

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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Mr. Roger Burrill

Commission Counsel /
Conseiller de la commission

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Halifax, Nova Scotia

--- Upon commencing on Thursday, March 31, 2022 at 9:30 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: Thank you. Commissioner Stanton joins us virtually again today.

Hello, and welcome. Bonjour et bienvenue. We join you from Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq. As we do every day, we begin by remembering those whose lives were taken or were harmed, their families, and all those affected by the April 2020 mass casualty here in Nova Scotia.

Yesterday, to recap, we heard from witness, Ms. Debra Thibeault, about information regarding what has been referred to as the blueberry field road. We also heard from Commission Counsel, who presented the Foundational Documents, two of them. One focussed on 2328 Hunter Road, and the other on Highway 4, Wentworth. Very difficult subject matter.

And today, we continue with difficult subject matter. Commission Counsel will present two more Foundational Documents focussed on the events at Highway 4, Glenholme, and Plains Road, Debert. These documents deal with the homicides of Kristen Beaton, who was expecting a child at the time, and Heather O'Brien.

As I mentioned, much of the information we are dealing with is, and remains, so very difficult to hear, particularly for those most affected by the mass casualty. As we continue to seek answers to questions set out in our mandate, we balance the responsibility of the public's interest with the attentiveness to all those who have already suffered harm. Always remember that supports are available if you or a loved one need them, here, in person, or through our website if you are watching this

1 from home.

2 Mr. Roger Burrill will present our Foundational Documents this
3 morning. And Mr. Burrill, whenever you're ready. Thank you.

4 **--- INTRODUCTION OF FOUNDATIONAL DOCUMENT HIGHWAY 4, GLENHOLME:**

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

6 **MR. ROGER BURRILL:** Commissioners, Participants, Nova
7 Scotians, Canadians, and those, of course, outside our borders who were affected by
8 the mass casualty. As the Chief Commissioner indicated, we have a difficult morning
9 ahead of us. We have details with respect to fatalities and details with respect to what I
10 can only describe as circumstances of terror for people who experienced it.

11 I need remind you, need not remind you that you are familiar with
12 the Foundational Document process that has been adopted here. The purpose of my
13 introduction, of course, is to simply provide you a setting or information with respect to
14 the Foundational Documents. Foundational Documents are prepared by the
15 Commission in consultation with the Participants and they reference and refer to source
16 documents. There are of course thousands and thousands of source materials that
17 have been referred to, some of which will be selectively referenced for the purposes of
18 this introduction in terms of giving you a sense of what the Foundational Documents
19 refer to.

20 You, you need to be aware that in this presentation there will be a
21 discussion again, unfortunately, of the homicide of Lillian Campbell, briefly, but
22 nonetheless, to set the scene. And also, at the end of the presentation, there will be
23 references to the homicide of Kristen Beaton and Heather O'Brien on Plains Road.

24 As is want with the approach of the Commission, 9-1-1 call
25 references will be made, but we will not be playing them, excerpts will be referenced.
26 You'll need to know that in the upcoming moments there will be the first actual
27 depictions of the perpetrator since -- in terms of his behaviour and activity on April 19th.

28 I am going to engage now in a discussion with respect to the

1 Foundational Document, Highway 4, Glenholme. Madam Registrar, I move to mark and
2 tender the Foundational Document, Highway 4, Glenholme, into these proceedings.

3 **REGISTRAR DARLENE SUTHERLAND:** Exhibit 361.

4 **--- EXHIBIT NO. 361:**

5 **Foundational Document - Highway 4, Glenholme**

6 **MR. ROGER BURRILL:** I also move to mark and tender all
7 supporting material associated with the documentation with -- of Highway 4, Glenholme,
8 the Foundational Document, into these proceedings as well.

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

10 **MR. ROGER BURRILL:** Thank you, Madam Registrar.

11 Subject matter today, as indicated, is the information currently
12 available to the Mass Casualty Commission in relation to the events on April 19th, 2020,
13 at Highway 4, Glenholme, Nova Scotia. I present, Commissioners, the following
14 introduction to the Foundational Document.

15 Geography, again, as I have done consistently through the
16 additional Foundational Documents and will throughout, we will be talking about the
17 location, the locality of Glenholme. Glenholme is 29 kilometres almost due south of
18 Wentworth that we were speaking of yesterday. It is about 18 kilometres east of
19 Portapique. So we're back into Colchester County, but we are dealing with the same
20 region that we have been discussing over the past number of days and weeks.

21 This graphic represents the travel ways that you will be now very
22 familiar with in terms of what took place—104, the TransCanada Highway 4, the old
23 highway, the Wentworth highway; Highway 246, which was introduced to you in our
24 proceedings yesterday involving the matter of Lillian Campbell; Plains Road, which you
25 will be indeed very familiar with in terms of where the perpetrator had been and where
26 we have isolated our commentary on.

27 Glenholme is the focus of today's discussion. It is 18 kilometres
28 east of Portapique, 34 kilometres from Truro, 19 from Masstown, 16 kilometres from

1 Debert. So you can see that they are generally well connected and relatively accessible
2 to each other.

3 This graphic indicates some of the locations of significance in terms
4 of what we are to discuss. Residence on the west side, on the left side of your screen,
5 on Highway 4, C1 - Personal Information Highway 4, will be of significance for our discussion today. Hidden
6 Hilltop Family Campground at the top left of the corner north of the residence as
7 described, and then you'll see the proximity to Plains Road, as identified on the -- on the
8 screen. Highway 4 and 104 in the south intersect at an interchange there, Exit 11, for
9 Highway 104.

10 Now, I'm going to focus in on the residence on the west side of the
11 highway that will be of significance for purposes of this introduction. C1 - Personal Information Highway 4
12 has a relatively lengthy driveway. It's located, as I said, on the west side.

13 Begin to wish to speak at this point about the movements of the
14 perpetrator, the Commission's conclusions with respect to where and how he moved
15 from Wentworth from the scene of Lillian Campbell. We know that he left at 9:35, and
16 that he travelled south on Highway 4. And this brings you to the video on Folly Lake.

17 You'll recall yesterday we discussed the Folly Lake video of him
18 proceeding north. This is the same residence at Folly Lake on the west side. And I'm
19 going to play the video. And you'll notice from the top left of the screen to the top right
20 of the screen is the movement of what appears to be a marked police vehicle.

21 **[VIDEO PLAYBACK]**

22 So it moves very quickly and is quite grainy. Difficult to tell
23 particular features of that vehicle, other than it is consistent with a police or a marked
24 police vehicle, leading the Commission to conclude that the perpetrator, consistent with
25 all of the other information, travelled south on Highway 4. The timestamp on the
26 security video is, according to the homeowner, runs 10 to 15 minutes fast. This would
27 lead us to the conclusion that between 9:40 and 9:45 a.m., the police vehicle travelled
28 south on Highway 4.

1 I'm now going to move from Highway 4, Folly Lake area back over
2 to Bible Hill for purposes of speaking about some police officers -- police members --
3 RCMP members involvement in this matter.

