dogs. They were taking down tents. They had -- the police
21 had tents in the blueberry field. There was RCMP in my yard and they were talking to
22 me.

23 We were looking at the blueberry field because we returned that
24 way, and I noticed that half of the top of the post was gone; like, the bottom part was
25 gone, like, split off. And I mentioned that, "Holy, what happened there? Someone
26 drove through there. Where's the rope? Where's that?" So I walked over to it and the
27 rope was still -- the nylon rope, the loop, was still attached to the top and it was swung
28 over, like, when you drive through it, to this side where it was stable. So that really

1 surprised me, how that side was so stable. It was almost like a joke how it was, like,
2 wow, look at that, you know?

3 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay. Well, I'm interested in
4 understanding this observation that you made. So I began by asking you when you first
5 came back to Portapique after April 18th, and you described returning to your residence.
6 Was it on this return that you made the observation that you just described, or is on a
7 different occasion?

8 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** When I returned with my husband, so
9 it's -- see, the first time, I was only allowed there for a few minutes, but then I was
10 allowed to come back. Because we were told we weren't allowed back in.

11 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay.

12 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** We had to wait because they were
13 busy inside; the RCMP were busy, so we weren't allowed in there. So we had to wait
14 until -- I think Tom Taggart was telling us that, when we were allowed back in.

15 And so we were allowed to stand there and be on our property, and
16 that's when I was observing everything going on around me and what was different and
17 seeing all these people.

18 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay. And then this occasion that you
19 returned with your husband, ---

20 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Yes.

21 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** --- how long after April 18th?

22 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** I think he said a week.

23 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** And who said a week?

24 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** My husband.

25 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** And what do you remember yourself?

26 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** We just -- yeah, I think it was, like, a
27 week, the next week.

28 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay.

1 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** But there were conditions. You know,
2 we weren't allowed off our property.

3 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay.

4 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** I wanted to go look for stuff, but yeah.

5 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** And how long did you stay for?

6 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** When I returned?

7 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** M'hm.

8 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** I was there.

9 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay. And you began to describe the
10 entrance point to the "blueberry field road" as you observed it when you returned with
11 your husband. So you mentioned the state of the rope being different.

12 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Yeah.

13 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay. Can you describe where the rope
14 was?

15 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** It was on the right side because the
16 post was broken on ---

17 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay.

18 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Someone drove through it.

19 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** And ---

20 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** So the top part was swung over to the
21 right side against that post, laying there on the rocks and still attached, and of course it
22 was still -- the regular post on that side was still tied to the other tree, like, ---

23 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay. So right now we are still looking at
24 an image, which is photograph 4 on Exhibit 282, and we see the post with the number 3
25 on top. What was the state of that post when you returned?

26 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** It was gone, right? Like, the top part ---

27 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** What do you mean by gone?

28 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** --- it was over on this side.

1 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay. Was it standing?

2 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** The post was laying on the ground with
3 the rope still on it, close to the original post on this side, laying on the ground with the
4 nylon rope still on it. It was surprising but it was still attached, the loop was still on it,
5 and it was swung over, like it snapped. It snapped on this side that you see with the 3,
6 and swung over to this side.

7 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay. Was -- do you recall if there was
8 any part of the post -- and, again, we're talking about the post with the 3 on top, was
9 any part of the post still in the ground where -- in its usual state?

10 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** There was a little bit, yes, like, where it
11 was snapped in two, yeah.

12 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay.

13 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Yes.

14 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay. And the remainder of the post,
15 again, could you describe what side of the -- like, where was it located?

16 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** If we go back to the other picture?

17 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Which other picture? I can do that.

18 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** The other side where there's the post,
19 the other post.

20 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay.

21 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Because that's where it is.

22 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** So I think that may be Exhibit -- picture
23 number 2 in the same exhibit.

24 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Okay. See that post? See the post
25 with the white sign ---

26 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Yes.

27 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** --- in the picture? It's over -- so what
28 broke off, you know, how it swung around, ended up on that side on the ground, just like

1 it exploded on this side. It just flew over on that side. That's where I found it, still
2 attached.

3 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay. And when you say, "Still
4 attached," what are you referring to?

5 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** The rope was still attached to it.

6 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay. So the rope was still looped over -

7 --

8 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Yeah.

9 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** --- the post that you found over there?
10 Okay.

11 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** I pointed it out to the sergeant I was
12 talking to, and my husband.

13 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay. And do you recall who you pointed
14 it out to?

15 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** I don't remember his name.

16 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** What was -- now, again, we're looking at
17 photograph 2. What was the state of the post that's depicted in photograph 2 when you
18 returned after the 18th?

19 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** What was that?

20 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** What was -- can you describe the post
21 and how it was when you returned after the 18th of April, the post depicted in this
22 photograph? You've described the other post.

23 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Yeah, I'm just thinking because it was
24 still in the ground, solid, and still tied. It was solid in place.

25 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay.

26 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** It really surprised me it was still in
27 place.

28 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** And what about the rope in relation to ---

1 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** It's still attached to it.

2 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay.

3 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** You got the rope that's tied to the tree
4 beside it to brace it, to secure it, to keep it upright, you know, for extra stability.

5 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay. And after the 18th, do you know
6 what happened with this entranceway? Like, was it ever fixed up again?

7 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Yeah, we fixed it up.

8 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** And who did that?

9 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** My husband.

10 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay. And did you help out with that?

11 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Yes.

12 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay. And did you use any of the same
13 material for ---

14 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Yes, we used the same. Paul would
15 just cut the -- cut the bottom part off and then just dug it -- dug the hole and then put it
16 back, put the gravel, put the little rocks around, straightened it up, but the number three
17 sign was, like, hardly there at all.

18 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Okay. And what about the rope? Did
19 you use the same rope?

20 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** It's pretty good shape.

21 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** So did you use the same rope?

22 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Yeah.

23 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Yeah. Okay. And how long after the 18th
24 did you and your husband fix the entranceway so?

25 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** We had to wait -- I think we had to wait
26 until they took all their tents down, and a lot of activity, and -- within a week, I would say.

27 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** And I think during my questionings, and I
28 can't recall at the beginning if I asked you what your husband's name was.

1 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Peter.

2 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Peter. And what's his last name?

3 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Thibeault.

4 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Thibeault. Thank you.

5 Well, thank you, Ms. Thibeault. Those are the questions I have for
6 you now. There may be some follow-up questions, but I'll turn it now back to the
7 Commissioners. Thank you.

8 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** Yeah, thank you so much, and
9 thank you so much, Ms. Thibeault. I just have one question for you. I'm going to ask it
10 while it's fresh in my mind. You indicated that you returned after April 18th, 2020, first
11 without your husband; right? Correct? And then you returned -- when you returned the
12 second time, it was with your husband, and you estimated that was approximately about
13 a week later, after the 18th.

14 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Yes, about that time ---

15 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** Okay. And then you ---

16 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** --- I think.

17 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** --- also indicated when asked
18 when you and your husband repaired the ---

19 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Fence.

20 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** --- rope and the fence ---

21 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Yeah.

22 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** --- or the post, you indicated it
23 was about a week later. When you say it was about a week later, was it a week later
24 after you returned with your husband? In other words, approximately two weeks after
25 the 18th?

26 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Around that time, yes.

27 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** Okay. Thank you. I just wasn't
28 sure when you said a week later whether you meant a week later after the 18th or after

1 you returned, so thank you. And as Mr. VanWart has said, we'll take a break now, and
2 thank you again, and there may be some more questions for you, so you just hang on.
3 Appreciate it. Thank you.

4 **REGISTRAR DARLENE SUTHERLAND:** Thank you.

