

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

Mr. Jamie VanWart

Commission Counsel /
Conseiller de la commission

Ms. Anna Mancini

Commission Counsel /
Conseillère de la commission

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Halifax, Nova Scotia

--- Upon commencing on Monday, April 11th, 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 FITCH: Hello, and welcome. Bonjour et bienvenue. We join you from Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq. Before we begin, we remember those whose lives were taken or harmed, their families, and all those affected by the April 2020 mass casualty in Nova Scotia.

This week, we will continue our work to understand the events of April 18th and 19th, 2020. Together, we are building our knowledge piece by piece, document by document, and witness by witness. This is part of the first phase of our work focussed on what happened. Some key issues may have become apparent to you during the proceedings to date, whether through Foundational Documents, witness questioning, or Participant submissions. In some cases, it may have prompted you to wonder about other related topics, and that is a good thing.

We all share many questions about how and why this mass casualty happened the way that it did, and we appreciate your patience as we pursue answers to existing questions and discover new questions to ask along the way. We encourage you to continue to think about the kind of recommendations for change you would like to see based on this public inquiry. In the coming months, we will be asking you to share your suggestions for recommendations to the Commission.

Today, Commission Counsel will present two more Foundational Documents sharing our current understanding of what happened at the Onslow Belmont Fire Brigade Hall and at the Shubenacadie Cloverleaf. A reminder, that the Foundational Documents being shared during proceedings are not intended to be the final word on what happened. Rather, they are the Commission's best understanding of

1 facts and events based on the information we have gathered to date. The presentations
2 of these Foundational Documents are designed to be an overview for the public of this
3 understanding.

4 We will continue to provide Participants with the opportunity to
5 identify any meaningful gaps or material disputed facts, along with any further
6 information they feel would be required to address them. As new information becomes
7 known through these proceedings and our ongoing investigations, it will inform our
8 understanding of what happened.

9 Today, we will hear from Darrell Currie, Greg Muise, and Richard
10 Ellison as a witness panel. Greg Muise is the Onslow Fire Chief, and Darrell Currie is
11 the Deputy Fire Chief. Mr. Richard Ellison is a resident of Portapique and the father of
12 Corrie Ellison. All were present at the fire hall in Onslow on April 19th, 2020.

13 I now ask Commission Counsel to begin today's proceedings with
14 the presentation on the Foundational Document about the events in Onslow. Thank
15 you.

16 Mr. Burrill?

17 **--- INTRODUCTION OF FOUNDATION DOCUMENT ONSLOW BELMONT FIRE**

18 **BRIGADE HALL:**

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

20 **MR. ROGER BURRILL:** Commissioners, Participants, Nova
21 Scotians, Canadians, and of course those beyond our borders who have been impacted
22 by the mass casualty of April 18th-19th, 2020.

23 You will be hearing over the course of this week the introduction of
24 four more Foundational Documents. We will be introducing the Onslow Belmont Fire
25 Brigade Hall Foundational Document, the Shubenacadie Foundational Documents
26 today. On Wednesday, we will be introducing the Highway 224 Foundational
27 Document, and then the Enfield Big Stop Foundational Document. So that moves us
28 chronologically along from early in Portapique through to the neutralisation, the end of

1 the process with respect to the perpetrator at Big Field, sorry, Enfield Big Stop.

2 I've got some good news for you, I won't be presenting them all.

3 My colleague will be presenting two of these, such that you won't have to listen to me as
4 much as you have in the past.

5 The Commission has traced the information on a roughly
6 chronological basis. As a quick, perhaps unnecessary review, we've introduced you to
7 Portapique information in the four Foundational Documents regarding the April 18th
8 incidents from a number of perspectives. Hunter Road, we have discussed. The
9 Highway 4 in Wentworth matter, we discussed the Highway 4 Glenholme matter, and
10 then we finished off March 31st with the Plains Road/Debert Foundational Document.

11 So we have roughly traced up to this point the timing from about
12 10:00 p.m. on April 18th, 2020, to just over 10:00 a.m. on April 19th, 2020. So we now
13 move on to the matter at the Onslow Belmont Fire Brigade, and the information that I
14 am going to be introducing or summarising is discussed in much more detail of course
15 in the Foundational Document. Commissioner Fitch has reminded you of the role of
16 Foundational Documents. I need not go over that again, as I have done originally.

17 Now, this presentation does not involve any fatalities. That's a
18 good thing. It does, however, discuss a near miss situation that has had a severe and
19 significant impact on the community in Lower Onslow, Onslow, Nova Scotia.

20 In the midst of an unprecedented manhunt, two RCMP members
21 discharged five rounds from their carbines in the direction of a marked RCMP vehicle
22 and a community fire hall. There were seven people, I would say, that were directly
23 impacted by this. Fire Chief Muise, Deputy Fire Chief Currie, and Richard Ellison were
24 inside the fire hall at the time of this incident. That's three people. Two people were
25 outside the fire hall at the time of this incident, the discharge of the firearms, EMO
26 Coordinator David Westlake and Constable Gagnon of the RCMP. Five people. And
27 there were, of course, the two officers, Officer Terry Brown -- Constable Terry Brown,
28 and Constable David or Dave Melanson of the Bible Hill detachment, who were involved

1 in this matter directly.

2 But as I have intimated, no doubt this incident has had a lasting
3 impact on the community, its sense of safety, as well as its people's relationship with
4 law enforcement. We will discuss all of these facts and what occurred as best as the
5 Commission knows it in the upcoming few moments.

6 So Madam Registrar, I would move to mark and tender
7 Foundational Document, entitled Onslow Belmont Fire Brigade Hall, into evidence in
8 these proceedings.

9 **REGISTRAR DARLENE SUTHERLAND:** It's Exhibit 496.

10 **--- EXHIBIT NO. 496**

11 Foundational Document - Onslow Belmont Fire Brigade Hall

12 **MR. ROGER BURRILL:** Thank you. I also move to mark and
13 tender all supporting material associated with Exhibit 496 in evidence in these
14 proceedings.

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

16 **MR. ROGER BURRILL:** So as indicated, subject matter of the
17 inquiry today is the information currently available to the Mass Casualty Commission in
18 relation to the events at Onslow Belmont Fire Brigade Hall, located at 12355 Highway 2,
19 Onslow, Nova Scotia. Commissioners, this is that introduction.

20 When we were last here on May -- March 31st, there was the
21 discussion of Plains Road in Debert, and at the tail end of that discussion we had
22 moved the perpetrator from Debert into the Lower Onslow area.

23 And this is just a reminder geographically of where we are in terms
24 of that location. The 104, I have -- we have located again for you, you're familiar with
25 the TransCanada by now.

26 The Highway 2 runs south. That's the old highway we've discussed
27 as well. It's co-designated with the Highway 4 at this particular location between the
28 turnoff to Portapique and the 102 Highway in the east.

1 The Plains Road we have indicated here in the north in Debert
2 where the incident involving Kristen Beaton and Heather O'Brien occurred, and then the
3 Macelmon Road connects the Plains Road through to the Highway 2-4 underneath Exit
4 13 of the 104.

5 March 31st, we discussed the location of the perpetrator at
6 10:06:35 at Carstar Collision and introduced the photo you will see in the top right, what
7 looks to be a marked police vehicle travelling easterly towards Truro on that highway.

8 Carstar Collision, as indicated, is 650 metres west of the Onslow
9 Belmont Fire Brigade Hall. The Onslow Belmont Fire Brigade Hall is approximately 7.5
10 kilometres from the homicide scene at 1541 Plains Road in Debert.

11 I'll now bring you in a little closer to show you an aerial view of the
12 Onslow Belmont Fire Brigade Hall and where it's situated. It's on the north side of
13 Highway 2-Highway 4 at the intersection roughly of McKinley Road. McKinley Road
14 goes to the northwest and eventually turns into the Belmont Road that goes towards
15 Belmont such that the communities of Lower Onslow, Onslow, Belmont amalgamate,
16 obviously, in this particular area such that you have this community which is, perhaps --
17 I don't want to overstate it, but you have the community fire hall which is a focus of
18 those communities in that area.

19 The Onslow Fire Brigade is a building that's a large building. You
20 can see from its footprint on the -- on the screen that it's a significant area. It has a
21 significant parking area on the front of it.

22 The Foundational Document describes it as a roughly rectangular
23 footprint. There is an indentation or a recess in the front entrance area.

24 This slide will give you maybe a little better sense of this. It's a
25 closer look at the layout of the Onslow Belmont Fire Brigade Hall in relation to Highway
26 2, an aerial photo from August of 2021. We're looking easterly or north-easterly.

27 You can see the parking lot and the side of the parking lot that
28 location. You can see on the lefthand side of the photo a three-bay garage with an

1 additional fourth garage door at the western end of the building. You will also see on
2 the eastern end at the far end a building. You will see four windows that are in the
3 community or the fire hall portion of the building.

4 And at the bottom left of the photograph, we have tagged the
5 electronic sign, and that is -- you can see relatively clearly here that there's an
6 electronic notice board at the western end of the parking lot that will have some
7 significance in terms of the narrative as we speak about it, so situating the parking lot,
8 the building which is composed of a large garage bay door area, a community hall to the
9 east connected by a building in the middle with an indentation in the entrance area.

10 So on April 19th, 2020, the Onslow Belmont Fire Brigade was
11 designated as a comfort centre for evacuees from Portapique. Those arrangements
12 were made by the EMO, the Emergency Measures Office, in consultation with the
13 RCMP, who were at that stage operating out of the control -- or the command post in
14 the Great Village fire hall.

15 David Westlake is the Emergency Measures Organization
16 coordinator for -- Emergency Measures Office coordinator for the Municipality of
17 Colchester County. He was contacted around 6:00 in the morning, or thereabouts. He
18 made arrangements to facilitate the comfort centre at this location.

19 Constable David Gagnon was assigned security detail
20 responsibilities for the comfort centre early that morning at around 6 o'clock as well. He
21 arrived at the comfort centre at around 8:25. When he arrived there, Mr. Westlake was
22 there as well as the Chief and the Deputy Chief.

23 Now, Constable Gagnon actually arrived from Pictou County. He
24 was working or doing extra work in light of the Portapique matter. He arrived from
25 Stellarton and the Pictou County detachment at the Great Village fire hall at around 8:00
26 a.m. He reported to that location. He was shown a photograph of the perpetrator,
27 shown a photograph of the police vehicle, the 28B11 vehicle, and was assigned his
28 responsibility to go to the Onslow fire hall, Belmont fire hall, to conduct security detail.

1 Staff Sergeant MacCullum at the command post had originally
2 assigned two members to go to the location and act as security at the comfort station.
3 Constable Arsenault, also a member of the Stellarton detachment, was arranged to go
4 with Constable Gagnon.

5 As it would be, when Lisa Banfield emerged from the wooded area
6 in Portapique around 6:30 in the morning, Constable Arsenault was reassigned to
7 escort Lisa Banfield to the hospital such that that left Constable Gagnon to assume
8 security responsibilities on his own at that location in Onslow.

9 The photograph before you now is a direct view of the Onslow
10 Belmont Fire Brigade hall. You're now looking directly north into the garage bay area
11 and to the indented recess of the entrance area, and on the right the hall or the
12 community hall.

13 At 8:33:31 a.m., Constable Gagnon radioed to Staff Sergeant
14 MacCullum, the person who had assigned him, that the comfort station was open and
15 ready to go, and that was acknowledged by Staff Sergeant MacCullum from his position
16 at that point at the command post in Great Village.

17 So Constable Gagnon, in terms of taking on his security
18 responsibilities, backed his marked police vehicle right up to the front or almost up to
19 the front entrance of the comfort station. He describes in his interviews with the RCMP
20 and with the Mass Casualty Commission that there were three vehicles there already
21 when he was set up. Three other people were there when he attended, David
22 Westlake, as I referred to, Chief Muise, and Deputy Chief Currie.

23 Constable Gagnon reports that he went in to meet with them,
24 discuss what was happening generally, what his role was, and he returned to his vehicle
25 to monitor the radio, conduct surveillance and await arrival of evacuees. So he, at that
26 stage, returns to the vehicle that's situated in the parking lot in the manner you see it in
27 this photograph.

28 So the next slide that has been presented here is an overall view of

1 what took place in the early morning -- or sorry, in the mid-morning, but early activity at
2 the fire hall. And it's essentially an attempt to isolate some times of significance for you.

3 At 9:40 a.m., the first group of evacuees attended at the location of
4 the comfort station. These were folks that decided that they would leave and come
5 back perhaps later. These were evacuees from Portapique.

6 At 9:42 a.m., the fateful call that we've discussed before was heard
7 over the radio by Constable Gagnon, that is, the call about the shooting of Lillian
8 Campbell in Wentworth, indicating very clearly that the perpetrator was active at that
9 time in Cumberland County.

10 At 9:50 a.m., Constable Gagnon became aware of the perpetrator's
11 new location in Glenholm via the radio.

12 At 10:03 a.m., Richard Ellison attended the comfort station in his
13 car. Richard Ellison, of course, was the father of Corrie Ellison, the father of Clinton
14 Ellison, who spent the night in the -- in the woods in Portapique. Corrie Ellison, of
15 course, who died that night.

16 At 10:07, David Westlake and Cst Gagnon, at various times and
17 locations, interacted with Mr. Ellison in the parking lot and David Westlake made a
18 noticeable observation with respect to an RCMP vehicle that drove by.

19 At 10:07:53, dispatch occurs regarding the Plains Road shooting.

20 So that's the dynamic -- the setting with respect to what's going on
21 in terms of activity beyond the comfort station.

22 The Mass Casualty Commission has had an opportunity to review a
23 number of videos with respect to the activity at the Onslow Belmont Fire Brigade Hall.
24 And I propose to show a number of these videos to you in order for you to get a sense
25 of what actually occurred at that location, as is described in writing in the Foundational
26 Documents.

27 Two things are important for you in terms of the series of videos
28 that you're going to see next. The first is, is that there is a timestamp at the top. And as

1 luck or fate would have it, a lot of the activity in the videos takes place in the top left
2 corner. So the timestamp sometimes may obscure what you're seeing. We're of the
3 view that it doesn't obscure it entirely, but you have to notice what you're seeing with
4 that timestamp there. It's annoying, but it doesn't cause you a problem not to
5 understand what's happening.

6 The second thing about the timestamps is that they're 10 minutes
7 fast. So every time you see something that says 10:12, that's 10:02, 10:20, that's
8 10:10.

9 So those are the two things of importance here.

10 What I propose to do is play for you the initial happenings of
11 significance at the comfort station at 10:12:48 to 10:14, a duration of about a minute and
12 12 seconds, which is actually 10:02:48 to 10:04.

13 We will see a vehicle pull into the comfort station from the west.
14 This is Richard Ellison. We will then see the EMO coordinator, David Westlake, initially
15 engage with Richard Ellison. David Westlake is dressed in an orange/yellow high
16 visibility safety vest. That, of course, is of some significance to what takes place later in
17 the narrative.

18 After Mr. Westlake contacts and communicates with Mr. Ellison, Cst
19 Gagnon emerges from his police vehicle, as you will see parked in the top left corner.
20 And then he too engages in some discussion with Mr. Ellison.

21 We will then see Cst Gagnon return to his vehicle.

22 Cst Gagnon is identifiable, of course, because he's wearing a full
23 RCMP uniform, yellow striped pants, that which you expect to see from an RCMP officer
24 who engaged in his responsibilities.

25 So that summary that I'm giving you to, I wish to play now. It's
26 about a minute, a little over a minute.

27 **[VIDEO PLAYBACK]**

28 So while it is not tremendously exciting or action packed at this

1 stage, it does give you the sense of the three actors that are engaging at this point;
2 Westlake, Gagnon, and Ellison in the parking lot. At the conclusion of the video clip, at
3 10:04, Mr. Ellison is in his car, Cst Gagnon has gone back to his police vehicle and is on
4 the driver's side of the vehicle, David Westlake is still present in the parking lot.

5 Now, approximately a minute later, at 10:04:59, Cst Gagnon returns
6 to the Ellison vehicle to speak with Mr. Ellison. Presumably their discussion is over
7 evacuation concerns, placement, things of that nature, what Mr. Ellison's plans are.

8 David Westlake is standing by during this conversation. Gagnon
9 engages with Mr. Ellison. Mr. Westlake is less engaged, and that may be entirely due
10 to COVID protocols at the early stage. He seems to be routinely six feet, if not more,
11 back. This is a clip of 21 seconds moving the narrative along.

12 **[VIDEO PLAYBACK]**

13 At 10:07 to 10:07:33, the next 33 second clip, you will see and
14 notice at the top of your screen, Cst Gagnon is still at the Ellison vehicle, still engaged in
15 conversation with him. David Westlake is standing nearby and then walks away.

16 **[VIDEO PLAYBACK]**

17 So you'll notice the movement of Mr. Westlake. You'll notice that
18 Cst Gagnon is engaged with Mr. Ellison. But something else has happened significantly
19 in that clip. At 10:17:05, what appears to be a fully marked police vehicle emerges from
20 the right-hand side, travelling from the west to the east of the screen, and slides through
21 the screen to the east, to the left side of the screen.

22 David Westlake, at 10:17:20, returns to a vehicle in the parking lot,
23 but it would appear at that stage that there is no response or activity to the vehicle that
24 has just driven by on Highway 2. So I'll show that to you again.

25 **[VIDEO PLAYBACK]**

26 On April 20th, 2020, David Westlake was interviewed by RCMP
27 investigators and he indicated that he noticed what appeared to be a fully marked
28 RCMP police vehicle drive by as he was in the position described or seen in the video.

1 He said that it had RCMP markings and he noticed that it had a push bar. He said there
2 was such a large presence that he didn't think anything or he didn't think much about it
3 at that time.

4 Cst Gagnon did not notice the vehicle go by, as he was engaged
5 with Mr. Ellison at the time.

6 The next clip will depict Cst Gagnon returning to the front of his
7 police vehicle after speaking with Mr. Ellison. This, I remind you, is after the replica
8 police vehicle has proceeded by. This is a 20 second -- 27 second clip.

