

Public Hearing

Audience publique

Commissioners / Commissaires

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

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

Dr. Kim Stanton

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II Appearances / Comparutions

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Ms. Megan Stephens	Counsel / Conseillère
Ms. Linda Hupman	Counsel / Conseillère
Ms. Heidi Collicutt	Counsel / Conseillère
Ms. Sandra McCulloch	Counsel / Conseillère

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Halifax, Nova Scotia

--- Upon commencing on Tuesday, June 12, 2022 at 9:33 a.m.

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

COMMISSIONER FITCH: Bonjour at bienvenue. Hello, and welcome.

We join you from Mi'gma'gi, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq.

Please join us in remembering those whose lives were taken, those who were harmed, their families and all those affected by the April 2020 mass casualty in Nova Scotia.

Today we continue to explore the perpetrator's violent and abusive behaviours in the years preceding the mass casualty. The role of violence is an important part of our work to understand the causes, context and circumstances behind what happened in April of 2020.

Commission Counsel will begin today by sharing a Foundational Document focused on the perpetrator's violence towards others. Following that, we will hear from former Portapique resident and witness, Brenda Forbes, about her recollection of the perpetrator's violence towards his common-law spouse, Lisa Banfield, the perpetrator's violent behaviour in the Portapique community and the circumstances surrounding her 2013 complaint to the RCMP with respect to the perpetrator, including the RCMP's response to her complaint.

For those of you watching and listening today, please reach out to our dedicated mental health team, who are available on site, if you or someone you know needs help. Remember, you can always take a break as you need and can visit our website to watch the webcast or review documents at a later time when it is best

1 suited for you.

2 Additionally, a reminder for online viewers, as always, everyone is
3 welcome to contact the support services listed on our website.

4 I'll now ask Senior Commission Counsel Emily Hill to present
5 today's Foundational Document.

6 Ms. Hill.

7 **--- INTRODUCTION OF FOUNDATIONAL DOCUMENT: PERPETRATOR'S VIOLENT**
8 **BEHAVIOUR TOWARDS OTHERS**

9 **--- PRESENTATION BY MS. EMILY HILL:**

10 **MS. EMILY HILL:** Good morning, Commissioners, Participants,
11 members of the public who are joining us here in the room as well as on the webcast.
12 My name is Emily Hill. I'm a member of the Commission Counsel team.

13 The Foundational Document that we are discussing today is the
14 "Perpetrator's Violent Behaviour towards Others".

15 Madam Registrar, that document is COMM0059623, and I would be
16 asked -- I would ask that it be marked as an exhibit.

17 **REGISTRAR DARLENE SUTHERLAND:** That's Exhibit 3368.

18 **--- EXHIBIT No. 3368:**

19 (COMM0059623) Foundational Document "Perpetrator's
20 Violent Behaviour towards Others"

21 **MS. EMILY HILL:** Thank you.

22 And also, all the related source material.

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

24 **MS. EMILY HILL:** Thank you.

25 The focus of this Foundational Document is the information
26 currently available to the Mass Casualty Commission about the perpetrator's violent
27 behaviour towards others. The document violent behaviour includes physical, sexual
28 and verbal violence, as well as aggressive, confrontational, controlling, harassing and

1 bullying behaviour.

2 It's based on statements provided to the RCMP and to the
3 Commission from individuals who were subject to the perpetrator's various forms of
4 violent behaviour as well as statements from community members who witnessed or
5 were aware of these experiences.

6 The Foundational Document includes a broad range of behaviour,
7 including -- and affects a large number of people. The presentation is an overview.
8 More information is available in the Foundational Document and, of course, the
9 Foundational Document represents our current knowledge of the facts.

10 Yesterday, we presented a Foundational Document focused on
11 violence within the perpetrator's family. Today, the focus is the perpetrator's violence
12 towards other people. Tomorrow, the Foundational Document about the violence
13 against the perpetrator's common-law spouse will be presented.

14 The final Foundational Document is focused on the perpetrator's
15 financial misdealings, and that will be presented next week.

16 I'm aware that the material is difficult for those who had direct
17 dealings with the perpetrator, and I'm also aware that intimate partner violence and
18 sexual violence affect many people and hearing about it, even in other contexts, can be
19 difficult. I wanted to pause here so people know what's coming and know that supports
20 are available.

21 I turn now to speak about some key terms and the sources of the
22 information within the material.

23 Three terms that I would just likely to briefly define. The first is
24 gender-based violence, and the definition comes from the United Nations High
25 Commissioner for Refugees. It defined gender-based violence as:

26 "Harmful acts directed at an individual based on their
27 gender. It is rooted in gender inequality, the abuse of
28 power and harmful norms. Can include sexual,

1 physical, mental and economic harm inflicted in public
2 or in private.”

3 The second definition is intimate partner violence, or IPV. This is:
4 “Behaviour by an intimate partner or ex-partner that
5 causes physical, sexual or psychological harm,
6 including physical aggression, sexual coercion,
7 psychological abuse and controlling behaviours.”

8 And finally, a definition for coercive control. Dr. Katreena Scott
9 prepared a report for the Commission that is forthcoming. In it, she defined coercive
10 control as:

11 “The ongoing patterns of abuse and accumulation of
12 harm that occurs through both time and space as
13 opposed to the incident-specific and injury-inducing
14 violence that predominates in current definitions and
15 law enforcement responses towards intimate partner
16 violence.”

17 These terms, gender-based violence, intimate partner violence and
18 coercive control, will be discussed throughout this week. Not all of the violence
19 described in this Foundational Document that this presentation is about fits into one of
20 these categories, but they provide a framework for understanding some of the
21 perpetrator’s behaviour.

22 The Foundational Document relies on witness statements, many of
23 which were taken after the mass casualty, while others reflect witness accounts from
24 earlier such as people who made complaints to the Denturist Board. The identity of
25 some individuals has been anonymized in order to protect their privacy and dignity
26 interests.

27 Some individuals declined to speak with us. We expect that there
28 are more people who’ve been affected by the perpetrator’s violence who have not felt

1 comfortable identifying themselves to date. We hope we will hear from more people as
2 the Commission's investigation continues.

3 The Foundational Document outlines many people's encounters
4 with the perpetrator and describes a range of behaviour, and some people experienced
5 or observed more than one type of violence. The types of violent behaviour
6 experienced by others and described in the Foundational Document include emotional,
7 psychological and physical abuse towards intimate partners, intimidation where the
8 perpetrator did things to purposely scare people or make them angry, physical violence
9 and aggressive behaviour associated with alcohol use, sexual violence targeted
10 towards low income women and employees, sexually suggestive comments to female
11 patients and employees, physically violent being with -- the perpetrator being physically
12 violent with other men, including patients who owed him money, as well as strangers.

13 I highlight the word "intimidation". As you'll hear in this
14 presentation, the experience of being intimidated shows up in many accounts of
15 encounters with the perpetrator.

16 The Foundational Document sets out a series of accounts of
17 people's experience with the perpetrator, by person, and chronologically as much as is
18 possible. For today's presentation, we've organized that same information into four
19 categories: Violent behaviour towards women; violent behaviour towards denture
20 patients; violent behaviour towards men; and the perpetrator's violence toward police.
21 There aren't perfect categories; there's overlap between them but organizing the
22 information this way is helpful to see some of the themes or patterns about how the
23 perpetrator treated other people.

24 I'll begin with the category of violent behaviour towards women.

25 This first slide is about FF. FF was married to the perpetrator for
26 seven years in the early 1990s. She spoke to the RCMP after the mass casualty. FF
27 described the perpetrator as controlling and said he would become violent when he was
28 drinking. One incident FF described was when the perpetrator held her down on her

1 back, pinned to the floor, and was yelling at her.

2 Another time, FF described the perpetrator becoming enraged and
3 using a hammer to smash a bookshelf in their home, destroying all of the figurines that
4 were on the shelf. FF became frightened and climbed out the room -- out of the -- out
5 onto the roof through a small window. The perpetrator threatened to smash the window
6 with a hammer as well.

7 Lisa Banfield was the perpetrator's common-law spouse.
8 Throughout the course of their 19-year relationship, the perpetrator subjected Ms.
9 Banfield to a pattern of coercive control and abuse that included verbal abuse,
10 psychological intimidation, financial control, and physical violence.

11 The perpetrator's abuse of Ms. Banfield is touched on in this
12 Foundational Document because it was happening at the same time as much of the
13 other behaviour described in the document. However, most of the information about
14 Ms. Banfield is included in the Foundational Document that will be presented tomorrow,
15 the "Perpetrator's Violence Towards [his] Common-Law Spouse".

16 This slide includes information about other women who dated the
17 perpetrator. Even in their relationship of a few weeks in 2000, QQ said the perpetrator
18 was possessive of her. She describes him as, "Trying to lock her down".

19 AA's relationship with the perpetrator lasted a few years. The
20 perpetrator asked AA to leave her school program and her house in Fredericton and
21 move to Nova Scotia with him. He asked her to sign a contract that he had written
22 which set out conditions, such as her working for the perpetrator and keeping their life
23 private. She recalled that when the perpetrator proposed the contract, he said that if
24 she moved with him, she would, "Be set for life". AA's assessment of the contract was
25 that the contract was to own her. She didn't want to sign the contract and their
26 relationship ended shortly after that.

27 This slide outlines the experiences of two female employees.

28 EB had recently graduated from high school when the perpetrator,

1 who was about 10 years older than her at the time, offered her a job as a receptionist.
2 The perpetrator sexually harassed her, asking her for sexual favours and exposing
3 himself to her.

4 He invited her to his property in Portapique. She left this job about
5 six months -- after about six months because she was uncomfortable with the
6 perpetrator's sexual behaviour.

7 SS worked at the perpetrator's Halifax clinic. The perpetrator
8 invited SS to a second job interview at his property in Portapique. While they were
9 there, he kept offering her alcohol and suggesting that she spend the night. She said
10 that the more he pushed her to stay, the faster she wanted to leave.

11 When she was working with the perpetrator on one occasion, when
12 she and the perpetrator were alone on their way to see patients, the perpetrator broke
13 the silence by making a sexual comment to her, out of the blue.

14 Women who encountered the perpetrator professionally, although
15 not employed by him, also described him being aggressive with them.

16 OO was a dental sales representative, and she had two encounters
17 where the perpetrator invited her to spend time with him outside of work, and each time
18 he was sexually aggressive with her and ignored her when she turned down his
19 advances, and after each time he apologized.

20 On the first occasion, OO described the perpetrator making sexual
21 advances as soon as they were alone together. She told him she was not interested
22 and started to leave. As she drove away, the perpetrator drove after her, and when she
23 sped up, he sped up, and OO said he was trying to take her off the road. Someone on
24 the street yelled out, and OO was eventually able to get away.

25 After this incident, the perpetrator began calling to apologize and
26 said that he would make purchases from her, as a dental sales representative.

27 After this incident, the perpetrator was no longer aggressive with
28 her, although he continued to make suggestive comments, which she ignored.

1 On a following occasion, she accepted an invitation to go for a drive
2 with him and they stopped in Portapique when the perpetrator said he had to pick
3 something up. While there, he jumped on OO and tried to kiss her. She pushed him off
4 and told him that she was not interested. Again, he tried to convince her to stay and
5 drink with him, suggesting that she wanted to have sex wit him and telling her about
6 how -- the size of his penis.

7 OO says she told the perpetrator she had to go home to her son,
8 and he eventually drove her home. Again he apologized for this incident after the fact.

9 Allison MacDonald sold advertising to the perpetrator on behalf of
10 Yellow Pages. Ms. MacDonald arrived two minutes later for a scheduled appointment
11 and the perpetrator refused to see her. Overall, Ms. MacDonald described her
12 experience with the perpetrator as unpleasant because he was condescending, rude,
13 and being irrational. Ms. MacDonald was struck by his aggressive manner in her
14 meetings with the perpetrator.

15 At the second meeting with him, he was pacing back and forth and
16 counting down the time that they had left in their meeting. A male colleague told her
17 that the perpetrator was pleasant to him and renewed his advertising program without
18 any difficulty.

19 This was also the experience of another female professional
20 acquaintance, Ms. Herman. Angie Herman bought Novalea Centre, the mall in which
21 the perpetrator had a commercial lease for his Halifax clinic. When they met, the
22 perpetrator would shut the door and get physically close. Ms. Herman was
23 uncomfortable each time she dealt with the perpetrator.

24 Ms. Herman recounted an incident where she and the perpetrator
25 had a disagreement over renting the space next to his. Ms. Herman stated that as a
26 result, the perpetrator was very angry and sort of lost his temper and called Ms. Herman
27 several times about the issue.

28 Ms. Herman said that the perpetrator often brought up that Ms.

1 Herman had multiple degrees and said that she probably thought that she was smarter
2 than him. In her view, he would not speak to a man in the way that he was speaking
3 with her.

4 DD met the perpetrator through her mother, EE, who was one of his
5 neighbours approximately seven years prior to the mass casualty. DD was in her early
6 20s when she first met the perpetrator. DD and EE would party and drink with the
7 perpetrator, who she came to know as, "The millionaire up the road".

8 DD is one of several people who describes how the perpetrator
9 would provide food, jobs, and alcohol to people, resulting in relationships where he
10 ended p having more power. DD's sexual encounters with him were always initiated by
11 him and included an instance where he engaged with sexual activity with her while she
12 was asleep, which is a sexual assault.

13 EE, DD's mother, describes her relationship with the perpetrator as
14 one of friendship, which included, for a period of about three years, a sexual
15 relationship. She lived in Portapique in a house without running water. The perpetrator
16 provided running water, including by letting EE use his washroom and his bathtub. He
17 also provided alcohol, which she says was a big part of why she spent time with him
18 since she described herself as an alcoholic at that time. He also gave her small jobs
19 like cleaning the cottage or raking, which he paid her in cash for.

20 Brenda Forbes was a neighbour of the perpetrator for more than 10
21 years. In her interview with the Commission, she describes the perpetrator as someone
22 she came to be very frightened of. She observed her controlling behaviour toward Ms.
23 Banfield, and how he often seemed to have people working for him who were
24 dependent on him for money and alcohol.