5 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** Thanks, everyone. We will
6 break, let's say we'll break for half an hour. If you need more time, let me know, Mr.
7 VanWart. Thank you.

8 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Thank you.

9 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** And thank you, Ms. Thibeault.

10 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Thank you.

11 **REGISTRAR DARLENE SUTHERLAND:** Thank you. Counsel will
12 now caucus and the proceedings will resume in 30 minutes.

13 --- Upon breaking at 10:24 a.m.

14 --- Upon resuming at 11:13 a.m.

15 **REGISTRAR DARLENE SUTHERLAND:** Welcome back. The
16 proceedings are again in session.

17 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** Well, thank you very much, and
18 thank you very much, Participant's Counsel and Commission Counsel. You've had your
19 meeting and I understand that there are some remaining questions, which I further
20 understand that Ms. McCulloch will -- would like to pose to her client actually, so we're
21 pleased to have that happen and call on you, Ms. McCulloch. Thank you.

22 Hello again, Ms. Thibeault. Hello again. Your Counsel, Ms.
23 McCulloch, has a few questions for you. Thank you.

24 **--- CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS. SANDRA McCULLOCH:**

25 **MS. SANDRA McCULLOCH:** Hi, Ms. Thibeault. I'm just asking a
26 few follow-up questions on behalf of the Participant's Counsel here today. In your
27 testimony this morning, you had described your use of the road alongside the blueberry
28 field road, we've been calling it the blueberry field road. Can you think back to about the

1 year prior to the mass casualty event, how often do you figure you would have used the
2 road?

3 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** I used it all the time. So at least once a
4 day. I walk around there too. I use the side-by-side there and my vehicle, So it's a road
5 I know very well so.

6 **MS. SANDRA McCULLOCH:** When you say your vehicle, what
7 types of -- aside from a side-by-side, what vehicles would you drive on that road?

8 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** A SUV and a Honda Accent. It's
9 hatchback, small car.

10 **MS. SANDRA McCULLOCH:** Thank you. And so you had just
11 talked a little bit about the quality of the road. You'd actually used the phrase "it was in
12 better condition." When you say it was in better condition, what did you mean by that?
13 Better condition than what?

14 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** 2016 it was a little rough, you know,
15 gravel and little bumpy, and there was more -- like, if a heavy vehicle come in, it kind of
16 sunk down a bit, so more difficult with a tiny car. But since then, he was working on the
17 road all the time, making it wider, gravel, and grading it. It was quite nice.

18 **MS. SANDRA McCULLOCH:** Okay. And ---

19 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** It was better than our Orchard Estate
20 Road.

21 **MS. SANDRA McCULLOCH:** Okay. Do you mean Orchard Beach
22 Drive?

23 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Yes.

24 **MS. SANDRA McCULLOCH:** Is what you mean? Okay. And
25 when you -- so you talked a little bit about it changing from 2016 to 2020, and you
26 described it -- the condition it was in and around 2020, about how long had it been in
27 that condition? Prior to 2020, roughly how long had it been in that better condition than
28 Orchard Beach that you just described?

1 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Well, there was no potholes like there
2 was in Orchard Estate. He was always working on that road, the person who owned it,
3 grading it, and -- so it was improving it all the time so.

4 **MS. SANDRA McCULLOCH:** And, Ms. Thibeault, earlier this
5 morning you had described using the blueberry field road to drive out to the highway.
6 When you mentioned the highway, did you mean Highway 2?

7 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Yeah, right there.

8 **MS. SANDRA McCULLOCH:** Okay. And ---

9 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** It's just another way out.

10 **MS. SANDRA McCULLOCH:** Okay. And to get to Highway 2,
11 would you have used the Brown Loop?

12 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** I could if I wanted to, go around the
13 houses and out that way, just come out a little farther over, but I didn't need to do that.
14 I'd just go straight out, and then I sometimes shoot across the pavement and take east
15 Melrose, like, out that way.

16 **MS. SANDRA McCULLOCH:** Other than yourself, Ms. Thibeault,
17 did you observe anybody else using the blueberry field road between 2016 and 2020?

18 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Yes, I did.

19 **MS. SANDRA McCULLOCH:** Can you tell me more about that?
20 Who else did you see using it?

21 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Of course, the people that own it,
22 people that walk their dogs from Brown Loop, some people in the neighbourhood that
23 live on the main Portapique road would use it to walk. I seen Lisa there once. Some
24 people in Orchard Estate would use it, just drive around, different people. I seen people
25 that -- in -- I don't know who they were, with trucks and that. Yeah.

26 **MS. SANDRA McCULLOCH:** And what kind of trucks were
27 describing just then?

28 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Half ton trucks. And you would see, of

1 course, machinery for the blueberry field, you know, for grading the road and the fields
2 and stuff. Yeah.

3 **MS. SANDRA McCULLOCH:** Did you ever observe the
4 perpetrator use the blueberry field road?

5 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** I only seen him once on that road.

6 **MS. SANDRA McCULLOCH:** When did you see him?

7 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** He was -- it's the first time I seen him
8 on -- like in -- right in front of my house there. He was on a bike. I just stayed in the
9 corner, because I can be out on my land and he wouldn't see me, and I saw this guy
10 and he was looking everything over and like going slow. So he caught my attention
11 because it's not something I see all the time right in front of my place, and then he went
12 on the blueberry field, and he was just looking at everything. Yeah.

13 **MS. SANDRA McCULLOCH:** Okay. In terms of a timeframe, are
14 you able to remember, would that have been weeks before April of 2020, months,
15 years?

16 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** This was before that. This was before.

17 **MS. SANDRA McCULLOCH:** Yes.

18 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** This was good weather, so, so many
19 months before.

20 **MS. SANDRA McCULLOCH:** Okay. And you referenced him
21 being on a bike.

22 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** M'hm.

23 **MS. SANDRA McCULLOCH:** What kind of bike?

24 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** It's like a -- it's like a -- like a bike you
25 would use. What kind of example can I give? I don't know what the make of it was. Do
26 you want to know ---

27 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** I apologise. I didn't hear that
28 answer. Sorry. Could you just repeat it, please?

1 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** I don't know what the brand of the bike
2 was. It was something you use the bike anywhere.

3 **MS. SANDRA McCULLOCH:** Okay. Do you mean like a
4 motorised bike ---

5 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** No.

6 **MS. SANDRA McCULLOCH:** --- or a -- or a pedal bike?

7 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Be like a pedal bike.

8 **MS. SANDRA McCULLOCH:** Okay. Thank you. Ms. Thibeault,
9 earlier you spoke about returning to your home on your own the first time after the mass
10 casualty event, you described it as being about three days after the fact. Did you have
11 any contact with the RCMP prior to returning to your home after the mass casualty
12 event?

13 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Do you mean like when we first found
14 out there was -- from the time we found out that there was a -- like all this had happened
15 on our property? We had contact then. Like my husband called 9-1-1 and spoke to
16 somebody a couple of times, and a sergeant after that.

17 **MS. SANDRA McCULLOCH:** Were you present when these calls
18 were made?

19 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Yes.

20 **MS. SANDRA McCULLOCH:** Okay. And do you recall roughly
21 when?

22 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Well, early that morning when we were
23 heading our way back.

24 **MS. SANDRA McCULLOCH:** Which date? Early what morning?

25 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** After the murders.

26 **MS. SANDRA McCULLOCH:** Would that have been -- so
27 April 19th or ---

28 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Yeah, in the morning.

1 **MS. SANDRA McCULLOCH:** Okay.

2 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Because we were going that night, but
3 we changed our mind on the way back.

4 **MS. SANDRA McCULLOCH:** Okay. And do you recall what's --
5 what was communicated during these conversations with the RCMP?

6 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** We just found out that all this stuff was
7 happening, and -- and we gave the road out to the information.