9 **[VIDEO PLAYBACK]**

10 So Cst Gagnon, at the front of his vehicle at this stage.

11 Next clip is about 40 seconds. Once again, I'll ask you to pay
12 attention to the top left of the screen. At this stage, we are going to see
13 Constable Gagnon get into the driver's side of the vehicle. David Westlake then
14 approaches Constable Gagnon, and they converse, and then David Westlake enters the
15 firehall. Richard Ellison remains stationary in the vehicle in the location that he is. This
16 is a 40-second clip.

17 **[VIDEO PLAYBACK]**

18 **MR. ROGER BURRILL:** Westlake in to the fire hall, Gagnon in his
19 vehicle, Ellison remains in the car.

20 At 10:24, or 10:14:41, this is about five minutes ahead in time,
21 Constable Gagnon returns once again to the Ellison vehicle. Gagnon then returns once
22 again to his police vehicle, and then Mr. Ellison parks his car at the front of the parking
23 lot.

24 **[VIDEO PLAYBACK]**

25 **MR. ROGER BURRILL:** Not 46, obviously; 26 seconds.

26 At this point, Mr. Ellison is in his parking -- parked in his car,
27 Mr. Westlake is inside the fire hall, and Constable Gagnon is in his marked RCMP
28 vehicle.

1 The next slide will show you over a period of 16 seconds Mr. Ellison
2 exiting his vehicle and walking or making his way towards the entrance of the comfort
3 station.

4 **[VIDEO PLAYBACK]**

5 **MR. ROGER BURRILL:** So in real time, at 10:16:03,
6 Constable Gagnon is in his police vehicle, Richard Ellison has entered the firehall, and
7 David Westlake is still inside the firehall.

8 I'm going to switch camera views for you at this stage, a little
9 clearer, a little closer. This is the interior lobby foyer photo, sorry, camera. Almost a
10 minute after Richard Ellison enters the firehall, we see David Westlake exit the firehall.

11 **[VIDEO PLAYBACK]**

12 **MR. ROGER BURRILL:** So you'll notice how Mr. Westlake is
13 dressed. He is wearing his toque, he has the high visibility yellow and orange vest on.

14 At 10:26:57, or 10:16:57, we go back to the exterior view outside of
15 the fire brigade again. At the top left of the screen, you will notice David Westlake exit
16 the firehall, approach the Constable Gagnon police vehicle, and then David Westlake
17 stands on the driver's side of the Gagnon vehicle for some period of time. So this is a
18 quick clip, about 10 seconds, showing Westlake go to the police vehicle, where
19 obviously some pivotal events take place.

20 **[VIDEO PLAYBACK]**

21 **MR. ROGER BURRILL:** So simultaneously, as that action is
22 occurring, Constables Terry Brown and Dave Melanson of the Bible Hill detachment
23 General Investigative Section, are driving along Highway 2 from the west towards the
24 firehall. They're coming from the Masstown way. They had just come down Masstown
25 Road, travelling south, after hearing about the Plains Road shooting, and had turned left
26 onto Highway 2/Highway 4, and headed east towards Truro.

27 Now, it's really important to contextualise Constable Melanson and
28 Constable Brown's situation at this time. That is, you will recall from previous

1 Foundational Documents that Constables Brown and Melanson were the officers that
2 were involved in interviewing Lisa Banfield on her emergence from the wooded area
3 around Portapique that -- earlier that morning. So they had received some disturbing
4 information from Lisa Banfield that they immediately reported to the command post. In
5 particular, they became aware at that time about the presence of a fully-marked police
6 vehicle with the perpetrator at that time.

7 But not only had those two officers been the people to investigate
8 or speak with Lisa Banfield, but at 9:32:30, when that call came about what took place
9 in Wentworth, those officers responded to Wentworth, and they also heard the
10 information about the Glenholme interruption, whereby they responded with a number of
11 other officers to Glenholme. They had responded as well to the Plains Road call, and
12 you'll recall that from March 31st when we discussed how that took place, and they
13 headed east on Plains Road after the call came in and then decided that there was
14 enough sufficient response by ERT or other police investigators that they should
15 perhaps take another route in an effort to search for the perpetrator. So instead of
16 going straight through to Plains Road, they turned right at the Masstown.

17 You'll recall the Masstown Road and Angelina Pizzeria that we've
18 discussed earlier as well, that goes south. They went south. They made an effort to
19 check out some of the structures there. They went behind the West Colchester hockey
20 rink, looked in the parking lot, made observations, didn't see the perpetrator, and then
21 continued on. Constable Melanson said that he was relatively or quite familiar with the
22 area, Constable Brown less so.

23 They had known at that stage by radio transmission that not only
24 was the complaint at Plains Road but there had been the discovery of the two victims at
25 that location. So that's the context for Constables Brown and Melanson. They get to
26 the bottom of Masstown Road, they turn left, and head towards Truro.

27 As they head towards Truro, they, of course, pass CARSTAR, and
28 they head towards the comfort station in this case. They arrive from the west in their

1 unmarked brown Nissan Ultima. They were aware that the perpetrator was operating a
2 fully-marked police vehicle and was wearing a high-visibility orange vest.

3 Constables Brown and Melanson reported, in their interviews with
4 RCMP and with the Mass Casualty Commission, seeing the police vehicle parked
5 perpendicular in the parking lot of the firehall. They report at that time that they saw a
6 man with a high-visibility orange vest behind the vehicle. They stopped their vehicle.
7 Forensic information taken from the SiRT report indicates that it was -- they stopped
8 about 88 metres west of the entranceway to the building.

9 They report that they thought at that point they had located the
10 perpetrator. They report speaking to each other directly and saying, "That's him." They
11 report that they exited their vehicle and went behind to their vehicle and drew and had
12 their weapons drawn.

13 Constable Brown reports yelling towards the parking lot, towards
14 the person in the vest, "Show me your hands" twice. The members report seeing the
15 man duck behind the vehicle and run towards the firehall.

16 They also recall, or I would ask you to recall that, in accordance
17 with the video that we've seen, the perpetrator had actually travelled past this location
18 about 10 minutes earlier. Constable Brown said in his interview with the Mass Casualty
19 Commission that he thought the man was going to kill him and/or kill others, and he
20 indicated in his interview with the Mass Casualty Commission that he, himself, did not
21 know that the Onslow Belmont Fire Brigade hall was being used as a comfort station, so
22 all of those factors going together to what happened net.

23 I'll take you back to the video here at 10:31, or 10:21. This is a
24 relatively short clip, 13 seconds. I'll direct your attention to the top left again of the
25 screen.

26 You will notice some behaviour by Mr. Westlake. This is behaviour
27 that takes place as five rounds from the carbines of Constable Brown and Melanson are
28 discharged in his direction.

1 I'm going to show you the 13-second clip now. Once again, top left
2 corner.

3 **[VIDEO PLAYBACK]**

4 **MR. ROGER BURRILL:** I think it's worth seeing again because it's
5 relatively quick.

6 Mr. Westlake leaves from the back of the vehicle after the shots are
7 fired and goes to the entrance.

8 **[VIDEO PLAYBACK]**

9 **MR. ROGER BURRILL:** Constable Westlake -- excuse me, David
10 Westlake, the EMO coordinator, reported that he noticed a car coming from the west
11 and slowed down. He recalls hearing the words "Get down" and then he recalls the
12 loud report of shots.

13 He ran to the entrance and made his way into the building.

14 Constable Gagnon, in his interviews, described that he was seated
15 in the police vehicle. He recalls seeing two uniformed officers pull up in the middle of
16 the road coming from the west. He says that he thought that he recognized one of
17 those members as a police member, but he assumed that they were setting up a
18 roadblock at that location.

19 The next video or the next slide will show you the camera from
20 inside the foyer of the comfort station at this time at 10:21:37. And it will show you Mr.
21 Westlake entering the front of the building after he's heard the shots and is making
22 evasive actions. It will also show from the righthand side what we believe is Deputy
23 Chief Currie running from the radio room or the area of the radio room in the -- in the
24 facility to take cover.

25 This is an 11-second clip.

26 **[VIDEO PLAYBACK]**

27 **MR. ROGER BURRILL:** The video shows Mr. Westlake running in.
28 He actually drops his radio. He has the presence of mind to pick it up under those

1 circumstances and move into the back of the community hall area of the fire hall.

2 It looks like Deputy Chief Currie is coming from the western side of
3 the building as well and he, too, makes the same evasive manoeuvre.

4 So right at the time of the shooting, as I indicated at the start,
5 Gagnon and Westlake are outside, but Deputy Chief Currie, Chief Muise and Richard
6 Ellison are inside, of course, with no information with respect to what's going on except
7 what we see at this stage and what they would have heard.

8 At 10:21:30, we hear the following dispatch from Constable
9 Gagnon, who is seated in the vehicle outside of the comfort station.

10 **[AUDIO PLAYBACK]**

11 **MR. ROGER BURRILL:** Constable Gagnon obviously indicating
12 over the radio the concern that he has with respect to what's actually occurred, the
13 jeopardy that he's been in placed in. Difficult to determine who "Jason" is and who
14 "Corporal Comeau" is. We're of the view that Corporal Comeau is the J Division or the
15 New Brunswick Division ERT member, and Jason is an unidentified member of the
16 Halifax Division RCMP. Not entirely sure on that. It doesn't really matter given the
17 context here.

18 Corporal Mills, you will be familiar with, is the ERT team leader.
19 And it's so interesting, his response at the bottom, "Everybody take a deep breath".

20 I can say from reviewing a great deal of materials that very many
21 members who listened to the radio on that day recall the expression "Everybody take a
22 deep breath".

23 The next clip from 10:21:50 to 10:21:53 is three seconds long, very
24 short. It, at the top left of your screen, will depict what happens with Constable Gagnon.

25 You'll see where Constable Gagnon emerges from his vehicle and
26 appears to raise his hands up after the shots are fired. Constable Gagnon, in a report
27 filed on April 19th, the day of the incident, said that he repeatedly yelled his vehicle
28 identification number of 30B6, the effort being to contrast it entirely with the identification

1 number of 28B11 that you will know is the number from the mock replica cruiser.

2 **[VIDEO PLAYBACK]**

3 **MR. ROGER BURRILL:** This next clip shows Constable Gagnon
4 emerge from the vehicle, check the entrance to the fire hall, and then you will see
5 Constable Melanson, one of the shooters. He will emerge from the righthand side of the
6 clip and come towards Constable Melanson. They consult for a short period -- sorry,
7 Constable Gagnon.

8 They consult for a short period of time. Constable Melanson
9 checks the eastern side of the building and then he and Constable Gagnon together
10 enter the entrance of the comfort station at this time. It's a 47-second clip.

11 **[VIDEO PLAYBACK]**

12 **MR. ROGER BURRILL:** Constables Melanson and Gagnon at this
13 point together enter into the comfort station.

14 Once again, we'll go back to the interior camera, and you see the
15 following.

16 **[VIDEO PLAYBACK]**

17 **MR. ROGER BURRILL:** The clips shows Constable Gagnon and
18 Constable Melanson enter into the foyer area of the comfort station, Gagnon first,
19 followed by Melanson. Reports indicate that they asked or -- whether everybody was
20 okay, "Is anybody hurt?". This is information coming from the report of Constable
21 Gagnon and Constable Melanson.

22 Constable Melanson was satisfied with the response, according to
23 his materials filed, and then he left. Constable Gagnon follows immediately.

24 Melanson headed west towards the vehicle. Gagnon briefly
25 encounters Constable Brown outside, and the two officers -- the two members from the
26 GIS section from Bible Hill then make their way back to their vehicle, which is still on the
27 road on the west side.

28 There were, of course, as indicated at the outset, no fatalities as a

1 result of the discharge of the firearms in this case.

2 The next three videos are going to focus on Cst Brown. Cst
3 Melanson is the person that you saw walk across the front of the parking lot and engage
4 with Cst Gagnon. The next three videos show the routing of Cst Brown. Cst Brown did
5 not go to the front of the parking lot. He went and conducted a perimeter, or
6 circumnavigated the building from the west side, around to the north side, to the east
7 side. The first clip shows a 17 second view of him going along the west side of the
8 comfort station.

9 **[VIDEO PLAYBACK]**

10 The video ends with him making the turn on to the back or the north
11 side of the Onslow Belmont Fire Brigade Hall.

12 **[VIDEO PLAYBACK]**

13 The next video is of the east side as he circumnavigates the
14 building, coming back towards the parking lot.

15 **[VIDEO PLAYBACK]**

16 It may or it may not be of some significance that the video, at least
17 at this stage, does not show any interaction by Mr. -- Cst Brown with the doors or the
18 windows of the structure. It shows him circumnavigating the structure at that time.

19 This next slide takes you back to the front of the building. When
20 Cst. Melanson exits, he's followed by Cst Gallant -- Gagnon, excuse me. There's a
21 brief interaction with Cst Brown as he comes around from the east. And then the
22 members return to the vehicle.

23 **[VIDEO PLAYBACK]**

24 So at 10:24:50, thereabouts, the two GIS members exit this view on
25 the screen, return to their vehicle, and then engage in the next phase of their
26 involvement.

27 This is the text from the Colchester radio dispatch at 10:34:04. A
28 call comes in about shooting at the Onslow Belmont Fire Brigade Hall.

1 **[AUDIO PLAYBACK]**
2 The context of that dispatch is relatively clear. There was a call,
3 the complaint made, and the recognition by Cst Brown at that time to disregard because
4 it was police rounds. "That was ours." Cst Clarke, a member of the ERT team, decides
5 that he can undertake to check it out at that time, confirmed by the team leader, Cpl
6 Mills.

7 Cst Brown, in his Mass Casualty Commission interview, indicated
8 that while he was driving east towards Truro, he made the effort to contact S/Sgt Carroll
9 in the -- his superior in terms of the line of command. S/Sgt Carroll then communicated
10 with him. Cst Brown indicated that he told him about the blue-on-blue incident and he
11 said that S/Sgt Carroll advised him to continue on.

12 S/Sgt Carroll, in his interview with the Mass Casualty Commission
13 reported that he knew of the blue-on-blue incident, but didn't know exactly where it was
14 at that time. He instructed Cst Brown and Melanson to continue on, given the need for
15 person power at that stage and the dynamic situation.

16 Cst Gagnon reports that shortly after the dispatch of the shooting at
17 the fire hall, he watched as the ERT truck attended shortly thereafter. It stopped on the
18 road to the west, roughly in the approximate location that the brown Nissan Altima had
19 stopped. He acknowledged his presence, acknowledged his car ID. The ERT
20 members signalled to him and then acknowledged his existence and then drove on.

21 So that's generally the narrative with respect to what took place at
22 the Onslow that the Mass Casualty Commission information available at this stage has.

23 I just wish to provide for you a little bit of pictorial representation
24 with respect to where those bullets went from the five carbine shots.

25 This is the slide showing two bullet holes in the middle garage bay
26 door on the west side of the building. You'll see the midline window. Above it on the
27 right side is a bullet hole just by the shadow. And right in the middle below the midline
28 window is a bullet hole as well. Two bullet holes in that front window.

1 One of those bullets penetrated the door, went into the left -- right
2 front fender of the firetruck inside the bay. You can see from the right photograph
3 where the bullet hole entered. It then went into the engine block of the firetruck.

4 The second bullet hole went through the windshield of the firetruck,
5 then into the dash of the firetruck and out the driver's side quarter window, and then the
6 piece of projectile was located by the forensic identification officers on the bay floor.

7 A third vehicle -- a third projectile was traced to have gone through
8 that electric sign at the western corner of the parking lot that I had described earlier.
9 This sign originally said, in complete keeping with COVID protocols at the time:

10 "Everyone remember to wash your hands." (As read)

11 The sign went through the -- the bullet went through the "b",
12 roughly, in the word "remember", as depicted here in the photo.

13 The bullet also went off the granite monument in the entranceway
14 to the firehall. The granite memorial shows bullet hole damage there. You can also see
15 shrapnel damage on the western side of the eastern portion of the hall building in the
16 siding there.

17 As well, there's a bullet hole shown on that slide as well, accounting
18 for, from the forensic identification services investigation, for five bullets having been
19 discharged.

20 This is a similar view to what we looked at earlier in the
21 presentation. It shows a view from the west on Highway 2. It was taken by Cst Gagnon
22 on April 19th, 2020 in an effort to depict where he was of the view the vehicle was when
23 it stopped and the shots were discharged.

24 You should note that five expended casings were found on the
25 south side of the road in the ditch. Actually, four in the ditch, one on the shoulder, in
26 this area. Cst Gagnon made note of where one of those casings was and marked it for
27 purposes of forensic identification.

28 From this view, you can see, ahead in the distance on the left, the

1 sign. You can see the bay doors, also ahead a little further on the right. You can see
2 Cst Gagnon's police vehicle in the distance. And also, the monument that was struck
3 by the bullet.

4 This approximate distance from this location to the monument, as
5 mentioned earlier, is about 88 metres. From this location to the electric sign, electronic
6 sign, it's about 34 metres.

7 The perpetrator moved east towards Truro on this morning. At
8 10:08:29, he was seen passing by 13077 Highway 2. This is a residence at that
9 location, and the video is quick. Top right along the top of the screen you'll see what
10 looks like a marked police vehicle.

11 **[VIDEO PLAYBACK]**

12 **MR. ROGER BURRILL:** Second view from that same residence at
13 13077 Highway 2, 10:12:26, canvas showed that the time was 4 minutes fast. At
14 10:08:26, therefore, we see the vehicle passing by at the top of the screen.

15 **[VIDEO PLAYBACK]**

16 **MR. ROGER BURRILL:** Next slide shows you where the
17 perpetrator is from 13077 Highway 2 compared to Onslow-Belmont Firehall and what
18 we have described also shows you the proximity to the more urban area of Bible Hill
19 and Truro as the perpetrator heads in that direction.