4 We know that around 9:00 a.m., Cpl Rodney Peterson of the Bible
5 Hill Detachment, a shift team leader, reported for duty at Bible Hill Detachment on that
6 morning.

7 We've had an opportunity, the Commission, to speak with Cpl
8 Peterson. He provided an in-depth interview on October 21st and obviously provided
9 information in the investigation previously.

10 So some of the information that I'm going to give you with respect
11 to Cpl Peterson arises from the information that he has provided.

12 Cpl Peterson reported that when he got to work, his shift was not
13 there. That is, he discovered the three of his team members had actually left the night
14 before to go to Portapique. Those were Cst Rodney MacDonald, Cst "Nick" Nicholas
15 Dorrington, and Cst Trent Lafferty. They had gone to Portapique and were assigned to
16 some containment duties outside the location there.

17 Cpl Peterson indicates that he met with Sgt Andy O'Brien. Another
18 familiar name. The Ops NCO of the Bible Hill Detachment.

19 Sgt O'Brien filled him in with respect to events the night before at
20 Portapique. Cpl Peterson reports that Sgt O'Brien advised him to put on his hard body
21 armour and advised that they were looking for a police car. Cpl Peterson at that stage
22 was trying to determine the status of his shift for purposes of responding to regular
23 matters in Bible Hill. He got logged on to his computer, and decided, given the
24 circumstances, to head off for Portapique.

25 He made cellphone contact with Cst Rodney MacDonald and Cst
26 Trent Lafferty and learned about their containment exercises and roles in and around
27 Portapique. He agreed to pick up some refreshments, coffee, for his members, and
28 then headed to Masstown for purposes of doing that.

1 At 9:39 in the morning, he got a message over his MWS with a
2 BOLO, a "Be on the lookout" message, with a description of the perpetrator's vehicle.
3 So he now has information about the perpetrator's vehicle provided by Andy O'Brien
4 and also through the BOLO.

5 Cpl Peterson said or told the Mass Casualty Commission that he
6 had difficulty actually accessing a visual depiction of the vehicle due to some limitations
7 with the mobile workstation capacity and/or his technical skills, but that he would have
8 information they were looking for a police vehicle.

9 He then stopped at the drive-thru in Masstown. And then at 9:42,
10 the pivotal dispatch that we discussed yesterday occurs as he's in Mass Town.

11 **[AUDIO PLAYBACK]**

12 So you're getting familiar now with the procedure with respect to
13 dispatch and information dissemination to the front line first responders. In this case,
14 Cpl Peterson responds that he's able to attend, or at least respond. There's some
15 engagement that he's in Masstown. The ERT team leader at that time is also
16 recognized to be speaking in Portapique, acknowledging that he too is going to head to
17 Wentworth.

18 Peterson says that he seeks details to be sent down. You'll
19 remember that conversation we had previously about what this means, having
20 information sent in text form to him.

21 So as that occurs, there is discussion amongst the members about
22 how to respond, where to respond, and what actions to be undertaken. And this is a
23 brief snippet with respect to some of the conversation on the radio talk group that night -
24 - that morning.

25 **[AUDIO PLAYBACK]**

26 Cpl Peterson, at 9:46:47 reads over the air the dispatch ticket that
27 was sent down on his computer. The details are transmitted over the air to other
28 members who are listening. You'll see where he indicates that they saw an RCMP

1 vehicle there.

2 Cst Brown, a name that you will hear in the future, also is
3 responding. Cst Brown is operating with Cst Melanson in an unmarked vehicle. They
4 respond and engage with Cpl Peterson with respect to the information.

5 This is a busy slide, but it's important in terms of what actually
6 takes place this morning.

7 At 9:47:24 a.m., Cpl Peterson has advanced from his location at
8 Masstown, north on Highway 4, in response to the Wentworth call. His location, as
9 depicted in the graphic, is south of the Plains Road turn off, but also north of the
10 residence at Highway 4 depicted in the labelling here.

11 As he is proceeding along Highway 4 North, another important
12 development takes place. Cpl Peterson actually passes the perpetrator. The
13 perpetrator, in his replica RCMP vehicle, is heading south. And he has proceeded just
14 south of the Hidden Hilltop Campground and south of Plains Road when the parties
15 pass each other. We hear the following on the talk group.

16 **[AUDIO PLAYBACK]**

17 Cpl Peterson has observed the perpetrator and is transmitting the
18 information that he has.

19 This, of course, is fundamentally significant information with respect
20 to law enforcement in terms of what's actually advanced and how they deal with this
21 matter.

22 There's a conversation with the ERT base. Cst Brown and Cst
23 Melanson are discussing details of the call sign. And there is a determination that that's
24 him.

25 This slide is a closer look at the GPS location of Cpl Peterson when
26 he broadcast that he had just passed the perpetrator at 9:47:20. They are between
27 C1 - Personal Information Highway 4, the residence, and the Hidden Hilltop Campground. The GPS location
28 material indicates that at 9:48:04, Cpl. Peterson conducts a U-turn for purposes of

1 following up on the observation that he had made with respect to the perpetrator
2 proceeding south. This U-turn was conducted about 1.2 kilometres from the initial siting
3 and the transmission of the information. Cpl. Peterson at that time, at 9:49 on
4 Colchester radio transmits information. The previous slide had indicated that he
5 believed the perpetrator was heading to Masstown. You will recall that Cpl. Peterson
6 had started from Masstown and made his way north. At 9:49:36, we hear the following.

7 **[AUDIO PLAYBACK]**

8 **MR. ROGER BURRILL:** Cpl. Peterson indicates that he's at the
9 interchange of Highway 104 and 4. He's explaining that he does not, at this point, have
10 a visual of the perpetrator. And the parties, the members, are trying to discern where
11 the perpetrator is. Cst. Brown and Melanson had responded originally to Masstown on
12 the basis of the information provided by Cpl. Peterson and are trying to determine
13 exactly where the perpetrator is in consultation with Cpl. Peterson. Cpl. Peterson
14 continues to head south on Highway 4 below the interchange, and there are
15 communications and descriptions that you have heard with respect to the exchange of
16 information. More details, of course, are in the source materials.

17 At 9:50:18, that which we heard at the tail end of the previous slide
18 actually becomes reality.


19 **[AUDIO PLAYBACK]**

20 **MR. ROGER BURRILL:** Interesting though the dynamic in terms of
21 the exchange of information, the information how quickly it comes in and how it has to
22 be processed. You'll see where Cst. Brown and Cst. Melanson respond. They indicate
23 that they are 17. 17 means that they are on route. Cpl. Peterson responds, and wants
24 it plotted by dispatch and to send it to 6. You'll recall 6 was his vehicle. I should have
25 made that clear to you earlier, but Bravo 6 was his vehicle. Cst. Gallant, referred to
26 here as UMH10 or IARD member 10, responds asking for a repeat of the address. For
27 those who don't have maps for plotting, the IARD vehicles we have discovered that
28 responded in this case did not have plotting capacity, so they were, under these

1 circumstances, trying to get information.