25 Ms. Forbes said that the perpetrator first threatened her in 2012
26 because she told the perpetrator's uncle that the perpetrator was, "Bringing women
27 over". Ms. Forbes said the perpetrator confronted her and said to her, "You're going to
28 regret this".

1 After this, the perpetrator started parking his truck in front of her
2 house when she was at home, which scared Ms. Forbes. She began parking in the
3 woods to avoid him knowing when she was at home.

4 Ms. Forbes stated that when the perpetrator found out that she had
5 reported him to the RCMP, he threatened her.

6 Ms. Forbes observed that the perpetrator would be aggressive with
7 her but was friendly and respectful with her husband. He stopped parking in front of her
8 house once Ms. Forbes' husband returned from an overseas work trip.

9 Ms. Forbes said she felt safe in Portapique until her experiences
10 with the perpetrator. Ultimately, as a result of the perpetrator's intimidation and threats,
11 she and her husband decided to sell their house in Portapique, even though they
12 thought it was going to be their forever home.

13 We will be hearing from Ms. Forbes after this presentation.

14 The next category is violent behaviour towards denture patients.

15 Renée Karsten is a denturist who worked for the perpetrator. She
16 recounted witnessing the perpetrator's violence toward his denture patients, including
17 breaking dentures in front of patients and telling them to leave. Renée Karsten told the
18 RCMP after the mass casualty that she had seen the perpetrator be violent, not just
19 towards patients but to other incidents as well.

20 She described an incident with a man who was sitting on a
21 windowsill outside the clinic. The perpetrator became angry and left the patient who
22 was in the chair, went outside, pulled the man from the window, and beat him. Ms.
23 Karsten went out and tried to intervene, but he yelled at her to go back inside. When he
24 was done, he came back inside, washed his hands and returned to working with the
25 patient.

26 Ms. Karsten said that these outbursts where he might remove
27 dentures from someone's mouth and smash them or become angry and insist that a
28 patient leave, were sudden, and that he then would then act like nothing had happened.

1 But she also described that he could be charming with patients on occasion.

2 A number of witnesses, including the perpetrator's father, described
3 this behaviour of violently removing dentures from people's mouths if they owed him
4 money or had complained about his work.

5 Another report of violence or anger towards a patient came from
6 Melinda Daye. Melinda Daye's mother was a patient of the perpetrator. She lived at
7 the Northwood long-term care facility and was referred from there to see the perpetrator
8 for her dentures, but during the appointment, the perpetrator became angry and insisted
9 that Ms. Daye's mother leave immediately.

10 These are some of the number of incidents recounted by patients
11 and those who worked with the perpetrator.

12 The perpetrator had patients from all walks of life. He was known
13 for having lower prices than other denturists, and for accepting cash. He also had many
14 patients whose services were paid for by Social Services. EE told the Commission that
15 he sometimes would target the low-income female patients for sexual encounters and
16 manipulate them by offering them alcohol or a nice meal.

17 Patients describe being uncomfortable about how he spoke to
18 them, making sexual remarks and commenting on their appearance. Others said that
19 he would belittle or speak harshly to Lisa Banfield in front of them when Ms. Banfield
20 was working with the perpetrator in the clinic, and this made the patients uncomfortable.

21 BK was an individual who lived near the perpetrator's denturist
22 clinic on Portland Street in 1999. They shared a dumpster and they saw each other
23 occasionally. He became a patient after the perpetrator offered to provide him with
24 dentures. After he received the dentures, BK said that he made two or three monthly
25 payments because he told the perpetrator he couldn't pay for the dentures upfront and
26 the perpetrator had agreed to a monthly payment plan. But when he missed a payment,
27 he encountered the perpetrator behind the clinic and the perpetrator asked whether he
28 would be making a payment that month. BK replied that he didn't have the money

1 because it was close to Christmas but that he would pay the following month. The
2 perpetrator became angry, grabbed him by his shoulders and tackled him down to the
3 ground. He put his knee on BK's chest and ripped the dentures out of his mouth. The
4 perpetrator said when BK gave him his money, he could have his dentures back.

5 BK described being down in the snow and the perpetrator laughing
6 at him while he was on the ground and grabbing a handful of snow and slush and
7 shoving it into BK's mouth.

8 After this incident, BK was scared to walk by the perpetrator's clinic.
9 He did not report this assault; he left the neighbourhood less than a month after it
10 occurred.

11 BN was another patient. They reported that the perpetrator was
12 nice, until she started having problems with the dentures that he made her. The
13 perpetrator refused multiple requests to help her with them. When BN went back to the
14 perpetrator's clinic, she said, "Right from the start, he said, 'I'm so mad at you now, I
15 could spit.'"

16 BL, another denture patient and a friend, recalled an incident where
17 the perpetrator became angry with him and threatened to cut out -- cut his gums.

18 BN and BL both describe events that reflect a pattern where the
19 perpetrator would be fine in his professional interactions, until a patient complained
20 about their dentures or had questions, in which case he would respond with anger,
21 sometimes to the point that his response included threats of physical violence.

22 The next slide deals with complaints to the Denturist Licensing
23 Board of Nova Scotia.

24 The Denturist Board regulates the profession in Nova Scotia.
25 Members of the public can make complaints which are investigated and can result in
26 discipline. Between 1998 and 2020, at least eight of the perpetrator's patients
27 complained to the Board about the perpetrator as a denturist.

28 Some of the complaints seem to reflect the same pattern where a

1 patient had a concern, the perpetrator overreacted, becoming aggressive and angry,
2 and it was that reaction that sometimes led to the complaint to the Denturist Board,
3 rather than his actual work.

4 The perpetrator reacted to the complaints when he was
5 approached by the Denturist Board in the same way; denying responsibility and blaming
6 the people who complained.

7 In 2005, four complaints were referred to a hearing panel with an
8 additional complaint regarding allegations that the perpetrator inappropriately interfered
9 with the Board's investigation. The Denturist Board retained a consulting denturist to
10 provide an outside opinion about the quality of the dentures. After he wrote an
11 unfavourable letter, the perpetrator phoned him. The consulting denturist said that the
12 perpetrator told him to change the letter, but the perpetrator denied that.

13 In 2007, the perpetrator signed a settlement agreement containing
14 the Board's disciplinary findings against him. The hearings panel reprimanded the
15 perpetrator, suspended him for one month, directed him to attend counselling directed
16 at improving his manner of communication with clients, and directed him to pay the
17 costs associated with the investigation and conclusion of the complaints in the amount
18 of \$8,000.

19 Pursuant to the settlement agreement, the perpetrator participated
20 in two sessions of professional counselling at Fenwick Psychological Services, and
21 attended a seminar entitled, "Dealing with Difficult People: How to Communicate with
22 Tact and Skill" on May 16th, 2007.

23 The perpetrator continued to deny responsibility or wrongdoing
24 when responding to subsequent patient complaints.

25 One aspect of the complaints concerned how the perpetrator was
26 billing insurance companies, and this will be discussed next week in the Foundational
27 Document about the perpetrator's financial mis-dealings.

28 The next category is violent behaviour towards male

1 acquaintances, friends, and strangers.

2 The perpetrator assaulted a teenage boy. Information available to
3 the Commission suggests that the perpetrator knew the teenager's family. But it's not
4 clear how the assault started. The teen was struck in the head and kicked in the back.
5 After Halifax Regional Police investigated, the perpetrator was charged. He pled guilty
6 and received a conditional discharge. This means he was found guilty, but after the
7 period of probation was complete, the charge would not be part of a criminal record.

8 Pursuant to the terms of the probation order, the perpetrator was
9 prohibited from possessing any firearms, prohibited weapons, ammunition, or explosive
10 substances for the duration of his probation.

11 He was also instructed to attend anger management assessment,
12 counseling, and programs as directed by his probation officer.

13 In a different incident described by Joe Cartwright, a worker who
14 was part of a crew bringing supplies to renovate the cottage in Portapique walked
15 across his grass. The perpetrator became angry and assaulted him with one hit,
16 knocking him out. When the worker regained consciousness, he tried to fight the
17 perpetrator, who knocked him out again. The other workers just kept working.

18 Mr. Cartwright said of the perpetrator:

19 "Treating people like shit made him happy." (As read)

20 Examples of the perpetrator having physical conflicts with
21 neighbours, friends, and people he met in public places such as bars date back to when
22 he was in university.

23 BM was the perpetrator's campus roommate at the University of
24 New Brunswick and he recalled that the perpetrator would get into fights with people at
25 the dorm. BM said that the perpetrator threatened BM to cut his webbed toes apart
26 while he slept. BM said that he knew the perpetrator was "a little crazy" and he said he
27 would never forget that threat.

28 Dave Quinlan lived near the perpetrator's denture clinic in

1 Dartmouth and was the perpetrator's friend. The two would go out drinking together,
2 but they -- he also said that they had physical fights over the course of their friendship.

3 On one occasion when the perpetrator and Mr. Quinlan were at a
4 bar, the perpetrator became angry about the way he danced with the perpetrator's
5 girlfriend and punched him in the face.

6 The incident was reported to the Halifax Regional Police, who told
7 Mr. Quinlan that he could go to the courthouse and lay in information, if he wished.

8 Kipling Mackenzie was someone who knew the perpetrator for
9 many years. He had met him through the perpetrator's friend, Tom Evans, who was Mr.
10 Mackenzie's landlord.

11 Mr. Mackenzie recounted a physical fight that he and the
12 perpetrator had gotten into in 2013 or 2014. And a witness named Kimo told the RCMP
13 after the mass casualty about the same physical fight that Mr. Mackenzie had
14 described, and he added that in March 2020, Mr. Mackenzie had said the perpetrator
15 was in Pictou County looking for him, to kill him.

16 Mr. Mackenzie's encounters with the perpetrator will also be
17 discussed next week in the presentation of the Foundational Document dealing with the
18 perpetrator's financial misdealings.

19 A witness named Donna Grace recounted a time that the
20 perpetrator told her that he:

21 "...saw someone around 12:00 o'clock at night in
22 Dartmouth [and] it was a black guy and he figured he
23 could get away with this because the guy was black and
24 he'd beat him to a pulp." (As read)

25 Another witness, Racquel Deveau, worked at the perpetrator's
26 dentist clinic for about a year. She recalled the perpetrator telling her that:

27 "He'd beat up a homeless person sometime in the early
28 2000's." (As read)

1 A number of witnesses say that the perpetrator boasted to them
2 about beating people up, and also that he could, because of his past work as a funeral
3 director, dispose of bodies without anybody knowing.

4 There's no evidence to support the claim that the perpetrator
5 disposed of bodies, but it seems to be something the perpetrator said to a number of
6 people. It was an intimidating thing to say and it stuck with people.

7 This section deals with some threats to kill a police officer. As
8 detailed in the Firearms Foundational Document, while on duty on May 3rd, 2011, Cpl
9 Greg Densmore of the Truro Police Service was approached by an unknown source
10 who provided information about the perpetrator. The source told Cpl Densmore that the
11 perpetrator had "stated he wants to kill a cop" and that the perpetrator was in
12 possession of at least one hand gun and several long rifles. The source had seen the
13 perpetrator's firearms. The source told Cpl Densmore the perpetrator was upset
14 because he felt the police did not properly investigate a 2008 break and enter complaint
15 that he had filed.

16 Cpl Densmore filed this information in the TPS database as a
17 source debrief report on the topic of officer safety on May 3rd, 2011.

18 S/Sgt Morris shared a copy of Cpl Densmore source debrief report
19 within the Halifax Regional Police, as well as a copy of the officer safety bulletin.

20 On May 3rd and 4th, 2011, Cst -- Cpl Densmore filed information
21 about the perpetrator's threat with multiple law enforcement agencies in three ways.
22 First, through the source debrief report on file at TPS, through a call to HRP S/Sgt
23 Morris, who shared the source debrief report with HRP, and through a CISNS officer
24 safety bulletin, which is distributed to police across the country.

25 After the mass casualty, the RCMP looked at the perpetrator's
26 search history on his computer. In 2018, there was a search on YouTube for "police
27 getting beat up". And in 2019, a search was done about the type of carbines used by
28 the RCMP, and an article about the recommendations that were made following the

1 Moncton shooting of RCMP officers.

2 I'd now like to provide a summary of the perpetrator's violent
3 behaviour towards others.

4 This presentation highlights some of the information contained in
5 the Foundational Document. There were more incidents outlined in the document and
6 more detail provided.

7 The summary of the information includes the following.

8 The perpetrator displayed controlling behaviour early on in some
9 relationships and was physically violent and emotionally abusive with long-term intimate
10 partners.

11 The perpetrator was often violent towards those who had less
12 money than him. Physical violence was used towards low-income men, including
13 patients and strangers, and he also appeared to use money and status in interactions
14 with women with whom he sought sexual relationships, including some he sexually
15 assaulted.

16 He deflected blame to patients and insulted them and denied
17 responsibility when confronted about his professional misconduct.

18 The perpetrator was easily angered and provoked into a
19 disproportionate response with violent physical outbursts, primarily targeted towards
20 male strangers. He displayed intimidating, aggressive, or sexual suggestive behaviour
21 towards women when they were alone with him, and he boasted about committing acts
22 of physical violence.

23 These observations are built on the knowledge the Mass Casualty
24 Commission has gained about the perpetrator's violence. The information is part of the
25 causes, contexts, and circumstances of the mass casualty. It is difficult material and I
26 thank you for your attention.

27 Commissioners, that concludes the presentation. I believe that Ms.
28 Forbes is standing by to attend as a witness in our proceedings.

1 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** Thanks so much. And I can't
2 recall, did you mark for, as exhibits, the ---

3 **MS. EMILY HILL:** I believe they were marked as exhibits.

4 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** Yes, thank you. Thank you, Ms.
5 Hill.

6 **(SHORT PAUSE)**

7 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** Thank you. Ms. Hill?

8 **MS. EMILY HILL:** Thank you. We'll wait for Ms. Forbes to be
9 available. All right. I see Ms. Forbes on the screen. Can you hear us, Ms. Forbes?
10 I think we -- you can hear us? I'm not sure we can hear you.

11 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Can you hear me?

12 **MS. EMILY HILL:** Yeah, we can. Thank you. Thanks.