20 As is routine in wrapping up these presentations, a few times of
21 significance for purposes of just placing things and situating them in time and space. At
22 8:33 a.m., the Onslow-Belmont Fire Brigade Hall was established as a comfort centre.
23 At 10:07, the EMO Coordinator David Westlake sees an RCMP vehicle with a black
24 push-bar drive by heading east. He does not appreciate the significance of that. At
25 10:20, Constable Melanson's -- Constables Melanson and Brown discharge 5 rounds
26 from their carbines towards the Onslow-Belmont Fire Brigade Hall, striking the building
27 and a sign. At 10:21:40, Constable Gagnon makes a dispatch to the effect of who are
28 you shooting at. At 10:34, the OCC dispatched a broadcast about shots fired at

1 Onslow. At 10:34:23, Constable Brown confirmed that it is police rounds and continues
2 on in the dynamic situation.

3 The perpetrator continued to move on. My colleague this afternoon
4 will pick up the narrative as part of the Shubenacadie Foundational Document
5 introduction.

6 Commissioners, this completes the introduction of the Foundational
7 Document the Onslow-Belmont Fire Brigade Hall.

8 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** Thank you very much, Mr.
9 Burrill. We will now take a 15-minute break to set up, at which time we will hear from
10 Mr. Ellison, Chief Muise, and Deputy Chief Currie. Thank you very much.

11 **REGISTRAR DARLENE SUTHERLAND:** Thank you. The
12 proceedings are now on break and will resume in 15 minutes.

13 --- Upon breaking at 10:33 a.m.

14 --- Upon resuming at 10:54 a.m.

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

17 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** Thank you. Mr. VanWart?

18 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** Good morning. My name is Jamie
19 VanWart. I'm part of the Commission Counsel team and I will be the presenting
20 Commission Counsel for this phase of the proceedings this morning. At this point in the
21 proceedings, Commission Counsel will be calling three witnesses, and these witnesses,
22 Mr. Richard Ellison, Chief Greg Muise, Deputy Chief Darrell Currie, will be appearing
23 before the Commission in a panel format. They'll be seated side-by-side on the table on
24 the stage.

25 They -- these three individuals will be speaking to the Onslow-
26 Belmont Fire Brigade Foundational Document that Mr. Burrill has presented this
27 morning and was tendered as an Exhibit 496. If you were listening to Mr. Burrill's
28 presentation, these are three individuals that were in the firehall on April 19th and will be

1 sharing with the Commission and the public their experience of being present in the hall
2 when the shots were discharged by Constables Brown and Melanson.

3 I would like to invite the three witnesses to the stage at this point. I
4 will be asking each of them to identify themselves and they will be sworn in before I
5 begin asking questions. They are just approaching the stage now, Commissioners.

6 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** Thank you.

7 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** You can have a seat, gentlemen.

8 So our first order of business, gentlemen, is to have you sworn.

9 There -- right now, there is a bible in front of Chief Muise. Perhaps you could begin by
10 just identifying yourself and spelling your last name.

11 **CHIEF GREG MUISE:** Greg Muise, Chief of the Onslow-Belmont
12 Fire Brigade. Muise, M-U-I-S-E.

13 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** And I'd ask if you could place your hand
14 on the bible and Madam Register will have you sworn.

15 **CHIEF GREG MUISE, Sworn:**

16 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** Thank you. And if you could pass the --
17 and as you have, pass it to Deputy Darrell Currie and, again, identify yourself and spell
18 your last name.

19 **DEPUTY CHIEF DARRELL CURRIE:** Darrell Currie, C-U-R-R-I-E.

20 **DEPUTY CHIEF DARRELL CURRIE, Sworn:**

21 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** And finally, Mr. Ellison, if you could
22 identify yourself, spell your last name?

23 **MR. RICHARD ELLISON:** It's Richard Ellison, E-double L-I-S-O-N,
24 and I was told to evacuate my home in Portapique around 8:30 maybe, something like
25 that, and I made my way up to the firehall.

26 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** And I will be asking you about that this
27 morning, Mr. Ellison. If at this point, if you could just listen to Madam Register, and she
28 will administer a swearing.

1 **MR. RICHARD ELLISON, Sworn:**

2 **--- EXAMINATION-IN-CHIEF BY MR. JAMIE VanWART:**

3 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** Well, thank you. The idea today is for you
4 three gentlemen to feel as comfortable as possible, and to share with the
5 Commissioners and with the public your experience of being at the Onslow-Belmont
6 Fire Brigade Hall. Some of the questions I'm going to be asking you today I expect will
7 be difficult to answer. If you need to take a break, please ask, and we can
8 accommodate that. And you have water in front of you, and I will begin. And I think my
9 first series of questions are really more directed I think at Chief Muise and Deputy Chief
10 Currie, but certainly, Mr. Ellison, if you have anything to add, please join the
11 conversation.

12 But we've heard from Mr. Burrill, who presented the Foundational
13 Document, and that document is now part of -- as an exhibit, so certainly, I'm not asking
14 you to have to re-set out what's already in that document, but perhaps you could share
15 with the public and the Commissioners just what was your experience in the morning on
16 the 19th, and just sort of maybe give a bit of a background of who you are and how you
17 became involved at being at the firehall. And I could start with you, Chief Muise.

18 **CHIEF GREG MUISE:** Okay. I am a member of the fire brigade for
19 been 40 years now. My role is chief. I've been chief for 16 years. We have roughly
20 around 40 members in our brigade. We answer roughly 150, 200 calls a year, most of
21 them are medical. We do answer probably between 30 to 35 calls on -- accident calls
22 on the highway.

23 You want me to continue on?

24 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** Well, perhaps you could introduce
25 yourself, Deputy Chief Currie, and just sort of set out your -- a short biography of how
26 you're connected to the hall.

27 **DEPUTY CHIEF DARRELL CURRIE:** Yeah, Darrell Currie, Deputy
28 Chief. I got about 25 years in with Onslow-Belmont, probably half of them as Deputy

1 Chief, off and on a couple of times.

2 Yeah, like Greg mentioned about our calls, we do medicals, we do
3 car accidents, structure fires, water rescue, off-road rescue, all kinds of fun stuff like
4 that, so...

5 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** And how did you become involved with
6 the comfort station on April 19th and what was your role?

7 **CHIEF GREG MUISE:** Are you asking...

8 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** Either can answer.

9 **CHIEF GREG MUISE:** Okay.

10 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** Yeah.

11 **CHIEF GREG MUISE:** I approximately got a call between 7:00 and
12 quarter after 7:00, my first call, from EMO, Dave Westlake. I missed the first call; I was
13 probably in the washroom at the time. I happened to come out and noticed that Dave
14 had called so I called him back and he'd asked me, "if we could use your hall as a
15 comfort zone for the people in Portapique?" He said he would fill me in when I got
16 there. And that was probably roughly around 8 o'clock when I went off to meet Dave.

17 At that time, I didn't know what was going on in Portapique. I never
18 heard nothing that night; I was in bed around 10 o'clock that night, I think it was, which I
19 had no idea what was going on in Portapique at the time; Dave filled me in a little bit
20 when I got to the hall. And I -- at the time, before I left home, I called Deputy Chief
21 Darrell Currie if he could attend with me at the Fire Hall. It was going to be open for a
22 comfort zone for Portapique, and which Darrell did arrive, so...

23 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** Okay.

24 So Deputy Chief Currie, is operating a comfort station something
25 that you've done at the Fire Hall before?

26 **DEPUTY CHIEF DARRELL CURRIE:** Yeah, periodically we open
27 the hall as a comfort station for -- if there's power outages in the area. That's usually --
28 usually the main reason. We would be used as an evacuation centre if we had forest

1 fire in the area, people needed to evacuate their homes. We generally coordinate all
2 that with EMO but it's, you know, I think that's the first time we've set up a comfort
3 station for something like this

4 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** Okay. So on April 19th, perhaps the
5 timeframe I'm looking at is before Mr. Ellison arrived, prior to 10:00 a.m., and you both
6 arrived at the hall. Can you just share with the Commissioners what your role was and
7 what your experience was in that timeframe?

8 **CHIEF GREG MUISE:** At the time when we landed there, our role
9 was just to open up the Fire Hall for EMO, Dave Westlake. We're kind of there just kind
10 of a comfort for Dave if he needed anything, we're there to help. But as far as us doing
11 anything, that wasn't in our job to help on that side of it, unless he asked.

12 So we had a call before that, the night before that, and me and
13 Darrell was kind of looking after doing that call up and sending the report in, that was
14 pretty well why we were there.

15 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** Okay. And the call you're talking about
16 was unrelated ---

17 **CHIEF GREG MUISE:** Yes.

18 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** --- to the events.

19 **CHIEF GREG MUISE:** It was a forest fire, a brushfire, I guess, at
20 that time.

21 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** And, again, in this window leading up to
22 when Mr. Ellison arrived, what information was shared with both of you, and who shared
23 it with you, about what was going on and why the comfort station was being set up?

24 **CHIEF GREG MUISE:** Go ahead.

25 **DEPUTY CHIEF DARRELL CURRIE:** Yeah?

26 **CHIEF GREG MUISE:** Yeah.

27 **DEPUTY CHIEF DARRELL CURRIE:** We did see a picture, I
28 guess there was very, very little information about what was taking place in Portapique.

1 No information, but we did see a picture of a suspect. Cst. Gagnon showed us a picture
2 on his phone of the perpetrator, just so we would be aware of who they were looking for
3 if he showed up at the hall.

4 In hindsight now I know why the police were there for security at the
5 time. We didn't know but, yes, we did have that little bit of knowledge. The only other
6 information we had is what I might have taken off of social media with the Twitter and
7 Facebook posts from the Nova Scotia RCMP.

8 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** Okay.

9 And Mr. Ellison, so I understand you're retired.

10 **MR. RICHARD ELLISON:** Yes.

11 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** And you're a resident of Portapique.

12 **MR. RICHARD ELLISON:** Yeah.

13 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** And we've seen in the presentation this
14 morning that you arrived at the comfort station around 10 o'clock in the morning.

15 **MR. RICHARD ELLISON:** Okay, yeah.

16 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** Yeah. What do you remember about
17 arriving at the Fire Station, or the Fire Hall?

18 **MR. RICHARD ELLISON:** Well, a lot of things on the video there I
19 don't really remember. Like, sitting in my car talking to the police officer, don't really
20 remember that. I just remember going in and being warmly welcomed by these
21 gentlemen; a big relief for me after the situation I come from. And then I remember they
22 gave me a mask, because this pandemic was just starting, and a pair of gloves. And
23 we were talking and then the next thing I remember I can hear someone shout, "Get
24 down! Get down!" And we had to get right down on the floor and then crawl into the
25 other room, which would be on the east side of the fire Hall, for protection because
26 didn't know at the time just what was going on. And we stayed there until we got the
27 okay to come out.

28 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** Okay.

1 Deputy Chief Currie and Chief Muise, do you remember Mr. Ellison
2 arriving?

3 **CHIEF GREG MUISE:** Yes.

4 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** Yes?

5 **DEPUTY CHIEF DARRELL CURRIE:** Yeah. I remember he was
6 obviously distraught, you know, waiting to find confirmation about his son. So we were
7 cognizant of the fact that he was in quite a bit of distress, so I can understand why he
8 doesn't remember some of the stuff that happened. Yeah, he was pretty worked up.

9 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** And it wasn't long after Mr. Ellison arrived,
10 as we've seen from presentation this morning, that the shots were fired at the hall. And
11 I'll start with Chief Muise, are you able to relay what your experience was upon hearing
12 those shots and how you responded after?

13 **CHIEF GREG MUISE:** When I first heard something, like a bang,
14 bang, bang, then I seen Dave coming through the door, which he dropped the radio and
15 he picked it up and he headed towards where me and Mr. Ellison was standing inside
16 the hall. And all I heard was, "Get down! Get down! Shots fired! Shots fired!"

17 So we all took off running. At that time, I seen Darrell come out
18 around the corner behind Dave and we ran into a room which is -- it's like a pull curtain,
19 I guess you'd call it, but it's a hard plastic door you pull across. Then we -- me and
20 Darrell, and I think Dave was involved in this too, flipping tables and chairs over, trying
21 to find a spot that we can hide from this -- we had no idea what was going on outside.

22 And it was just -- I don't know how to explain it. It just -- it
23 happened so fast, and everything was just chaos. It was just tables flying everywhere
24 and trying to hide behind them and it's something I hope nobody has to go through that
25 because it's a tough road.

26 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** What are your memories, Deputy Chief
27 Currie?

28 **DEPUTY CHIEF DARRELL CURRIE:** I had just come in from the

1 truck bay into that, what we would call the radio room or the communication room, you
2 can see from the video this morning. But I had just walked past, like two feet from
3 where some of those bullets came through the front of the hall, almost seconds prior to
4 that.

5 So I was in the communication room, and I heard the shots, and
6 then Dave and I, at the same time, were, were entering into the main area of the hall.
7 Greg had elaborated some on what we did. It was hands and knees. We assumed it
8 was the perpetrator who fired upon us; we had no reason to believe, certainly not, that
9 the RCMP had opened fire on a -- on a local fire station. That never crossed our minds.
10 So we were just basically terrified. Like Greg said, we hid as best we could in a -- you
11 know, a far part of the firehall. We had some stacks of metal chairs there that offered a
12 little more protection than the plastic tables. Yeah, so we spent the first couple of
13 minutes in there.

14 I could go on, I guess, about the door. Somewhere in the first
15 minute or so, somebody was banging on our side door. In the area where we were, it
16 would be on the east side of the building, so it was only a few feet from where we were.
17 That few minutes or few seconds with the banging on the door was, you know, the
18 worst, they were the worst seconds of my life. I assumed that I was going to die that
19 day. You know, we had known from social media what other things were happening in
20 our area. Twitter said the RCMP feed had put the perpetrator in our area, so we just
21 assumed that that's who it was. Now, he's trying to get in the side door. I just -- I
22 remember thinking like "How am I going to die?". Just "Am I going to bleed out on the
23 floor of this comfort centre?" "Am I going to see this person?" "Are they going to shoot
24 through the wall?" Like it was -- it was pretty horrific.

25 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** Well, thank you for that answer. I think it
26 might be valuable just to clarify the "side door" because the side door you're talking
27 about obviously isn't the front door ---

28 **DEPUTY CHIEF DARRELL CURRIE:** No.

1 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** --- to the -- to the hall. And did you see it
2 any of the videos that were shown by Mr. Burrill this morning?

3 **CHIEF GREG MUISE:** Yeah, one of the videos had shown part of
4 the door on that corner.

5 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** Okay.

6 **DEPUTY CHIEF DARRELL CURRIE:** Just the corner of it.

7 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** And this door is on the east side of the
8 building?

9 **DEPUTY CHIEF DARRELL CURRIE:** Yes.

10 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** And you retreated to a room that was on
11 the east side of the building?

12 **CHIEF GREG MUISE:** M'hm.

13 **DEPUTY CHIEF DARRELL CURRIE:** Yes.

14 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** And so when you say you heard the noise
15 from the door, that was just feet away from you, a few feet away from you?

16 **DEPUTY CHIEF DARRELL CURRIE:** Yes.

17 **CHIEF GREG MUISE:** Yeah.

18 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** Okay. And what did you hear? What --
19 did anybody identify themselves, or did it -- was it a knock? Was it a -- what was it?

20 **CHIEF GREG MUISE:** It wasn't a knock, it was a bang. I mean,
21 like it meant that they were trying to get in; that's how my feeling was. Like nobody
22 yelled nothing. I would say it was probably at least four to five bangs and then
23 everything went quiet.

24 **DEPUTY CHIEF DARRELL CURRIE:** Yeah, there was -- there
25 was no -- no one yelled "Police." Open the door.", you know, "Police. Let us in.", or
26 "Police. Everything's okay." There was nothing. No indication of a -- of police
27 identifying themselves. We just assumed, like I said earlier, it -- we assume that it was
28 the perpetrator and we were just -- if he didn't come in the side door he was going to

1 come in another door. The front door is glass. We just assumed that's who it was.

2 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** Mr. Ellison, do you have a memory of
3 what was going through your mind in the moments you heard the shots and what was --
4 what was happening?

5 **MR. RICHARD ELLISON:** Well, I just -- I followed the orders to get
6 down, to -- and make yourselves -- when we got into the other side there, away from
7 where the shots are coming from, and like I say, we stayed there until we got the green
8 light, you might say. And then after that, we come back out and we ended up going
9 around to where the firetrucks are kept, and we walked by a brand new pumper truck
10 and you could see where the bullets come through the -- they come through that door
11 just like it wasn't even there.

12 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** Wow.

13 **MR. RICHARD ELLISON:** And if they -- if they had have hit one of
14 us it would have been the end of us big time. Because what they -- just what they did,
15 that's just a small caliber rifle, eh, and what it did to that firetruck and the damage that it
16 caused to it just with two shots ---

17 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** Yeah.

18 **MR. RICHARD ELLISON:** --- is devastating.

19 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** Well, let me pick up on something that you
20 said, Mr. Ellison. But Mr. Ellison mentioned when you got the green light. I assume
21 when you ---

22 **MR. RICHARD ELLISON:** Or all clear.

23 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** Perhaps I -- I'll direct this again at you,
24 Chief Muise. Tell us about how it was from the moments you heard the shot to -- shots
25 to when you believed you were safe again.

26 **CHIEF GREG MUISE:** When we entered the room, the room
27 where we flipped the tables all over, and it was a few minutes later two police officers
28 came in and spoke with Dave Westlake, asked if everybody's okay, and they said,

1 "Everybody's okay here", and that was -- that was pretty well it. They never, never said
2 they were Mounties, RCMPs, they just -- I think Andre went up and talked to Dave in the
3 corner, I didn't see that part of it, but I think -- I but I think Melanson went -- turned
4 around and went back outside. All we heard is a shout "Stay in that room", so we
5 stayed in that room over 57 or 58 minutes, still not knowing what was going on outside.

6 At that time, it was just like we're a hostage there. Like we just --
7 nobody told us anything. It just seemed like we were just left there, just -- and we still
8 had no idea who fired at our firehall at that time.