2 The Hidden Hilltop -- or excuse me, Hilden Hilltop Campground
3 actually means the Hidden Hilltop Campground. But you can see how information is
4 coming in quickly and is being provided through a number of sources for purposes of
5 being able to react to a very clear situation of emergency.

6 The perpetrator's location then, for purposes of our discussion, is
7 transmitted and dispatched at 9:50:18 a.m.

8 This is a photograph of  Highway 4, a residence on that
9 highway on the west side as I described earlier. It's a residence off to the west and it's
10 up a lengthy inclined driveway. It's the residence of the Fishers, Carole and Adam
11 Fisher's residence. They ran an excavation company, and they would have been
12 familiar with the perpetrator through business contacts some six or eight years earlier.
13 They had -- familiar with each other. The Foundational Document, as I had said, will
14 outline the details of that familiarity. It was limited, but at least they knew of each other.
15 The perpetrator had exchanged information in June of 2019, from the information that
16 we were aware, that he had actually purchased decommissioned RCMP vehicles. It
17 should be noted that Mr. Fisher, at around 9:38 in the morning, before this dispatch, had
18 made an effort himself to call the Bible Hill Detachment to advise them of information
19 that he knew with respect to the perpetrator's possession of decommissioned vehicles.

20 This slide provides some view of the perpetrator at his time of
21 arrival at the residence on the west side of Highway 4. At approximately 9:48:49, the
22 perpetrator drove up the driveway, after coming down Highway 4, turned right, turned
23 up the driveway, and then went to the back of the home. Perpetrator arrived in the back
24 yard of the Fisher residence. You will recall that at 9:47:24, about a minute and a bit,
25 Cpl. Peterson had indicated that he had spotted the perpetrator. So within a minute to a
26 minute-and-a-half, the perpetrator has gone south on the highway and then turned right
27 and gone up the driveway. These still photographs are taken from the security video at
28 the residence outside the home, overlooking the driveway and the parking area. You

1 can see from the slides that are presented here, the vehicle on the top left driving in to
2 the driveway. The perpetrator then is seen in the bottom left and on the right walking
3 towards the residence, a chilling visual.

4 The perpetrator had driven up the driveway, pulled in behind the
5 vehicles as shown. You'll notice on the right where the vehicle has actually done a
6 three-point turn. The vehicle drives up, goes behind the vehicles, does a three-point
7 turn, and then tucks itself in behind the brown pickup, and then the perpetrator got out
8 of the vehicle. He reached into the back of the vehicle and then approached the
9 residence.

10 The visuals that you will see there show him wearing a reflective
11 vest, consistent, of course, with what Cpl. Peterson described. He appears to be
12 carrying a longarm in his right hand. He appears to be carrying something in his left
13 hand, a small, dark object that is indiscernible from the stills and the video. He appears
14 to be wearing a ball hat, baseball hat, that too is not entirely definitive from what we see
15 in the video and in the stills. Perpetrator proceeded south, turned right, and then tucked
16 in to the residence of the Fisher's.

17 At 9:48:49, there was a 9-1-1 call by Carole Fisher, the resident at
18 C1 - Personal Information and she essentially says that the perpetrator is at that location.

19 "Nine-one-one what is your emergency?

20 [...] The shooter is here that shot everyone in G – in
21 Portapique."

22 She then describes her civic address and the location. The 9-1-1
23 operator says, "What do you mean he's there?" Carole Fisher says, "He's at our door,
24 at our door." Provides the address again.

25 At 9:50:25, about 25, 30 seconds into the conversation, she
26 describes him as,

27 "...dressed [as] a police officer outfit with a – a um,
28 ah, ah I can't even talk he's got like a bright, thing on

1 him. We saw him, pull in and [...] just reach across
2 the passenger seat I don't know what he did [...] we
3 just ran and hid ... and he's got an RCMP car, he has
4 his own RCMP car."

5 Ms. Fisher remained on the line with the dispatcher from 9:48 until
6 about 10 o'clock.

7 The call taker then had to terminate the call as the information was
8 ongoing and being provided to the OCC at that location. At 9:49, 25 seconds later, Mr.
9 Fisher made a 9-1-1 call. The contents of the conversation are excerpted on the slide
10 before you, but essentially, he advises the call taker that the perpetrator was at the
11 house, describes the location on Highway 4, describes what he sees. Mr. Fisher
12 remained on the line for about half an hour to 35 -- 45 minutes. At one point in the call,
13 Mr. Fisher requested that the 9-1-1 operator call neighbours to alert them to the
14 existence and the danger that they were under. He also indicated to the call taker that
15 he had a firearm and that he was prepared to use it if the home was breached.

16 After 2 minutes and 14 seconds, the perpetrator returned to his
17 vehicle. So we know that the perpetrator left his vehicle walked to the house, banged
18 on the door, rang the doorbell, did not enter the house, and then returned to his vehicle.
19 These still shots show him returning to the vehicle, walking in the opposite direction.
20 You'll see at this stage from the view that we have, that the long gun appears to be in
21 his right hand. Looks like his left hand now is in his pocket, and it would appear that he
22 gets in his vehicle and leaves. The timing information of 2 hours and -- 2 minutes and
23 14 seconds is coming from the security video with respect to timing on his arrival and
24 his departure. The video -- excuse me, the depiction on the bottom right shows the
25 vehicle leaving from the position that it was for about two minutes at the Fisher's
26 residence.

27 So Carole Fisher's call commenced at 9:48:49. The duration of the
28 video is about 2 hour -- 2 minutes and 14 seconds. The perpetrator, therefore, we're of

1 the view, left the property at around 9:51 or very shortly thereafter. You will recall that
2 the break for dispatch call came at 9:50:18. So you can see how very, very close the
3 timing is in this particular instance.

4 At 9:51:54, Cpl. Peterson's GPS has the vehicle that he's operating
5 about 3 kilometres south of [REDACTED] Highway 4. He's south of the Highway 104 and
6 Highway 4 interchange. Cpl. Peterson broadcasts from his position 3 kilometres south
7 of [REDACTED] Highway 4 at 9:51:54 the following information.

8 **[AUDIO PLAYBACK]**

9 **MR. ROGER BURRILL:** Cpl. Peterson is of the belief, with the
10 information that he has, that he's almost there, given his position. He communicates
11 with Cst. Brown to be careful. This would leave the impression and confirmed by Cst.
12 Brown's statement to the Mass Casualty Commission that he and Cpl. Peterson are
13 now driving either in tandem or very close, heading west and then north up Highway 4.
14 Cpl. Peterson indicates to Cst. Brown, "Be careful, Dave, you're going to come up on it
15 pretty fast." The belief at that stage, it would appear, by Cpl. Peterson and -- is that
16 they're close to [REDACTED] although at this stage, they are likely about 3 kilometres south.
17 Cst. Melanson and Brown are arriving from the Masstown area. Cst. Brown and
18 Melanson had responded that location. We do not have GPS data for Cst. Brown and
19 Melanson because they are operating a marked vehicle. The information that we're
20 taking at this stage is coming from the GPS material related to Cpl. Peterson's vehicle.