8 **MS. SANDRA McCULLOCH:** What do you mean when you say
9 "we gave the road out", "we gave the information"?

10 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** We told them that -- how to get out of
11 there, the road out, the blueberry field, there is a way out of there. And I also wanted to
12 know about -- we gave names of the people in there. Excuse me.

13 So we were looking for everybody, wanting to know where
14 everybody -- who was -- who was alive. We gave all the names, where they lived.
15 Because nobody knew. Didn't seem to... Where everybody was, where they lived, we
16 gave the names, and could they go look, could they check. So...

17 **MS. SANDRA McCULLOCH:** Are you able to tell me any of the
18 names that you provided or any of the areas that you described to the RCMP at that
19 time?

20 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Well, right on my corner, the Tucks, the
21 Bonds. Lisa, the first house. We just let them, you know -- and where Leon, I was
22 looking to see if he was still alive. And I don't know, they just told me the people were
23 still -- half of them were still alive and they weren't.

24 **MS. SANDRA McCULLOCH:** I'm going to bring you forward now.
25 You had told me -- you had told us, Ms. Thibeault, about your observations of the posts
26 and the rope ---

27 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Yeah.

28 **MS. SANDRA McCULLOCH:** --- that you had maintained prior to

1 the mass casualty event, and you described finding it on the ground. And I'm wondering
2 if you can tell, did you observe any -- anything different about the rope or the ribbons,
3 that portion? Did you notice anything different about that, aside from it being on the
4 ground?

5 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Can you ask me that again?

6 **MS. SANDRA McCULLOCH:** Sure. So you had described when
7 you returned about a week later with your husband, Peter, that you guys made
8 observations of the posts and how the post was broken and the rope was flung. Aside
9 from the fact that the rope was down, did you make any observations of note about the
10 rope or the ribbons hanging off of it?

11 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** One post was snapped in two; it's
12 missing.

13 **MS. SANDRA McCULLOCH:** Did you notice anything different
14 about the rope itself?

15 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** The rope was still attached beside the
16 other post.

17 **MS. SANDRA McCULLOCH:** Okay. What about the ribbons on
18 the rope ---

19 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** They were still there.

20 **MS. SANDRA McCULLOCH:** --- are they different or the same?

21 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** No, it's amazing. They were still on it.

22 **MS. SANDRA McCULLOCH:** Okay. Okay. And I just have one
23 last set of questions for you.

24 Registrar, for this I would need to call up Exhibit 282. That has a
25 COMM number of 51447.

26 Ms. Thibeault, this was a series of photos that Mr. VanWart was
27 showing you earlier this morning. And Ms. Thibeault, so the photos that Mr. VanWart
28 was showing you, he brought you to a few of them that depicted, as you described, the

1 posts and the rope and the area right around your property.

2 There are -- if we could go back up to the first photo, please. There
3 are a number of photos in here, Ms. Thibeault, that appear to depict an image like this
4 that we're seeing on the screen here. And my question for you is does this item that
5 we're seeing this picture here, does this have anything to do with the gate or the rope or
6 that barrier to the blueberry field road?

7 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** This has -- this was at the beginning of
8 my fence on the Cobequid road before the blueberry field ---

9 **MS. SANDRA McCULLOCH:** Okay.

10 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** --- entrance.

11 **MS. SANDRA McCULLOCH:** Was this part of the posts or the
12 rope, that gate that we've been talking about today? Is this part ---

13 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** No.

14 **MS. SANDRA McCULLOCH:** No?

15 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** No.

16 **MS. SANDRA McCULLOCH:** Okay. So any other pictures that we
17 see in this series, Ms. Thibeault, of this, is it fair for me to interpret, then, that that's not
18 part of the rope or the posts or that gate in any way?

19 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** No. No, it's not.

20 **MS. SANDRA McCULLOCH:** Okay. Okay, those are my
21 questions, Ms. Thibeault. Thank you.

22 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** Thank you, Ms. McCulloch.

23 **COMMISSOINER FITCH:** Thank you, Ms. Thibeault, very much. I
24 know this is a -- is difficult and we appreciate -- we appreciate your time there today.

25 We do have a couple of questions, both on behalf of myself and
26 Commissioner Stanton, who, you know, is watching virtually. So I'll start from the top,
27 but there are a number of them, so just take your time if you would.

28 You had mentioned in the first half of our session that when you

1 went back at one point in time, you noted tents in the blueberry field. And you had
2 made mention that there were a lot of people around, a lot of police around. Is -- was
3 that the observation made the first time you went in or the second time?

4 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** The second time.

5 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** Okay.

6 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Yeah, because my husband was with
7 me and there was a police officer standing beside me. We were all looking right at the
8 field and they were taking the tents down and that.

9 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** Okay. So they were taking the tents
10 down at that time?

11 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Yeah, they were. There was people
12 finishing up -- they were finishing up with the -- they said they had bomb dogs and stuff
13 on the property and they were just going through. They had people that were searching
14 and everything. And so there was a lot of activity. And all three of us were talking on
15 my drive yard right there watching everything.

16 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** So just to clarify what Chair MacDonald
17 had mentioned before, so that would have been on your second time, so that would
18 have been about a week after the first time that you had returned to your home?

19 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** No longer than a week. It's just that I
20 had to return with my husband then. Because he doesn't live there full time, they
21 wouldn't let him on the property. So, yeah.

22 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** Okay. The -- when you observed the
23 tents in the field when you went back that second time, did you observe any vehicles in
24 the blueberry field area or was it just tents and people?

25 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** They were moving around. You'd see
26 police -- RCMP going by and stuff. That's about all I observed, because I was so
27 focused on straight ahead and the person beside me was talking a lot.

28 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** Okay. So no recollection if there were

1 actual vehicles in the blueberry field area?

2 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Oh, yes. There was.

3 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** Okay.

4 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Yeah.

5 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** Okay. The -- you had mentioned at one
6 point, I believe it was on the second trip back with your husband, that you and your
7 husband were talking to a police officer near the gate and you didn't know the officer's
8 name, but you did make a comment about the state of the fence post at that time, or the
9 gate post at that time?

10 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Could you say that again, please?

11 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** When you went back the second time,
12 you and your husband, you had mentioned in the previous session, were talking with a
13 police officer?

14 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Sergeant, I think it was.

15 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** A sergeant?

16 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Yeah.

17 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** And I believe that there was observation
18 made about the fence post or the gate post at that time?

19 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Yes, there was. We were looking
20 directly at it and then all of a sudden I was like, "Oh, what happened?" Yeah.

21 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** And do you recall if the police officer
22 made any comment or observation based on your observation?

23 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** No, not really. Not -- it just was like
24 there was so much going on and -- no. Nothing was -- no.

25 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** Okay. Thank you.

26 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** It just was like, "Oh, was that up?"
27 "Yeah, it was up."

28 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** You don't recall the officer making any

1 notes?

2 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Oh, no, he wasn't. No. He was
3 standing like this when he was talking about what was going on, how they were leaving
4 and they using my yard and stuff. So no, he was just letting me know what -- you know.
5 No.

6 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** Okay. thank you. You had mentioned,
7 and Commission Counsel had also mentioned about the fence or the gate post that was
8 broken off. And I noted on the signs -- that there were signs on the gate post.

9 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Yes.

10 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** You had made mention that there
11 wasn't much left of the number 3. Can you tell us a little bit about that?

12 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** It looked like it was broken off or went
13 flying when -- it just wasn't -- I just noticed even now it wasn't replaced. It's only half
14 there.

15 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** Okay.

16 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** It took a banging. The post took a
17 banging. And so you could see that.

18 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** Okay. So just -- help me just to
19 visualize this if you would. The loop end of the rope that you were referring to that was
20 still attached, that would have gone down over the number 3?

21 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Yes.