9 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** And just one small point of clarification.
10 Unfortunately, there are two Dave's that were present, there's Constable Dave Gagnon
11 and Dave Westlake. I think you're referring to Dave Westlake when you refer to Dave?

12 **DEPUTY CHIEF DARRELL CURRIE:** Yes.

13 **CHIEF GREG MUISE:** Yeah.

14 **DEPUTY CHIEF DARRELL CURRIE:** Yes.

15 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** And so just -- did anyone directly speak to
16 you ---

17 **CHIEF GREG MUISE:** No.

18 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** --- immediately after?

19 **CHIEF GREG MUISE:** No.

20 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** No.

21 **CHIEF GREG MUISE:** No.

22 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** And Deputy Chief Currie, what's -- so
23 57 minutes. What's your memory of what happened after the shooting?

24 **DEPUTY CHIEF DARRELL CURRIE:** The -- I had been following
25 the social media account, so we were -- we were aware later on in those 57 minutes, I
26 guess, that the perpetrator had moved further away, and that's when we come out of the
27 hall, out of the -- that side, the -- out of the east side of the hall and went over, like
28 Mr. Ellison said, we went over to the truck bay and seen all the damage.

1 But nobody, nobody checked on us physically. We didn't see
2 anybody other than -- other than Dave Westlake would have seen the officers. I don't
3 know, if he seen them both or not, but... Yeah, we were left there to basically shelter in
4 place. Greg uses the word "felt like hostages." That is kind of how we felt in there for
5 that amount of time.

6 When we did finally come out of that side of the building, the
7 eastern side of the building and out into the truck bay, we had noticed that the RCMP
8 officer that was there to provide us security, he was gone, his car had moved, and he
9 didn't -- he never told us, we didn't know where his car went. So our assumption was
10 that he was either dead and somebody stole his car; he took off after the perpetrator
11 maybe, you know; or I suppose he was hiding. We never -- we never thought for a
12 second that he was hiding, we just assumed that he was gone. But he left us in there
13 without security.

14 So we were -- we experienced the traumatic shooting and then we
15 were left without any protection.

16 I know Dave Westlake had made some calls trying to get some of
17 his contacts to get other police there, but nobody ever showed up, so we were on our
18 own. That's what it felt like.

19 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** And when did you learn who had
20 discharged the shots?

21 **DEPUTY CHIEF DARRELL CURRIE:** That was later. Later after
22 the perpetrator had been killed. We got bits and pieces from Dave Westlake, who was
23 getting bits and pieces of information from Cst Gagnon, who had parked on the west
24 side of our building, we found out later. He just -- Dave would get some information and
25 come in and tell us. So by the time we left at 2:30, we knew it was RCMP who did the
26 shooting. So we would have got it from Cst Gagnon.

27 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** And you describe when you leave the
28 firehall, you don't see Cst Gagnon, but at some point you do see him again?

1 **DEPUTY CHIEF DARRELL CURRIE:** Yeah, my recollection is that
2 it's -- some evacuees returned to the hall. And we knew from the Twitter -- the RCMP
3 Twitter feed that the perpetrator was -- whether it was Milford or Enfield, I forget which
4 time, but we knew he was far enough away, so Dave Westlake went out to greet the
5 evacuees. And that's when he discovered the car parked beside the building.

6 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** And going back, and I'll maybe direct this
7 question at you, Deputy Chief Currie. Chief Currie -- or Chief Muise commented on
8 what he heard immediately after the shots were fired when Dave Westlake and other
9 people entered the hall. What are your memories of what you heard and the
10 information you learned immediately after the shootings?

11 **DEPUTY CHIEF DARRELL CURRIE:** I heard the shots. You can
12 see from the video, I ran from almost the same time Dave was running in the door. I
13 heard the shots. I can remember when I heard the shots, how terrified I was, only
14 because of what was going on in the area that morning. So yeah, just ran to the inside
15 of the building from there.

16 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** And did you see any of the individuals that
17 entered the building?

18 **DEPUTY CHIEF DARRELL CURRIE:** No.

19 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** No.

20 **DEPUTY CHIEF DARRELL CURRIE:** No. Just Dave Westlake.
21 And that was it. We were hiding by then.

22 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** Okay. And, Mr. Ellison, do you recall how
23 long after these events occurred that you were hiding and then went to the rest of the
24 hall, how long you stayed at the hall afterwards?

25 **MR. RICHARD ELLISON:** Not that long. I left the hall and
26 proceeded to Journey's End Motel.

27 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** Okay.

28 **MR. RICHARD ELLISON:** Yeah.

1 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** And that was something that the Red
2 Cross ---

3 **MR. RICHARD ELLISON:** Red Cross had set up, yeah.

4 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** --- had arranged for you?

5 I'll direct my next question at Chief Muise again. And -- but I'll ask
6 each of you this question. So how have the events on April 19th at the Onslow Belmont
7 Fire Hall, how have they effected you?

8 **CHIEF GREG MUISE:** Quite a bit. I mean, I have been seeing
9 counselling twice a month, sometimes three. I'm on pills to try to calm me down. And I
10 was on one and I had a reaction to it. So I went back to my doctor and she prescribed
11 me another pill. And it took me a while to start that other pill because I wasn't sure what
12 it was going to do to me again. But I'm back on them again. And trouble sleeping at
13 night. I still do. If I get four hours of sleep, that's a good night. All the time thinking
14 about it, every day. Not a day goes by that something doesn't pop in my head. It's just
15 -- it's I have a hard time dealing with it.

16 I -- the fire hall was my second home. Now it's not. It used to be
17 my safe zone. That's probably going to be taken away from me.

18 I have trouble with being around, like, a group of people. I feel like
19 I'm suffering all the time, just trying to get my breath just because -- I don't know why
20 that took place, but -- because there wasn't that many people around that day at the
21 hall. But it just seems like I'm just smothering when I'm around a lot of people.

22 I still do my duties at the hall. I'm still the chief. A few times I
23 thought about resigning as chief. I talked to Darrell a few times about it and we decided
24 that we'd try staying on for a while and see how things turn out. But seems like this is
25 never going to end for me. It just seems it took part of my life from me and I don't think
26 I'll ever get it back. I fight with it every day.

27 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** Deputy Chief Currie, April 19th, how has it
28 affected you?

1 **DEPUTY CHIEF DARRELL CURRIE:** I would -- I often think that's
2 a better question to ask my wife or my friends maybe, because they've been impacted
3 by how I've been impacted.

4 Similar to what Greg has gone through. I tried some counselling in
5 May after the events happened. I had five counselling sessions then. So that got me
6 through into the summer. The summer just slowly got worse. Worse and worse. Like,
7 constantly thinking about it. I couldn't function. I couldn't focus. So I was getting into
8 some pretty dark spots mentally. So I booked some more counselling sessions through
9 Family Assistance Program. In August, I believe it was, I had to do something because
10 I was slowly getting worse. So I had another seven counselling sessions then. So
11 that's August into the fall. That seemed to help for a little bit.

12 I -- what -- the straw that really broke the camel's back for me was
13 an interview I did with the RCMP. The Hazard Occurrence Team showed up on April
14 12th of 2021, which is obviously almost a year to the day. And I had to do the interview
15 with them. It was a three-hour interview. And that just brought everything back. I
16 managed to get through the year. I'd managed to still be working. So ever since the
17 12th, which was a Monday, I finished work that week, and I haven't been back to work
18 since, so it's almost a year next week that I've been off.

19 I've been through an 11-week PTSD workshop, 11 afternoons over
20 an 11-week period. That was helpful.

21 I take -- the only medication I would have ever taken in the past
22 was for a hangover or a sore throat, maybe. I'm on three different medications now,
23 mood stabilizers or some anxiety pills or something. And I was like Greg. I couldn't
24 sleep. I'd be up all night. I'd sit out and have a campfire at 3 o'clock in the morning just
25 because I couldn't function.

26 So I -- I talked to my doctor, which is a story I would elaborate on in
27 a bit. And I did -- I did get some medication for sleeping, so I do get some sleep now.
28 And I've been telling Greg he's got to try these -- these pills.

1 They work good. I don't even hear the pager go off in the middle of
2 the night sometimes, so. And I never had that problem before.

3 But my doctor story, which I think is important because it leads --
4 it's part of the struggles -- the struggle that I had. I didn't have a family doctor. I needed
5 forms signed for psychologist appointments which, you know, like Greg says, I attend
6 two times or three times a month. To get those covered through our insurance, I
7 needed to have forms filled out.

8 I went to the walk-in clinic and he prescribed me some drugs. That
9 was the first start of my drugs. That was the week of April 12th after the RCMP Hoyt
10 investigative team showed up.

11 But I couldn't get my insurance forms signed because I didn't have
12 a doctor. The walk-in clinic wouldn't sign the forms. RCMP -- I was dealing with RCMP
13 Victim Services at that time. They had a couple doctors who initially offered to sign the
14 forms for me, but then declined because they were out of county. They're not in the
15 same county.

16 So all this time, I couldn't get counselling because I couldn't get the
17 insurance papers form -- signed.

18 I'll just -- I'll make a note about the -- you know, there's dozens of
19 800 numbers that -- that I could have called. I mean, I've been through several of them,
20 but I -- all the 800 numbers do and just -- they just talk you off the cliff. That's all they
21 do. They don't help long term.

22 They're great -- a great resource and I've used them, but they're
23 not -- they weren't a permanent solution to the problems that I was having, so.

24 I was fortunate that a woman -- a doctor at the Truro Hospital heard
25 about my story and she -- she called me immediately and met in a school parking lot
26 and signed the forms on the hood of my car so I could have -- get counselling. It was --
27 it was that troubling and that hard, and I basically was at wit's end.

28 I was -- again, because I -- I hadn't been going to counselling at

1 that time, you know, your mind goes into some pretty dark holes when -- when you need
2 help and you can't get it. So I was there in some dark holes.

3 Again, I couldn't hardly drive. I couldn't focus on the road. I was
4 scared to death I was going to have an accident.

5 I couldn't concentrate. I couldn't think. I had no memory. I couldn't
6 -- I couldn't finish a sentence. If -- if you asked me to testify last April, I wouldn't have
7 been able to because I couldn't -- I couldn't talk.

8 I got to the point where I -- I felt I had to have a doctor, a family
9 doctor. You know, it's great to advocate for yourself and -- and push through all this
10 stuff, but I needed professional help. So I sent a letter to -- an email off to my MLA and
11 she's familiar with us. She's a -- was a good supporter of the fire service in the county,
12 so I ended up with a family doctor the next day. And that's been helpful because you
13 need the family doctor to make the referrals for the psychiatrists and some of the other
14 important things, the medications.

15 I did get the psychiatric assessment done. It helped figure out
16 which medications would be best for me and -- and they were obviously necessary for,
17 you know, forms that needed filled out, so -- for disability, so.

18 I -- I've said it many times and I'll say it here. I didn't -- fortunately, I
19 didn't lose my life that day, but I lost the life that I had. Like Greg has said, it's not -- it's
20 not the same.

21 I don't feel the same. My drugs, obviously, stabilize me, but they
22 stabilize me at a place I don't want to be. I would sooner be -- you know, have happy
23 pills than stabilizer pills. And I guess my doctor says this is not a time to be messing
24 with medication because of this inquiry and stuff, so.

25 It hasn't been easy. I think that might be clear.

26 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** Well, thank you for that answer, Deputy
27 Chief Currie.

28 I do want to return to some of what you said.

1 Perhaps before I do that, Mr. Ellison, I -- this is, I know, an entirely
2 unfair question. You went through a lot of tragedy on April 18th and April 19th.

3 But how did your experience in the Onslow Belmont Fire Hall -- how
4 did that affect you on April 19th?

5 **MR. RICHARD ELLISON:** Well, it affect me in a way that at least
6 there's still some humanity out there as the way I was welcomed there. And I want to
7 thank these gentlemen for the service that they provide for their communities. They're
8 the front lines when it comes to health, you know, answering of health, distress, heart
9 attacks and things like that. There's a lot of older citizens out there.

10 And -- but my -- my experience with this whole thing is I lost my
11 son, but you have to expect these things to happen because it says right in here that
12 these things will happen in these -- the times that we're living in right now.

13 Critical times, hard to deal with. And I just -- I just take it one day at
14 a time and...

15 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** And who did you go to for help, Mr.
16 Ellison?

17 **MR. RICHARD ELLISON:** I went up to the mental -- or whatever
18 you want to call it up in the Colchester Hospital. There's a psychiatric unit upstairs on
19 the second floor and I went up there for three counsel sessions, but then I found it
20 wasn't really helping me any. It wasn't -- just -- it just wasn't doing the job, like I didn't
21 need that, type of thing.

22 I -- you know, because I -- like I say, I rely -- I am a Jehovah's
23 Witness. I rely on Him, and He's helped me through this big-time. He will give you the
24 strength to ensure these hardships, and yeah.

25 And as well, I -- and I don't have a family doctor, by the way, but --
26 but as long as I don't sick, I'll be all right, eh.

27 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** I want to ask -- my next question I want to
28 ask a few times.

1 But perhaps if we look back on your experience on April 19th, and I
2 want to ask, what do you think would have helped or made a difference? And let me
3 begin, my first version of that question will be, you know, on April 19th, leading up to
4 when the shots were discharged, and I'll direct this at, well, first, Chief Muise, what -- is
5 there anything that would have made a difference in that timeframe?

6 **CHIEF GREG MUISE:** Before the shooting?

7 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** Yeah.

8 **CHIEF GREG MUISE:** No. I mean, we took it as a day that we
9 asked to open our firehall, and up to the shooting, no, I think everything was properly
10 done through Dave Westlake and ourselves.

11 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** And how about you, Deputy Chief Currie?

12 **DEPUTY CHIEF DARRELL CURRIE:** I don't think anything
13 different would have been done from Greg's point of view or Dave Westlake's. I don't
14 see how -- if we'd have had more information prior to eight o'clock in the morning, that
15 might have made a difference. Hindsight's 20/20. Maybe we wouldn't have opened the
16 hall, maybe it would have been at a different location, but we didn't have that
17 information, so the right decisions were made with the information that was given to us.
18 But I believe had the full information been given to -- through to Dave Westlake,
19 different decisions would have been made.

20 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** And what type of information would have
21 helped?

22 **DEPUTY CHIEF DARRELL CURRIE:** The gravity of the situation
23 in Portapique, the fact that the perpetrator was not contained. By the simple fact of
24 placing a police cruiser at our hall, there was obviously a threat that we were never
25 made aware of. The car was there for a reason, and we were not -- we weren't made
26 aware of that reason, other than we just assumed they were there taking information
27 from the evacuees.

28 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** Well, let me direct my next question at you

1 again, Deputy ---

2 **DEPUTY CHIEF DARRELL CURRIE:** Sure.

3 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** --- Chief Currie. Thank you for sharing
4 about your experience after the 19th. I'm interested in your answer to the same
5 question. What do you think would have helped or made a difference in the experience
6 you went through reaching out for help after the 19th?

7 **DEPUTY CHIEF DARRELL CURRIE:** Well, obviously, having a
8 family doctor is helpful. I wouldn't have -- probably not gone through near the amount of
9 personal trauma and mental health crisis, I'll call it, that I went through if I had
10 somebody -- a medical professional that would be there to, you know, to assist me and
11 walk me through what I needed. You know, fortunately, you know, my wife and family
12 and friends were there when I needed them. But I think not having the family doctor is
13 the biggest problem for me. That's where you get referrals to the help that you need. I
14 said it before, I mean, there's dozens of 800 numbers. We got stacks of them at the
15 hall, cards you can pick up. There's -- they're posted here, you know, on the Mass
16 Casualty website. And to me, they just talk you off of the ledge. That's all you do, so
17 you're good for another day, but tomorrow's a new day, and it's going to start all over.
18 Somebody needs to manage that stuff.

19 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** I do have another version of the same
20 question, but before I move on to that, did you want to -- do you have anything to add,
21 Mr. Ellison?

22 **MR. RICHARD ELLISON:** Things have to change in this country.
23 You know, when you talk about safe communities, well, you got to -- people like --
24 Gabriel showed me those firearms that he had illegal and he might as well -- might as
25 well have been after Christmas him showing me a pair of skates. He had no fear of the
26 law whatsoever, and he did what he did, and he got away with it until they caught up
27 with him, like, almost, like, a Sunday drive type of thing, and just unbelievable.

28 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** My next version of this question is, as far

1 as about learning about what happened at the firehall, and how you gained to find out
2 what actually happened, that information, what do you think could have been done
3 better in that regard? And I'll invite anyone to answer this question first.

4 **CHIEF GREG MUISE:** If we had -- what could have been done, I
5 think if we had of known that the shooter was out there earlier, like Darrell said, I don't
6 think our firehall was the proper spot to put plain people if he was in this area, because
7 he was on a road that would lead anywhere, like, towards the firehall. If he'd known that
8 all the people from Portapique was going to our firehall for comfort zone, it wasn't the
9 right spot for it, I don't think. If there had have been a alarm went out saying that there's
10 a shooter in the area, like, in the Portapique or whatever area they -- they want -- or that
11 would have helped a lot of people. I mean, they made these alert, every once in a while
12 you'd be sitting at home and the alert would go off, and it scares the frigging life out of
13 you because you have no idea what was going on, but it's just the test. But why wasn't
14 it used that night, or that day?

15 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** I guess I'll -- apologies. My question was
16 fairly open. Let me make it a bit more direct. But as far as your experience, Chief
17 Muise ---

18 **CHIEF GREG MUISE:** Right.

19 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** --- in learning about -- after the shooting
20 has occurred at the hall ---

21 **CHIEF GREG MUISE:** Right.

22 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** --- the process by which you learned
23 about what actually happened, do you have any comment about your experience in that
24 regard? Any comment about anything that would have changed your experience?

25 **CHIEF GREG MUISE:** I would definitely look at it again, I mean, as
26 far as opening the firehall. I mean, it's always open for EMO, for the county, but there
27 would probably be some changes made in that regard to open that hall, so I don't know
28 if that's what you're looking for.