13 Yeah. Madam Registrar, if you could affirm Ms. Forbes, please?

14 **--- MS. BRENDA FORBES, Affirmed:**

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

16 **MS. EMILY HILL:** Thank you, Madam Registrar.

17 **--- EXAMINATION-IN-CHIEF BY MS. EMILY HILL:**

18 **MS. EMILY HILL:** Good morning, Ms. Forbes.

19 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Morning.

20 **MS. EMILY HILL:** Thank you for joining us. I know that you're out
21 west. It's a little bit early there, so thank you for getting up early to speak with us.

22 Ms. Forbes, we're going to talk about some difficult things today,
23 and because you're on Zoom, it can be hard for me to tell if you're having a hard time.
24 So if you need a break, please just let me know and we can take a break; okay?

25 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Okay.

26 **MS. EMILY HILL:** Also, just for -- there's a -- people who are
27 translating in the room and there's a record, a transcript being created, so if I ask you a
28 question, rather than nodding, you'll have to say yes or no; okay?

1 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yes, ma'am.

2 **MS. EMILY HILL:** Thank you.

3 I also want you to know that the information that you've already
4 provided in your two interviews with the RCMP after the mass casualty and your
5 interview with the Commission are already part of the evidence that the Commission
6 can use, so I may not ask you about everything that you've said before. And I may
7 show you a transcript or a part of a Foundational Document and ask you to comment on
8 it. Is that all right with you?

9 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yes.

10 **MS. EMILY HILL:** Begin by asking you just a few basic
11 background questions. I understand that you're retired?

12 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yes.

13 **MS. EMILY HILL:** Before you were retired, you had a career in the
14 Canadian military?

15 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yes.

16 **MS. EMILY HILL:** And that meant you lived in a lot of different
17 places; is that right?

18 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yes, all across Canada, Germany, quite
19 a few places so.

20 **MS. EMILY HILL:** And you lived in Portapique from 2002 to 2014.

21 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yes.

22 **MS. EMILY HILL:** I think you lived there with your husband
23 George?

24 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yes.

25 **MS. EMILY HILL:** And I just want to confirm your address was 293
26 Portapique Beach Road?

27 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yes.

28 **MS. EMILY HILL:** And the information I have is that when you

1 moved away, that house was sold to John Zahl and Joanne Thomas, who died in the
2 mass casualty; is that right?

3 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yes.

4 **MS. EMILY HILL:** And in relation to where your home was in
5 relation to the perpetrator's cottage, my understanding is that your properties were quite
6 close together.

7 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yes.

8 **MS. EMILY HILL:** And you could see his cottage from your home;
9 is that correct?

10 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yes. If I was in the house up on our
11 deck and stuff, I could see right over to his deck on his house so.

12 **MS. EMILY HILL:** I'm going to ask you a little bit about some of
13 your observations of the perpetrator. And that's the word that we use to refer to Gabriel
14 Wortman, but if you would prefer to refer to him using whatever name you called him by,
15 that's fine.

16 What do you remember about when you first met the perpetrator?

17 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** When we first met the perpetrator, he
18 seemed like he was okay, but we found out quite shortly after that, that he wasn't. And
19 he tried -- because he knew we were military, he tried to get us to get weapons for him,
20 or bullets, and stuff like that, and we told him no, because we were both military. That's
21 against the law. You don't do that, so, no.

22 **MS. EMILY HILL:** So let me just ask you a couple questions about
23 that. First of all, when you say he asked we -- he asked us to do that, and we ---

24 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yeah.

25 **MS. EMILY HILL:** --- didn't do that, who are you talking about?

26 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Me and my husband.

27 **MS. EMILY HILL:** And as someone in the military, would you have
28 had, at that time, a license to hold a firearm?

1 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yeah, well, when you're in the military,
2 both myself and my husband had our own weapons and stuff like that. Yeah, we were
3 good with that, but we didn't tell him that we had them, so, no.

4 **MS. EMILY HILL:** And so the request that the perpetrator made of
5 you to obtain firearms or ammunition, do you remember how soon after him moving into
6 the neighbourhood that conversation happened?

7 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** I'm going to say it was probably six or
8 seven months because we were still working on our house and building it and fixing it
9 up quite a bit, but -- and we didn't talk much with him to begin with. But once we got to
10 know him, we kind of distanced ourself from him because we didn't want to have
11 anything to do with his guns and stuff like that and, no.

12 **MS. EMILY HILL:** And do you recall whether he was asking about
13 specific guns or specific ammunition, or was it a general request?

14 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Just a general request. He asked if he
15 could get some bullets, or guns, or anything like that, and we told him definitely no.

16 **MS. EMILY HILL:** And did you ever observe the perpetrator with
17 guns?

18 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yes. We -- because where our house
19 was, like I said, if we were sitting on our deck outside, like on the house, we could see
20 him firing off weapons into the water and stuff, into the -- like, the water that was just
21 below his house there, and my husband basically told him, "You can't do that, because
22 if you're firing a weapon, you might hurt somebody. Like, it'll ping off somewhere.
23 You're doing it." "Oh, no, I'm just having fun." No. So we knew right then and there
24 that it wasn't right that. And we did not know, at the time, because, of course, he would
25 have never told us, that he was not allowed to have weapons. We didn't know that.

26 **MS. EMILY HILL:** And after this conversation that you've just
27 described with your husband where your husband said that's an unsafe activity, what --
28 did he continue in that activity, or did he stop?

1 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Oh, he kept on firing, like, any time he
2 could get a chance, he'd go out there and start firing the weapons and stuff. We just
3 stayed away from him.

4 **MS. EMILY HILL:** In the time that you were living in Portapique, or
5 early on in your time there, did you sometimes socialize with the perpetrator?

6 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** When we first got there, we thought he
7 was okay. We went to his place for a couple of drinks and stuff like that. And that's
8 where I met Lisa, and it seemed like it was okay. But we found out later it wasn't.

9 **MS. EMILY HILL:** So that's the perpetrator's common-law spouse
10 Lisa Banfield?

11 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yes.

12 **MS. EMILY HILL:** And would you and your husband socialize with
13 her as well as the perpetrator?

14 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** We did originally, but after a while, she
15 was not allowed to come near me.

16 **MS. EMILY HILL:** Did you make any observations about the
17 perpetrator and Ms. Banfield together when you were socializing?

18 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yeah, he was very possessive, and if
19 she was having a good time, like, we'd have a little -- out front, we'd have a little garden
20 party and stuff like that and invite her over, if she was having a good time, he would
21 grab her and pull her back to his place because he didn't like her having a fun time.

22 **MS. EMILY HILL:** And is this something you, yourself, observed?

23 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Oh, yes.

24 **MS. EMILY HILL:** And ---

25 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yeah.

26 **MS. EMILY HILL:** And when you say he would grab her, are you
27 talking -- talking verbally, physically? What would that look like?

28 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Physically grab her and pull her away.

1 **MS. EMILY HILL:** And how did Ms. Banfield react?

2 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** She didn't say anything. She was pretty
3 quiet about it. She went away and stuff like that, but you could tell that she was scared,
4 like. And it wasn't the only time.

5 Like we had other neighbours come over and they witnessed it as
6 well, so.

7 **MS. EMILY HILL:** I'd like to ask you a few other questions about
8 observations you may or may not have made that relate to elements of the mass
9 casualty.

10 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yeah.

11 **MS. EMILY HILL:** As you may know -- I guess I should just say
12 that you moved away from Portapique in approximately 2014. And so how did you learn
13 about the mass casualty, about what happened in April 2020? How did you learn about
14 that?

15 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** The -- as soon as it came on the news, I
16 went, "Oh, my God, it actually happened. Like he's crazy". And I could not believe that
17 he was still out there and that -- that that happened.

18 And I had told people before that that lived in Portapique that he
19 was dangerous, and that it was bad. He was, you know, abusive and stuff like that.
20 And there were quite a few people that were living in Portapique that said, "Oh, no, he's
21 such a nice guy. Like he got me my teeth" and, "Oh, he's really good".

22 And when that mass casualty happened, I got a whole bunch of
23 people call me back and apologize for not believing what I had told them.

24 **MS. EMILY HILL:** And so you may have seen in the media reports
25 that during the mass casualty the perpetrator was dressed as an RCMP officer.

26 Did you ever see him with police uniform or police paraphernalia?

27 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** No, not back then. No.

28 **MS. EMILY HILL:** And you might have also learned that the

1 perpetrator drove a decommissioned replica RCMP cruiser. Did you ever ---

2 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yeah.

3 **MS. EMILY HILL:** --- see that vehicle when you lived in
4 Portapique?

5 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** No. He didn't have it while I was living in
6 Portapique.

7 **MS. EMILY HILL:** And did you ever socialize or visit the
8 perpetrator at the warehouse or garage that he had?

9 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** No.

10 **MS. EMILY HILL:** We've also learned in the course of our work
11 that the perpetrator purchased other decommissioned RCMP cars but didn't add decals
12 to them, so they were white Ford Tauruses. Did you see the perpetrator with those
13 vehicles when you were living in Portapique?

14 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** No, not at all. He must have got those
15 while we were -- when we moved away from there.

16 **MS. EMILY HILL:** You spoke a few minutes ago about
17 observations you made with regard to the perpetrator and Lisa Banfield. And in past
18 statements, you described a situation where Lisa Banfield came to your house seeking
19 help.

20 So I'd like to just bring up a statement -- the statement of Brenda
21 Forbes to the RCMP dated April 22nd, Madam Registrar. It's page 2 of that statement,
22 if you have it handy.

23 And I have the COMM number, although not the exhibit number.
24 Just for Participants, it's COMM0004004.

25 So Ms. Forbes, this was -- this is a transcript of a statement that
26 you provided to the RCMP on April 22nd. I'm just going to start reading at lines 31. It
27 said -- it says:

28 "...he moved in with his girlfriend, Lisa and it wasn't

1 long...before he started abusing her. He beat the
2 crap out of her one day and she ran to my house. I
3 told her that she needed to get help and that there
4 were places out there that, that she could hide from
5 him, he wouldn't find her but she told me point blank
6 she was too scared to leave because he would find
7 her and kill her."

8 Thank you, Madam Registrar.

9 So is that -- is that statement -- I guess, first of all, is that accurate?

10 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yes.

11 **MS. EMILY HILL:** I'd just like to ask you a few questions about this
12 incident.

13 On that occasion, why did you understand that Lisa Banfield came
14 to your house?

15 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** She thought it would be -- well, what
16 happened was he had her vehicle blocked in so she couldn't get out. She got away,
17 couldn't go -- like she was trying to get in her car and leave, but he had it blocked and
18 she couldn't move.

19 She came over to my place, and that's when I told her, "You need
20 to get help and there's a lot of help out there", but she was just too afraid to because
21 she was -- she was afraid of him. And from that moment on when she talked to me and
22 stuff, she was not allowed to be near me at all.

23 **MS. EMILY HILL:** And what observations did you make about how
24 she was on that day?

25 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** She was scared, really scared.

26 **MS. EMILY HILL:** And ---

27 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Just -- and I offered to help and stuff, but
28 she wouldn't take it. She was just too -- too afraid.

1 **MS. EMILY HILL:** And do you recall what she -- what she might
2 have said in response to your suggestion that there might be places where she could go
3 to be safe?

4 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** I -- she was worried about what would
5 happen with her family, like if he'd go after them, but she was definitely afraid that he
6 would come after her, so.

7 **MS. EMILY HILL:** Do you recall how long she stayed at your
8 house in this incident?

9 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** It was only for about a half an hour. Not
10 very long.

11 **MS. EMILY HILL:** And how did -- how did it end?

12 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** When she went back home, like I don't --
13 I don't know because he wouldn't -- there's no way he'd let me down there, so yeah. I
14 don't know what happened after that.

15 **MS. EMILY HILL:** So from your point of view, that ended with her
16 leaving your house and returning to the perpetrator's house.

17 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yeah.

18 **MS. EMILY HILL:** Okay. And you mentioned that the perpetrator
19 began to -- I guess you just said that she wasn't allowed to come see you any more
20 after that. And so I'm just going to ask you a few more questions about -- about that.

21 How did you come to know that that was the case?

22 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Can you explain?

23 **MS. EMILY HILL:** Sure. Sorry. That wasn't a very good question.
24 You said just a minute ago that at some point Lisa Banfield wasn't
25 allowed to spend time with you any more. And I wonder how you know that.

26 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** When the perpetrator found out that I
27 had -- that I had reported him for abusing her and that person that told him was his
28 uncle, Glynn Wortman, because I talked to Glynn. And Glynn had a couple of drinks

1 and he went over and told Gabe that I'd reported him to the RCMP for assaulting Lisa.

2 And from that moment on, for sure, she was not even allowed to
3 come anywhere near me, at all. And that's when he started, for lack of a better term,
4 stalking me.

5 And that's when my husband was in Africa, so I was by myself.
6 And like I had said earlier I would hide my vehicle in the trees and stuff like that so he
7 couldn't -- he wouldn't know that I was actually at home. I'd have to sneak in through
8 the back woods and come in through the back door. But he would stand outside my
9 house and just stare at it and threatening me, and he didn't even know that I was home.
10 He was, like, bad. Bad, bad.

11 And when my husband came home, I told him. And my husband
12 caught him doing the same thing. He came up. And as soon as my husband went out,
13 he took off. So ---

14 **MS. EMILY HILL:** Okay. So I'm ---

15 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Sorry, it was really bad.

16 **MS. EMILY HILL:** I'm going to ask you some questions about -- I
17 think we'll get into some of this a little bit more in a minute, but for now ---

18 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yeah.

19 **MS. EMILY HILL:** --- I'm just going to ask you a little bit about
20 another incident that you described with the perpetrator.

21 I'm wondering, Madam Registrar, if you can bring up the Violence
22 Against Others Foundational Document that was just marked as an exhibit this morning
23 on page 36?

24 So, Ms. Forbes, I'm just going to read a paragraph to you and ask
25 you to comment on it. Paragraph 118 says:

26 "Brenda Forbes lived on Portapique Beach Road with her
27 husband, George Forbes, from approximately July 2002
28 until 2014. After the mass casualty, Ms. Forbes told the

1 RCMP that the perpetrator first threatened her in 2012,
2 because she told the perpetrator's uncle, Glynn
3 Wortman, that the perpetrator was 'bringing women over.'
4 Glynn Wortman told the perpetrator and Lisa Banfield this
5 information. The perpetrator dragged Ms. Banfield over
6 to Ms. Forbes house, confronted Ms. Forbes, and said to
7 her, 'You're gonna regret this.'"