22 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** Okay.

23 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Secured.

24 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** Okay. Thank you.

25 So I don't know if, Madam Registrar, if you could put up one of the
26 exhibit photos? I don't know that it's necessary, but my recollection is that there was a
27 number 3, a white sign, and then a moose crossing that ---

28 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Yes.

1 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** --- was put up as a bit of a ---

2 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Humour.

3 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** A bit of humour. Is that -- where you
4 mention that it had been broken, is that below, above? Whereabouts on that post would
5 you say that it was broken?

6 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Towards the bottom.

7 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** Okay.

8 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** It snapped.

9 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** Okay. Thank you. Now I'm going to go
10 forward now to a couple of questions based on Ms. McCullouch's questions, if you don't
11 mind.

12 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Yeah.

13 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** You had mentioned that when you
14 would go out Brown Road -- or pardon me, when you'd go out the blueberry field road,
15 that you could access the highway from Brown Loop?

16 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Yeah, you can. You just go out. It's a
17 big -- it's a loop.

18 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** Okay. And we saw those earlier in our
19 proceedings, that mapping.

20 But you also mentioned that or you could go behind the houses.

21 Can you ---

22 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** That's the loop.

23 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** Can you tell me a little bit about that?

24 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** So when you're coming out of the
25 blueberry road, you can go straight to the highway right there, ---

26 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** M'hm.

27 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** --- or if you look to your right, it's like a
28 horseshoe. There's houses there.

1 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** Okay.

2 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** So you come out on the other side
3 where the church is or whatever on the highway and just go.

4 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** Okay. Thank you.

5 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Yeah.

6 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** And one last question. In response to
7 counsel's question regarding the perpetrator, you made comment that you saw him
8 once on the road. And you were trying to position when that might have been timewise,
9 and you had said that it had been some months before during good weather.

10 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Yes.

11 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** So can you help us understand maybe
12 what season that might have been and what year that might have been?

13 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** It was just before. Like -- so it would
14 be, like, maybe the end of the summer, the fall. Before all this.

15 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** Okay.

16 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Yeah. Threw it out of my mind. That's
17 all.

18 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** Okay. And finally, how did you know it
19 was the perpetrator?

20 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Because I asked everybody, the
21 description, who that would be. It was the first time I'd ever seen him without his hat;
22 right? He had his hat with him hanging from his bike, you know, like the handlebars.
23 But he didn't have it on. So I described him and I said, "Who is that? Who is that?"

24 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** Okay. And was that -- did you have that
25 conversation with others in your community at that time? Or was that ---

26 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** No, I did it right afterwards. I mean,
27 because you know, when you go to the garbage up there, you get to talk to -- we used
28 to have a garbage up the road and talk to whoever. Like, I pass everybody. So, you

1 know, I asked Lisa and stuff. So they've been there longer than I have and they knew
2 everybody. Yeah. So we always talk.

3 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** Thank you very much. That's all my
4 questions, Mr. Chair.

5 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** Well thank you so much, Ms.
6 Thibeault. I know this is not an easy experience for you. But on behalf of the
7 Commission, we really appreciate the fact that you were able to come today and answer
8 the questions that were asked. So we very much appreciate it. Thank you.

9 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Thank you.

10 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** Mr. Burrill, we'll have to just take
11 a couple of minutes to get ready for your presentation, but you are -- Ms. Thibeault, you
12 can -- you're free to go, as they say.

13 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Thank you.

14 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** And thank you again. And we're
15 jut going to change a few things here so we can get ready for the presentation. Thank
16 you again.

17 **MS. DEBRA THIBEAULT:** Yeah.

18 --- Upon breaking at 11:37 a.m.

19 --- Upon resuming at 11:42 a.m.

20 **--- INTRODUCTION OF FOUNDATIONAL DOCUMENT 2328 HUNTER ROAD:**

21 **--- PRESENTATION BY MR. ROGER BURRILL:**

22 **MR. ROGER BURRILL:** Commissioners, Participants, Nova
23 Scotians, Canadians, and those of course beyond our borders who have been impacted
24 by the mass casualty of April 18th and 19th, my task here today is to introduce two
25 Foundational Documents. Those documents are entitled 2328 Hunter Road and
26 Highway 4, Wentworth.

27 I will do these separately. We're going to speak initially before the
28 lunch break about 2328 Hunter Road.

1 I anticipate that these presentations will be about half an hour long,
2 give or take a few moments.

3 With respect to 2328 Hunter Road, the presentation is an
4 introduction into the next in a sequence of Foundational Documents produced by the
5 Mass Casualty Commission. It is an attempt to provide factual insight for the
6 Commission so that they can carry out their mandate.

7 The facts herein mark a time period in which the perpetrator
8 reactivated his rampage on April 19th after a brief respite overnight in Debert. So you
9 would have heard the presentations and seen the Foundational Documents from
10 Portapique overnight into Debert. This moves us along in the chronology.

11 Most important, however, this presentation deals with the homicide
12 of three people in or around the property at 2328 Hunter Road in Nova Scotia. They are
13 Alanna Jenkins, Sean McLeod and Tom Bagley.

14 And unfortunately, as I have said in some of the previous
15 Foundational Document presentations, the information that you're going to hear is
16 disturbing. You need to know that. But there's an extra level of perhaps difficulty with
17 this presentation in that the information is sparse and that it's difficult to present for you
18 an in-depth detailed amount of information with respect to what actually happened at
19 2328 Hunter Road.

20 I will do my best to inform you of what we know as of March 30th,
21 2022 and, of course, I would refer you to the Foundational Document, which gives the
22 details in much -- the information in much greater detail.

23 We will do our best to inform you, the public, of what we know and
24 do our best to honour the memory of Alanna Jenkins, Sean McLeod and Tom Bagley.

25 Madam Registrar, I wish to mark and tender the Foundational
26 Document 2328 Hunter Road.

27 **REGISTRAR DARLENE SUTHERLAND:** That's Exhibit 283.

28 **--- EXHIBIT No. 283:**

1 COMM0053599 - Foundational Document 2328 Hunter Road

2 **MR. ROGER BURRILL:** Two eight three (283). Thank you.

3 I wish as well to mark and tender the source material associated
4 therewith.

5 **REGISTRAR DARLENE SUTHERLAND:** So exhibited.

6 Source material for Foundational Document 2328 Hunter Road

7 **MR. ROGER BURRILL:** Subject matter of this presentation is the
8 introduction -- excuse me, is the information currently available to the Mass Casualty
9 Commission in relation to the events on April 19th at 2328 Hunter Road. I will proceed
10 with an introduction.

11 As I am wont to do, we're going to start with some geography
12 simply because I would respectfully suggest that in order to know what happened, you
13 have to know where you are. And the focus of the presentation is going to shift from
14 Colchester County to Cumberland County.

15 Cumberland County is Nova Scotia's most northerly, that is, Nova
16 Scotia mainland, most northerly county. You'll see that it borders on the New Brunswick
17 border.

18 It is geographically larger than Colchester County, which means it's
19 substantial. It is, population-wise, less populated.

20 I have indicated in this slide some locations for purposes of getting
21 ourselves oriented. We've talked so much about Portapique at the bottom part of the
22 slide. The top of the slide will show you Wentworth.

23 Wentworth is an area known well to Nova Scotians. My own
24 personal experience, there's no more beautiful place in the fall than the Wentworth
25 Valley. You'll be familiar, of course, with the fact that it has a ski hill there as well.

26 So this is the area that we're talking about.

27 Folly Lake is also going to be discussed, but will be discussed a
28 little bit later. Glenholme is also a locality that we will eventually discuss later in some of

1 the presentations that will be coming to you on the basis of information from the
2 Foundational Documents.

3 So as I'm also want to do, I want to give a sense of the locations
4 and how they are connected in Nova Scotia with respect to their travel ways.