1 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** Well, I apologize. I don't know if I made it
2 clear, but, Deputy Chief Currie, do you have any comments about the process by which
3 you learned about what happened in the hall and your experience in the aftermath of
4 April 19?

5 **DEPUTY CHIEF DARRELL CURRIE:** Well, the -- I guess there
6 was no -- that I recall, I mean, there was no notification or nobody officially came out
7 and said what happened and -- is that sort of what you're looking for?

8 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** Yes.

9 **DEPUTY CHIEF DARRELL CURRIE:** Yeah, nobody -- it's not like
10 somebody showed up at the firehall the next day and said, "Oh, we're really sorry that
11 we shot up your firehall, and here's a cheque for \$43,000." There was nothing. In the
12 middle of May, we had a visit from Chris Leather, and Al Carroll, and Arch Thompson. I
13 think they were staff sergeants and chief superintendent. They showed up, just -- you
14 know, I like to say they just -- they just showed up to see the handiwork of their
15 constables is -- that's all they did. They didn't -- they didn't offer RCMP Victim Services.
16 They made the offers of "If there's anything we can do to help", you know, "here's our
17 card." But you know, unbeknownst to us at the time, you know, we should have been
18 offered services through RCMP Victims Services.

19 When the HOIT, the HOIT people showed up to do their
20 investigation, they were, if I can use the word "appalled", I guess. They were appalled
21 that we had never been offered any help through the RCMP. And that's how I
22 mentioned earlier that I -- we did engage with the RCMP Victims Services a little bit at
23 the end, but that's -- that was a year later. So it was too little, too late at that point.
24 Does that ---

25 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** Thank you.

26 **DEPUTY CHIEF DARRELL CURRIE:** --- answer your question a
27 little?

28 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** Yes. Thank you. So this morning, I've

1 been asking you questions and -- about April 19th, the time before Mr. Ellison arrived,
2 when Mr. Ellison arrived, when shots were fired at the hall, how that affected you, your
3 experience accessing services. We've invited you to come from out of town to drive in
4 this morning and share your story in a very public, large convention hall. And I just want
5 to make sure you have the opportunity if during the course of me asking you these
6 series of questions is there anything that you weren't able to share with the Commission
7 on this topic that you would like to do so now?

8 **DEPUTY CHIEF DARRELL CURRIE:** Go ahead if you've got
9 something. You're the chief.

10 **CHIEF GREG MUISE:** I don't have a lot.

11 **DEPUTY CHIEF DARRELL CURRIE:** Go ahead if you've got
12 something to say.

13 **CHIEF GREG MUISE:** The only thing I would like to say, we were
14 left there, at our hall, for 11 months before anybody really had a chance to talk to us,
15 that wanted to talk to us, and I don't think that the RCMP wanted anything to do with the
16 firehall. I think they were shoving us under the table, hoping this would go away, but I
17 don't think they realised what they put us through. Some day, I hope I can look back
18 and say, "Well" -- I'm hoping I'll get through this. I'd also like to thank my wife, too, for
19 putting up with me with this -- for two years of me being like this. I'm hoping things will
20 get better. I think that's all I need there.

21 You can go for it now if you want to.

22 **DEPUTY CHIEF DARRELL CURRIE:** No. I only had a couple of
23 things that didn't fit into any of the -- any of your questions, and you know, I know we
24 discussed this earlier, but it -- it's similar to something Greg said. But I found the whole
25 -- the Commission, the inquiry has for me been nothing -- been nothing near trauma-
26 informed. It's been, you know, not transparent. You know, my legal counsel has to fight
27 to get witnesses, people that are important. Important documents are buried, you know,
28 deep within thousands of pages of reference material that don't seem to fit a nice

1 PowerPoint presentation. That has all added to my stress. The least stressful day,
2 probably, so far with this inquiry is today and me sitting here because I think there
3 should be more of me and more of Greg and more of Mr. Ellison sitting here.

4 PowerPoint presentations are nice, but there's so much missing,
5 and people don't have time to sift through Foundational Documents and reference
6 material to get to the real story. So that's been troubling for me.

7 And the only other thing, I have to say it because I've said it in all of
8 my -- in all of my interviews, I don't believe the story that's been told by at least one of
9 the RCMP officers on the outside. My opinion, obviously, but based on witness
10 testimony from the other witnesses, the stories don't line up. So I -- I have been really
11 troubled by that because it really bothers me that a member of the RCMP may -- may
12 have lied. I can't obviously confirm that, I'm not -- I don't -- I didn't question them, but
13 I've read lots of witness statements and things don't line up.

14 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** Well, thank you, Deputy Chief Currie, for
15 sharing that part of your experience as well.

16 I think at this point what I would propose we do is take a break for
17 lunch, and have what we call a "caucus", and after that time, there may be some more
18 questions from the Commissioners and from myself as well.

19 Unless, the Commissioners, did you have questions you wished to
20 address at this time before we break?

21 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** Well, thank you so much, and
22 thank you so much, gentlemen.

23 Just before we break, just maybe you, Mr. Ellison, if you have
24 anything you would like to add, the same question that was asked of the chief and the
25 deputy chief.

26 **MR. RICHARD ELLISON:** The only thing I can say or the really --
27 well, it's hit me, I have had to live with this until the day I die, is what happened down in
28 my neighbourhood. At one point, my son was laying dead on the road. Lisa McCully

1 was laying dead on her lawn. Greg Blair and his wife were dead on their property, and
2 he tried to burn their house down, like he did other places. And then just not very far
3 from there, there was two more people that were shot to death and their house was
4 burned down and there was a vehicle there burned right in the yard with it. And if you
5 want to see anything clear, anything close to that, turn your TV on and watch what's
6 going on over in the Ukraine and you'll see the -- you'll see it.

7 And that's -- and it should never have happened in this country. I --
8 like I'm not too happy about the... You know, the people talk about front line or safe
9 communities, well how can they be safe when there is no laws to prevent what
10 happened in Portapique and in Wentworth and at the Onslow Belmont Fire Brigade? It
11 should never have happened. That's the whole -- that's the bottom-line right there. And
12 not in Canada, no, not with the gun laws they have. But see, they only apply to law-
13 abiding citizens. You got to get the criminals first, and there's your front line, and to
14 keep your communities safe and your children.

15 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** Thank you so much, sir.

16 Well, thank you again, gentleman, and thank you, Mr. VanWart. As
17 we do typically with the witnesses, we will give the counsel an opportunity to meet and
18 just to make sure there aren't any missing questions. And -- so if you don't mind we
19 really appreciated your being here and sharing your stories. But if you don't mind
20 staying with us over the lunch hour, because there may be some further questions after
21 the lunch hour.

22 But we will take the opportunity, Mr. Van Wart, for the lunch hour to
23 -- or specifically the lunch hour and 45 minutes to allow you to meet with counsel and
24 we will return at 1:45. If you need more time, just let us know.

25 Thank you so much, and thank you again, gentlemen.

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

27 The proceedings are now on break, and counsel will caucus, and
28 the proceedings will resume at 1:45.

1 --- Upon breaking at 12:01 p.m.

2 --- Upon resuming at 1:47 p.m.

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

4 The proceedings are again in session.

5 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** Thank you.

6 Mr. Van Wart?

7 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** I invite our three witnesses from this
8 morning to return to the stage, and perhaps we'll give them a moment to do that.

9 (SHORT PAUSE)

10 **CHIEF GREG MUISE, Resumed:**

11 **DEPUTY CHIEF DARRELL CURRIE, Resumed:**

12 **MR. RICHARD ELLISON, Resumed:**

13 **--- EXAMINATION IN-CHIEF BY MR. JAMIE VanWART, (Cont'd):**

14 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** Well, thank you again, gentlemen, for
15 returning. I hope you had an opportunity to have something to eat and have a break.

16 **DEPUTY CHIEF DARRELL CURRIE:** Yeah.

17 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** I just remind you that earlier in -- as we
18 began these proceedings with your evidence this morning you took an oath to -- and
19 swore to tell the truth, and that's still -- you're still bound by that.

20 **CHIEF GREG MUISE:** Yeah.

21 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** After a break and having an opportunity to
22 meet with Participant Counsel, I do have some follow-up questions that I will ask, and I'll
23 try my best to identify who I'm asking, but certainly if anyone has a comment with
24 regards to any of the questions I ask, please feel free to add anything.

25 My first question, I'll direct it to Deputy Chief Currie.

26 With regards to being at the Fire Hall in the morning, when I think
27 you referenced that Cst. Gagnon showed you some photographs?

28 **DEPUTY CHIEF DARRELL CURRIE:** Yes.

1 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** Could you clarify; what were the
2 photographs that Cst. Gagnon showed you?

3 **DEPUTY CHIEF DARRELL CURRIE:** It was one photograph on
4 his phone. It was a picture of the perpetrator.

5 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** Okay. And who was there with you when
6 he showed you the photograph?

7 **DEPUTY CHIEF DARRELL CURRIE:** I don't recall. I believe Greg
8 was there.

9 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** Do you remember seeing any
10 photographs, Chief Muise?

11 **CHIEF GREG MUISE:** No, I've never seen these pictures.

12 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** okay.

13 **CHIEF GREG MUISE:** It's just what Darrell told me later.

14 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** Okay. And what about Dave Westlake,
15 was he present?

16 **DEPUTY CHIEF DARRELL CURRIE:** I don't remember.

17 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** Okay. During the course of that day, did
18 Cst. Gagnon ever show you further photographs?

19 **DEPUTY CHIEF DARRELL CURRIE:** Not me.

20 **CHIEF GREG MUISE:** No, not me either, no.

21 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** Okay. And Deputy Chief Currie, you had
22 indicated that throughout the day that you were following Twitter?

23 **DEPUTY CHIEF DARRELL CURRIE:** Yes.

24 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** Okay. And did you view any photographs
25 from the Twitter feed on the 19th?

26 **DEPUTY CHIEF DARRELL CURRIE:** I did, yes. I seen the picture
27 of the car ---

28 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** Okay.

1 **DEPUTY CHIEF DARRELL CURRIE:** --- taken from the back.

2 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** And can you describe the picture you
3 saw?

4 **DEPUTY CHIEF DARRELL CURRIE:** It was a picture of the mock
5 RCMP cruiser. It was taken in, like, a workshop of some sort, from the back passenger-
6 side corner. You couldn't see the front of the car in that picture.

7 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** Okay. And was it an explanation that this
8 was what the perpetrator was driving?

9 **DEPUTY CHIEF DARRELL CURRIE:** Yes, I believe it was. It was
10 the RCMP Twitter feed when they released the picture of the car with the number on the
11 corner, the 28 Bravo 11, I believe.

12 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** Okay. When do you remember seeing
13 this picture from the Twitter feed?

14 **DEPUTY CHIEF DARRELL CURRIE:** Well, I could only guess. It
15 would be -- because I was following Twitter, the RCMP Twitter feed, it would be
16 somewhere shortly after the picture was released, I would suspect.

17 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** Okay. Do you remember what you were
18 doing, like, where in the chronology ---

19 **DEPUTY CHIEF DARRELL CURRIE:** No.

20 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** --- of the day? No?

21 **DEPUTY CHIEF DARRELL CURRIE:** No.

22 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** Okay. And maybe I'll just each of you as
23 a final follow-up, like, when do you recall learning that the perpetrator was operating sort
24 of a -- you know, a marked, decommissioned vehicle that looked like a police cruiser?
25 When do you remember learning that information?

26 **DEPUTY CHIEF DARRELL CURRIE:** When did we learn that?

27 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** Yeah.

28 **DEPUTY CHIEF DARRELL CURRIE:** We learned that -- I learned

1 that, speaking for myself, from Twitter.

2 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** Okay. And do you remember when in the
3 day? Was it before -- or even if ---

4 **DEPUTY CHIEF DARRELL CURRIE:** It was -- it was in the
5 morning. I don't remember the exact time, no.

6 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** Before or after the shooting incident
7 occurred?

8 **DEPUTY CHIEF DARRELL CURRIE:** At the Fire Hall?

9 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** Yeah.

10 **DEPUTY CHIEF DARRELL CURRIE:** That shooting? I don't
11 know. I would only guess, and I would say after, but that's just strictly a guess.

12 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** Okay.

13 And Chief Muise, do you have any memory of when you learnt ---

14 **CHIEF GREG MUISE:** No. Anything I learned was through what
15 Darrell had told me what he seen on Twitter that morning. I didn't -- I wasn't following
16 Twitter.

17 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** Okay. And when did you -- do you
18 remember when you learnt that the perpetrator was driving a vehicle that looked like a
19 police cruiser?

20 **CHIEF GREG MUISE:** No, I don't recall the time, no.

21 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** Okay.

22 And how about you, Mr. Ellison; do you remember when you
23 learned about the vehicle that the perpetrator was driving being a marked police
24 cruiser?

25 **MR. RICHARD ELLISON:** Probably not till the middle of the week
26 or the following weekend, type of thing, because I'm not big on Twitter.

27 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** Okay.

28 **MR. RICHARD ELLISON:** It reminds me of Conway Twitty, I

1 guess.

2 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** That's all right.

3 When I was asking you questions, I was asking you the same
4 questions but trying to apply it to different timeframes, and the question was thinking
5 back on this experience, what do you think would have helped or made a difference with
6 what you went through.

7 Can I ask that -- I'd like to ask that same question but ask it with
8 regards to the 57 minutes that you were sheltered in the Fire Hall that you just talked
9 about this morning.

10 And perhaps I could start with you, Chief Muise. Is there anything
11 that could have been done differently during that timeframe that would have, you think,
12 helped with your experience?

13 **CHIEF GREG MUISE:** If we had have known at the time that the --
14 if the RCMP had -- when they come in and asked if everybody was okay, if they had to
15 announce that they were RCMP officers, "Everything's good out here," things would
16 have been different. But not announcing that and not knowing who did this, it just -- just
17 makes -- I don't know how to explain it. Just -- but not knowing, I guess that's my
18 biggest thing, not knowing who was doing the shooting, and no idea, like, they -- if they
19 had've brought their names forward, like I say, "We're RCMP. We're here. We're sorry
20 what's going in in here. We'll be back to talk to you." Nothing. We had nothing. Just
21 like we were shoved under a rug somewhere and left.

22 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** Okay.

23 Are you able to answer the same question, Deputy Chief Currie?

24 **DEPUTY CHIEF DARRELL CURRIE:** I probably don't have much
25 more to add, but that would be the same thing. If somebody had a told us that it was a
26 blue on blue or a blue on Westlake, that there was no further -- the perpetrator was not
27 in the area; you know, he wasn't hiding out in the hall. If somebody had have clarified
28 what happened, I don't believe it would have had the same effect. It would have

1 obviously been -- still been traumatic but it would have lasted -- it only would have
2 lasted a few seconds and not an hour or more. Yeah, so pretty much the same answer.

3 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** Mr. Ellison, how about yourself? If -- is
4 there anything you would suggest that could have been done differently in that hour that
5 you were hiding?

6 **MR. RICHARD ELLISON:** Well the only thing that could have been
7 done different was I'd seen on the screen there earlier that they had a Google Map up
8 there that showed the location of the Onslow Belmont Fire Hall. So how come they
9 didn't pull Google Maps up when the RCMP went down to, you know, investigate what
10 was going on? And the -- you know, the commander was, "Okay. Well, this is going to
11 be --" and you're screening in your vehicle; eh? And they could have covered the exits
12 from down there, other than where they -- it's the only place they concentrated on, was
13 the Portapique Beach Road, when up the road a little ways, not very far, there's two exit
14 points there. And that's how he got out of there and he went on to kill nine more people;
15 eh? And then he -- that's how he ended up at the fire hall. You know, they should have
16 contained him down in there.

17 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** Thank you, Mr. Ellison. Sticking to this 57
18 minutes, or roughly an hour, do either the three of you, and I'll ask, you know, whoever
19 remembers, do you remember any of the conversations you had during that period of
20 time with each other?

21 **CHIEF GREG MUISE:** There really wasn't much to talk about
22 really. Like I say, we kind of -- I had a spot in the fire hall where I was and Darrell had
23 his spot checked out, and Ellison was kind of towards where Dave was. And no, there
24 wasn't much talking. We didn't feel that it was the right time to talk, because we had no
25 idea who was out there. So we kind of kept quiet and waited for -- until Darrell founded
26 out on Twitter where he was.

27 So I don't think we said too much to each other, really.

28 **DEPUTY CHIEF DARRELL CURRIE:** There were some phone

1 calls I made, ---

2 **CHIEF GREG MUISE:** Yeah, that's what -- yeah.

3 **CHIEF DEPUTY DARRELL CURRIE:** --- I guess, during that --
4 you know, I know Greg called his wife or his family, and I made some calls and text
5 messages to my family that goes back to the, you know, I'm assuming I'm going to be
6 dead in the next few minutes. So make a call, sort of a last call.

7 We -- I did send a message out to all our members over a system
8 we have, I am Responding, just to say there's an active shooter in our area. I sent that
9 out at some point while we were in hiding. At least the members of Onslow Belmont
10 would know that there's an active shooter in the area if nobody else wanted to send that
11 message out. So at least the Onslow Belmont members were aware of what was going
12 on. So they would have gotten a text message and email. That sort of thing. I did do
13 that.

14 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** And do you remember, Mr. Ellison, any of
15 the conversations that you had during this 57 minutes that ---

16 **MR. RICHARD ELLISON:** Not really, no.

17 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** No.

18 **MR. RICHARD ELLISON:** No, just like I said, I remember -- well I
19 can't even think of who it was, gave me the mask and a pair of gloves for the pandemic
20 that was starting.

21 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** Okay. And what about Mr. Westlake
22 during this time, this 57 minutes? Did he share any information about what was going
23 on with the three of you?

24 **CHIEF DEPUTY DARRELL CURRIE:** Not in the 57 minutes he
25 would have, because he went outside at the end of that 57 minutes.

26 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** All three of you, I know it's fairly clear, but
27 all three of you stayed in that room and sheltered during that 57 minutes?