21 Within a minute thereafter of the communication, at around 9:52:47,
22 we appear to have a convergence of members of the RCMP, and this is related to the
23 GPS information from Cpl. Peterson. And that convergence of a number of RCMP
24 members is as a response to the Wentworth call and indeed the Glenholme call with --
25 and it would appear that a number of members seem to converge just north of the 104
26 Highway at the intersection with 4. We know that Csts. MacDonald and Forrest are
27 present at that location, that Csts. Brown and Melanson are arriving, and that Cst. -- or,
28 excuse me, Cpl. Peterson as well is arriving at that location.

1 As they converge and head up Highway 4, Cst. Brown initially
2 thinks that he has located the perpetrator because he's observing Cst. MacDonald and
3 Cst. Forrest's vehicle pulled off on the left side of the highway ahead of him.

4 **[AUDIO PLAYBACK]**

5 **MR. ROGER BURRILL:** So the situation here is that Cst.
6 MacDonald and Forrest are actually in Cst. Solarino's vehicle. And that goes back to
7 incidents that occurred at Portapique with respect to a quick response to the Wentworth
8 call. But MacDonald and Forrest, when they travelled toward the Wentworth call were
9 in somebody else's vehicle and hadn't been able to get logged in properly, and as a
10 result, they had stopped on the side of the road at Highway 4 to get logged in for
11 purposes of obtaining information with respect to the location of [REDACTED] Highway 4. As
12 they did so, Peterson, Brown and Melanson approached. And Cst. Brown, at that
13 stage, initially mistook the vehicle of Cst. MacDonald and Forrest for that of the
14 perpetrator. The communication that you just heard was exchanged. It's clear that Cst.
15 MacDonald indicated that he was not the perpetrator, indicated that they were trying to
16 obtain information, and things sorted themselves out relatively quickly. This, of course,
17 is a situation that emerged due to the nature of the perpetrator's ability to operate a fully
18 marked replica RCMP vehicle.

19 At this stage, after the initial misapprehension of who was where,
20 Cpl. Peterson indicates that it's necessary to stage at that location, just above the 104
21 on the 4, still a few kilometres shy of [REDACTED]. And when they do so, Cst. Fahie and
22 Coleman also arrive, and further, S/Sgt. MacCallum and Cst. Hubley, who are
23 responding from the control post, command post at Great Village also arrive. We've
24 had the opportunity to interview S/Sgt. MacCallum, and information taken from S/Sgt.
25 MacCallum on his interview of November 5th indicates that he was disturbed or at least
26 concerned with respect to the location of the staging at this time. Briefly quoting from
27 S/Sgt. MacCallum's interview, he said the following,

28 "...so, we're turning off and everybody stops, all the

1 ERT, everybody stops soon as you get off the off
2 ramp on Hwy. 4 and in my ... I'm like, why are we
3 stopping? And because I knew it was further up the
4 road. And so, everybody was spilling out and I said ...
5 [...] somebody said, like, "Where is he? Where is it?" I
6 said, "Why are we stopping guys, it's two kilometres
7 ... it's two kilometres up the road." And then it was
8 like, "What the fuck, are we here for? Let's go, let's
9 go." [...] so, everybody piled back in and we went up
10 the road."

11 Efforts were made at that time to get a much information
12 assimilated amongst the members as possibly could to find out where [REDACTED] was. A
13 determination was made by S/Sgt. MacCallum at that stage to move up the road.

14 Members then moved up the road, and at around 9:55 a.m., they
15 located at the driveway just south and around [REDACTED] Highway 4. At 9:55, GPS
16 information confirms or at least gives the sense that members staged outside the
17 residence.

18 You will recall, from previous discussion a few moments ago, that
19 on the timing that had been associated with the video from the Fishers at 9:51,
20 information suggests that the perpetrator had left Highway 4, [REDACTED]

21 So the staging at that time with respect to the members is off by a
22 few moments. The perpetrator had left.

23 At the same time as the general duty members are attending, the
24 Emergency Response Team is mobilizing. You'll recall that it's in Portapique and in the
25 Great Village area. They respond by taking the route, leave at 9:42, at the time of the
26 dispatch, and arrive at 9:56 a.m.

27 So by 9:56 a.m. at [REDACTED] we have a series of general duty
28 members that can provide containment, and then we have the Emergency Response

1 Team specialists who are in a position to act.

2 The ERT joins the staging area, mobilizes. Snipers immediately go
3 into the periphery around the property. The tactical armoured vehicle, the TAV, arrives.
4 The TAV onboard the PDS, the Police Dog Service member and the dog, and then
5 they make efforts to get authority for purposes of attending to C1 - Personal Information There's
6 communication between the ERT team leader, Cpl Tim Mills, and the incident
7 commander, S/Sgt Jeff West, at 10:00 o'clock -- 10:00:28, which respect to movement
8 of the ERT team for purposes of confronting the perpetrator.

9 **[AUDIO PLAYBACK]**

10 So at 10:00:50, 10 zero zero five oh, authority is provided from the
11 Critical Incident Commander, S/Sgt West, to ERT to undertake decisions with respect to
12 dealing with the perpetrator at this location.

13 The term "compromised authority" is used. Compromised authority
14 is a term to provide independent decision making to the ERT while conducting a limited
15 scope of operation, in this case, isolated to the C1 - Personal Information location. It allows the ERT to
16 make decisions re: use of force in dealing with the threat.

17 But of course, it takes time and information exchange is required
18 between the Participants and the chain of command in order to make that decision for
19 that to take place.

20 This slide presented for you now will depict the route of the TAV as
21 it goes up the driveway towards the residence of the Fishers. This is drone footage that
22 was taken again in August of 2021 by investigators for the Mass Casualty Commission.
23 It's one of those where it's a little jumpy again. So if you have any sensitivity to
24 movement in that regard, you should be -- perhaps turn away for a few seconds. It's not
25 a lengthy one. It provides you a sense of the 160-metre length of the driveway that it
26 would take the TAV to go up to attend to where they believe the perpetrator was.

27 **[VIDEO PLAYBACK]**

28 So this short video gives you a sense of the length of the driveway

1 that the tactical armoured vehicle would be required to ascend. It then gives you a
2 sense and connects you to the still photos that had been provided earlier with respect to
3 the location of the perpetrator behind the vehicles in this case in the driveway/back of
4 the residence at: [C1 - Personal Information]

5 At this point, we're talking shortly after 10:00 in the morning, the
6 perpetrator has left, obviously, the location.

7 As the TAV arrives at the top of the driveway, the loudhailer is
8 used. That is, Cpl Mills then makes directions over the loudhailer in an effort to secure
9 control over the perpetrator.

10 The TAV arrives. You have a picture here of the TAV in the
11 backyard a few seconds after what we would have seen him coming up the hill, or it
12 coming up the hill.