8 So, Ms. Forbes, I just want to ask you a couple questions about
9 that incident.

10 First of all, is that summary accurate?

11 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Close. He came over to the house
12 because -- and he dragged Lisa over and he said, "What's this about you telling her that
13 I was fooling around with somebody else?" But when he got there, he had firm control
14 over her. And when he came in, I said, "If the shoe fits, wear it. You were with
15 somebody else." And he dragged her out again. And from that moment on, she was
16 not allowed to be anywhere near me.

17 **MS. EMILY HILL:** And this incident that we're talking about right
18 now, where you said, "If the shoe fits, wear it," I guess my first question is, had you told
19 either Lisa Banfield or Glynn Wortman that the perpetrator had seen other women at the
20 place in Portapique? Had you in fact said that?

21 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** When -- sorry, I stutter.

22 **MS. EMILY HILL:** It's okay.

23 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Can you repeat that again?

24 **MS. EMILY HILL:** Sure. What I understand -- I understand this
25 incident started because the perpetrator became angry at you because he thought that
26 you had told either Glynn Wortman or Lisa Banfield that he had other women in
27 Portapique. And so ---

28 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** I told Lisa for sure and I -- Glynn knew.

1 Yeah, I told Glynn too. But I told Lisa. Yeah.

2 **MS. EMILY HILL:** And when the perpetrator and Lisa Banfield are
3 coming over to your house and this conversation is happening, was your husband home
4 at that time?

5 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yes. Yes.

6 **MS. EMILY HILL:** And after your response, where you said "If the
7 shoe fits, wear it," what happened next? How did the perpetrator respond or how did
8 this incident end?

9 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** He grabbed a hold of her and hauled her
10 back out.

11 **MS. EMILY HILL:** Okay. And I think you said that it was after this
12 incident that you -- you just said that after -- it was after this incident that you
13 understood Ms. Banfield wasn't allowed to have any contact with you, but then a little bit
14 earlier, I think you told us that maybe that was after your report to the RCMP.

15 Today can you remember after which of these incidents the rule
16 that Ms. Banfield couldn't see you was made?

17 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** I'm -- sorry.

18 **MS. EMILY HILL:** No problem.

19 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** I'm going to say it was both times. So a,
20 me recording him, and b, her -- me telling her about him fooling around on her.

21 **MS. EMILY HILL:** Okay.

22 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** So it's both.

23 **MS. EMILY HILL:** All right. Thank you. And you've talked a little
24 bit about this time period where the perpetrator was parking outside your house. And
25 so I just want to bring up the Foundational Document about that and tell you what we
26 think we understand, and you can comment on that a little bit more.

27 So this begins at paragraph 119, where in the Violence Against
28 Others Foundational Document that was marked as an exhibit this morning, paragraph

1 119 says -- and this follows directly paragraph 118, which described the incident we've
2 just been speaking about:

3 "Brenda Forbes stated that after this incident, she noticed
4 that when she came home from work and parked her car
5 in the driveway, the perpetrator would come out alone.
6 'He would park his truck in front of my house, get out and
7 stare at my house for about a half an hour. He did this
8 for a few days,' which made her scared."

9 Paragraph 120:

10 "Brenda Forbes stated that she was scared the
11 perpetrator was 'gonna take me out,' and to avoid the
12 perpetrator knowing she was home, she started parking
13 in an empty lot near her driveway and 'went through the
14 bushes' to get back to her house, without the perpetrator
15 knowing."

16 "Brenda and George Forbes were interviewed by the
17 Mass Casualty Commission on August 19, 2021. They
18 told the Commission that when the perpetrator knew Mr.
19 Forbes was away and Ms. Forbes was at home by
20 herself, he would park his car in front of their house and
21 stare. Ms. Forbes stated that this was the perpetrator's
22 way of being 'threatening.'"

23 "The perpetrator would continue parking in front of the
24 Forbes' house, and staring, every day until he 'pulled up
25 and noticed George was there and went...gone.' Brenda
26 Forbes told the Commission that the perpetrator's
27 behaviour lasted for 'two [or] three months.' The
28 perpetrator's behaviour occurred before Ms. Forbes

1 made a report in 2013 to the RCMP about the
2 perpetrator. This report is discussed [in] further [detail] in
3 the Perpetrator's Violence Towards His Common-law
4 Spouse Foundational Document."

5 Paragraph 123:

6 "Brenda Forbes also told the Commission that although
7 she may have told a couple of people at work about the
8 perpetrator's behaviour, she did not report this behaviour
9 to the RCMP because 'at the time... I was Military
10 tough' and thought 'I could take care of it.'"

11 Thank you, Madam Registrar.

12 So, Ms. Forbes, I've read that to you, and it -- you've also told us
13 about in your own words a little bit earlier.

14 First, are there any other comments you want to add or
15 clarifications you want to make about that summary that I've just read to you?

16 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** No.

17 **MS. EMILY HILL:** I noticed a couple of things that I wanted to ask
18 you about. I think in one place you describe him parking his truck, and in another place,
19 you describe him parking a car. Today, do you have a memory of what kind of vehicle it
20 was he was parking in front of your house?

21 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** No. I can't remember exactly what the
22 vehicle was, but I know it wasn't an RCMP car. That's for sure. But I can't remember
23 whether it was a car or a truck now because of everything I've gone through.

24 **MS. EMILY HILL:** And I think in your statement in May 2020 to the
25 RCMP, it seems like you said that he did this behaviour for a few days, but in the
26 interview with the Commission, it sounded like you were saying that it lasted a few
27 months. So today do you have a recollection of how long he did that for?

28 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Well if -- for the time that my husband,

1 and I don't know the dates, from the time that my husband was in Africa, and I don't
2 know how long that was.

3 **MS. EMILY HILL:** So I'd now like to move -- to talk with you about
4 the report that was made to the RCMP.

5 So, Madam Registrar, if you could bring up page 37 of the violence
6 against others document?

7 And I'll just read paragraph 124. It says,

8 "After the mass casualty, Brenda Forbes told the
9 RCMP that sometime in the summer of 2013, she had
10 called the RCMP and reported an incident of domestic
11 violence involving the perpetrator and his common-
12 law spouse, which the perpetrator's uncle, Glynn
13 Wortman, had witnessed. She said she also reported
14 that the perpetrator possessed a number of illegal
15 weapons."

16 So, Ms. Forbes, that's a very high-level summary, and so I want to
17 ask you a couple of questions about this report that you say you made in 2013. First of
18 all, did you see this incident of violence that you said you reported?

19 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** His violence against her?

20 **MS. EMILY HILL:** Yeah, if I understand the information correctly,
21 you contacted -- you say you contacted the RCMP in 2013 and reported an assault that
22 the perpetrator committed ---

23 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yes.

24 **MS. EMILY HILL:** --- against Lisa Banfield.

25 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yes.

26 **MS. EMILY HILL:** Did you see that happen?

27 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Did I actually see it happen? No. Glynn
28 Wortman actually reported it to me, and I can't remember who it was, but I -- there was

1 a picture of it. There were -- and I don't know where that went, but there was -- Glynn
2 was there, and Elson(ph) was there and the two Ellison brothers, like, they were there,
3 and she was on the ground. He was choking her. And she said, "You have to back
4 away or it's only going to get worse."

5 **MS. EMILY HILL:** So I just want to ask you a few more questions
6 about that. So the incident that you're describing where the perpetrator was - had Ms.
7 Banfield down on the ground and was choking her, that you say that there were a
8 number of witnesses to, Glynn Wortman, I think you said Elson(ph), which I believe is
9 Elson(ph) Sutherland.

10 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yes.

11 **MS. EMILY HILL:** And then you said the Ellison brothers. Okay.

12 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yes.

13 **MS. EMILY HILL:** And you received all this information from Glynn
14 Wortman; is that right?

15 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yes.

16 **MS. EMILY HILL:** Okay. Do you remember how soon after that
17 incident he told you about this?

18 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Right after the incident, Glynn told me
19 what happened.

20 **MS. EMILY HILL:** So would it have been the same day, or the next
21 day, or ---

22 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** I'm going to say it was probably the next
23 day, because I was probably at work at that time so. But with Glynn now, he has
24 dementia, and there's some stuff he remembers quite well, but there's other stuff that
25 he's having a hard time with so.

26 **MS. EMILY HILL:** And I'm going to ask you today just to focus on
27 what you remember.

28 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yeah.

1 **MS. EMILY HILL:** And the information that you received from
2 Glynn, now you mentioned just in passing a photograph. Do you remember -- can you
3 tell me a little bit about that?

4 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Well, I can't remember who I got the
5 photograph from, but it was out in -- like, if you go down Portapique Beach Road, on the
6 left-hand side where Gabriel had his other place, their big field area, that's where he had
7 her on the ground and the guys were all around her, and that's when she said that you
8 have to go away or it's going to get worse.

9 **MS. EMILY HILL:** And so who said that?

10 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Lisa to the guys. You have to go away
11 because it'll just get worse.

12 **MS. EMILY HILL:** Okay. And so when you receive this
13 information, what did you decide to do?

14 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** I went to the RCMP, and I talked with
15 them, I told them what happened, that she was assaulted and stuff like that. And I was
16 told that she had to put the complaint and stuff in, and they didn't even check up on her.
17 And I said that he has weapons and stuff, and nothing was ever done. Nothing. Zip.

18 **MS. EMILY HILL:** I'm going to ask you some questions about that.
19 I think you'd said earlier that you hadn't reported earlier behaviour to the RCMP, but you
20 did report this. So I just want to understand ---

21 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yes.

22 **MS. EMILY HILL:** --- why -- what was different or why did you
23 choose to report this incident and not other incidences?

24 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Well, I -- it got to a point where I was
25 afraid she was going to get killed, and he -- I knew he was dangerous, so I reported this.
26 And it's nuts. Like, sorry ---

27 **MS. EMILY HILL:** No problem. And I know this is hard to talk
28 about, so we'll just take a couple deep breaths. You doing okay? Do you want to take a

1 little break?

2 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** No.

3 **MS. EMILY HILL:** Okay. In terms of how you made this report,
4 and I think that we're talking about something that happened in the summer of 2013, so
5 9 years ago, and so I'm just going to ask you to say what you can remember today. Do
6 you remember how you reported this, who you called to first report ---

7 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** I went ---

8 **MS. EMILY HILL:** --- this incident?

9 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** --- to -- like, I was working at the cadet
10 camp in Debert, and I had the RCMP from the surrounding area, and they came up to
11 Debert, and they saw me at the cadet camp, and that's when I talked with them and let
12 them know everything so.

13 **MS. EMILY HILL:** And do you ---

14 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** I have got -- I haven't got the exact date
15 because I can't remember that far back.

16 **MS. EMILY HILL:** No problem. Did you -- do you recall if you
17 phoned them to initially alert them to this incident?

18 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** I -- oh, good lord, I called them, and they
19 came to see me.

20 **MS. EMILY HILL:** And do you recall who you called, what
21 detachment or how you called?

22 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** I'm going to say that it was -- well, the --
23 sorry, the detachment probably from Truro because there's no -- I can't remember, but I
24 don't think -- there was no -- not enough police anywhere near Truro, or Portapique, I
25 mean, so I had to go up -- like, I actually called them from Debert so.

26 **MS. EMILY HILL:** Okay.

27 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** But I don't know what -- where they came
28 from.

1 **MS. EMILY HILL:** Okay. And, Ms. Forbes, you've described that
2 you were working in Debert at the time, working at the cadet camp, and that some
3 individuals from the RCMP came. In terms of what you remember today, do you
4 remember how many officers came?

5 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Two.

6 **MS. EMILY HILL:** And were they ---

7 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** And they were both fairly young. So, I
8 don't remember their names though.

9 **MS. EMILY HILL:** Do you recall if they were wearing uniforms?

10 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yes.

11 **MS. EMILY HILL:** Sorry, that was a bad question. You recall,
12 were they wearing uniforms?

13 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yes.

14 **MS. EMILY HILL:** And do you remember what you told them?

15 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yes.

16 **MS. EMILY HILL:** What did you tell them?

17 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Well, I told -- try that again. I told them
18 that she had been assaulted by Gabriel, and that he had weapons and stuff, but I'm
19 really scared for her. But I was told, (a), number one, she had to report it, and I had to
20 have proof, like, pictures and stuff.

21 **MS. EMILY HILL:** And so who told you that Ms. Banfield had to
22 report it?

23 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** The police that I was talking to.

24 **MS. EMILY HILL:** In Debert?

25 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yeah.

26 **MS. EMILY HILL:** And who told you that you needed to have
27 proof?

28 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** They did. I had to have proof that, you

1 know, the stuff that happened, happened, pictures, whatever so.

2 **MS. EMILY HILL:** And ---

3 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** And if he had any weapons, to have
4 pictures of them. Really.

5 **MS. EMILY HILL:** And I think you'd said a little bit earlier that you
6 may have received a picture of this assault, and so did you -- do you recall if you had
7 that picture, whether you gave that to the RCMP?

8 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** I didn't give it to the RCMP because I got
9 it after all that happened. And I had it on my computer, but my computer went -- got
10 spammed and everything, and I had to get it fixed and almost all my pictures and stuff
11 that were on there are gone, so I don't have a copy of it. I wish I did.

12 **MS. EMILY HILL:** Okay. So you don't have a copy of that picture
13 today; is that right?

14 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** No.

15 **MS. EMILY HILL:** Okay. And you haven't provided it to the RCMP
16 or to the Commission or anything?

17 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** No.

18 **MS. EMILY HILL:** Okay. I think in some of the reports of this
19 incident there's a discussion about whether Glynn would be a witness to this; do you
20 recall anything about that?

21 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** To the -- for him -- for Gabriel beating up
22 Lisa? Oh, yeah, Glynn absolutely saw it happening.

23 **MS. EMILY HILL:** Okay. And did you tell the RCMP that?

24 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yeah.