28 **DEPUTY CHIEF DARRELL CURRIE:** No, the 57 minutes were the

1 time -- complete time that we were in the hall, sheltering in the hall.

2 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** Okay. Yeah.

3 **DEPUTY CHIEF DARRELL CURRIE:** We did move from that
4 room once Twitter -- once we read on Twitter that the perpetrator was further away.

5 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** Okay.

6 **DEPUTY CHIEF DARRELL CURRIE:** But we never left the hall.

7 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** In that 57 window?

8 **DEPUTY CHIEF DARRELL CURRIE:** No.

9 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** Okay. And did you ever receive
10 information from anyone that Cst Gagnon had moved his vehicle?

11 **CHIEF GREG MUISE:** No.

12 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** Deputy Chief Currie, earlier this morning
13 you made a comment that an officer had lied. Do you recall?

14 **DEPUTY CHIEF DARRELL CURRIE:** M'hm.

15 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** Okay. And what was the basis for you to
16 believe that an officer had lied?

17 **DEPUTY CHIEF DARRELL CURRIE:** Like I said this morning, the
18 eyewitness evidence from Jerome Breau and Dave Westlake, Gagnon, possibly the
19 other member that was there, Sharon from across the road, doesn't line up with the
20 evidence that was submitted in the Foundational Document.

21 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** Okay. So we're talking about the events
22 at the Onslow Belmont Fire Hall on April 19th?

23 **DEPUTY CHIEF DARRELL CURRIE:** Yes. Yes.

24 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** Yes. Okay. And this is -- you've reviewed
25 a number of the documents that you've had access through ---

26 **DEPUTY CHIEF DARRELL CURRIE:** Yes.

27 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** --- through your participation with the
28 Commission?

1 **DEPUTY CHIEF DARRELL CURRIE:** Yes.

2 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** And is it based on all -- your review of the
3 documents that the Commission has that you formed your comment that ---

4 **DEPUTY CHIEF DARRELL CURRIE:** My opinion.

5 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** Okay. So it's your opinion, not ---

6 **DEPUTY CHIEF DARRELL CURRIE:** My opinion. I'm not an
7 investigator.

8 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** Okay.

9 **DEPUTY CHIEF DARRELL CURRIE:** That's my opinion, that the
10 evidence of one person does not line up with the evidence of many.

11 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** Okay. And who was the individual that
12 the evidence didn't line up?

13 **DEPUTY CHIEF DARRELL CURRIE:** Terry Brown.

14 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** Okay. And there's nothing that you base
15 your opinion on that's not information that you've learned about ---

16 **DEPUTY CHIEF DARRELL CURRIE:** That's ---

17 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** --- through the Commission?

18 **DEPUTY CHIEF DARRELL CURRIE:** That's all information that
19 anybody probably has access to today, once all those reference material ---

20 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** Okay.

21 **DEPUTY CHIEF DARRELL CURRIE:** --- documents are released.

22 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** Well thank you, gentleman for answering
23 my follow up questions. I will pass the stage over to the Commissioners, who may have
24 some questions for you as well.

25 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** Thank you very much, Mr.
26 VanWart.

27 And Chief Muise, and Deputy Chief Currie, thank you so much for
28 coming here today and sharing your story. It was -- stories. They were deeply

1 personal. Took a lot of courage to tell them and we very much appreciate the fact that
2 you would do that, and share them with us, and help us in our work accordingly. And
3 it's been very helpful. So I just wanted to say on behalf of the Commissioners that we
4 very much appreciate that and thank you for that.

5 And Mr. Ellison, you've been through unimaginable grief and pain,
6 having lost your son, Corrie, and the anguish that your son Clinton went through that
7 evening and all the ---

8 **MR. RICHARD ELLISON:** As a dad -- yeah.

9 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** --- ensuing heartache. And I just
10 wanted to say on behalf of the Commission, the Commissioners and the entire
11 Commission, that you have our sincere sympathies, sir, for your loss, and for all of your
12 suffering. Not just at the fire hall, but all the suffering you've endured, sir. I just want to
13 express our sincere sympathy to you.

14 **MR. RICHARD ELLISON:** I appreciate that and I thank you.

15 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** Thank you. And thank you
16 again, gentlemen.

17 So we will -- we should break, but only briefly, so we can set up for
18 the next order of business, which is a presentation. So we, as Commissioners, will just
19 go backstage here maybe for 10 minutes and whenever you're ready, we'll be there
20 waiting. Thank you.

21 **REGISTRAR DARLENE SUTHERLAND:** Thank you. The
22 proceedings are now on break and will resume in 10 minutes.

23 --- Upon breaking at 2:04 p.m.

24 --- Upon resuming at 2:09 p.m.

25 **REGISTRAR DARLENE SUTHERLAND:** Welcome back. The
26 proceedings are again in session.

27 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** Thank you very much. As we
28 mentioned this morning, we are now going to have a second presentation. Commission

1 Counsel, Ms. Anna Mancini, who has worked to help prepare and will now present the
2 Foundational Document on Shubenacadie.

3 Ms. Mancini, whenever you're ready.

4 **--- INTRODUCTION OF FOUNDATION DOCUMENT SHUBENACADIE:**

5 **--- PRESENTATION BY MS. ANNA MANCINI:**

6 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Thank you. Good afternoon. Thank you for
7 continuing to engage in our work and for joining us for the final presentation for today.

8 My name is Anna Mancini. Like Mr. Burrill, who has conducted the
9 majority of our presentation of Foundational Documents, I, as Commissioner
10 MacDonald indicated, also serve as Commission Counsel. And like Mr. Burrill, Nova
11 Scotia is my home.

12 My task today is to present a summary of the Foundational
13 Document titled "Shubenacadie". In doing so, Madam Registrar, I move to mark and
14 tender into these proceedings the Foundational Document "Shubenacadie".

15 **REGISTRAR DARLENE SUTHERLAND:** That's Exhibit 556.

16 **--- EXHIBIT NO. 556:**

17 Foundational Document - Shubenacadie

18 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Thank you. I further move to mark and
19 tender the source material cited in Exhibit 556 as exhibits in these proceedings.

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

21 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Thank you. And finally, I move to mark and
22 tender the 15 video surveillance clips that are currently cited in the Truro Police
23 Foundational Document, which has not yet been tendered, but are shown in today's
24 presentation.

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

26 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Thank you, Madam Registrar.

27 The subject matter of today's proceedings is a summary of
28 information currently available to the Mass Casualty Commission in relation to the

1 events on April 19th, 2020 in and around Truro, Nova Scotia through to Shubenacadie,
2 Nova Scotia.

3 This Foundational Document and this presentation addresses the
4 murders of Constable Heidi Stevenson, Mr. Joseph (Joey) Webber, as well as the
5 shooting of Constable Chad Morrison.

6 With respect to how today's presentation is structured, I anticipate
7 being a little bit over an hour, perhaps closer to an hour and a half.

8 The first portion of today's presentation I'll attempt to situate us
9 geographically around the Truro, Millbrook and Brookfield areas and provide an
10 overview of the information that's currently available to the Commission with respect to
11 the perpetrator's movements through those areas from approximately 10 after 10:00
12 that morning to about 10:35 that morning of April 19th, 2020.

13 I will advise that in one of these videos the perpetrator is depicted.
14 He gets out of his vehicle. It's a widely circulated video, but that is a component of this
15 morning's proceedings -- sorry, this afternoon's proceedings.

16 The second portion of this presentation, I'll actually be stepping
17 backwards in time to about 7:00 a.m. on the morning of April 19th. And I'll be covering
18 some of the details and the activities of specific first responders as they arrived for their
19 shift that morning.

20 This will carry on up to and including the engagement of the
21 perpetrator with Constable Morrison and his subsequent medical intervention, the
22 engagement of the perpetrator in the cloverleaf with Constable Stevenson, Joey
23 Webber's arrival at the Shubenacadie cloverleaf and his engagement with the
24 perpetrator.

25 As always, we will refrain from showing any graphic content in this
26 presentation, but I do want to note that this presentation includes audio transmissions,
27 radio transmissions of both Constable Morrison and Constable Stevenson.

28 And finally, this presentation will provide an overview of some of the

1 witness observations from the cloverleaf. I'm going to say at the outset there were
2 numerous, numerous witness observations at that scene and they are -- we've
3 attempted to relay those in the Foundational Document. For purposes of today's
4 proceedings, we've selected several of them, but if there's an interest in pursuing all of
5 those accounts, they will be contained in the Foundational Document.

6 And finally, I'll address the first responders who arrived in the
7 immediate aftermath at the cloverleaf scene.

8 So this is a map of two counties in Nova Scotia. Of course,
9 Colchester County you're well acquainted with. The county to the southwest of that is
10 Hants County.

11 So the body of water right in the middle of the screen is, of course,
12 the Minas Basin. And as you move east, it narrows to Cobequid Bay. And right through
13 the south of the -- from the eastern end of Cobequid Bay, there's what's a clear sort of
14 lightning bolt-shaped river. That's the Shubenacadie River. It's a very significant
15 waterway.

16 And that waterway, that river, actually runs the border north-south
17 between Colchester and Hants County.

18 If we take a look at some of the communities that are situated along
19 this border and this area of the province, of course Onslow you're familiar with from this
20 morning. And just to the southeast of Onslow is Truro. It's a town in Colchester County
21 with a population of about 13,000 people.

22 Millbrook is a First Nations community. It's about three kilometres
23 or so south of Truro. Brookfield is another -- is 9.5 kilometres south of Truro. It's about
24 21 kilometres north of Shubenacadie. Shubenacadie is approximately 35 kilometres
25 south of Truro. And Milford is 10 kilometres, or thereabouts, south of Shubenacadie.

26 We have the City of Halifax on the map as well at the southernmost
27 -- or at the bottom, sort of, of the screen there. That's approximately 60 kilometres
28 south of Shubenacadie if you were to proceed on the Highway 102, the divided

1 highway. It's closer to 68 kilometres or so south of Shubenacadie if you proceed on the
2 old Highway 2.

3 So we'll have a closer look at the Truro area and some of the
4 roadways around there.

5 The Highway 2/4, it's a combined Highway 2 and 4 at this stage.
6 Of course, you're familiar with the 2, which would proceed west through Portapique
7 along the Parrsboro shore and then, of course, the 4, which proceeds north through
8 Glenholm and up to Wentworth. And right around the Masstown area, the two highways
9 join and they travel east together towards Truro, as you can see.

10 And it's actually at this juncture that they split again, so Highway 2,
11 there's a -- well, if you travel along Highway 2 and 4, there's a turnoff to travel on
12 Highway 102. That's, again, that divided highway that would take you to Halifax.

13 And the Highway 2 is sort of temporarily subsumed in that. It turns
14 off and joins with the 102 and then again turns east and proceeds south as the old
15 highway running parallel to the 102.

16 Highway 104, of course, is running north in an east-west direction.
17 Obviously if you were to proceed west on the 104, you'd go to New Brunswick, east,
18 you arrive in Cape Breton.

19 So these are these same roads we've just been discussing. We're
20 just zoomed in and we're essentially covering the perpetrator's movements through the
21 Truro area that morning.

22 You've already seen this morning the video from the residence at
23 13077 Highway 2/4. We'll continue to Patterson Sales and Service at 10:11, Century
24 Honda in Bible Hill area at 10:15, Wilsons Gas Stops, Dairy Queen, Jimolly's Bakery
25 and Café, the NSCC and the Best Western Glengarry Hotel.

26 So 13077 Highway 2/4, I believe you've seen footage of this this
27 morning. This is video from a homeowner.

28 The video does run about four minutes fast, so the time stamp on

1 there says that it's 10:12, and in reality, this would be 10:08.

2 **[VIDEO PLAYBACK]**

3 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** So of course, that's a continuation from the
4 footage that we saw this morning, the perpetrator passing by initially the Onslow
5 Belmont Fire Hall and then carrying on east past this residence.

6 The next video surveillance clip is from Patterson Sales and
7 Service at 10:11 a.m. So the perpetrator has passed that turnoff to the 102, so hasn't
8 taken that turnoff but has, instead, continued on the 4.

9 **[VIDEO PLAYBACK]**

10 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** And what appears to be a replica police
11 vehicle with a push bar proceeding east is depicted in that video.

12 We next have the video footage that I mentioned from Century
13 Honda on Main Street. This is near the Agricultural College in Truro. It's at 10:15 a.m.
14 And if you look at the top of the screen, you'll see what appears to be the replica cruiser
15 with the push bar.

16 **[VIDEO PLAYBACK]**

17 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** So the perpetrator's vehicle at that point
18 would pass over the Salmon River into Truro. For this particular time video, excuse me,
19 we don't have a -- we can't speak to the accuracy of the time stamp. There was no
20 comparison done between the video footage and actual time, and as has been obvious,
21 sometimes these surveillance videos are not accurate time.

22 But what we do know is that the Wilsons Gas is situated about 800
23 metres south of the Century Honda, the previous video that you saw. It's just on the, as
24 I mentioned, the other side of the Salmon River.

25 **[VIDEO PLAYBACK]**

26 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** We then proceed to the Dairy Queen on the
27 corner of Prince Street and Walker Street. This is about another 250 metres south of
28 the Wilson's gas.

1 **[VIDEO PLAYBACK]**

2 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** So it's just across the top of the screen
3 there.

4 **[VIDEO PLAYBACK]**

5 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** We then have a still footage from Jimolly's
6 Bakery and Café on the Esplanade in Truro at 10:17. So this is a still image taken from
7 their surveillance footage. As you can see, there's the clear decals on the side of -- of
8 the replica PC.

9 I should point out, this is very much downtown Truro. It's an area
10 with cafés, restaurants. Of course, this was the height of the -- the early days of the
11 pandemic, so most things were locked down, but just to give you a sense of the area
12 that is being travelled through.

13 We then have another still image. This is from the NSCC. The
14 camera is sort of set back and the quality of the image is not the greatest, certainly in
15 comparison to the previous still image. Nevertheless, it does appear to be a vehicle, it
16 does look as though there is that black push bumper on the front of the vehicle, and this
17 would be proceeding west on Arthur Street.

18 And finally, we have the Best Western Glengarry Hotel at 10:19:50,
19 and this will capture the perpetrator's replica vehicle or certainly what appears to be the
20 replica vehicle proceeding south on Willow Street, which is a street that transitions into
21 Highway 2.

22 **[VIDEO PLAYBACK]**

23 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** So that's giving us a sense of how the
24 perpetrator travelled through the Truro area that morning. The perpetrator continued
25 south on Highway 2. So as I mentioned that Willow Street proceeding south becomes
26 Highway 2, passes through and continues through Millbrook, Hilden, Brookfield areas
27 towards Stewiacke and then Shubenacadie.

28 So there are several more video surveillance images that have

1 been captured, and we'll go through those. So the Millbrook RCMP detachment at
2 10:23 a.m.

3 **[VIDEO PLAYBACK]**

4 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** I should point out that the system time on
5 the video here is four minutes slower than real time, so this is actually the perpetrator's
6 vehicle passing at 10:23.

7 **[VIDEO PLAYBACK]**

8 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** There's then two videos from the Millbrook
9 Fisheries. So there's one video that's facing north, so with oncoming traffic coming from
10 the north and proceeding south. The video's a little bit fuzzy, but there is certainly some
11 distinct markings on the vehicle.

12 **[VIDEO PLAYBACK]**

13 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** The second angle, that's the same building,
14 you can see that there's still that same shadow on the pavement at the Millbrook
15 Fisheries, but this is an angle of the camera looking south. This video is actually --
16 captures that activity of the perpetrator pulling over, getting out of his vehicle, and
17 changing his clothing or adjusting his clothing, but it's set about 50 or 80 metres so
18 back. So it's a less clear angle, but that's what you'll ultimately see.

19 **[VIDEO PLAYBACK]**

20 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** So again, this is about 10:23 in the morning.
21 We've observed the replica cruiser pull over to the left side of the road as it's travelling
22 south. It's paused there for a period of -- a short period of time, and then resumes
23 travelling south.

24 The Millbrook Mi'kmag'ki Trading Post, this is the video that I was
25 just alluding to where we see the perpetrator in more detail, the actions that we just saw
26 from a distance on the previous video.

27 **[VIDEO PLAYBACK]**

28 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** So in that video, we see the perpetrator

1 travelling south, pull over, exit the replica RCMP cruiser, removes what appears to be
2 that navy blue jacket, believed to be a correctional services jacket. That jacket's later
3 found in Mr. Webber's SUV. He appears to be wearing a gray RCMP shirt and a
4 baseball cap. The perpetrator removes the high visibility yellow vest that's over top of
5 the jacket, removes the jacket, and then places the high visibility vest back over the
6 RCMP shirt, gets back into the vehicle and proceeds south on Highway 2. The
7 timestamp of this video was confirmed to be 31 minutes fast. It's consistent with being
8 10:23.

9 We then have footage in the Hilden area, Glenn's Autobody, at
10 10:28. This timestamp is actually four minutes fast, but we will see the replica cruiser
11 pass by.

12 **[VIDEO PLAYBACK]**

13 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** We then have at 10:31, Brookfield Lumber
14 video surveillance video from there. Brookfield Lumber is situated on the west side of
15 the road, so the perpetrator will be passing left to right on the screen, travelling south.

16 **[VIDEO PLAYBACK]**

17 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Approximately one minute later, the vehicle
18 is captured at an intersection of the two on the 289, at Roop's Esso, continuing south on
19 the 2.

20 **[VIDEO PLAYBACK]**

21 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** It's a bit of a jumpy surveillance video. I
22 believe it's motion censored, but it does pick up passing through that intersection.

23 And finally just to the south of Roop's Esso, the perpetrator's
24 replica police vehicle was captured in a still frame from the surveillance footage of the
25 Brookfield Bakery, again proceeding south on that Highway 2.

26 So again, as is consistent with all the videos and the images that
27 we've seen of surveillance footage, sometimes the quality is very good, sometimes it's
28 not very good. Sometimes the time stamps are accurate, sometimes there's

1 adjustments to real time or actual time that need to be made. The idea is to pull
2 together as much as we can to have as clear insight as we can to the perpetrator's
3 movements in this case as he proceeded through the Town of Truro south on Highway
4 2 towards the Brookfield area.