5 The 104 we're all very familiar with. We've discussed it in the past.
6 It's the TransCanada Highway from the border to Cape Breton.

7 We've also discussed in detail Plains Road. This is the area that
8 runs through Debert.

9 Highway 4 will be important for the purposes of this introduction
10 today. As I discussed maybe previously, I always referred to it as the "old highway".
11 Sometimes it's referred to as the "Wentworth Road".

12 You'll see where it circumvents the Cobequid Pass area and the
13 104 Highway from Exit 11 in the south at 104 to Exit 7, where it reconnects up with the
14 104. It's about 47, just shy of 50, kilometres through the Wentworth Valley. It runs
15 through Folly Lake and Wentworth, as discussed.

16 The focus of this introduction will be Hunter Road.

17 So I confess, I did not know of Hunter Road until my work in this
18 Mass Casualty Commission. Hunter Road is at the north, runs off of the Highway 4 in
19 the northern portion of Cumberland County.

20 I'm going to move a little closer geographically to give you a sense
21 of where we're looking at in terms of 2328. And we're going to start it all by the Wallace
22 River. Nova Scotians will know of that. The Wallace River is a 50-kilometre long river
23 that empties into the Northumberland Strait from central Nova Scotia.

24 Highway 4 is delineated at the bottom part of the screen. That's the
25 highway I talked about earlier.

26 Hunter Road is delineated here. Hunter Road runs from Highway 4
27 north roughly along the Wallace River, west side of the Wallace River. It is a gravelled
28 and graded road. It runs up to Fountain Road in the north. Fountain Road does not

1 play in the narrative here other than to give you a sense of, geographically, where we
2 are located.

3 Fountain Road is the northern terminus of Hunter Road. Hunter
4 Road actually runs south of Highway 4, but that's not important in terms of the
5 Foundational Document introduction at this stage.

6 Twenty-three twenty-eight (2328) Hunter Road is tucked into the
7 horseshoe bend in the Wallace River about halfway from the Highway 4 up to Fountain
8 Road.

9 This brings you in a little closer to 2328 Hunter Road. Twenty-three
10 twenty-eight (2328) Hunter Road was the residence of Alanna Jenkins and Sean
11 McLeod on April 19th, 2020. It is 5.4 kilometres north of Highway 4 intersection.

12 It's a residence that's located east of Hunter Road down about 160-
13 metre long driveway. The home overlooked the Wallace River. It's a striking location.
14 You'll also notice from the slide that there are other residences located in that
15 horseshoe bend a little bit south of the driveway.

16 There were residents at the time of the homicide of the McLeod-
17 Jenkin household, those parties, who made some observations and are recorded in the
18 Foundational Document.

19 So we will now be discussing the available information to the Mass
20 Casualty Commission that discussed the perpetrator's route from Debert through to
21 Hunter Road on the morning of April 19th, 2020.

22 And you'll be familiar with this location, the Angelina Pizzeria
23 location. There is video that we'll be looking at and we have actually seen previously.

24 Then we'll be looking at some video surveillance at Folly Lake, and
25 then, finally, video surveillance in the south of Hunter Road just south of the location at
26 2328.

27 So Angelina's Pizza, I'll go through this relatively quickly. We've
28 seen it already, 5:45 a.m., April 19th, vehicle seen travelling west on Plains Road, not

1 going south down the Masstown Road, but proceeding towards Highway 4. And then
2 Folly Lake. Folly Lake is a locality just south of Wentworth, and south of the ski hills,
3 most of you will know, and there was surveillance that was taken from a residence on
4 the west side of that area. There's actually two pieces of surveillance that caused a
5 great deal of, how shall I say, inquiry with respect to what was seen. In this scene --
6 excuse me, this slide, you will see at the top, a travel portion of highway. And it is
7 running south to north. The view from the residence is on the west side. You'll note on
8 the top of the screen that Highway 4 will show a vehicle travelling from the right side of
9 the screen over to the left side. The timestamp says 6:25 to 6:25:16. It's actually
10 recorded to be about 15 -- 10 to 15 minutes fast, leading the Mass Casualty
11 Commission to conclude that what we are seeing is at around 6:10 to 6:15 a.m.

12 I jumped the gun here with the clicker. Sorry, folks. I've jumped it
13 twice.

14 **[VIDEO PLAYBACK]**

15 **MR. ROGER BURRILL:** So a very quick, grainy coverage of what
16 looks to be a marked police cruiser operating from the south and going towards the
17 north on Highway 4.

18 **[VIDEO PLAYBACK]**

19 **MR. ROGER BURRILL:** But there's a second video from Folly
20 Lake, same location, with the timestamp 6:34; therefore, leading us to believe that a
21 second vehicle travelled along there from 6:19 to 6:24 a.m., and it's seen as followed in
22 this video in front of you.

23 **[VIDEO PLAYBACK]**

24 **MR. ROGER BURRILL:** So it looks like there's a second marked
25 vehicle travelling along from the south to the north. That required a certain amount of
26 work by investigators to determine is this the perpetrator. Is it the perpetrator once? Is
27 it the perpetrator twice? Is he the first car, is the second vehicle? And it would appear,
28 and it confirmed in the Foundational Document, from the GPS data that was located

1 specifically of Sean McLeod other than to say it's consistent with the fact that if one was
2 shot, it's likely the other was shot.

3 The home was burned eventually, burned to the ground, burned
4 beyond, how shall I say, much useful ability to obtain forensic information, but it would
5 appear that the homicides of Alanna Jenkins and Sean McLeod appeared relatively
6 quickly on the interaction with the perpetrator and those two parties. We say that simply
7 because there was a series of witnesses in the area who heard what they believe to be
8 were gunshots, relatively close to the time of the positing that the perpetrator arrived
9 there. Nobody can be clear. There was no video. There was nobody standing next to
10 the interaction or these folks when they met each other or dealt with each other.
11 However, it would appear that information available suggests that the two parties, Ms.
12 Jenkins and Mr. McLeod, were likely shot relatively quick -- quickly.

13 The difficulty of course with that, is that the perpetrator was at that
14 location for a period of time. And because the house was burned and forensic evidence
15 is so sparse, it's difficult to know exactly what took place at that house. We don't know
16 what occurred therein. We're unclear what his actions were besides causing the death
17 of Alanna Jenkins and Sean McLeod. And this is why I said at the outset of the
18 presentation that the information is sparse, and I think I may have even said frustratingly
19 sparse. This is a source of frustration in terms of the information that we have about his
20 time at that location.

21 I can say this, that we do know that the perpetrator, when he was
22 neutralized, to use that expression, at 11:26 later in the morning, was found to be in the
23 possession of the wallet and the personal identification of Sean McLeod. So it is
24 reasonable to assume or conclude that he took that material from the location at 2328
25 Hunter Road when he was there. It's also true that in the investigation that a
26 Correctional Services jacket was later located in the vehicle, or one of the vehicles, that
27 he was operating later in the morning at the 224 -- Highway 224 location, the home of
28 Gina Goulet. The Correctional Services jacket, or a Correctional Services jacket was

1 located. We know that Sean McLeod was a Correction Services officer. He worked at
2 one of the local facilities. It is possible that the perpetrator took the jacket from Hunter
3 Road at this time. It is possible. It's also possible that he had it in his possession
4 before then. No way for us to confirm or otherwise suggest definitively where that coat
5 came from, other than to say there is some linkage in that regard.

6 While the tragedy of the loss of life to Ms. Jenkins and Mr. McLeod
7 is terrible, there is an additional fatality that experienced -- that was experienced at
8 Hunter Road. Tom Bagley was a resident of Hunter Road as well. He resided north of
9 2328 Hunter Road. Mr. Bagley was a retired firefighter. He left for his morning walk at
10 around 8:50 a.m. on April 19th, 2020. He headed south on Hunter Road, from the
11 information that we have available to us.