25 **MS. EMILY HILL:** Okay.

26 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yeah.

27 **MS. EMILY HILL:** And do you recall whether the officers who were
28 attending in Debert said anything to you about Glynn being a witness to this?

1 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Okay. What he -- what I did, because
2 while I was talking with the RCMP, I called -- like, because I told them that Glynn -- like,
3 he knew everything too, so I called Glynn while we were sitting there. And I said,
4 "Glynn, would you like to talk to the RCMP about what Gabriel did to Lisa?" And he
5 said, "There's no way because he'll kill me if he finds that out, and he's -- he told me
6 that he's already killed somebody in the United States."

7 **MS. EMILY HILL:** And that conversation that you had with Glynn,
8 was that ---

9 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yes.

10 **MS. EMILY HILL:** --- was that a private conversation when you
11 had it, or was there ---

12 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** No.

13 **MS. EMILY HILL:** Okay.

14 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Okay. I was on the phone, and I had my
15 speaker on, so the RCMP could hear everything that he was saying.

16 **MS. EMILY HILL:** The Commission has received documents that
17 suggest that an RCMP officer spoke to you on July 6th, 2013, so, again, the same
18 summer that you reported this nine years ago, and that there's an officer named
19 Constable Maxwell. And Constable Maxwell, if I understand correctly, says that you did
20 not report to him an assault on Lisa Banfield and did not report anything about guns.
21 And so I just want to ask if you could be mistaken about the nature of the complaint that
22 you made.

23 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** No.

24 **MS. EMILY HILL:** I think what Constable Maxwell says is that the
25 report that he was investigating was about the perpetrator driving too fast in the
26 neighbourhood, and I'm wondering if you recall making such a complaint?

27 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** No.

28 **MS. EMILY HILL:** Okay. The photograph that you've mentioned, I

1 haven't seen that discussed in any other statements, I haven't seen you tell anyone else
2 about that. So is it -- do you have a clear recollection of that, or do you know why you
3 wouldn't have told anyone about that before?

4 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** I know that I had the picture. And I just
5 don't know where it went. Now I know it was on my computer, but I can't remember
6 who I got it from. That's my age thing, I guess.

7 **MS. EMILY HILL:** Okay. Do you recall whether after your
8 conversation with the RCMP in Debert you heard back about -- from them, or from
9 anyone at the RCMP about what happened about what you had told them?

10 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** No.

11 **MS. EMILY HILL:** No, you didn't hear back, or, no, you don't
12 remember?

13 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** I never heard back from them.

14 **MS. EMILY HILL:** And again, just because this is some time ago,
15 and I want -- I think Constable Maxwell says that he did contact you again and did let
16 you know about what had happened, and that was in fact what happened at the
17 conversation in Debert, so I just want to check if your recollection could be incorrect or -
18 --

19 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yeah. I can't remember if he did.

20 **MS. EMILY HILL:** You can't recall today whether or not you heard

21 ---

22 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** No.

23 **MS. EMILY HILL:** --- back?

24 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** No.

25 **MS. EMILY HILL:** I'd like to now talk to you about some of the
26 things that happened after this incident.

27 Madam Registrar, if you could bring up violence against others, at
28 page 37, I'm going to speak to Ms. Forbes about paragraph 126.

1 Paragraph 126 says,

2 "Brenda Forbes stated that when the perpetrator
3 found out [that] she had reported him to the RCMP,
4 he threatened her. He came to her house, knocked at
5 the door, and "said, basically what the fuck were you
6 telling the cops.... you keep on spreading shit like that
7 around here, I'm going to take you out... you're going
8 to be gone." Ms. Forbes said that [when] she told him
9 to step away from [the] door [-- to step away from the
10 door] or she would call the police. Just after [that --
11 just after] she told the perpetrator to leave, her
12 husband returned home from work. Ms. Forbes said
13 that the perpetrator "was actually afraid of" Mr. Forbes
14 and left."

15 Paragraph 127,

16 "Brenda Forbes told the RCMP that "it was bizarre.
17 He really hated me, but if my husband walked by,
18 he'd say hello and be nice." "

19 So, Ms. Forbes, I don't -- is that information accurate? Is anything
20 else you'd like to comment with regard to that incident?

21 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** No, that's true.

22 **MS. EMILY HILL:** Okay. And how did you -- did you take that
23 threat seriously?

24 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yes.

25 **MS. EMILY HILL:** What impact did that threat have on you?

26 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** I was scared to live there anymore.

27 **MS. EMILY HILL:** I'm going to ask you some questions now about
28 your decision to move away from Portapique.

1 Again, Madam Registrar, that same Foundational Document. And
2 just the next paragraph, 128.

3 "Brenda Forbes also told the Commission that she felt
4 safe in Portapique until her experiences with the
5 perpetrator. Ultimately, as a result of the perpetrator's
6 intimidation and threats, she and her husband
7 decided to sell their house in Portapique, even though
8 they [...] thought it was going to be their "forever
9 home." George Forbes reported [...] they ended up
10 taking a "\$100,000 loss on the [home] just to move
11 away from a situation that was there." Ms. Forbes
12 said that, but for the perpetrator, the couple would
13 probably still be living in Portapique."

14 Paragraph 129,

15 "Brenda Forbes told the RCMP that "the house took a
16 while to sell and I was scared the whole time [...] I
17 was there, while the house was being sold, and any
18 time I left the house, I went around a different way...I
19 snuck through the woods because I didn't want [the
20 perpetrator] to see me....That's how frightening he
21 was." "

22 Thank you, Madam Registrar.

23 So, Ms. Forbes, if you could ---

24 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yes.

25 **MS. EMILY HILL:** --- think back on that time between the threat
26 you've told us you received after your report to the RCMP and the time that you
27 eventually moved away from Portapique, is there anything else you want to tell us about
28 your memory of that time, or the summary that I just read to you, anything you'd like to

1 correct or comment on?

2 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** No, it's good, because, yeah, I definitely
3 wanted to get out of there, and he was scary, and I thought I can't live here anymore.
4 And we moved to Halifax -- or Truro, and -- first and then into Halifax, but we found out
5 that -- like, we went shopping one day downtown in Halifax, and he was there. I didn't
6 know that his business and stuff was right close to where we were going to be. So not
7 good. Had to hide, again. And with everything else that went on down there, I went,
8 "That's it. We're moving back to Alberta because I don't want to be out in Nova Scotia
9 at all."

10 **MS. EMILY HILL:** And then jumping forward to April 2020, after
11 the mass casualty, I believe that you contacted the RCMP and told them that you had
12 some information about the perpetrator? Is that right?

13 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Can you -- sorry, can you repeat that
14 again?

15 **MS. EMILY HILL:** Sure. So I'm just wanting to confirm that after
16 the mass casualty happened, so after the events of April 18th and 19th 2020, you
17 contacted the RCMP to tell them that you had some information about the perpetrator?
18 Is that right?

19 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yeah, but I can't remember what I told
20 them. So.

21 **MS. EMILY HILL:** And since then, you've done -- you did two
22 interviews with the RCMP and you did ---

23 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yes.

24 **MS. EMILY HILL:** --- an interview with the Commission? Is that
25 right?

26 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yes.

27 **MS. EMILY HILL:** Okay.

28 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yes.

1 **MS. EMILY HILL:** And I just want to ask you if you'd like to
2 comment on how the events of April 18th and 19th affected you, even though you weren't
3 living in Portapique. Did it have an impact on you?

4 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yes, because when I found out, some of
5 the people that were my friends down there got killed by him. It was horrible. And then
6 I got -- started getting calls from people from Portapique apologizing to me because I
7 had told them earlier that he was dangerous and that he was going to kill people and
8 stuff and they didn't believe me. And when this happened, I got calls back saying,
9 "We're so sorry. We should have believed you," and that. So.

10 **MS. EMILY HILL:** Okay. Ms. Forbes, those were all the questions
11 that I had to ask you. So how it works in our process is we take a break, so you can
12 also take a break, and our tech folks will tell you about staying in touch so we can get
13 you back on the line when we need you. And it may be that some of the other lawyers
14 who are here have some questions for you, and it may be that the Commissioners have
15 questions for you.

16 So if it's ---

17 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Okay.

18 **MS. EMILY HILL:** --- okay with you, we'll take a break, but then
19 we'll come back on and continue the conversation.

20 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Can you give me a guesstimate of how
21 long?

22 **MS. EMILY HILL:** I will look to Commissioner MacDonald for how
23 long the break should be at this point.

24 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** Yes, good morning to you, Ms.
25 Forbes.

26 It's Commissioner MacDonald here.

27 First of all, thank you so much for making yourself available for us
28 and assisting us. I know it's early in Alberta where you are and this is not an easy

1 experience for you, and we greatly appreciate it.

2 So the process, as Ms. Hill said, is that the Commission Counsel,
3 Ms. Hill, will meet with the lawyers for other various Participants and determine if there
4 are more questions for you.

5 So I'm going to suggest that it will be at least 20 minutes. They
6 may need more time, just to discuss it. But the best I can say is an estimate of at least
7 20 minutes. It may take a little bit longer than that. But they'll be meeting with the goal
8 to try to make sure that the questions are asked in an orderly fashion for you.

9 So again, thank you, and our team members will be in touch with
10 you.

11 And Ms. Hill, if it looks like it's going to go beyond 20 minutes,
12 please have members of our team contact Ms. Forbes and keep her up to date.

13 So we'll keep you up to date on the progress, but it's going to be at
14 least 20 minutes; okay?

15 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Okay.

16 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** Thank you again and we'll see
17 you ---

18 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Thank you.

19 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** --- at least -- in around 20
20 minutes. Thank you.

21 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Okay.

22 **REGISTRAR DARLENE SUTHERLAND:** Thank you. The
23 proceedings are now on break and will resume in 20 minutes.

24 --- Upon breaking at 11:07 a.m.

25 --- Upon resuming at 11:52 a.m.

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

28 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** Thank you. Ms. Hill?

1 **MS. EMILY HILL:** Commissioner MacDonald, I believe that there
2 are four counsel who have questions for Ms. Forbes. So she has rejoined us.

3 Thank you for your patience, Ms. Forbes. I believe Ms. Stephens
4 will address questions first.

5 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** Hello again, Ms. Forbes. It's
6 Commissioner MacDonald.

7 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Hello.

8 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** The lawyers met and four
9 different lawyers will be asking you some questions. And as each one does, they'll let
10 you know who they represent; okay?

11 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Okay.

12 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** Thank you.

13 Ms. Stephens?

14 **--- CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS. MEGAN STEPHENS:**

15 **MS. MEGAN STEPHENS:** Thank you, Commissioners.

16 And good morning, Ms. Forbes, thank you for taking the time to
17 share your experiences with us this morning. I know it's not easy.

18 My name is Megan Stephens and I'm counsel for Women's
19 Shelters Canada and I'm going to be asking you a few questions on behalf of my client,
20 as well as the two other organizations with whom we're working in a coalition. That
21 includes the Transition House Association of Nova Scotia, as well as the Be the Peace
22 Institute.

23 So I want to ask you a little bit, you talked this morning about some
24 of your observations of the ways in which you observed the perpetrator controlling his
25 common-law spouse, Lisa Banfield, and you specifically spoke this morning about how
26 he would pull her away from some of the community gatherings when she seemed to be
27 having too much fun.

28 I wanted to ask you a little bit more about that because in your

1 interviews with both the RCMP and the Commission, you spoke about some other
2 observations about ways in which you found his behaviour and treatment of her seemed
3 quite controlling. Do you remember that and can you share a bit more about your
4 observations around that?

5 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Sorry, I stutter. I reported her being
6 abused by her -- by Gabriel Wortman and there were four guys around her on the
7 ground. He was choking her and she said to them, "You have to back away because
8 it's only going to get worse." And Gabriel's uncle, Glynn Wortman, like, somebody gave
9 me a picture, but I can't remember where the picture came from, but Glynn told me
10 everything that happened, and I reported it to the police in Debert and I was told -- I was
11 told that she would have to come in and make the complaint. Well that wasn't going to
12 happen. She was scared to death of Gabriel. And I also mentioned that he had illegal
13 weapons. But nothing was ever done then.

14 **MS. MEGAN STEPHENS:** Yes, and we listened. I'm sure that was
15 really upsetting for you, to feel like nothing was happening.

16 I just want to confirm, is that the only time that you were living in
17 Portapique that you made a report to police?

18 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** God, that's so long ago. I know that I --
19 oh, it had nothing to do with him. The only other time I had talked to police in
20 Portapique was behind -- when we first moved in there, our house, we built it, but we
21 found out right in behind us there was a huge marijuana patch, and -- yeah, so that's the
22 only other time that I'd talked to the police. And they came down, checked it out, and
23 got rid of it.

24 **MS. MEGAN STEPHENS:** Okay. And so that would have been
25 back closer to 2002, 2003 then ---

26 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yeah.

27 **MS. MEGAN STEPHENS:** --- about 10 years earlier?

28 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yeah.

1 **MS. MEGAN STEPHENS:** Okay.

2 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yeah.

3 **MS. MEGAN STEPHENS:** So those are the only two times you
4 ever reached out to police about things going on ---

5 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yes.

6 **MS. MEGAN STEPHENS:** --- in Portapique?

7 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yes.

8 **MS. MEGAN STEPHENS:** Okay.

9 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Well, after the first time that I told them
10 about her and stuff, and I didn't get any help from -- or she didn't get any help from that,
11 we knew the -- both me and my husband knew that he was dangerous, and he was
12 firing off his weapons and stuff off the back porch of his house. And we could see it
13 clearly from our house. And I should have reported that, but I didn't think I was going to
14 get any further because the last time I spoke to the police, nothing would -- nothing
15 happened so.

16 **MS. MEGAN STEPHENS:** Okay. Okay. And so that -- the
17 incident that you reported to the police was obviously a very -- what you'd been told was
18 quite violent. What I wanted to ask you about was some of the maybe more subtle
19 behaviour that you saw in that relationship between the perpetrator and Ms. Banfield
20 that maybe wasn't overtly violent, but you use the language of controlling on more than
21 one occasion, and you reference some examples, like, how he'd had her quit his -- her
22 job and things like that. Can you talk a little bit about that and why you use that
23 language of controlling? What made you think that behaviour was controlling?