5 So I'm now going to, as I mentioned, take us back in time a little bit
6 to closer to 7:00 a.m. And this is when various members from RCMP detachments
7 began their shifts.

8 So the map here gives you a sense of some of the detachments
9 that we'll be speaking about this afternoon. The Millbrook detachment, which is just
10 south of Truro, of course, we saw the video surveillance several moments ago from that
11 area. And of course, you'll recall the Millbrook detachment was the detachment from
12 which Corporal Jamieson and Constable Grund attended Portapique on the night of
13 April 18th, Corporal Jamieson who was posted at the head of Highway 2 on Portapique
14 Beach Road and Constable Grund who partook in the extraction of children from the
15 Portapique area.

16 Following their shift, Constable Grund was relieved from duty.
17 Corporal Jamieson, at about 7:00 a.m., contacted Sergeant Bernard, provided him with
18 an update of what had happened, and she also advised Constable Jared Daley, who
19 had reported for his shift at 7:00, about the incidents that had taken place overnight.

20 Sergeant Bernard contact members at the command post, other
21 staff sergeants, and began gathering information.

22 Constable Jared Daley, later in the morning, contacted Constable
23 Barry Martin and asked that he attend given the circumstances. That was at about
24 10:20 that morning.

25 Farther south is the Indian Brook detachment. Two members
26 reporting for shift that morning, Constables Kari Pettinger and Stephanie LeBlanc.

27 And the third detachment furthest south on the map, the Enfield
28 detachment. Of note, the corporal from this detachment, Corporal Byard, was actually

1 engaged with the Emergency Response Team driving the tactical armoured vehicle, but
2 the members who reported for shift at 7:00 a.m., Constables Austin Comeau, who was
3 the most junior member, Constable Chris Gibson, Constable Chad Morrison, and
4 Constable Heidi Stevenson.

5 Constable Stevenson was the most experienced member at the
6 detachment that morning, with 23 years of service. She was the acting shift supervisor
7 that morning.

8 So these members all arrived at about 7:00 a.m. And as they're
9 commencing their shift, a BOLO comes out -- sorry, a be on the lookout. And this is
10 essentially what the text would look like coming in on their mobile workstations, so it's
11 information that has been provided to members commencing their shift and it reads:

12 "update regarding active shooter in colchester county
13 soc [subject of complaint] outstanding -- use caution --
14 update regarding additional vehicles soc WORTMAN,
15 GABRIEL ... is associated to and registered in his
16 name is a 2007 black jeep wrangler ... & a 2017 white
17 ford fl 50 nslp: [redacted], as well as the white 2015
18 mercedes c300 ... already bolo'd original as follows
19 ..."

20 So this is saying that there's previous information that's following
21 and the original message is following from here down:

22 ...active shooter incident in progress -- soc is a
23 gabriel wortman ... and the incident is in the
24 portapique area of colchester county - soc is believed
25 to be armed and [dangerous and] is arrestable for the
26 incident in progress - soc is thought to be very familiar
27 with firearms and should be considered armed and
28 dangerous - soc is associated to two vehicles: a white

1 2015 mercedes c300 ... and an old white police car
2 (may be burned at the scene) - soc is also associated
3 to a lisa banfield [redacted] who is not currently
4 accounted for - soc has been added to cpic in the sip
5 [or SIP] category along with the pointer vehicle - the
6 situation is still in progress”

7 CPIC is the Canadian Police Information Centre. That’s the central
8 database system for police to access. And SIP or S-I-P category means Special
9 Interest to Police.

10 So this is information that had been circulating in the overnight
11 hours regarding the situation in Portapique, and this is the information that’s being
12 relayed at the 7:00 a.m. BOLO that is being sent out to members arriving at their shift.

13 About an hour later, at 8:04 a.m., another BOLO is released to
14 members. And it indicates there’s an:

15 “update regarding active shooter in portapique,
16 colchester county soc outstanding -- use caution --
17 WORTMAN, GABRIEL ... arrestable for homicide and
18 is armed and dangerous. very familiar with firearms.
19 update from risk manager bruce briers - soc is
20 potentially using fully marked ford taurus car number
21 28b 11 and could be anywhere in the province - the
22 last information given soc was loading firearms into
23 that vehicle - vehicle photo to be coming when
24 available he is associated to and registered in his
25 name is a 2007 black jeep wrangler ... & a 2017 white
26 ford f150 ... as well as the white 2015 mercedes c300
27 ... also associated to berkshire broman (possibly his
28 business) but not plated are a 2017 white ford taurus,

1 worn as a vest over soft body armour, and this is obviously in light of the fact that the
2 SOC is at large.

3 At 8:19, around twenty after eight, Constable Stevenson contacts
4 the OCC by phone and asks for some specifics or some details about the replica police
5 cruiser. She enquires whether this is a decommissioned vehicle or whether this is an
6 active vehicle, enquires whether the vehicle has a light bar, expresses some concern
7 about whether or not the perpetrator has access to a radio in this vehicle, and also,
8 discusses with the OCC about how members can access a photograph of this -- of this
9 replica cruiser through their database systems.

10 Approximately a half-an-hour after that telephone call, at 8:44 a.m.,
11 Constable Stevenson enquires over the air whether a media release has been
12 discussed regarding the replica police cruiser.

13 **[AUDIO PLAYBACK]**

14 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** At 8:46 a.m., the dispatcher who's speaking
15 with Constable Stevenson in that call or in that radio exchange, excuse me, sends a
16 message to the dispatch supervisor and the risk manager, Staff Sergeant Briers. The
17 message indicates:

18 "Enfield [member] requesting a media release re:
19 28b11 being an imposter."

20 The information currently available to the Commission indicates
21 that this message was passed by Staff Sergeant Briers to the Command Post and that a
22 decision was made at that time not to do so. Obviously, the discussions and decision-
23 making pertaining to the Command Post will be explored in the Commission's upcoming
24 work.

25 So after reviewing and collecting information, the Enfield and Indian
26 Brook members departed the Enfield detachment and they set up at strategic positions
27 along the Colchester and Hants County border. This map reflects the positioning of the
28 members. And I appreciate it's a little bit busy, there's a great deal going on, but if you'll

1 recall, there's the Shubenacadie River, the, I call it the Lightning Bolt River, running
2 north and south, a north/south direction, that's sort of in the centre of the screen, and
3 that, again, is the border between Hants and Colchester. And the members actually
4 took up positions running along that river along the entryways from Colchester County
5 into Hants County.

6 So there's essentially three main travel routes from Colchester into
7 Hants. So obviously, the most common would be to proceed on the divided highway,
8 the 102, which is highlighted in yellow, as they all are, in the centre of the map, and this
9 is where Constable Gibson and Constable Stevenson positioned each of their vehicles
10 on a median just north of Exit 10. Constable Stevenson was facing north and
11 Constable Gibson was facing west. So you'll see the small blue tags labelled
12 Constable Stevenson and Constable Gibson sort of in the bottom third of the photo
13 there.

14 Constables Pettinger and LeBlanc from the Indian Brook
15 detachment, they were travelling together in a vehicle, they were positioned farther
16 south on the 102, near Exit 9. So they are the very bottom label on the 102 there, the
17 blue circle.

18 Another entry point from Colchester County into Hants County is
19 near South Maitland, so closer to the mouth of the river of the Shubenacadie River,
20 closer to Cobequid Bay, and that is where Constable Comeau was positioned at the
21 intersection of Phillip's Road and Highway 236. He was facing east. So that's
22 Constable Comeau's position right on the Highway 236.

23 And finally, the old highway, Highway Number 2, would be another
24 entry point into East Hants from Colchester, and Constable Morrison was positioned
25 there at the intersection of Highway 2 and 224, just north of the Shubenacadie River.

26 So what you'll hear in this audio clip is Constable Stevenson
27 communicating these staging points to members and explaining the reasons that they're
28 positioned where they are.

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[AUDIO PLAYBACK]

MS. ANNA MANCINI: So essentially, Constable Stevenson is advising that members are strategically placed for purposes of cutting off access points into the county, and also ensuring that members have backup as close as possible to them.

So Constable Morrison's position was just north of the Shubenacadie Cloverleaf on the north side, as I indicated, of the Shubenacadie River. We'll zoom in and take a closer look at that area.

So you can see, Constable Morrison is positioned right across the bridge of the Shubenacadie River. He's at that intersection of 224 and the 2. So if you were to proceed north from Constable Morrison's position, so straight up to essentially the top of the screen, that would take you along the 2 towards Brookfield, Hilden, Millbrook, Truro. If you were to proceed east on Highway 224, that's known more commonly as the Gays River Road. If you were to come south, so come down the bridge, and come straight across, you come to the Shubenacadie Cloverleaf, and this is a -- essentially, an interchange of Highways 2 and 224.

And it's a -- it's a little bit complicated to articulate, I think it's probably more intuitive when you drive it, but Highway 2 and 224 are essentially the same highway for that portion across the bridge and proceeding through the centre of the cloverleaf. If one wanted to proceed south and take the 2, they would exit off of the Cloverleaf on the western prong and proceed down through the community of Shubenacadie, pass along that intersection to the left of the screen of the 215, and carry on south on Highway 2. If one were to continue straight south from Constable Morrison's position and travel across the bridge and continue without taking an exit on the Cloverleaf, one would remain on Highway 224.

So conversely, if one is travelling north on Highway 2, so if you start from the leftmost of the screen and continue in a northerly direction, you pass that intersection with Highway 215, travel through the community, proceed under the

1 tedious, the roadways and their relationships to each other are quite significant to the
2 events that play out in Shubenacadie, but just to give you a picture from the other angle,
3 we're looking to the north now. You can see the Gays River Road and 224 across the
4 bridge and Highway 2. You can see the one-way portions of the Cloverleaf that I was
5 referring to.

6 So two things happen around the mid-morning, 10:30ish, 10:40,
7 that cause the members in East Hants to adjust the positions that we had reviewed
8 earlier.

9 So the first, of course, are the horrific events on Plains Road in the
10 Debert area. This prompted a request for two additional carbine trained members to
11 attend Colchester County to attempt to locate and search for the perpetrator. It was
12 decided that Cst Gibson and Comeau would proceed to Colchester. The second
13 important piece of information that came into the OCC was a person who called in with
14 information regarding a possible sighting of the perpetrator's replica cruiser travelling
15 south on Highway 2 from the Brookfield area. And of course, you'll recall from the
16 surveillance footage that we looked at, this was accurate. This was in fact the direction
17 that the perpetrator was travelling.

18 **[AUDIO PLAYBACK]**

19 So the map on the left depicts Highway 2, Brookfield, Stewiacke
20 that are referenced in that dispatch. And of course, continuing south, it continues to the
21 position where Cst Morrison was located, as well as to the south of that, the
22 Shubenacadie Cloverleaf.

23 So recognizing that this direction of travel by the perpetrator would
24 mean that the perpetrator would encounter or could encounter Cst Morrison at his
25 position on Highway 2, Cst Stevenson immediately indicates that she's going to move to
26 Cst Morrison's position.

27 **[AUDIO PLAYBACK]**

28 So there's a couple of things to unpack in that audio clip. Cst.

1 Stevenson has indicated that she's going to join Cst Morrison at his position. The OCC
2 checks in to ensure that Enfield has received this update. So what's actually happening
3 is the previous dispatch that you heard was over the Colchester radio channel. So the
4 members who are in Colchester have that radio channel active and have heard it.
5 Hants County would be a separate channel. The OCC is ensuring that members in both
6 counties have received this information.

7 Cst. Stevenson was monitoring the Colchester radio on her
8 portable radio and she had her car radio set to the Hants radio channel. So she's able
9 to listen to the updates on one channel and provide updates over the Hants channel.

10 S/Sgt Ettinger, who comes in towards the end of the conversation
11 at that stage, he's -- he has attended that morning at the OCC and is volunteering as an
12 assistant risk manager to S/Sgt Bruce Briers.

13 So this map shows Cst Stevenson's position in relation to Cst
14 Morrison at the time that she made that broadcast. Cst Stevenson proceeded towards
15 Cst Morrison's position via Highway 215, Highway 215. At 10:48, Cst Stevenson is
16 approaching Cst Morrison's position from the south, but Cst Morrison observes a
17 marked Ford Taurus approaching his position from the North.

18 In his statement, Cst Morrison describes observing a Taurus with a
19 push bar and he was initially cautious about the possibility that this was the perpetrator
20 approaching his position and he went over the air to inquire who was approaching him
21 from this position, travelling south on the 2.

22 **[AUDIO PLAYBACK]**

23 Of course, Cst Stevenson has just turned on to Highway 2, to the
24 south of Cst Morrison's position and she replies that it's her.

25 Cst Morrison indicated in his statement that upon hearing this
26 response, he was put at ease. Cst Morrison proceeds east on the Gays River Road.
27 He performs a gentle U-turn and he stops. And so he's assuming that that vehicle that's
28 proceeding south on the 2 is Cst Stevenson, and he believes that Cst Stevenson is

1 going to take a left on to the Gays River Road and that the two are going to speak to
2 each other, driver's side window to driver's side window. Of course, this is in fact the
3 perpetrator travelling south on the 2.

4 Cst Morrison observed the vehicle, the perpetrator's vehicle turn left
5 on to the Gays River Road and approached him, and it was as the perpetrator was
6 performing this turn that Cst Morrison realized that the driver was not Cst Stevenson.

7 The perpetrator then pointed a handgun out of the driver's side
8 window and began to fire at Cst Morrison. Cst Morrison recalled that the perpetrator
9 fired at least three or four shots.

10 In his statement to the RCMP, Cst Morrison describes that he
11 floored it to get away and turned left on to Highway 2. He broadcast what had
12 transpired over the Hants radio.

13 We are going to play that audio clip. A note of caution: Obviously,
14 it's a high-stress clip that you're about to hear as Cst. Morrison is in quite a bit of
15 distress.

16 **[AUDIO PLAYBACK]**

17 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** Cst. Morrison had suffered perforating
18 gunshot wounds to both of his arms. He had also been shot in the chest, but the hard
19 body armour had prevented that from being a serious injury in that location.

20 He relayed information as he's travelling about the direction of
21 travel of the perpetrator. He's confirmed that the perpetrator had been continuing
22 southbound on Highway 2.

23 He himself proceeded south on Highway 2. He proceeded to the
24 western ramp of the cloverleaf to get onto Highway 2, in order to make his way to the
25 Milford EHS base.

26 So we do have a video of the route of Cst. Morrison from the point
27 at which he's set back on the Gay's River Road, he's about several feet back from the
28 stop sign. He then makes that left onto Highway 2.

1 Obviously, this is not reflective of the urgency of the situation that
2 Cst. Morrison was in. In fact, Cst. Morrison had to -- was driving so quickly that he
3 made contact with the guardrails on each side of the highway.

4 The video will take you over the bridge of the Shubenacadie River
5 and we then go over the overpass which is where Cst. Stevenson, at that time, was
6 approaching from the west at the time of this broadcast, and it will then take you down
7 the western side of the cloverleaf.

8 **[VIDEO PLAYBACK]**

9 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** So from there, Cst. Morrison turned left and
10 proceeded approximately five kilometres from that intersection to the Milford EHS base.

11 Cst. Morrison continued to communicate via his car radio. His
12 portable radio was actually damaged in the course of the encounter, and he was unable
13 to broadcast over it. He could hear information coming in, but he couldn't relay
14 information over that radio.

15 At 10:53, Cst. Morrison arrived at the EHS paramedics base in
16 Milford. He parked at the side of the building, so in the photograph on your screen it's
17 around the left side, there's some blue tape on the ground and the SUV, the RCMP
18 SUV is in around the side to the left of the photo.

19 He couldn't see anybody there. He approached the side door of
20 the base and banged on it. And he also recognized that he was losing feeling in both of
21 his arms and his hands as a result of the blood loss from his injuries. He wasn't sure,
22 and he was concerned that the perpetrator may have followed him to this location, so he
23 took his carbine, his firearm, and he went behind the EHS base. He kept returning back
24 to his vehicle in order to be able to broadcast information and provide updates about his
25 location. Obviously, he couldn't do so over his portable radio.

26 And he came to the conclusion, and recognized, that he was in a
27 position where he was unable to physically discharge his carbine, so he returned to the
28 back of the base, he unloaded the magazine from his carbine and he stashed the items

1 in the grass, this kind of swamp area behind the base, and then waited for paramedics
2 to locate him.

3 There were two paramedics in the base, Molly McFaul and Daniel
4 Storgato; they were inside. They had been given two pieces of information; one, that
5 they had an injured member who was on route to the base, but they had been also
6 advised to make sure they remained inside, given the danger of the situation for their
7 own safety.

8 And they were unable to see, initially, Cst. Morrison's vehicle from
9 inside the ambulance bay. But at approximately 11:00 a.m., Mr. Storgato exited the
10 ambulance bay, he rounded the corner, and he located an unoccupied RCMP SUV. He
11 noticed that there were bullet holes in the vehicle; that the windows had been smashed
12 out, and he also observed a trail of blood proceeding from the SUV to the back of the
13 base.

14 He checked to see whether the call sign, so the numbers on the
15 SUV, matched that with the information that he had been provided from the RCMP
16 Dispatch, and when he confirmed that that was accurate, he proceeded behind the
17 base. He located Cst. Morrison returning from the woods where he had been hiding his
18 weapon. Cst. Morrison was concerned he'd be mistaken for the perpetrator, so he
19 advised the paramedic, "I'm the good guy. I'm the good guy. Please help me." He
20 explained that he had hidden his weapon behind the base.

21 Mr. Storgato guided Cst. Morrison to the ambulance bay and both
22 paramedics provided him with treatment, medical treatment.

23 At 11:29, the paramedics transported Cst. Morrison to the hospital
24 and they advised RCMP Dispatch that the firearm was hidden behind the base, and that
25 firearm was later located that same day by Police Dog Service member Cpl. Brown.