12 Mr. Bagley's body was discovered around 11:00 a.m., later that
13 morning, by a neighbour after the fire that had occurred at that location. His body was
14 located on the east side of that burning residence at 2328 Hunter Road. Forensic
15 evidence indicates that he, too, had been shot. As a result of the location of the body, it
16 was badly burned as well.

17 The perpetrator wreaked havoc at that location by taking the lives
18 of three people as he attended there.

19 After the murders, information available suggests that the
20 perpetrator left 2328 Hunter Road sometime after 9:00 a.m. We know that at 9:23 a.m.,
21 the vehicle is captured on video at the same Hunter Road residence south of 2328
22 Hunter Road, as it had been captured earlier at 6:29 coming in.

23 Once again, a very quick display of a vehicle travelling by, but you
24 can see, obviously, the direction of travel from the vehicle, heading south on that road.

25 Now, the Foundational Document will get into observations,
26 statements, information that has been provided by witnesses conducted in the
27 investigation. There are a number of neighbours and people within the Hunter Road
28 community who made observations. The slide before you is an attempt to

1 summarize/synthesize what has been said. For purposes of specificity, the
2 Foundational Document will obviously be the source of significance for you.

3 We know that from the information that has been provided,
4 neighbours say that they heard what sounded like gunshots between 6:10 and 6:40
5 a.m.; that's consistent with the arrival of the perpetrator at that location, and is perhaps
6 the basis of my remarks earlier that it's believed that the -- Mr. McLeod and Ms. Jenkins
7 were shot early on in the encounter.

8 The neighbours say between 8:30 and 9:00 a.m., they report
9 hearing gunshots at that time as well. That perhaps is as consistent with Mr. Bagley
10 being present at that location. Once again, that's information that we have from all of
11 the neighbours reporting information.

12 Smoke was noticed to be coming from the direction of 2328 Hunter
13 Road at around 9:00 a.m. This, too, perhaps would lead to the conclusion -- and I say
14 perhaps because I've discussed earlier about the sparseness of information that we
15 have -- that it is possible that the fire was lit at around that time, after the perpetrator
16 stayed here for a period of time.

17 And between 9:15 and 9:20 a.m., witnesses observe a police car
18 travelling south on Hunter Road. We also have the video, of course, that confirms those
19 observations.

20 At 9:48:14:

21 **(AUDIO PLAYBACK)**

22 **MR. ROGER BURRILL:** So the OCC indicating to Cumberland,
23 "I'm not sure if this is associated at all." The reference therein is to the fact that perhaps
24 six minutes earlier there had been a call with respect to the homicide of Lillian Campbell
25 in Wentworth and that that dispatch had already been undertaken, so the question
26 becoming at this very early stage in information gathering is whether the two were
27 associated at all.

28 The 9:48 call from the Dispatch would have emerged from

1 information that had been coming in from witnesses and/or complaints talking about
2 what's going on at Hunter Road.

3 At 9:32 -- and I'm going to focus at a call at 9:32 specifically -- a
4 person by the name of April Dares, referred to extensively in the Foundational
5 Document, made the call to 9-1-1. And I'm basically summarizing, for purposes of
6 giving you a sense of her observations. But she said that she heard a vehicle go by at
7 6:40 a.m. Not long afterwards, she said, she heard gunshots. She reported this all to
8 the call taker. She then said that she heard a dog yelping; there were two dogs also
9 that perished at the site of 2328 Hunter Road.

10 Ms. Dares drove down the road in her car and then decided for
11 some reason, she thought better of going there; she turned around and went back
12 home.

13 She said that she had discussions with her neighbours on a
14 community Facebook group and group members were unable to make contact with
15 Alanna Jenkins and/or Sean McLeod. So she reported to the call taker that she thought
16 there may be a linkage with Portapique and the McLeod-Jenkins household, but she
17 wasn't clear.

18 Ms. Dares described that a police vehicle had gone by a few
19 minutes prior to her telephone call.

20 So that information at 9:32 was then processed, assessed, and
21 relayed in to the Dispatch thereafter.

22 Ms. Dares made a second call at 9:38 to 9-1-1. She advised that
23 she could now see smoke rising from the north of her location. She said, "Now there's a
24 fire. Now there are more gunshots."

25 We know that at 9:42, there was the singularly important Dispatch
26 with respect to the Wentworth incident that occurred with Lillian Campbell.

27 So at this stage there is a great deal of information coming into the
28 Dispatch -- or, excuse me, the call-taker centre and being processed with respect to this

1 incident and the Wentworth incident.

2 Just to round out the picture with respect to Ms. Dares, she actually
3 called again to 9-1-1 at 1:43 p.m., when she expressed concern over the location of
4 Tom Bagley after she checked with her neighbour, Patsy Bagley, who was the spouse
5 of Tom Bagley at that time.

6 So this following slide is orienting -- or orienting us a little bit more
7 to the official and/or law enforcement response to the sequence of events, and/or first
8 responders.

9 At 9:45, we know from the information that the Wentworth Fire
10 Department was dispatched to that location on Hunter Road. From the information
11 available to the Mass Casualty Commission, at 9:52, the RCMP contacted the
12 Wentworth Fire to advise to stand down due to a risk with respect to an active shooter
13 situation.

14 Information available to the Commission also indicates that EHS
15 was dispatched at 11:12 a.m., and at 11:17 a.m., RCMP officers Harvey and Bray from
16 the Cumberland District, arrived at 2328 Hunter Road and made some very terrible,
17 awful discoveries.

18 At 11:25, due to those discoveries, the ambulance that was
19 originally dispatched was cancelled, due to the severity of the situation.

20 So with respect to my observations at the outset on 2328 Hunter
21 Road, and the degree of information that is available, the Foundational Document will
22 give you a sense of what the witnesses have to say. We know, as well, that the
23 information is clear that at 6:29, a vehicle travelled up Hunter Road.

24 At 6:30 to 6:40, neighbours heard what sounded like gunshots.

25 Eight fifty (8:50) Tom Bagley left for his walk.

26 At 8:30 to 9:00, neighbours here what sounds like gunshots.

27 At 9:23, there's a video of a white vehicle travelling south on Hunter
28 Road, away from the direction.

1 At 11:17, the RCMP arrive at the scene at 23 [sic] Hunter Road and
2 make their observations.

3 The perpetrator has long left by that time. And from the information
4 available to us, it would appear that he left sometime prior to 9:23 when he's observed.

5 What we cannot say is what the perpetrator did at 2328, other than
6 the materials that he likely removed.

7 I said at the outset there was some frustrating sparseness to the
8 information, that continues to be the case. Nonetheless, the Commission has made its
9 very best efforts to provide you with the details of information with respect to 2328
10 Hunter Road and the tragic loss of life for those three parties.

11 Commissioners, this concludes my presentation with respect to the
12 introduction of the Foundational Document 2328 Hunter Road.

13 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** Thank you, Mr. Burrill.

14 Yes, thank you again. You have a second presentation, and we will
15 break now and return at 1:30.

16 Thank you again, and -- Participants and Counsel.

17 **REGISTRAR DARLENE SUTHERLAND:** Thank you.

18 The proceedings are now on break and will resume at 1:30.

19 --- Upon breaking at 12:12 p.m.

20 --- Upon resuming at 1:33 p.m.

21 **REGISTRAR DARLENE SUTHERLAND:** Welcome back.

22 The proceedings are again in session.

23 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** Good afternoon, everyone.

24 Mr. Burrill, whenever you're ready.

25 **MR. ROGER BURRILL:** Thank you, Chief Commissioner.