24 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Well, he actually showed it in front of
25 everybody. Like, we had a little garden party kind of thing where everybody come out
26 right -- because we are right by the water and stuff like that. If she was having a good
27 time, like, with us and everybody else, he'd grab her, and pull her away from it. She
28 was not allowed to have a good time around anybody. Very controlling. And if anybody

1 came -- like, her family came to visit her or anything, he had to be right there, so he did -
2 - she didn't say anything bad about him.

3 **MS. MEGAN STEPHENS:** Okay.

4 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** And so ---

5 **MS. MEGAN STEPHENS:** And at one point in the interviews, you
6 spoke about him having her come work for him, and that was also -- there was
7 language there about it was an opportunity to keep an eye on her. What did you mean
8 by that? Can you explain that a bit?

9 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** He wanted to have full control of her. He
10 did not want anything to bother that. He wanted to be the guy in control, and he
11 watched every little movement that she made. But when she'd be working at the clinic
12 that he had, and he'd come to Portapique with a different woman. And, like, I let her
13 know that he was fooling around and stuff on her, and -- but she couldn't do anything
14 so.

15 **MS. MEGAN STEPHENS:** Okay. I want to ask you as well, in your
16 interview with the Commission, you talked about how the expression that was used -- I
17 forget whether it was you or your husband said, "She was, like, his Barbie doll." What
18 did you mean by that?

19 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Like, he could do anything to her, move
20 her around, whatever. She was his. Nobody else. He had full control over her.

21 **MS. MEGAN STEPHENS:** Okay. Thank you. I want to shift a little
22 bit to ask you about -- we know that you went to the police once about this, but you also
23 said in your interviews with the RCMP and to the Commission that you'd raised
24 concerns with others in the community about the perpetrator and how he was treating
25 his partner, among other things, but you didn't feel like you were taken seriously. Can
26 you explain that a bit? Why -- what ---

27 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** I ---

28 **MS. MEGAN STEPHENS:** --- did you mean by that?

1 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** --- I told quite a few people there that he
2 was dangerous, and it was getting worse, and a lot of them, because he gave them stuff
3 -- I won't go into some names, because it's pretty bad for them right now. But he used
4 to do teeth for people out there, but here's the thing. If he did something for somebody
5 there, they'd do something for him. A), they -- he was giving some of the guys booze,
6 some of the guys drugs, and in return, they would give him little gifts. The only person
7 that he was good with was -- I can't remember her name. Elson's(ph) wife. Elson(ph)
8 has passed on, the older guy, but his wife is still here, and she's a really nice lady. But
9 he did her teeth and stuff for her, and he got money and booze and everything from
10 Elson(ph) so.

11 **MS. MEGAN STEPHENS:** Okay. Okay.

12 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** But I love her to bits. She's a really,
13 really, really, really nice lady. And she's still having difficulty with it. And there were a
14 few other people there that said, no, he's such a nice guy. And then when this
15 happened, I got a whole bunch of people calling me back apologizing for not believing
16 me that he was dangerous and stuff like that so.

17 **MS. MEGAN STEPHENS:** In your interviews ---

18 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yeah.

19 **MS. MEGAN STEPHENS:** --- you also specifically use the term
20 ostracized, that you felt ostracized by some in the community when you spoke up. Can
21 you tell us ---

22 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yeah.

23 **MS. MEGAN STEPHENS:** --- a bit more about what you mean by
24 that?

25 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Oh, they -- like, they thought, no, like,
26 well, he's such a nice guy. He's doing so much stuff for us and everything. And I said,
27 "You have to watch what he's doing. He's bad." And they totally pushed me away,
28 didn't want to have anything to do with me anymore. And those were friends that I had

1 in Portapique. But now, a couple of the friends that lambasted me and stuff like that are
2 now my friends again.

3 **MS. MEGAN STEPHENS:** Okay.

4 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** They apologized and, yeah.

5 **MS. MEGAN STEPHENS:** Okay. Just one more question on that,
6 you use the expression in your interview with the Commission about people wanting to
7 turn a blind eye and not wanting to have drama in their life. Can you explain to us what
8 you mean by that or what you meant by that?

9 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** And this is just me, okay. There were
10 guys that lived in Portapique that knew exactly what he was doing. They never said a
11 word about it because he was giving them stuff. And in return, they would help him out.

12 **MS. MEGAN STEPHENS:** And can I just follow up on -- when you
13 say that knew exactly what he was doing, what do you mean what he was doing?

14 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Like, they knew for sure that he was
15 beating the crap out of her, and that he was doing a whole bunch of illegal things. And I
16 knew because I'm a member of the American Society of International Security, so I
17 looked him up and found out that he didn't even have an FAC. He should have not
18 even had a weapon because he'd been charged earlier and was not allowed to have
19 weapons.

20 **MS. MEGAN STEPHENS:** Okay.

21 **MS. EMILY HILL:** And he got a lot.

22 **MS. MEGAN STEPHENS:** Okay. Okay. Just one final question.

23 In a number of places in both the interviews with the police and the Commission, you
24 refer -- you and your husband have referred to the perpetrator -- are you doing okay? I
25 know this is hard.

26 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yeah, it's okay.

27 **MS. MEGAN STEPHENS:** Okay. You referred to him as being the
28 king of Portapique or wanting to be the king of Portapique. What did you mean by that?

1 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Well he was trying to buy all the property
2 that was available there and he had talked about maybe becoming the mayor of
3 Portapique or whatever. He was trying to get all the property out back, he was trying to
4 get the property that was right next door to me. Everything. And he wanted total, total
5 control of that area.

6 **MS. MEGAN STEPHENS:** Okay. Okay. Thanks. I don't have any
7 further questions. Thank you for your time.

8 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** Thank you so much.

9 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Okay.

10 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** Are you okay, Ms. Forbes?

11 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** I'll be fine.

12 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** Thank you. The second lawyer
13 is just coming up now; okay?

14 Ms. Hupman.

15 **--- CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS. LINDA HUPMAN:**

16 **MS. LINDA HUPMAN:** Good morning, Ms. Forbes.

17 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Morning.

18 **MS. LINDA HUPMAN:** My name is Linda Hupman. And with my
19 colleagues, Steve Topshee and James Russell, we represent the family of Aaron Tuck,
20 Jolene Oliver, and Emily Tuck, and Lillian Campbell.

21 I have just a few questions to canvass with you today.

22 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Okay.

23 **MS. LINDA HUPMAN:** Are you okay?

24 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yeah, go ahead.

25 **MS. LINDA HUPMAN:** Okay. This morning, during your testimony
26 with Ms. Hill, I don't recall actually hearing you talk -- or you being asked and talking
27 about when you first apparently moved into Portapique and then the perpetrator and
28 Lisa Banfield moved in shortly thereafter, I guess.

1 In your statement to the Mass Casualty Commission, and Madam
2 Registrar, I believe you have that ready. At any rate, it's P00137 is the Exhibit number.
3 And I'd just like to go to page 2.

4 At the very beginning of that interview, Ms. Forbes, you were given
5 an overview of getting to know the perpetrator and Ms. Banfield and about partway
6 through the paragraph there at 116, you talk about when you first met the perpetrator,
7 "he invited us over to his place" and you went in and he showed you a bunch of
8 weapons that he had.

9 I just wondered if you recall that, and if you can tell us what type of
10 weapons those were? Do you recall?

11 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** I remember him showing them to us, but
12 I can't remember exactly what they were, because somethings are going away on me
13 because of my PTSD and stuff like that.

14 **MS. LINDA HUPMAN:** Okay.

15 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yeah, but he had quite a few, and we, at
16 the time, didn't know that he didn't even have an FAC.

17 **MS. LINDA HUPMAN:** Right. Do you recall where they were in his
18 house that he was showing you?

19 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** He was hiding them. It was kind of
20 weird. He would hide money and his guns. His fireplace never worked, so he'd stash
21 money up there, and guns, and he would hide them, like, everywhere. So I thought,
22 okay, maybe he's just worried about people coming in and trying to take his stuff. But
23 no, that wasn't it.

24 **MS. LINDA HUPMAN:** M'hm. And so you also, in your testimony
25 this morning, were describing at least one, and perhaps a number of episodes, where
26 from your home, on your deck, you saw and heard him at his property firing into the
27 water or the mud flats.

28 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yeah.

1 **MS. LINDA HUPMAN:** And I know you indicated that your
2 husband had spoken to him about how unsafe that was.

3 Do you -- being that you have a military background for many
4 years, and thank you for your service, do you have any recollection of being able to tell
5 whether those were pistols being fired, or long guns? Do you have any idea?

6 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** He had a couple of pistols and he had
7 one, that I know of, long gun. But he was usually just using the pistols over ---

8 **MS. LINDA HUPMAN:** Okay. So your interpretation or your belief
9 would be that those were pistols that he was using?

10 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yes.

11 **MS. LINDA HUPMAN:** Okay. Thank you. I only have one other
12 area to really cover with you, and you -- Ms. Hill was taking you through the episode this
13 morning which you related -- which you testified that Glynn Wortman had related to you
14 about this assault, which I think it's in evidence that that occurred in July 2013, where
15 he -- Mr. -- the perpetrator had Ms. Banfield on the ground. And you indicated that it
16 was Glynn Wortman and three other individuals who were -- who had ---

17 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yes.

18 **MS. LINDA HUPMAN:** --- seen that happen. And that was the
19 episode -- or the incident that you phoned into the police; right?

20 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yes.

21 **MS. LINDA HUPMAN:** And that they came to your work at the
22 base in Debert to speak to you about?

23 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yes. Yes.

24 **MS. LINDA HUPMAN:** So can you just give us a little bit more
25 detail about when the officers showed up that day, and I understand there were two
26 male constables arrived? Is that correct?

27 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yeah.

28 **MS. LINDA HUPMAN:** So when they interviewed you that day or

1 came to speak to you, can you share with us, in more detail I guess, exactly what you
2 described to them as having occurred and that was the basis of your complaint?

3 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Well I told them that she had been
4 assaulted and I said there was a few people there that saw it happen. Glynn Wortman
5 was Gabriel's uncle. He saw that. And Glynn told me. And somebody had actually
6 given me a picture of it, but I can't find it anywhere now.

7 But while I was talking with the RCMP, they said, "Do you have
8 another witness that would be able to talk with us?" And I said, "Just give me a sec." I
9 called Glynn on the phone and I put him on speaker phone.

10 **MS. LINDA HUPMAN:** Right.

11 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** And I said, "Glynn, would you be willing
12 to talk to the RCMP about what happened, the assault, and all that kind of stuff?" And
13 he said there's no way, because he told me that he -- like, he was worried that Gabriel
14 would kill him if he found out, because he said that he's already killed a person in the
15 United States, so he was scared to death. But the RCMP heard that whole thing and
16 nothing was done.

17 **MS. LINDA HUPMAN:** And you're very clear on that recollection
18 that you ---

19 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Oh, yeah.

20 **MS. LINDA HUPMAN:** --- made that call to Mr. -- to Glynn
21 Wortman, and that ---

22 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yeah.

23 **MS. LINDA HUPMAN:** --- it was on speakerphone? And during
24 that interview, if you will, did the -- did you raise with the officers the part of that
25 complaint process, the information about the weapons that you had previously seen at
26 Mr. --- at the perpetrator's house?

27 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yeah.

28 **MS. LINDA HUPMAN:** So that was part of what you discussed

1 with the officers that day?

2 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yeah.

3 **MS. LINDA HUPMAN:** Do you recall whether you discussed any
4 other activities of the perpetrator, such as complaints about driving around the
5 neighbourhood or speeding?

6 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** No, not then. No.

7 **MS. LINDA HUPMAN:** So would it surprise you then to know that
8 in his interview with the Mass Casualty Commission, Cst Maxwell indicates that there
9 was no complaint about a domestic assault? That it was a driving complaint?

10 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** It wasn't.

11 **MS. LINDA HUPMAN:** I just want to ask the Registrar if she would
12 bring up, and I don't have the Exhibit number, but it's Comm 577 -- excuse me, 751,
13 Constable Maxwell's interview with the Mass Casualty Commission. And we'll go first to
14 page 6. And about partway down through that large paragraph that starts out with Troy
15 Maxwell, he says -- I may be at the wrong spot here. Just a second. Line -- page 6,
16 11:04. Oh, it's also here. Okay. So I remember -- about middle way in the paragraph.

17 "I remember the complainant, speaking to the [her
18 and] her being a veteran. I remember her being in the
19 Air Force. [And] The reason I remember that is
20 [because] I speak to her, I went to the Debert
21 airfield..."

22 And anyway, it goes on to say he had called Mr. Wortman, and --
23 oh, sorry, it's at the very top of the paragraph. My -- forgive me.

24 "I remember Ms. Forbes calling and stating that there
25 was a gentleman in the neighbourhood driving around
26 in an old, decommissioned police car. He was tearing
27 around the neighbourhood, driving in a fast manner
28 [an] unsafe manner."

1 And that he remembers attending and his buddy Carl MacIsaac,
2 and it being dusk and so on. Do you recall any discussion with the officers that day
3 about it being a driving complaint?

4 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** No.

5 **MS. LINDA HUPMAN:** No?

6 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** It's -- no. The only -- when I talked to the
7 RCMP in Debert, it was daytime.

8 **MS. LINDA HUPMAN:** Right.

9 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Like, yeah.

10 **MS. LINDA HUPMAN:** Right. And it was about the assault related
11 to ---

12 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yes.

13 **MS. LINDA HUPMAN:** --- when Mr. -- Glynn Wortman.

14 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yeah.

15 **MS. LINDA HUPMAN:** Because again at page -- now we can go to
16 page 9 of Constable Maxwell's statement. And it's at the top of the page. And he's
17 talking there about what he would do normally, in the normal course if it was a domestic
18 assault complaint. So then a couple -- about one, two, three, four lines up from the
19 bottom of the paragraph at the top of the page,

20 "So, when I look back at this instance and remember
21 everything that I remember [...], there was no
22 allegation[...] of any type of domestic. [...] no
23 allegations of any type [of] other [complaint other]
24 than [him] driving around in [the old, decommissioned
25 police car]."