26 And just to give you a sense of behind the base and the area where
27 Cst. Morrison was located, these photographs provide that.

28 So in the photograph on the left, that's the base, the very back of

1 the base that we're facing. Cst. Morrison's vehicle was parked around the right side in
2 the photo, on the side of the building.

3 So as I mentioned, Cst. Stevenson was approaching and about to
4 go underneath the overpass at the time that Cst. Morrison broadcast that he was shot.
5 The GPS data from her vehicle indicates that following Cst. Morrison's broadcast, Cst.
6 Stevenson accelerated and travelled to Cst. Morrison's last known position.

7 She proceeded under the overpass and up the eastern side of the
8 cloverleaf.

9 The perpetrator had continued south on Highway 2, coming across
10 the river. As Cst. Stevenson was passing through the one-way portion of the cloverleaf,
11 the perpetrator crossed his vehicle through the oncoming lane, and down the one-way
12 ramp, resulting in a head-on collision with Cst. Stevenson.

13 So, again, I have two video clips, and the purpose of these is to
14 provide a rough sense of the vantage points on these two different routes.

15 So the first is the route that Cst. Stevenson traversed from roughly
16 the time of hearing Cst. Morrison's dispatch to approximately the time of encountering
17 the replica RCMP vehicle.

18 This would also, of course, be the same route that's later traversed
19 and driven by Joey Webber when he arrives at the cloverleaf later -- shortly afterwards.

20 **[VIDEO PLAYBACK]**

21 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** So as you can see with the nature of the
22 curve and the bend in the road, the view and vantage point of Highway 2 is quite limited
23 until that final curve.

24 If we play the second clip, this will gain or provide some sense of
25 the perpetrator's route, having already turned left on Gays River Road and proceeding
26 south on Highway 2.

27 **[AUDIO PLAYBACK]**

28 **MS. ANNA MANCINI:** So one thing to note in that clip is the length

1 of time that -- from that vantage point you are able to see traffic travelling on the
2 Cloverleaf. You're able to make the observations from some distance back of vehicles
3 approaching on that Cloverleaf intersection.

4 So the perpetrator veered his vehicle into Constable Stevenson's
5 lane. According to the RCMP's collision reconstruction file, the damage to the
6 perpetrator's vehicle and Constable Stevenson's vehicle was consistent with a head-on
7 style impact. Constable Stevenson's vehicle was located primarily on the left side of the
8 Cloverleaf at the time of the impact and was actually travelling to the left at the time of
9 impact, suggesting that there may have been a veer to the left. The perpetrator's
10 vehicle was redirected rearward and stopped with its left side against the outer
11 guardrail. From the available visible damage, there did not actually appear to be any
12 tactical advantage in this instance to the perpetrator's vehicle being equipped with that
13 push bumper, and in fact, there was actually more damage done to the front of the
14 perpetrator's vehicle than there was to Constable Stevenson's vehicle.

15 According to the GPS data from Constable Stevenson's vehicle,
16 this collision occurred at 10:49 a.m. Constable Stevenson's vehicle came to a rest
17 facing north into the guardrail by the ramp yield sign, and the perpetrator's vehicle was
18 positioned facing southeast, as I mentioned, with the driver's side door against the
19 guardrail.

20 There's multiple witness accounts of what transpired following the
21 collision, and given these different recollections and the various vantage points, it's
22 difficult to know precisely what took place. But from the forensic evidence that's
23 available to the Commission, that would indicate that Constable Stevenson likely exited
24 her vehicle and was at some point facing towards the perpetrator's replica police
25 vehicle. She and the perpetrator engaged in gunfire.

26 Constable Stevenson's portable radio, so the radio that can be
27 carried, was keyed or activated on four occasions, two of which are of some
28 significance. The times of those were 10:49:40, 10:49:59, 10:50:04, and 10:52:57. So

1 no noise or audio is heard on the first or last of those keys, but the two keys in the
2 middle, at 10:49:59 and 10:50:04, the sounds consistent with the sounds of gunshots
3 can be heard over the radio at that time, but we do not hear any communication from
4 Constable Stevenson. There were two bullet entry holes located in
5 Constable Stevenson's vehicle and one exit bullet hole through Constable Stevenson's
6 passenger side door.

7 In the post-mortem examination of the perpetrator, which will be
8 discussed in greater detail in the coming days, an atypical gunshot wound was located
9 on the right side of the perpetrator's scalp, approximately 2 centimetres from the top of
10 the perpetrator's head. The wound resulted in a skull fracture but was non-debilitating
11 in this instance. Small fragments were recovered from this wound, and those fragments
12 were later determined to be bullet jacket fragments that shared class characteristics
13 consistent with having been fired from Constable Stevenson's pistol.

14 There's a witness at the Cloverleaf who observed the perpetrator to
15 be bleeding from his head at the Cloverleaf, and forensic evidence confirms that the
16 perpetrator was in fact bleeding when he left the Cloverleaf in Mr. Webber's Ford. First
17 responders also later observed the perpetrator bleeding from his head when they
18 encountered him at the Big Stop in Enfield. It therefore appears that
19 Constable Stevenson fired her pistol at the perpetrator inflicting a non-fatal head wound.

20 Constable Stevenson's pistol fires 9 millimetre bullets. It has a
21 capacity for and was loaded at the time with a 15-round magazine. Fourteen casings
22 from the firearm were located in and around the driver's side area of
23 Constable Stevenson's vehicle, indicating that Constable Stevenson fired at least 14
24 bullets from her firearm. The empty magazine from her firearm was later located with
25 the perpetrator, so it would appear that the magazine was emptied or that all 15 bullets
26 were obviously no longer in the magazine; however, a 15th casing was not recovered at
27 the scene, so it's possible, and perhaps even logical that Constable Stevenson fired 15
28 bullets from her weapon at the Cloverleaf, but the reality is we don't know that, we can

1 only account for the 14 of the shots that were fired.

2 Constable Stevenson suffered multiple gunshot wounds during her
3 encounter with the perpetrator. At some time around 10:51, the perpetrator approached
4 the driver's side area of Constable Stevenson's vehicle and fatally shot
5 Constable Stevenson. He then took her firearm as well as two additional magazines
6 from her duty belt.

7 It's not my place to comment on the degree of professionalism and
8 courage that Constable Stevenson demonstrated that morning, but I think her actions
9 reflect this more poignantly than any words that I could say would.

10 A second homicide occurred immediately afterwards at the
11 Cloverleaf site. Earlier that morning, Joey Webber woke up and spoke with his partner
12 about events occurring in the Portapique area. He and his partner were aware of the
13 events there as a result of Facebook posts, and Joey's partner enquired where
14 Portapique was located. Joey accurately described it as being past the Debert area.

15 Around 10:00 a.m., Mr. Webber left his home to perform a family
16 errand, and he travelled to the Wilson's Gas in Milford. Joey Webber was driving a
17 2008 silver grey Ford Escape, and video surveillance suggests he arrived at the gas
18 station in Milford at about 10:37 a.m. Mr. Webber proceeded north on Highway 2
19 towards the Shubenacadie Cloverleaf.

20 Sometime around 10:52 a.m., Joey Webber arrived at the
21 Cloverleaf and came upon the scene of two crashed police vehicles, and in an act that
22 is consistent with only the best and kindest attributes of humanity, Joey Webber
23 observed the accident, pulled over his vehicle and got out of his car. And one witness
24 indicated that it looked as though Joey was running to help. Another described him as a
25 good Samaritan.

26 Witnesses observed Mr. Webber being directed or moving towards
27 the backseat of the replica police vehicle. The perpetrator fatally shot Joey Webber as
28 he was seated there. The perpetrator was then observed unloading items from the

1 replica police cruiser and placing them in Joey Webber's SUV. He then set the replica
2 police car on fire. He set the fire, it seems, in the trunk area of the replica cruiser and it
3 quickly spread to the backseat and ultimately engulfed both vehicles.

4 At approximately 10:55, the perpetrator had entered Joey Webber's
5 SUV, crossed that oncoming lane of traffic, and proceeded south on Highway 224.

6 Witnesses who were on the line with 9-1-1 at the time relayed this
7 information to the OCC.

8 So as I indicated, there were many witnesses to the Cloverleaf
9 incidents. And we've isolated some witnesses who made observations and contacted
10 9-1-1 and provided their contemporaneous observations as to what they were seeing.

11 The first are Katie Rodler and Kenneth Hood. They were traveling
12 through the area that morning with their infant in the backseat of their car. They
13 proceeded north on Highway 2 towards Stewiacke and on route, they observed a police
14 officer, later determined to be Cst Morrison, at the intersection of Highway 2 and 224.
15 And as they passed, they observed what they described as the officer putting on a bullet
16 proof vest, which was his hard body armour.

17 So as they continued, they passed another police cruiser
18 proceeding south. And Mr. Hood described a big black push bumper on the vehicle and
19 that that was what had caught his attention.

20 So upon seeing this police presence, they decide to turn around
21 and head back home. They said that the police presence kind of scared them a little bit.
22 They were generally aware via Facebook that there were incidents happening in
23 Portapique. And as they turned, they observed an SUV, Chad Morrison's SUV,
24 proceeding south and exiting off of the Cloverleaf some distance ahead of them.

25 They then proceeded and noticed two police vehicles that had
26 collided on the Cloverleaf on the eastern ramp to their left.

27 They proceeded past the scene and Katie Rodler immediately
28 called 9-1-1.

1 So in that 9-1-1 call at 10:50:13, Katie Rodler indicates:

2 “Yeah, it goes right up from the Highway 2 in Shubie.

3 There was a police vehicle, but I don't know if this is the
4 guy that's the shooter that you guys have been looking
5 for. There is a police vehicle up there, there's two of
6 them. They were shooting.”

7 She goes on to say:

8 “There was there was a police vehicle parked on the side
9 of the road. There was [...] one...Yeah, they rammed
10 into each other basically. Both front of the cop cars were
11 dented in. And there was, I had seen, we went down the
12 old ... the ramp from Stewiacke to go into Shubie and
13 there was somebody laying on the ground and there was
14 somebody shooting at them.”

15 She says:

16 “I believe it was an actual police officer that was shooting
17 because it was a female ... Yes, there was one on the
18 ground it looked like it was male. The one that was
19 shooting was a female. So that was obviously a real
20 police officer.”

21 Katie Rodler subsequently indicated in her statement to the RCMP
22 on May 1st, 2020 that she had actually observed Cst Stevenson roll out of her vehicle
23 and that she believed, upon reflection, it was the male that was shooting.

24 Gerald Whitman resided in the area at the time and had made
25 observations from his residence. He contacted 9-1-1 at 10:52:48. He indicated:

26 “I'm watching out the window here right now. There's one
27 - one guy, you know, like a traffic vest... Wandering back
28 and forth between cars and stuff. And there was a guy

1 that stopped with an SUV, but I don't see him anymore.

2 The SUV's there, but.”

3 He later says:

4 “Wow! One, one of the one of the guys, [...] the guys that
5 was doing all the shooting... [...] He's taken off in a Ford
6 Explorer, gray one.”

7 The operator says:

8 “A gray Ford?”

9 Gerald Whitman says:

10 “Heading out the 224 out towards Milford ... And the guy
11 that owned the SUV he put him in the back of the police
12 car and I think he might have shot him. The car's on fire
13 there now.”

14 At 10:50:31, Colleen Nesselth, who also resided in the area, called
15 9-1-1 from her residence, which was near the Cloverleaf, to report her observations.

16 And I should note the sounds of gunfire can actually be heard in the
17 background of her call.

18 She describes:

19 “I see two police cars that have hit each other on the
20 Cloverleaf in Shubenacadie, and I believe there's been
21 shots fired.”

22 The 9-1-1 operator asks:

23 “Do you see anybody outside of the vehicles?”

24 Ms. Nesselth replies:

25 “I do. Appears to be a police officer. He's wearing high-
26 vis yellow...It appears that the officer's taken a driver out
27 of the police car and laid him on the ground. [...] One
28 person has gone back into the civilian vehicle and left.

1 He's on highway 224 heading out of Shubie towards
2 Milford.”

3 At approximately 10:57, ERT vehicle D21 arrived on the scene with
4 Cpls Ingram and Team Lead Cpl Mills and Csts MacLellan and Milton.

5 The back seat of the replica cruiser was engulfed in flames at this
6 stage. They encountered civilians, one a woman who was approaching Cst Stevenson
7 to move her body away from the fire, and another who was approaching with his arms
8 elevated.

9 The ERT members yelled for civilians to get back. They pointed
10 their firearms. They cleared the replica cruiser and recognized that the perpetrator was
11 not there. But given the fire, they did not observe Joey Webber's body in the vehicle at
12 this point.

13 They realized the perpetrator was not on scene. Cst McLellan
14 moved Cst Stevenson's body to the covered position behind the ERT vehicle and
15 confirmed that she was deceased.

16 The civilian who had approached with his arms raised advised ERT
17 members that the perpetrator had proceeded south on Highway 224 in a silver SUV and
18 the ERT team broadcast their findings over the radio.

19 **[AUDIO PLAYBACK]**

20 And 10-7 in this instance means a member who is deceased.

21 At 10:59, Cpl Mills also advised via radio that Cst Stevenson's pistol and
22 magazines had been taken by the perpetrator.

23 So the ERT team left in pursuit of the silver Tracker. Subsequently,
24 general duty members, including Sgt Bernard, Cst Comeau, Cst Gibson and Cst Daley arrived
25 at the Cloverleaf scene very shortly thereafter. They had rerouted. Obviously Cst Gibson and
26 Cst Comeau had been headed towards Colchester County to provide some support there and
27 they had rerouted back towards Shubenacadie when they heard of Cst Morrison being shot.

28 They discovered at that point, both vehicles completely engulfed in

1 flames. They located the body of their colleague, Cst Stevenson, and they broadcast their
2 findings over the radio as well.

3 So the key indicators with respect to the incidents at the Cloverleaf, at
4 10:37:32, Joey Webber had attended the Wilson's in Milford and then made his way towards the
5 Cloverleaf.

6 At 10:44:02, the OCC advises of a possible sighting of the perpetrator
7 travelling south on Highway 2 in Brookfield.

8 About 30 seconds later, 10:44:31, Cst Stevenson broadcasts that she's
9 going to move to Cst Morrison's position.

10 At 10:48:24, Cst Morrison queries who is approaching from the 2 and 224
11 and Cst Stevenson replies.

12 At 10:49:35, there's a collision on the cloverleaf between Cst.
13 Stevenson and the perpetrator.

14 At 10:50, the sounds of gunshots are transmitted from Cst.
15 Stevenson's portable radio.

16 At approximately 10:52, Mr. Webber arrives at the cloverleaf and is
17 subsequently killed by the perpetrator.

18 At 10:57, the Emergency Response Team, ERT, arrives at the
19 cloverleaf and departs in pursuit, based on the information that they had been provided
20 by a citizen at the scene.

21 Commissioners, this concludes the presentation of the
22 Shubenacadie Foundational Document.

23 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** Thank you so much, Ms.
24 Mancini.

25 **COMMISSIONER STANTON:** Thank you.

26 Thank you again to Messrs. Currie, Muise, and Ellison for being
27 here today and helping us better understand your experience at the Onslow Fire
28 Brigade Hall.

1 We know it's not easy to come here, and it's not easy to talk about
2 your experiences in this forum, and we appreciate it. We appreciate your cooperation
3 and your insight.

4 We also want to acknowledge the -- many of the -- the members of
5 the Onslow community who came today, who joined us in the room; the family members
6 who came as supports. And we'd like to acknowledge, as well, those family members
7 who either attended or attended virtually with respect to what was no doubt a very
8 difficult presentation just now.

9 We offer our deep condolences to the families of Joey Webber and
10 Cst. Stevenson.

11 Thanks also to Commission Counsel and to Participants and the
12 Counsel, and to everyone for taking part.

13 As you can see on the screen today, we've shared another two
14 Foundational Documents, and we've heard from witnesses who help us continue to fill
15 the gaps in our understanding.

16 Just as a reminder, you can review the Foundational Documents,
17 and the many supporting materials that are the sources of the overviews that you're
18 hearing in these presentations, on our website.

19 There will be no public proceedings tomorrow as we continue to
20 advance our independent investigation and as our team and Participants continue
21 working on additional Foundational Documents and preparing witnesses.

22 Proceedings will resume on Wednesday, when Commission
23 Counsel will share another two Foundational Documents focused on what happened at
24 Highway 224, and at the Enfield Big Stop.

25 We also hear -- we'll hear from the Medical Examiner, Dr. Bowes,
26 in relation to the Enfield Foundational Document on the cause and manner of death of
27 the perpetrator.

28 Once Dr. Bowes's evidence is concluded regarding the perpetrator,

1 we'll then pause the proceedings, and when we resume later on Wednesday, we'll invite
2 Dr. Bowes back to provide information related to the Plains Road Foundational
3 Document presented on March 31st. Specifically, Dr. Bowes will speak to the Medical
4 Examiner's report about the cause and manner of death of Heather O'Brien. Both the
5 National Police Federation representing the subject RCMP officers on the scene and
6 the O'Brien family agree that it would be important to hear from Dr. Bowes in this
7 regard, and we also plan to begin hearing participant submissions about remaining gaps
8 or errors in the Foundational Documents entered to date.

9 As we continue to make progress and examine difficult information,
10 please do remember that supports are available if you need them, both here in person
11 and through our website.

12 Thank you again, and we'll resume at 9:30 on Wednesday.

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

14 The proceedings are adjourned until Wednesday, April 13th, 2022 at
15 9:30 a.m.

16 --- Upon adjourning at 3:35 p.m.

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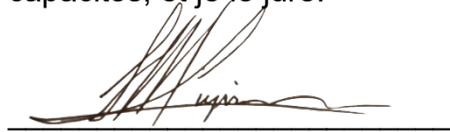
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CERTIFICATION

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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Marineau-Lupien', is written over a solid horizontal line.

Sandrine Marineau-Lupien