13 The TAV arrives, does a check, and at 10:02:40, Cpl Mills, the team
14 leader, exclaims "No PC. No PC."

15 At 10:02:56, he exclaims, "No police vehicle."

16 The ERT team has been obviously unable to locate the
17 perpetrator's replica RCMP vehicle because he has left and/or departed perhaps some
18 10 minutes earlier by this time.

19 At 10:07:53, the focus of the operation changes very quickly, given
20 new and alarming information from the dispatch.

21 **[AUDIO PLAYBACK]**

22 [C1 - Personal Information] Highway 4 in Glenholme is
23 approximately 10 kilometres away from 1541 Plains Road. With this new alarming
24 information and the lack of recovery of the perpetrator at [C1 - Personal Information] the responders then
25 mobilize to the new scene. The details of the actions at the Plains Road,
26 Commissioners, are outlined in the next presentation with respect to 1541 Plains Road.

27 For purposes of summarizing, which is usually the intent and the
28 effort made in these introductory remarks, there are a number of things that are isolated

1 as of significance. At 9:47, Cpl Peterson dispatched that he had some interaction or
2 saw the perpetrator pass him on Highway 4. At 9:48:49, Carole Fisher called 9-1-1 on
3 the arrival of the perpetrator at her residence at Highway 4.

4 At 9:50:18, dispatch broadcast the information from Ms. Fisher.
5 Approximately one minute later, the perpetrator departed from the Fisher residence.

6 At 9:56 a.m., general duty and ERT members staged at the Fisher
7 residence on Highway 4 in an effort to interdict the perpetrator.

8 At 10:02:40, TAV broadcasts, "No police vehicle. No police
9 vehicle."

10 At 10:07:53 a.m., dispatch aired the new complaint on Plains Road,
11 approximately 10 kilometres to the east.

12 Commissioners, this concludes the introduction to the Foundational
13 Document, Highway 4, Glenholme, Nova Scotia.

14 I'd be grateful for a short break, if I'd be permitted, before I speak to
15 the introduction of the next Foundational Document.

16 COMMISSIONER MacDONALD: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Burrill. This
17 is very difficult information, as I had indicated earlier, and made manifest by your
18 presentation. Difficult to hear, difficult to absorb. And the next Foundational Document
19 presentation will be the same. I think it's appropriate that we take a 30-minute break at
20 this time. We'll break.

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

22 The proceedings are now on break and will resume in 30 minutes.

23 --- Upon breaking at 10:20 a.m.

24 --- Upon resuming at 10:50 a.m.

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

26 The proceedings are again in session.

27 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** Thank you.

28 Mr. Burrill?

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

2 **--- INTRODUCTION OF FOUNDATIONAL DOCUMENT PLAINS ROAD, DEBERT:**

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

4 **MR. ROGER BURRILL:** Commissioners, and others. This
5 presentation involves a discussion of the homicide of two women; two valued members
6 of the Victorian Order of Nurses, two loved members of our community who were taken
7 away from us senselessly.

8 This was done shortly after 10:00 a.m. on April 19th, 2020 in Debert,
9 Nova Scotia. And while I am charged in my role as Commission Counsel to be as
10 objective as I possibly can about the effects, I wish to express my deepest sympathy to
11 the members of O'Brien and the Beaton family, who I know are here and are watching.

12 The Foundational Document goes into a great deal of detail with
13 result to forensic and physical evidence. I will not be doing that this morning. I will not
14 be going into descriptors of crime scene particulars.

15 This is a high-level introduction of the known facts, and as with
16 other Foundational Documents involving fatalities, the details are indeed troublesome
17 and disturbing. You need to know that, obviously, before I commence my presentation.

18 Madam Registrar, I would move to mark and tender the
19 Foundational Document entitled, "Plains Road, Debert" into evidence in these
20 proceedings.

21 **REGISTRAR DARLENE SUTHERLAND:** That's Exhibit 417.

22 **--- EXHIBIT NO. 417:**

23 Foundational Document, Plains Road, Debert

24 **MR. ROGER BURRILL:** Thank you.

25 I move to mark and tender all supporting material associated with
26 Exhibit 417, the Foundational Document, "Plains Road, Debert" into evidence in these
27 proceedings a swell.

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

1 **MR. ROGER BURRILL:** Subject matter is a summary of
2 information currently available to the Mass Casualty Commission in relation to the
3 events of April 19th at Plains Road in Debert, Nova Scotia.

4 Commissioners, this is the Foundational Document introduction, so
5 entitled.

6 We have familiarity with the region around Debert, given the
7 “Overnight in Debert” Foundational Document, we have familiarity with the location of
8 Folly Lake and Glenholme, given the original or preceding Foundational Documents.
9 Glenholme and Debert are situated here to give you a sense of where they are located
10 regionally.

11 You are familiar with the 104. You are familiar, of course, with the
12 Old Wentworth Highway. You will see where the highway of -- Highway 4 runs south
13 and north, and then when it gets just south of Glenholme, runs east as well towards
14 Truro. It is an unusual geographical or travel ways anomaly where the Highway 4 and
15 the Highway 2 actually amalgamate for a short period of time along the shore when they
16 get to Truro.

17 You will be familiar with Highway 2 towards Portapique; we’ve
18 discussed that at length in previous presentations. You are also familiar with Plains
19 Road as a result of the “Overnight in Debert” Foundational Document.

20 Plains Road runs east from Highway 4 through the community of
21 Debert; this will be the topic of discussion here this morning. It runs towards the 104 in
22 the east, or east of Debert, but not quite. It intersects with MacElmon Road, that runs
23 south to intersect with the Highway 4/2, and overpasses the highway 104 at Exit 13.

24 The previous location of the -- or topic of discussion at Glenholme,
25 the address there is identified and tagged on the screen, providing you with a reference
26 to the full geographical area.

27 Plains Road and MacElmon Road here are shown a little closer in
28 perspective to the residence at Highway 4; this shows you, at an introductory level,

1 some of the locations that we will discuss.

2 First, there is observations made by a number of witnesses;
3 Higgins, McMaster, and Crowe. We will discuss some video from Angelina Pizzeria;
4 once again, a location that you are quite familiar with. We will discuss video from
5 Dave's Service Centre; familiar with that as well. And then there will be extensive
6 discussion of video seized and taken from Community Metal Roofing and Siding. This
7 is important for constructing a narrative about what happened on Plains Road.

8 The Community Metal Roofing and Siding location is almost across
9 the road from Ventura Drive, the entrance into the Debert Business Park, that which we
10 discussed in previous Foundational Document introductions.

11 At this point, I wish to relay some selective witness observations to
12 you, in an effort to try to present for you what lawyers sometimes describe, pieces of the
13 puzzle, to give you a sense of what the Commission has put together as to what took
14 place on Plains Road.