26 Does that ring any bells with you, Ms. Forbes?

27 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** No.

28 **MS. LINDA HUPMAN:** So you're very ---

1 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yes.

2 **MS. LINDA HUPMAN:** --- certain about your discussions with the
3 officers that day?

4 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** You bet.

5 **MS. LINDA HUPMAN:** Okay. And those are all my questions.
6 Thank you.

7 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** Thank you so much.

8 **--- CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS. HEIDI COLLICUTT:**

9 **MS. HEIDI COLLICUTT:** Good morning, Ms. Forbes. My name is
10 Heidi Collicutt and I am Counsel on behalf of the Attorney General of Canada,
11 representing federal departments and agencies in this inquiry.

12 And I just have a few questions for you this morning and the first
13 ones are with a view to understanding when and why police report the things that they --
14 when people report the things that they do to police.

15 So my first question is in reference to paragraph 126 of the
16 Foundational Document, and it's COMM Number 0059623, and I believe it's page 37 of
17 the PDF.

18 And paragraph 126, as I understand it, describes a threat that the
19 perpetrator made against you after he had learned that you reported him to the police.
20 Is that correct?

21 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yes.

22 **MS. HEIDI COLLICUTT:** And this threat that's described, is that
23 something that you reported to the police?

24 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** That he was threatening me?

25 **MS. HEIDI COLLICUTT:** Yes.

26 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** No, I didn't report that to the police. I just
27 -- get me out of here.

28 **MS. HEIDI COLLICUTT:** Sure. And can you tell us what would

1 have gone into that decision-making process to not report this to the police?

2 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** The reason I didn't report it to the police,
3 because when I originally reported that her -- she was getting assaulted and stuff and
4 nothing was ever done, I lost a lot of respect for the police, and I didn't think anything
5 would ever get done.

6 **MS. HEIDI COLLICUTT:** Also in your testimony today, you spoke
7 about receiving a picture of the perpetrator assaulting Ms. Banfield, and it's ---

8 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yeah.

9 **MS. HEIDI COLLICUTT:** --- it's my understanding that you
10 received that after you spoke with the police?

11 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yes.

12 **MS. HEIDI COLLICUTT:** Afterwards, did you ever share this
13 photograph with the police?

14 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** I'm not sure if I shared it or not. It's been
15 so long ago.

16 **MS. HEIDI COLLICUTT:** Sure. Okay.

17 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** I can tell you exactly what it looked like.

18 **MS. HEIDI COLLICUTT:** No, and I appreciate that quite a bit of
19 time has passed since then, so thank you.

20 When you made the report to police about the violence that the
21 perpetrator committed against Ms. Banfield as described to you through Glynn, what
22 went into your decision making to report that incident in particular?

23 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** It had to stop. Like, we knew, me and
24 my husband knew that she was being abused like crazy, and I said, "That's it. We --
25 like, we got to report this." So I reported it, and that's -- nothing ever happened so. It's
26 bad.

27 **MS. HEIDI COLLICUTT:** Did you need a moment?

28 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** No.

1 **MS. HEIDI COLLICUTT:** Okay. The two officers that attended at
2 Debert that you spoke about ---

3 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yeah.

4 **MS. HEIDI COLLICUTT:** --- and again, I appreciate that it's been
5 quite a bit of time, do you have any recollections of what they looked like?

6 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** They were both definitely younger than
7 me. Yeah. They looked, yeah, fairly young, if I can remember. Dark hair on one. I
8 can't remember the other guys. But, yeah, they were a lot younger than I was so.

9 **MS. HEIDI COLLICUTT:** Okay. Thank you.

10 Shifting now a little bit, you spoke about I believe it was that you
11 conducted a check on the perpetrator in a system or a database that you had access to.

12 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** What I -- well, because I'm a member of
13 the American Society of International Security, so when we first moved to Portapique, I
14 actually checked out the whole area to see who had crimes and stuff like that, to make
15 sure that they weren't going to be on my property and stuff. And I kick myself because I
16 didn't do it when he came in. I didn't check on him right away, but later I did, when I
17 found out that he had -- he wasn't allowed to have weapons or stuff like that, so he
18 didn't have an FAC so.

19 **MS. HEIDI COLLICUTT:** And are you able to tell us roughly when
20 that would have been that you did that check?

21 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** If -- when did I leave Portapique? I'm
22 going to say -- I'm not exactly sure. Probably three years before I left Portapique.

23 **MS. HEIDI COLLICUTT:** And do you recall, is that part of the
24 information that you would have shared -- that you shared with the RCMP?

25 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** No. They didn't even have a clue that I
26 was a member of the American Society for International Security or anything like that.
27 But you guys can check it for sure because I'm still in there. They're still offering me
28 jobs.

1 **MS. HEIDI COLLICUTT:** Sure. And the results of your check that
2 the perpetrator wasn't -- didn't have the FAC, is that information you shared with police,
3 to your recollection?

4 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** No, not at all. Because, like I said, I lost
5 a lot of respect for them back then. It's slowly coming back but...

6 **MS. HEIDI COLLICUTT:** And just one final question. After you
7 contacted the police in 2013, do you recall if you ever witnesses the perpetrator with
8 firearms after -- after your complaint?

9 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** I didn't because I was basically hiding
10 from everything so -- and I was still working full-time, and I just stayed away from
11 everything.

12 **MS. HEIDI COLLICUTT:** Thank you, Ms. Forbes, those are my
13 questions.

14 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** Thank you, Ms. Collicutt.
15 Ms. McCulloch.

16 **MS. SANDRA McCULLOCH:** Thank you, Commissioner.

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

18 **MS. SANDRA McCULLOCH:** Hello, Ms. Forbes. My name is
19 Sandra McCulloch; I am a lawyer with Patterson Law, and with our legal team we
20 represent a number -- a majority of the individuals and families designated as those
21 participants most affected by the mass casualty event, and amongst our client group are
22 the families of John Zahl and Joanne Thomas.

23 So Ms. Forbes, you've given evidence, as I understand it, that you
24 and your husband, Mr. Forbes, sold your home at 293 Portapique Beach Road in or
25 around 2015; that's correct?

26 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yes.

27 **MS. SANDRA McCULLOCH:** And that would have -- that was to
28 Mr. Zahl and to Ms. Thomas.

1 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yeah.

2 **MS. SANDRA McCULLOCH:** And so I understand from your
3 evidence that the home was actually first listed for sale in 2014, is that right?

4 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yeah.

5 **MS. SANDRA McCULLOCH:** Okay. And so the home was
6 actually on the market listed for sale for some time before it was sold to Mr. Zahl and
7 Ms. Thomas; that's correct?

8 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yeah. Yesterday.

9 **MS. SANDRA McCULLOCH:** Thank you. And in fact, I
10 understand that you and Mr. Forbes relocated yourselves to the Halifax area, or maybe
11 it was to the Truro area, you said earlier, ---

12 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yeah.

13 **MS. SANDRA McCULLOCH:** --- prior to the sale?

14 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yeah.

15 **MS. SANDRA McCULLOCH:** Okay.

16 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Just to get out of there.

17 **MS. SANDRA McCULLOCH:** Okay. So do I understand then that
18 the home sat vacant for a little while before it was eventually sold?

19 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** No. It sold but we took pretty close to
20 \$100,000 loss on it, just -- just to get out of there.

21 **MS. SANDRA McCULLOCH:** Sure.

22 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** And we sold it. And I'm kicking myself
23 now because the people that bought it, I didn't warn them about Gabriel and he tried to
24 buy the house because he was trying to get control of that whole area, but I told the
25 realtor, "No, don't sell it to him. He's dangerous, I don't want him to have it." Well, the
26 people that bought it, he killed, and he burnt the house down, and the only one that
27 survived out of that family was their son and he moved back to New Mexico.

28 **MS. SANDRA McCULLOCH:** So Ms. Forbes you touched upon a

1 couple of things that I want to follow up on. The first of which I think is related to
2 something that was in your statement that you -- or that -- the interview that you gave to
3 the Mass Casualty Commission.

4 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yeah.

5 **MS. SANDRA McCULLOCH:** You -- there's a sentence there, and
6 this is -- for the benefit of the record, this is COMM number 3883, Exhibit number P-
7 1137. This is page 4 of your interview with the Mass Casualty Commission. You say, in
8 relation to Mr. Zahl and Ms. Thomas:

9 "When they came, I introduced them to the good people that were there, but I did not tell
10 them about Gabriel. And I should have because...when I went to sell the house, I made
11 it the codicil that if he wants to buy it, noway [*sic*]. And that pissed him off; he wanted
12 the house."

13 So when you stated a moment ago, Ms. Forbes, that you instructed
14 the realtor that the perpetrator was not to be the purchaser of the property, ---

15 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yes.

16 **MS. SANDRA McCULLOCH:** --- is that what you're referring to in
17 here as the codicil?

18 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yeah.

19 **MS. SANDRA McCULLOCH:** Okay. So it wasn't -- it was a
20 condition that you gave to your realtor for them to act upon.

21 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yes.

22 **MS. SANDRA McCULLOCH:** Okay.

23 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yeah.

24 **MS. SANDRA McCULLOCH:** And I understand around the time of
25 the sale, you met Ms. Thomas; is that correct?

26 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yes.

27 **MS. SANDRA McCULLOCH:** Okay. Did you also meet Mr. Zahl?

28 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** I can't remember if he was there or not.

1 **MS. SANDRA McCULLOCH:** Okay. But you do recall having
2 some discussion with Ms. Thomas?

3 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yes. And I didn't tell her about him.

4 **MS. SANDRA McCULLOCH:** Okay. And so to touch upon the
5 statement that we just looked at a moment ago, you described introducing Ms. -- as I
6 understand it, Ms. Thomas "to the good people" in Portapique.

7 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yeah.

8 **MS. SANDRA McCULLOCH:** Okay. And I take from what you're
9 suggesting here now that that did not include the perpetrator.

10 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** That's right.

11 **MS. SANDRA McCULLOCH:** And that you deliberately excluded
12 him from the people you wanted her to meet?

13 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yes.

14 **MS. SANDRA McCULLOCH:** Okay. And I understand from your
15 comments a moment ago that you didn't provide any sort of warning to her about the
16 perpetrator?

17 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** No.

18 **MS. SANDRA McCULLOCH:** No. And not about your concerns or
19 the risk that you thought he presented to the community?

20 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** No.

21 **MS. SANDRA McCULLOCH:** And you further didn't identify that
22 but for the perpetrator you probably would have stayed in the community; you didn't tell
23 Ms. Thomas about that?

24 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** No, no.

25 **MS. SANDRA McCULLOCH:** And just a final point on this, Ms.
26 Forbes. My understanding, from members of the Zahl and Thomas family, is that what
27 you told Ms. Thomas about your reason for leaving was that you and your husband
28 were leaving for health-related reasons, for better access to doctors, for example. Is

1 that your recollection of what you told Ms. Thomas?

2 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yeah. Well, I did have health problems,
3 so...

4 **MS. SANDRA McCULLOCH:** Okay. But that was the reason -- in
5 discussing why ---

6 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** That's what I gave her. I didn't want to
7 scare her.

8 **MS. SANDRA McCULLOCH:** Okay, thank you, Ms. Forbes.

9 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** Thank you, Ms. McCulloch.
10 Ms. Hill?

11 **MS. EMILY HILL:** Commissioner MacDonald, I just have two
12 questions arising from the questions that other counsel have asked, if I may?

13 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** Certainly.

14 **--- RE-EXAMINATION BY MS. EMILY HILL:**

15 **MS. EMILY HILL:** Ms. Forbes, in answer to a question that I think
16 Ms. Stephens asked you, you were describing your observations of people in the
17 neighbourhood. Sometimes -- and tell me if I misstate anything -- people did work for
18 the perpetrator, and in exchange I think you told us that the perpetrator gave people
19 booze and money. Have I got that right?

20 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yes.

21 **MS. EMILY HILL:** Also, sometimes it sounded like you were
22 describing in exchange for labour or money, he would do dentures for them. Have I got
23 that right?

24 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yeah.

25 **MS. EMILY HILL:** You said, I think, that sometimes he would give
26 them drugs.

27 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yes.

28 **MS. EMILY HILL:** And I just want to ask; is that something that you

1 had direct knowledge of? Did you see that happening?

2 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yeah. Yeah, out in the back -- well,
3 some of the guys were smoking pot, so I thought that was just because, like I said when
4 I first moved there, I found that great big marijuana patch in behind me and I got that
5 removed. Well, I'm sure that would have pissed a few people off there but, yeah, they
6 were -- there was quite a few of them they were smoking dope.

7 **MS. EMILY HILL:** So the people you're describing smoking dope
8 are people who were doing work for the perpetrator?

9 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yes.

10 **MS. EMILY HILL:** And did -- okay. And in terms of how they
11 acquired that marijuana, do you know that that was something the perpetrator gave
12 them? Is that something you saw or heard about? I just want to make sure I'm
13 understanding how you had that knowledge.

14 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** I know -- well, I'm not sure about the
15 drugs but I know that Gabriel had a friend that was, I think, still living in New Brunswick,
16 and he would get stuff off of him and bring it to the guys out in Portapique. But that guy
17 that he was friends with, whatever, has passed away.

18 **MS. EMILY HILL:** Okay. And do you know that guy's name?

19 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** No, but Glynn might know his name, if
20 you can talk to him. It was Gabriel's friend. But I think, if I'm not mistaken, but you can
21 ask Glynn this, I think Guy was gay. I'm not sure.

22 **MS. EMILY HILL:** Okay. And so just trying ---

23 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** He can probably tell you that. I can't
24 remember.

25 **MS. EMILY HILL:** Okay. So I just want to make sure I understand
26 what you know. In terms of the drugs that you were speaking about earlier, when you're
27 talking about some people being given drugs. You've mentioned marijuana. Are you
28 aware of any other drugs being given by the perpetrator to anybody?

1 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** No. Not other drugs than that.

2 **MS. EMILY HILL:** Okay. And just one other question. I'd asked
3 you about after the mass casualty occurred, I'd asked you about speaking with the
4 RCMP and speaking with the Commission and you told me that you had done
5 interviews with the RCMP and with the Commission.