26 **--- INTRODUCTION OF FOUNDATIONAL DOCUMENT HIGHWAY 4 WENTWORTH:**

27 **--- PRESENTATION BY MR. ROGER BURRILL:**

28 **MR. ROGER BURRILL:** This afternoon, this presentation will

1 address the murder of Lillian Campbell on the morning of April 19th, 2020; it took place
2 after the atrocities at Hunter Road.

3 The details of the murder of Lillian Campbell in Wentworth are
4 found in the Foundational Document Highway 4 Wentworth, and they provide a more
5 extensive examination of the information that will be presented in this introduction.

6 I will be making reference to some 9-1-1 calls this afternoon.
7 Those 9-1-1 calls will not be played, which is consistent, of course, with our trauma-
8 informed approach here at the Commission.

9 I will say this, though, to the public, and indeed to the Campbell-
10 Hyslop family, that this will be a relatively short presentation, and I wish to assure you
11 that because it is shorter does not mean that any less effort was put into determining
12 what took place, such that we can provide an accurate factual basis for the
13 Commission's work.

14 In this situation, perhaps unlike the previous presentation, we are
15 able to discern a relatively discrete set of facts that emerge about the homicide in that
16 instance. So please do not interpret the length of this presentation or introduction as
17 anything less than a thorough review of the information that we have available to us at
18 the Mass Casualty Commission.

19 Madam Registrar, I would move to mark, and tender the
20 Foundational Document entitled "Highway 4 Wentworth" as an exhibit in these
21 proceedings.

22 **REGISTRAR DARLENE SUTHERLAND:** That's Exhibit 334.

23 **--- EXHIBIT NO. 334:**

24 Foundational Document entitled "Highway 4 Wentworth"

25 **MR. ROGER BURRILL:** Thank you. And I also move to mark and
26 tender all source materials associated with it in these proceedings.

27 **REGISTRAR DARLENE SUTHERLAND:** So exhibited.

28 **MR. ROGER BURRILL:** As is the routine in these presentations, a

1 quick review of the subject matter, a summary of information currently available to the
2 Mass Casualty Commission in relation to the events on April 19th at Highway 4. This is
3 that presentation.

4 You will be saved from Burrill's geography lesson again because
5 there's no need to go into this; we've discussed it and reviewed it previously. You will
6 see on the slide before you Wentworth as it is related to Portapique. We discussed in
7 the Hunter Road presentation, the location of Wentworth being in the Eastern section or
8 Eastern portion of Cumberland County. It is almost due north of Portapique.
9 Wentworth to Portapique is about 40 kilometres; Wentworth to Great Village is about 30
10 kilometres.

11 We move from the geography to the travel way portion of the
12 presentation. You'll be familiar, indeed, with all of the travel ways in this case. The
13 roads Highway 104; Highway 4; Hunter Road, and Plains Road. But I will introduce for
14 you a new travel way or a new road that has some bearing in terms of this matter in
15 Wentworth, and that's Route 246. This is a road that goes, secondary road, from
16 Wentworth up to the Northumberland Shore, actually, at Tatamagouche. And those of
17 you who will be familiar with the Northumberland Shore will know that it meets the
18 Highway 6 at that location.

19 I'm going to move in a little close to that intersection of Highway 4
20 and 246. This, of course, is the important geographical location of where the homicide
21 took place.

22 I'm going to zoom in a little more indeed to give you a more specific
23 view of the intersection. Highway 246 is displayed at the top of the slide; on the left side
24 is Highway 4. And labelled in the slide are two residences of significance: The Jay
25 residence, the home of Mary-Ann and Reginald Jay on the East side of Highway 4, and
26 indeed, the residence of Lillian Campbell and Michael Hyslop on the south side of
27 Highway 226. We will return to this location briefly.

28 So this slide presented here orients you generally to where those

1 locations are within the grand scheme, and we'll now attempt to depict the route of the
2 perpetrator from Hunter Road south towards Wentworth.

3 You'll recall the video surveillance that was reviewed this morning
4 of the residence on Hunter Road. There will be video surveillance reviewed here today
5 of the Wentworth Market on the east side of Highway 4.

6 Video surveillance on the south side of Hunter Road you've
7 reviewed; we'll go through it relatively quickly today. You recall the vehicle travelling
8 south down to the intersection of Highway 4 from Hunter Road.

9 At the intersection of Highway 4, the vehicle then, we believe,
10 turned left, travels south, generally towards Wentworth. The Wentworth Market is
11 located 5.7 kilometres south of that intersection, and there was video seized from that
12 location at 9:29:50 a.m. Timestamps are alleged to be proper and appropriate, and fit
13 within the grand time scheme of what we have seen here regularly.

14 You'll see -- you'll see a vehicle travel south, a marked -- it looks
15 like a marked vehicle. Difficult to discern the features itself; difficult to determine if
16 there's a push bar, but that video would accord with the timing of everything that we
17 know or have learned with respect to the movement of the perpetrator on April 18th and
18 19th.

19 This next slide shows you an aerial of the intersection that I referred
20 to earlier, Highway 4; the Jay residence that we are to talk about here briefly; Highway
21 246; and for those of you familiar with the area just note there's a provincial park across
22 the street.

23 I neglected to indicate that the Campbell-Hyslop residence on the
24 south side of 246 is about 350 metres east of that location. So it's a relatively contained
25 placement.

26 The information available to the Mass Casualty Commission
27 informs us that Lillian Campbell left her home for a walk from her residence at either
28 9:02 or 9:12, that's the information that we've discerned. It doesn't make a great deal of

1 distance, other than the fact that she left her home to go for a routine walk.

2 She was dressed in a high-visibility vest. She was wearing
3 sunglasses; she had a hat and scarf and was carrying a walking stick. She was an
4 experienced walker.

5 We can't speak specifically as to her route, but we know that the
6 time she encountered the perpetrator, she would have been on the east side of
7 Highway 4, just slightly north of the Jay residence.

8 The perpetrator was travelling south on Highway 4, as we've
9 discussed earlier. And the information available to the Commission is that he passed
10 Lillian Campbell travelling south as he was on Highway 4, and she was on the east side
11 of the highway.

12 The information available suggests that the perpetrator then made
13 a U-turn, travelling north. The only conclusion was that that was done specifically for
14 the purposes of encountering the -- Ms. Campbell, in this case.

15 He travelled north, somewhere around the Jay residence or slightly
16 north thereof, and he encountered Ms. Campbell on the east side of the highway. We
17 know that the perpetrator then discharged a fatal round from his firearm. There was no
18 broken glass discovered; there were no casings discovered or located at the scene. No
19 projectiles were recovered at the scene. It is therefore possible to conclude that the
20 perpetrator discharged the gun, likely from inside the vehicle, out the passenger window
21 of that vehicle. Casings likely remained inside the vehicle. It is possible to conclude
22 that the perpetrator rolled up beside Ms. Campbell, engaged her on the passenger side
23 of the vehicle, and then she was shot.

24 The replica vehicle, RCMP vehicle, then completed another U-turn
25 and proceeded south on Highway 4 towards Truro. It was a brief encounter, a fatal
26 encounter.

27 At approximately 9:30 a.m., Mary-Ann Jay made some
28 observations. Mary-Ann Jay is, of course, a human source, another word for a person.

1 And a person has ability to recall and report and record information, we all do it
2 differently, but Mary-Ann Jay reported some information from her house just outside
3 where the shooting took place. Her information is compelling.

4 She said that she heard shots. She said that she saw a body on
5 the side of the road. She said that she saw an RCMP vehicle slowly turn around and
6 head south towards Truro. She then ran to the body. She then returned to her
7 residence in an effort to communicate with 9-1-1.