15 The first witness or witnesses that we're going to discuss is Bruce
16 Higgins and Tiffany McMaster. And I wanted to just reiterate something that I've said
17 before in previous presentations, is that there is obviously a difference between human
18 observations and recorded video observations, but human observations, while a person
19 is required to register, record, and recall all information, can be very useful. It can also
20 be subject, sometimes, to mistake, and we need to be careful in terms of how we
21 assess this. But if you take all of the observations of a human being together with other
22 human beings, with video information, with forensic information, with physical
23 information, you can kind of construct a general overall picture, and the purpose of this
24 introduction is to give you a sense of some of those pieces.

25 In this case, Bruce Higgins and Tiffany McMaster were operating a
26 motor vehicle and travelling west on Plains Road at around 10:00 a.m. on the 19th of
27 April. Mr. Higgins provided a statement on May 19th; Ms. McMaster provided one on
28 May 13th of 2020.

1 They were driving west on Plains Road around 10:00 a.m. and they
2 passed an RCMP vehicle travelling east. So it's a small observation, but it's an
3 observation of two people for no reason other than to say when they were investigated
4 and spoken to, that they made observations of this vehicle.

5 They described the police vehicle as, "Driving slow"; nothing out of
6 the ordinary.

7 Leroy Crowe gave a statement on April 25th, 2020. He said that he
8 noticed an RCMP in the rearview mirror as he was travelling east on Plains Road. So
9 he advised that he saw that vehicle and he noticed what -- excuse me. He noticed
10 what, "Almost looked like it had a black push bar".

11 Leroy Crowe said that -- in his statement of April 25th, 2020 that he
12 was travelling east in a grey Civic. He was following another person who was also
13 driving a grey Civic. They were travelling in tandem, and he noticed that the RCMP
14 vehicle travelling behind him was getting closer. Crowe followed his travel companion
15 and they both turned up northly -- in a northern direction on the East Folly Mountain
16 Road.

17 So you can see from the depiction here that Crowe travels east,
18 followed by the vehicle, the police vehicle, and then he and his travel companion in
19 another car head up the East Folly Mountain Road.

20 Now, the interesting thing about East Folly Mountain Road is that it
21 is actually east of Angelina's Pizzeria but west of Dave's Service Centre. So these
22 vehicles should have, in accordance with Mr. Crowe's version of events, passed
23 Angelina's Pizzeria. So, once again, you will be familiar with the Angelina Pizzeria
24 situation and the relatively clear depiction of the vehicles in front of that location.

25 The Angelina Pizzeria at 9:56:35 records the following, and I just
26 want to draw your attention to a small vehicle on the travel portion of the road.
27 Mr. Crowe said that he was driving a small vehicle and that he was following a small
28 Civic as well. I think he said he was driving a Civic, he was following a Civic, before

1 they turned up the East Folly Mountain Road.

2 [VIDEO PLAYBACK]

3 [END VIDEO PLAYBACK]

4 **MR. ROGER BURRILL:** It's a short clip, but it would seem to be at
5 least consistent with what Mr. Crowe says in terms of travelling on the road that day.

6 [VIDEO PLAYBACK]

7 [END VIDEO PLAYBACK]

8 **MR. ROGER BURRILL:** Two cars in front of the RCMP vehicle. It
9 appears plausible that this depicts Leroy Crowe, and the vehicle he was travelling with,
10 ahead of the perpetrator on that morning.

11 As we are familiar with, Dave's Service Centre is 270 metres east
12 of Angelina's Pizzeria, and interestingly enough, east of the East Folly Mountain Road.
13 At 9:57:37...

14 [VIDEO PLAYBACK]

15 [END VIDEO PLAYBACK]

16 **MR. ROGER BURRILL:** ...it looks like one marked police vehicle
17 goes by, providing consistency to what I've told you about earlier, human observations
18 and human, human determinations about what took place.

19 The vehicle then goes by Dave's Service Centre, and heads
20 towards Community Metal Roofing and Siding. Community Metal Roofing and Siding is
21 located just south of Ventura Drive on the eastern or northeastern side of Plains Road.

22 The Community Metal timestamp is totally unreliable to
23 investigators at the Mass Casualty Commission. There were investigative
24 inconsistencies with respect to the timing of that timestamp, such that we can't in any
25 way rely on that. But it's not important for reliance on it in terms of timing, it's more
26 important for what we see in terms of the details.

27 There are actually two camera angles at Community Metal Siding.
28 The first one, as you will see here, is on the north side of the building and it looks

1 towards Plains Road. Vehicles travelling east will come from the right hand side of the
2 slide, travel along the top portion of the slide, and disappear on to the left side. It
3 captures vehicles approaching from the west on Plains Road.

4 You will notice, when I play this 65 second video, four vehicles pass
5 by. They pass from the right to the left. In this 65 seconds, it shows what the
6 Commission is claiming is the perpetrator vehicle first, then you will see a blue pickup,
7 then you will see a light-coloured smaller car, and then you will see a brown pickup. I
8 hope to explain for you a little bit later in my presentation what the significance of this is.

9 First car.

10 **[VIDEO PLAYBACK]**

11 **[END VIDEO PLAYBACK]**

12 **MR. ROGER BURRILL:** Second.

13 **[VIDEO PLAYBACK]**

14 **[END VIDEO PLAYBACK]**

15 **MR. ROGER BURRILL:** Third.

16 **[VIDEO PLAYBACK]**

17 **[END VIDEO PLAYBACK]**

18 **MR. ROGER BURRILL:** Fourth.

19 Now, I'm going to take you to the video on the southside of
20 Community Metals Siding and Roofing. This will show you the exact same thing from a
21 different angle. This time you get a little better view of the road on the right side, a
22 shorter clip, but it's a little bit closer. You'll see Plains Road depicted in the top right
23 corner. This, too, is a 65-second clip. You will see what appears to be the perpetrator's
24 vehicle proceed by; 24 seconds later, a blue pickup goes by, consistent with the other
25 video; 30 seconds goes by, and we see a small light-coloured vehicle. And for purpose
26 of clarification, this appears to be the video, the vehicle, excuse me, of Heather O'Brien,
27 and then 65 seconds later, we see a brown pickup.

28 **[VIDEO PLAYBACK]**

[END VIDEO PLAYBACK]

1
2 **MR. ROGER BURRILL:** So this is consistent with the first video
3 showing you the time distances between the four vehicles that pass by. The importance
4 of this, of course, is that it's also very close to the murder scene that I'm -- unfortunately,
5 I have to discuss with you at this stage.

6 But I wish to point out the following summary that is to glean from
7 Community Metals: Perpetrator appears to be travelling east. Twenty-four seconds
8 later, there appears to be a blue pickup travelling east behind the perpetrator. The
9 information available to the Mass Casualty Commission suggests that this is the vehicle
10 of Sara Hughes and Adam Griffiths, who were interviewed and provided observations of
11 what they saw on that day.

12 Thirty seconds after the perpetrator passes by, and six seconds
13 after the Hughes/Griffiths vehicle passes by, we see a small light-coloured vehicle
14 travelling east. Information available to the Mass Casualty Commission suggests that
15 this is the Volkswagen Jetta of Heather O'Brien. Sixty-five seconds later after the
16 perpetrator passes by, it appears that a dark brown pickup goes by. Information
17 available to the Mass Casualty Commission suggests that this the vehicle of Ralph Ellis
18 and Sharon Mollins, who provided information with respect to their observations.

19 So in terms of putting pieces together, video observations, I wish to
20 speak to you about what it was that was observed by these people in the vehicles.

21 Sara Hughes and Adam Griffiths, 24 seconds behind the
22 perpetrator in the blue Ford pickup, were driving east and they noticed that they were
23 following a police car driving normally. Ms. Hughes gave a statement on April 24th,
24 2020. Mr. Griffiths gave a statement on May 1st. Forgive me, I've got that backwards.
25 Mr. Griffiths gave it on the 24th and Ms. Hughes on the 1st of May.

26 They were driving east on Plains Road. They noticed a police
27 vehicle shortly after they crossed the train tracks by Dave's Service Centre. The police
28 vehicle slowed and turned into a pullout on the south side of the road on Plains Road.

1 The pullout is a small gravel section extending from the side of the road or in the
2 travelled portion on the south side of Plains Road.

3 They observed what they saw was a silver/grey Honda CRV facing
4 west in the pullout, looking or facing towards Community Metals Roofing and Siding.
5 They report that the police car pulled in behind and parallel beside the driver's side of
6 the vehicle. They report that the man or a police officer exited the vehicle. In their rear-
7 view mirror, after they passed the scene, they report that they watched as he
8 approached the driver's side of the vehicle, but made no further observations after that.

9 Terry Budd was coming from the other direction from Lancaster
10 Crescent. He was heading west on Plains Road after completing a long shift there at
11 the distribution centre.

12 He says that the RCMP vehicle had cordoned off a smaller Toyota
13 on the opposite side of the road in front of him. Mr. Budd says that he saw a man shoot
14 the windows out of the smaller car. He reports then the police car headed west, ahead
15 of him, on Plains Road.

16 And as I had said to you earlier, memory in human recall and
17 memory recording and recollection are -- can sometimes be difficult. But Mr. Budd's
18 recollection of that vehicle heading west after the shooting is inconsistent with other
19 pieces of information that has been provided to the Mass Casualty Commission. That
20 doesn't mean that you reject everything and all. You may, depending on the
21 circumstances and how the pictures forms. But it is at least consistent in that detail.
22 However, Mr. Budd makes observations of things that he saw in that area.

23 Ralph Ellis and Sharon Mollins were also travelling east on Plains
24 Road. They are the people in the 65 second behind the perpetrator in the dark brown
25 pickup as described in their statements. They were approximately 35 seconds behind
26 the smaller Heather O'Brien vehicle. They drove past the pull out and noticed a police
27 car and an SUV parked beside each other at that location.

28 Mr. Ellis reports that both vehicles were facing west towards

1 Community Metals. Ms. Mollins reports that she saw the police car facing east and the
2 SUV was facing west. Similar inconsistency by two people who were there at the same
3 time.

4 They saw, however, together described seeing a man standing
5 between the two vehicles, and they saw what they believed the passenger side window
6 was smashed out of the SUV.

7 Ralph Ellis and Sharon Mollins drove by the pull out. And in their
8 rear-view mirror, they report that they observed a man go behind this car, jump into this
9 car, and "come around behind us."

10 Mr. Ellis reports that he observed the same, plus he reports that he
11 observed the police car pull around in front of the SUV and head east on Plains Road.

12 They observed a light-coloured car on the shoulder ahead of them
13 as they passed by. The driver appeared to have her head down, like on the phone, or
14 seemed to be texting. Ms. Mollins was asked specifically what she saw in terms of
15 observations of that person. She said that she was definitely alive when they passed
16 by.

17 They drove by and they watched in their rear-view mirror as the
18 police car that they had observed earlier stopped beside the vehicle in the eastbound
19 lane.

20 Mr. Ellis reports that he saw the man exit the police car from the
21 driver's side and approach the second vehicle on the west side of Plains Road.

22 Ellis and Mollins report that they lost sight of any interaction
23 between the police car and the O'Brien car that we are concluding it was at that time.
24 They did not see the shooting of Heather O'Brien.

25 Ralph Ellis and Sharon Mollins continued east on Plains Road,
26 approaching Exit 13 at Highway 104. At that time, they described seeing the police
27 vehicle approach them from behind.

28 This is a view, an aerial view from quite high up of the pull out from

1 above. The pullout, I had described, for lack of a better word of that location, is the
2 scene where Kristen Beaton was murdered. She died of multiple gunshot wounds.
3 Shell casings were found nearby, and broken glass.

4 This is a closer look, a closer view of the pullout from a drone taken
5 in August of 2021. You will notice the memorial site at the scene. And this gives you a
6 view of the relative size of that which we have called the pullout for purposes of this
7 presentation.

8 This slide shows the road view heading east on Plains Road, just
9 before reaching the pullout and beyond. It gives you a sense of the person's, or any
10 person's ability to make observations of that location. Once again, the memorial can be
11 seen in this photograph. It shows Plains Road heading off into the east and the vantage
12 point that the Mollinses and Ellises would have had as they drove by, and indeed were
13 by, looking back.

14 This is back to an aerial view of the pullout. This illustration depicts
15 the scene of the murder of Heather O'Brien. The initial vehicle was about -- stoppage of
16 the vehicle was about 320 metres southeast of the Kristen Beaton vehicle. Bullet
17 casings and broken glass were located there.

18 It would appear that the car rolled forward about 60 metres into a
19 wooded ditch area.

20 It appears plausible that Ms. O'Brien's foot was on the break pedal
21 and it was released at the time she was murdered.

22 Further, a closer view from August of 2021 showing the memorial,
23 essentially providing you an illustration of the location of the homicide of Ms. O'Brien,
24 where the vehicle came to rest.

25 This slide is the same view, just a better view of Plains Road
26 extending into the southeast towards Exit 13 on Highway 104. Once again, provides
27 you an opportunity to assess what that which was viewed by Mollins and Ellis in the
28 rear-view mirror and the opportunity to make those obligations -- those observations.

1 There are additional accounts, witness accounts, of observations
2 referred to in the Foundational Documents. I won't be referring to them because they
3 are essentially observations made by people who arrived after the perpetrator had left
4 the scene. We have mentioned those witnesses in the documents. Starr Moore in
5 particular made 9-1-1 call at 10:06 to report what she had seen as she had been driving
6 east. Jessica MacBurnie made a 9-1-1 call at 10:07 from Lancaster Crescent to
7 describe what she saw after driving west on the road. Trevor Higgins made a call as
8 well. He made that call at 10:11:45 after he attended to the pullout.

9 These are all Nova Scotians who attended to the scene and
10 experienced the horror that they obviously were required to see.