8 And as I indicated at the outset, we're not going to play 9-1-1 calls,
9 but this is an important call that I wish to characterise for you. This is a text of the
10 significant portion of Mary-Ann Jay's 9-1-1 call at 9:36. It contains contemporary
11 observations as she is speaking to the call-taker. The first line actually is a little
12 confusing. The first line of the text she's actually conversing with her husband,
13 Reginald, as he is at the scene of the body of Lillian Campbell, and she's inside trying to
14 portray what it is that she sees and knows.

15 She says:

16 "I just saw an RCMP -- What? She's dead? She's
17 dead!"

18 The call-taker:

19 "Okay, stay on the line. We're gonna send ya some
20 help there. Okay? So you just..."

21 Mary-Ann Jay:

22 "Oh, my God! The RCMP just left. 'Cause he turned
23 around and left and went down the road. I saw him
24 going."

25 The call-taker:

26 "Okay. Just stay on the line there."

27 Mary-Ann Jay:

28 "Okay."

1 The call-taker:

2 "So were you speaking to the RCMP officer?"

3 Mary-Ann Jay:

4 "No! I was in my room and I saw him. I saw him go
5 down the road, and I looked out the window and this
6 woman, she's one of my neighbors, is laying on the
7 side of the road and my husband just said she's
8 dead."

9 "Okay. Did you see? Was the RCMP there with
10 her?"

11 Mary-Ann Jay:

12 "I didn't see. All I heard was [like] a big bang, like a
13 gunshot, and I looked out to see."

14 The call-taker:

15 "But it – I understand. You need to ask your husband
16 to come in the house though."

17 Mary-Ann Jay:

18 "I can't, I can't because, people are going to stop."

19 The call-taker:

20 "I understand that, but for your husband's safety, he
21 needs to come in the house?"

22 Mary-Ann Jay:

23 "Why? There's no traffic on the road, the odd car."

24 The call-taker:

25 "I understand that, but if – if we think someone has
26 been shot there, it may not be safe for them to be
27 outside in that area."

28 Mary-Ann Jay:

1 "It – there's no one here! There's no one here. I live
2 in the middle of the country, there's no one here!
3 [There is no one.] I don't know. Anyway, we can't
4 leave this woman lying on the side of the road."

5 Contemporaneous information about what took place by a witness.
6 But more than that, Mary-Ann Jay does not want to leave her neighbour on the side of
7 the road. It shows a great degree of dignity and a wonderful instinct.

8 At approximately 9:40, Scott Brumwell drives by, he was on his way
9 to work, and he stopped at the scene. He remained at the scene with Reginald Jay,
10 who was the husband of Mary-Ann Jay, and they stayed there with the body of Lillian
11 Campbell.

12 You may recall earlier this morning, I said to you that 9:42:30 was
13 an important time for this whole narrative at the Mass Casualty Commission. It's an
14 important time because this is what we hear. As soon as I can make it work.

15 **[AUDIO PLAYBACK]**

16 **MR. ROGER BURRILL:** So at this stage, at 9:42:30, we know that
17 the perpetrator is active and we know that a law enforcement response is being
18 engaged. At 9:41:57, less than 40 seconds earlier, 30 seconds earlier, there has been
19 a similar dispatch to the Colchester, excuse me, to the Cumberland division with respect
20 to responding to the call at Wentworth.

21 So at this stage, you'll recall there's a great deal of resources,
22 isolated or dealing with the Portapique response, both at the Portapique scene and at
23 the command post at Great Village. We discussed that in weeks previous. But there
24 was also containment undertaken at that time at different levels. You will recall we
25 talked about "inner containment/outer containment".

26 Constable Counter was at the Cobequid Pass Toll Plaza
27 undertaking containment. The call comes through, and as you had heard before,
28 somebody takes the call, the dispatches come through, she takes the call. So she then

1 is assigned to, or assigns herself to take it upon herself, to go to the scene at
2 Wentworth. She travels north up to the intersection at Exit 7, and then travels east
3 along the top of Highway 4, past Hunter Road, and then travels south to the scene. She
4 arrives there as the first responder at 10:09 a.m., and when she gets there at
5 10:09 a.m., she encounters Scott Brumwell and Reginald Jay.

6 At 9:49 a.m., Constable Harvey and Constable Maddison in
7 Amherst are dispatched and depart from the Amherst detachment, responding to the
8 Wentworth call with Constable Counter.

9 At approximately 10:15 a.m., Constables Maddison and Harvey
10 arrive and set up perimeter at the scene of the homicide.

11 At 10:26 to 10:58, additional Colchester, excuse me, additional
12 Cumberland district members attend and arrive at the scene. Constable Bray, who you
13 will have heard me speak of this morning, attends and then departs with
14 Constable Harvey because they need to respond as well to the Hunter Road scene, and
15 they leave the scene to go to Hunter Road.

16 So as I've usually done in these presentations, I've tried to sort of
17 summarise and wrap up for you at the end of the introduction to the Foundational
18 Document a few key indicators of what we have learned from the materials and what
19 you can know from the materials.

20 We know, then, at 9:23, the Hunter Road video shows the
21 perpetrator leaving Hunter Road heading south towards Wentworth. At 9:29, the
22 Wentworth Market shows him proceeding past or shows a vehicle that would appear to
23 be him proceeding past, heading south towards Truro.

24 We know at 9:35:35, there's a 9-1-1 call of some significance and
25 import from Mary-Ann Jay with respect to the homicide that's just occurred outside her
26 house. We know at 9:41:57 and 9:42:30, Cumberland district and Colchester district
27 members are dispatched to the homicide scene and react accordingly. We know at
28 10:09:57 that the first member of law enforcement, Constable Counter, attends at the

1 scene.

2 Commissioners, this has been a relatively short and brief
3 introduction. It nonetheless, I believe, sums up the information with respect to the
4 homicide and the tragic loss of life of Lillian Campbell. And I conclude my presentation
5 with respect to the Foundational Document of Highway 4 in Wentworth.

6 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** Thank you very much, Mr.
7 Burrill.

8 Thank you again to Ms. Debra Thibeault who testified earlier today,
9 the witness we heard, to assist the Commission in its work.

10 Thank you to Commission Counsel. Thank you to Participant
11 Counsel for your collaboration and the meeting with counsel.

12 Thank you to the Participants for being here, and following us, and
13 engaging with the Commission. These are enormously difficult subject matters and we
14 very much appreciate your engagement.

15 Tomorrow remains a difficult day with a difficult subject matter.
16 Commission Counsel will present two more Foundational Documents focused on the
17 events of Highway 4, Glenholme, and Plains Road, Debert.

18 These documents will refer to or deal with the homicides of Kristen
19 Beaton, who was expecting a child at the time, and Heather O'Brien.

20 Always remember, and I try to say this everyday because I think it's
21 important for us all, always remember that supports are available here. And if you or
22 your loved one needs them, they're here in person and they can also be contacted
23 through the Commission's website.

24 So thank you everyone again. We will break now until tomorrow
25 morning at 9:30. Thank you.

26 **REGISTRAR DARLENE SUTHERLAND:** Thank you. The
27 proceedings are adjourned until March the 31st, 2022 at 9:30 a.m.

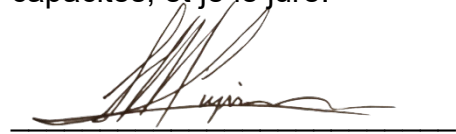
28 --- Upon adjourning at 1:54 p.m.

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CERTIFICATION

I, Sandrine Marineau-Lupien, a certified court reporter, hereby certify the foregoing pages to be an accurate transcription of my notes/records to the best of my skill and ability, and I so swear.

Je, Sandrine Marineau-Lupien, une sténographe officiel, certifie que les pages ci-hauts sont une transcription conforme de mes notes/enregistrements au meilleur de mes capacités, et je le jure.



Sandrine Marineau-Lupien