11 Kohltech Windows and Entrance Systems is located on MacElmon
12 Road in Debert. Video was seized from this location showing activity consistent with
13 what Mr. Ellis and Ms. Mollins described when they said they left the scene and the
14 police vehicle approached them from behind. The timestamp on this video is about a
15 minute off according to the proprietors of that business. It shows you the following.

16 **[VIDEO PLAYBACK]**

17 So as we reviewed the video, it's a 13 second video, and the
18 timestamp shows that it's actually a passage of 16 seconds, so it's not accurate in that
19 regard either, other than to say it provides you a view of the brown pickup truck,
20 followed by the perpetrator on the MacElmon Road.

21 MacElmon Road comes to a terminus at Highway 4/Highway 2. It
22 would appear that the perpetrator went down MacElmon Road and then turned east on
23 Highway 4/Highway 2, heading towards the Truro area. Carstar Collision is a business
24 that's located to the east of the intersection on MacElmon Road and Highway 4,
25 Highway 2. It is about 650 metres west of the Onslow Fire Brigade Fire Hall that will be
26 discussed in subsequent presentations and Foundational Documents. This is a still
27 taken from Carstar Collision business. You can see on the right, which would be
28 Highway 2, Highway 4, what appears to be a marked vehicle, marked police vehicle at

1 10:06. The accuracy is unestablished with respect to time of that, but it is entirely
2 consistent with that which I'd talked about the big puzzle.

3 Kristen Beaton died that morning. She was a continuing care
4 assistant at the VON. She was doing her job. She was visiting clients in Masstown and
5 Debert. She was expecting her second child. She spoke and texted with her husband
6 over the phone that morning. Shortly before nine a.m., she had posted a link to the
7 Local 35 Home Support Workers Facebook page, suggesting that workers be careful
8 and be safe and keep your eyes open. She linked and she referenced the RCMP
9 Twitter account. She died senselessly that morning. She was shot from the outside of
10 the driver's side of her vehicle while seated in her car at that pull-out.

11 Heather O'Brien was the victim of multiple gunshot wounds as well.
12 She was a licensed practical nurse with the VON. She was scheduled to work that day
13 but was granted the day off, but she was so concerned over the incident in Portapique
14 and the welfare of her coworkers and friends, she maintained regular communication
15 with her friend and coworker, Leona Allen. Leona Allen experienced the horror of
16 listening to the murder, the last minutes of the life of her friend. The vehicle rolled
17 forward after the shooting into the ditch. She was shot from the outside of the driver's
18 side of the vehicle.

19 At 10:07 a.m., we hear the following dispatch.

20 **[AUDIO PLAYBACK]**

21 **MR. ROGER BURRILL:** This alarming dispatch of course
22 mobilizes resources. The resources at that time were focussed on the Glenholme
23 situation as described earlier this morning. Members mobilized and attended to the
24 scene of Ms. Beaton and Ms. O'Brien. The slide depicts those who were the first
25 responders, Cst. Bent Ashley, Hubley MacLeod at the Beaton scene, Csts. Fahie,
26 Coleman, Mahar and Ivany at the O'Brien scene. Members attended, of course. Family
27 members attended, of course. Family members were deeply concerned and had
28 information that would have raised concern with respect to the welfare of both Ms.

1 O'Brien and Ms. Beaton. Fire service was -- were attended. They were directed to
2 relocate due to the active shooter situation concerned. EHS attended. They staged at
3 Exit 13 in the area. A DNR helicopter was -- which at that time was circling over the
4 Glenholme location was relocated immediately. At 10:11:43, CIC West broadcast the
5 helicopter was over the location in Plains Road. At 10:17, the spotter in that vehicle
6 indicated that he was unable to locate the perpetrator's vehicle.

7 As the Commission has decided to do, at the completion of these
8 brief introductions to the Foundational Document, we try to summarize key events with
9 respect to the topic that has been discussed. I will do so again in completion and
10 finalization of this introduction. At 9:56:42, the perpetrator passed by Angelina Pizzeria
11 heading east on Plains Road. At 9:59:49, Leona Allen engaged in a telephone
12 conversation with Heather O'Brien during her murder. At 1:01:52 [sic], the perpetrator
13 proceeded east on the scene, past Kohltech Entrance Systems. I said 1:01. I meant, of
14 course, 10:01. 10:02:31, Leona Allen called 9-1-1 and provided the call taker with the
15 disturbing information that she had heard. At 10:06, the perpetrator was almost to
16 Onslow Fire Hall on Highway 2, as indicated in the Carstar photo that we have provided
17 and shown you. At 10:07:53, dispatch to the scene was made and the response
18 recorded as presented.

19 Commissioners, that is the introduction to the Foundational
20 Document for Plains Road Debert.

21 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** Thank you very much, Mr.
22 Burrill. Thank you to Participants, to Participants Counsel, for everyone taking part. We
23 have shared four disturbing Foundational Documents this week, 2328 Hunter Road,
24 Highway 4 Wentworth, Highway 4 Glenholme, Plains Road, in an effort to give the
25 public a overview of what took place in those various locations. Of course, the
26 Foundational Documents are much more detailed than the overview and the
27 Foundational Documents refer to all of the various source materials, which as I've
28 indicated I believe in my opening remarks and since then, you can see on our website,

1 but at your pace because they are difficult. We've heard from RCMP officers and from
2 civilian witness yesterday. We thank all of them for their attendance and helping us as
3 Commissioners.

4 In the coming weeks, we will be sharing more Foundational
5 Documents. You can see what is coming up in the calendar on our website, where you
6 can also, as I've said, register to attend the proceedings, and you can sign up for
7 regular updates. On the screen you can see the Foundational Documents in darker
8 colour that we have presented and those yet to come.

9 Next week, proceedings -- public proceedings will be paused, but
10 we will continue our investigation, finalizing the Foundational Documents yet to come,
11 preparing to hear from witnesses, and preparing for our Phase 2 proceedings. When
12 we resume on April 11th, we anticipate sharing more Foundational Documents and
13 hearing from more witnesses.

14 We have a lot more work to do to fully understand what happened
15 and why it happened and what findings and recommendations we can share to help
16 communities safer.

17 I just want to say that our hearts go out to those families. We
18 discussed them today and last week. As I said in my opening remarks, as challenging
19 as this may be for counsel for the Commissioners for the Commission teams, we're --
20 we are on the very lucky side of this equation and our hearts and prayers and thoughts
21 are always with those most affected.

22 Thank you, and we'll adjourn until the 11th of April at 9:30. Thank
23 you, again.

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

25 The proceedings are adjourned until April the 11th, 2022 at
26 9:30 a.m.

27 --- Upon adjourning at 11:31 a.m.

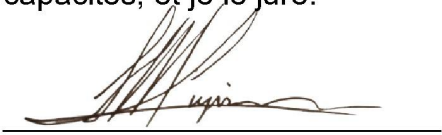
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CERTIFICATION

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-hautes sont une transcription conforme de mes notes/enregistrements au meilleur de mes capacités, et je le jure.



Sandrine Marineau-Lupien