6 Did you also speak to the media after the Mass Casualty
7 Commission?

8 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** I don't know. It wasn't media. It was just
9 the Mass Casualty Commission. I don't think I've spoken to anybody else, because
10 they came directly into my house and downstairs, we had it in the basement. No, I don't
11 think so. No.

12 **MS. EMILY HILL:** Maybe not directly in your house, but have you
13 talked to reporters?

14 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** No.

15 **MS. EMILY HILL:** Okay. I think I -- I'm just asking you that
16 because I've seen some media reports where you were interviewed by reporters. And
17 do you have a recollection? I'm not talking about right after the mass casualty, but
18 since the mass casualty, in the last couple of years, have you spoken to reporters about
19 what happened?

20 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** No. I don't know who I would be talking
21 to.

22 **MS. EMILY HILL:** I'm thinking about reporters from, for example,
23 CBC, or Halifax newspapers that might have called you up and asked you questions.

24 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** CBC got a hold of me and they wanted to
25 talk to me, but I didn't. I went mm mm. I want this all ---

26 **MS. EMILY HILL:** Okay.

27 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yeah.

28 **MS. EMILY HILL:** Okay. And I'm not wanting to press you on this,

1 Ms. Forbes, but I'm just asking you that because I think that I've just seen some media
2 reports and they have quotes from you where people have telephoned you or
3 interviewed you, either on the phone or by video, and I'm just trying to understand if you
4 have a recollection of, in the last couple years, being interviewed by people?

5 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** I can't remember.

6 **MS. EMILY HILL:** Okay. And is it possible that that happened?

7 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** I don't know.

8 **MS. EMILY HILL:** Okay.

9 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Like, -- well, because of what I'm going
10 through, everything just goes.

11 **MS. EMILY HILL:** Okay.

12 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** So.

13 **MS. EMILY HILL:** Okay.

14 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yeah.

15 **MS. EMILY HILL:** Okay. Commissioners, I wonder if we might
16 take a short break at this time? If that would be all right with you?

17 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** Certainly.

18 Ms. Forbes, Ms. Hill, the counsel for the -- the lawyer for the
19 Commission has asked for a brief break. If you don't mind, if you just could hang in a
20 little bit longer, we'll -- how much time do you think?

21 **MS. EMILY HILL:** Just maybe five or 10 minutes.

22 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** Okay. We'll say 10 minutes, Ms.
23 Forbes. Thank you.

24 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Thank you.

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

27 --- Upon breaking at 12:40 p.m.

28 --- Upon resuming at 1:00 p.m.

1 **REGISTRAR DARLENE SUTHERLAND:** Welcome back. The
2 proceedings are again in session.

3 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** Thank you.
4 Ms. Hill?

5 **MS. EMILY HILL:** Thank you.

6 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** Hello again, Ms. Forbes.

7 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Hello.

8 **MS. EMILY HILL:** Thank you, Commissioners and Ms. Forbes. I
9 apologize for delaying us a little bit. We had to have some questions and some tech
10 things sorted out.

11 Before we broke, I was asking you some questions. And I know it's
12 been a long day and I've asked you lots of questions about things happening at all kinds
13 of different time periods. I know that can be difficult.

14 You've also said sometimes you've got some problems with your
15 memory. Is that fair?

16 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yeah.

17 **MS. EMILY HILL:** So in ---

18 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** And the reason for that is I have been
19 diagnosed with severe PTSD. So.

20 **MS. EMILY HILL:** Thanks for providing that information.

21 Before the break, I was asking you a little bit about media, and
22 earlier today you told us that in the days and weeks that followed the mass casualty
23 back in 2020, ---

24 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yes.

25 **MS. EMILY HILL:** --- it was a difficult time for you.

26 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Oh, yeah.

27 **MS. EMILY HILL:** Okay. And so I'm just going to bring up a
28 document and I'm just going to show it to you and I just want to see if it helps refresh

1 your memory about some things that may have happened during that time.

2 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Okay.

3 **MS. EMILY HILL:** So Madam Registrar, I think there's a document,
4 COMM011643. I don't believe it's been marked as an exhibit.

5 **REGISTRAR DARLENE SUTHERLAND:** So that will be Exhibit
6 3421.

7 **--- EXHIBIT No. 3421:**

8 (COMM011643) Article dated May 22, 2020

9 **MS. EMILY HILL:** Thanks. And if you could bring that up on the
10 screen, please?

11 I'll just show you what this is, Ms. Forbes. Can you see that
12 document?

13 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** She witnessed -- all I'm seeing right now,
14 because it -- I'll see if I can bring it up.

15 **MS. EMILY HILL:** I think we have to do it on our end.

16 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Okay.

17 **MS. EMILY HILL:** So I'll just ask you, Madam Registrar, to scroll
18 down.

19 You'll see the date on this article is May 22nd, 2020. So it's the
20 month following the mass casualty.

21 And if you could just scroll down this article? It's just the way it
22 prints out. Maybe just stop on the next page.

23 I'll just let you read that. And if you want to read -- read from the
24 top, I can bring that down for you. But I think this is just ---

25 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** No, I got it.

26 **MS. EMILY HILL:** Okay.

27 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:**

28 "Global News has verified the audio with Wortman, who

1 said he [addressed] his nephew..."

2 **MS. EMILY HILL:** And so maybe I'll just ---

3 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:**

4 "...abuse his..."

5 **MS. EMILY HILL:** Ms. Forbes, if it's helpful, what I'll say is this is a
6 newspaper article from Global News dated May ---

7 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yeah.

8 **MS. EMILY HILL:** --- 22nd, 2020. In there, there's a paragraph
9 there you'll see, it says Forbes -- that's Brenda Forbes:

10 "...who says she finally left the community in 2014
11 with her husband because of the gunman, called
12 Wortman because she wanted proof. It felt
13 necessary, she says, after the RCMP told Global
14 News it had "not found a record" of [Ms.] Forbes
15 reporting the gunman to them in 2013 for domestic
16 violence and a cache of weapons.

17 Their response worried her."

18 And then there's a quote. It says,

19 " "I don't want people not to believe me," she told
20 Global News. "I tell the truth." "

21 So it looks ---

22 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yeah.

23 **MS. EMILY HILL:** --- to me like this article is saying that you did an
24 interview with Global News in 2022 -- 2020, and I just want to check if that refreshes
25 your memory about an interview you might have done with them.

26 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** I can't remember. I can't remember that
27 at all. I don't know. Maybe -- I don't know. Maybe they got it off of the -- try that again.
28 Maybe they got it off of what they were seeing, like, on media and stuff, because

1 normally, when I do the Zoom thing with anybody, I usually do it on Global. So, I don't
2 know. I don't know. I'm just lost.

3 **MS. EMILY HILL:** Okay. Well, I don't want to try to confuse you
4 more. Is it possible that you did a news media interview and have not remembered
5 that? You've forgotten that?

6 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** I don't know.

7 **MS. EMILY HILL:** Okay. Maybe I'll just -- I'll bring up another
8 article just to show you, see if it helps.

9 Madam Registrar, I think the next one is 11642.

10 **REGISTRAR DARLENE SUTHERLAND:** That's Exhibit 3422.

11 **--- EXHIBIT NO. 3422:**

12 (COMM011642) Halifax Examiner article dated May 12th,
13 2020

14 **MS. EMILY HILL:** So just scroll down. This is an article, Ms.
15 Forbes, from something -- an article from the Halifax Examiner, says the date on it is
16 May 12th, 2020. It says it was written by Joan Baxter. And I'll just scroll down.

17 Sorry, if you just want to scroll up, Madam Registrar, sorry, just to
18 the top of the article. Oh, past the picture. Sorry.

19 Says, "That son of a bitch is dead." There's a quote.

20 "That was the first thing Boe thought when she heard
21 on April 19 that the RCMP had killed a man who [was]
22 gone on a murderous rampage across Nova Scotia,
23 leaving 22 dead.

24 The murder spree started in the village of Portapique
25 on the Minas Basin, where Boe had once lived.

26 Boe now lives in western Canada. She granted a
27 telephone interview with the Halifax Examiner, but
28 asked that we [only] identify her [...] by her nickname,

1 in part because she still fears for her safety. We've
2 confirmed her identity and other details of her
3 association with Portapique. We are identifying the
4 gunman as "GW," except in quotes when Boe
5 identifies him by name."

6 So in that article, Ms. Forbes, it looks to me like they spoke to you
7 and you spoke to them but using a nickname. Is that -- does that ---

8 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yeah, my ---

9 **MS. EMILY HILL:** --- also sound right?

10 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yeah, my nickname is Boe.

11 **MS. EMILY HILL:** Okay. So is it fair to say that that was a media
12 interview that you did ---

13 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yeah.

14 **MS. EMILY HILL:** --- in the month following ---

15 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yeah.

16 **MS. EMILY HILL:** --- the mass casualty?

17 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yeah.

18 **MS. EMILY HILL:** Okay. I think those were -- that was my only
19 question for you about this.

20 I don't know whether, Commissioners, that's raised any questions
21 for you or anything else that we've spoken about.

22 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** Thank you so much, Ms. Hill.

23 Commissioner Fitch, did you have any questions for Ms. Forbes?

24 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** Hello, Ms. Forbes. I don't know if you
25 can see us in return or not.

26 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yes, I can.

27 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** Okay.

28 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yes, I can.

1 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** My name is Commissioner Fitch and I
2 just have a couple of very brief questions for you, but first I want to thank you for joining
3 us today, and we all acknowledge the courage that it takes to appear here and answer
4 everybody's questions, so I want to thank you for that.

5 During your time that you were living in Portapique, you had made
6 mention earlier that one of the reasons that you had called the RCMP when you went to
7 work in Debert about the 2013 incident was because you never see police around
8 Portapique. Did I ---

9 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** That's right.

10 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** --- understand you correct?

11 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yes.

12 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** Okay. Do you recall at any time when
13 you lived on Portapique Beach Road after the perpetrator had moved in, do you ever
14 recall seeing any police cars or police officers there visiting him particularly?

15 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** No.

16 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** No?

17 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** The only time I saw any police officers in
18 Portapique were on July 1st, because everybody in that area, me included, we would
19 light fireworks off, and they came down to watch it. And that's all. That's the only time
20 that we ever saw them there.

21 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** Okay. The next question I have for you
22 is in reference to the picture that you spoke of, and I appreciate you can't recall who you
23 may have received that picture from, but I believe it was perhaps Ms. Collicutt in
24 response to your answer to her, you said, "Well, I can describe exactly what the picture
25 was."

26 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yeah.

27 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** Because we've not seen it, can you
28 paint us kind of a verbal picture of what you recall that picture to be?

1 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Okay. It was -- like, my house was right
2 on the main road of Portapique going in, and in behind me was Gabriel's second place
3 that he had, not his main house, but the barn or whatever it was that he was building
4 there. He had her out there in that area, in the grass, right close to that place that he
5 was building, and he was choking her, and Glynn Wortman, Elson(ph) Sutherland was
6 there, and then the two Ellison brothers were there as well. And she was screaming for
7 -- and then when the guys were there, she said, "You have to go away because you'll
8 just make it worse."

9 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** So in terms of the actual picture itself, if
10 you were looking at that picture today, what would you be seeing?

11 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Her lying -- she was on the ground with
12 Gabriel right on top of her, choking her. It was horrible.

13 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** Do you remember what time of the day
14 or evening that may have been?

15 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** It would have been -- it wasn't dark out,
16 but I'm going to say in the afternoon.

17 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** Thank you.

18 At one point during your sharing with us today, you were talking
19 about the number of people that would receive booze or drugs ---

20 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yeah.

21 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** --- for in exchange for teeth and so forth,
22 but you also ---

23 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yeah.

24 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** --- use the expression little gifts. Was
25 there anything else that we need to know about when you talked about little gifts?

26 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** I don't -- I'm not quite sure, but I think
27 maybe a couple of those people were giving him ammunition.

28 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** But you don't know that for certain?

1 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** No.

2 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** Okay. And the last question that I have
3 for you, Ms. Forbes, is when you spoke with the RCMP members in Debert and you
4 were at your workplace, do you recall -- like, were there other people working with you
5 in your workplace that may have recollection of the RCMP ---

6 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** The only person that was in Debert at the
7 time -- sorry, a bug. Christiane Lonergan. As soon as I finished the meeting with the
8 RCMP, because she was working there, she was one of the cadet nurses and stuff like
9 that, and I went through everything with her on it. Like, it just blew me away, but she
10 knew all about it so.

11 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** Okay. Thank you. Those are all my
12 questions, Ms. Forbes, and thank you. Thank you once again.

13 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Did you want -- I have Christiane's phone
14 number if you want it?

15 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** We could have someone from counsel
16 follow up, should that be needed.

17 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yeah.

18 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** Thank you very much.

19 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Yeah, he still lives in Nova Scotia. So.

20 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** Thank you.

21 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** Thank you, Commissioner
22 Stanton.

23 Well it's Commissioner MacDonald again.

24 Ms. Forbes, thank you again for joining us today and providing us
25 earlier with a statement. You've been very helpful. This has been a difficult morning for
26 you and some pretty difficult memories were brought forward for you, and I'm sorry for
27 that. But it was important that we hear from you, and we greatly appreciate it. So thank
28 you so much for making -- taking the time not only for today, but for the earlier

1 interviews. We greatly appreciate it and we wish you the very best, by the way.

2 And as mentioned earlier, thank you for the service you've given to
3 your country, and thank you for the service you've given to this Commission.

4 **MS. BRENDA FORBES:** Thank you.

5 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** Okay.

6 **COMMISSIONER STANTON:** Do you have anything further, Ms.

7 Hill?

8 **MS. EMILY HILL:** Thank you.

9 **COMMISSIONER STANTON:** Thanks.

10 So thanks for your questions, counsel, and for Commission
11 Counsel sharing the Foundational Document on the perpetrator's violence towards
12 others. That document is on the website for the public to read and its supporting
13 materials will be available later this week.

14 On the website, you'll also find many other Foundational
15 Documents, investigations, supplementary reports, the Commissioned Reports,
16 research, and recordings of the previous public proceedings. These materials represent
17 a growing understanding of what has happened and why -- how and why, and we
18 continue to make progress towards sharing our findings and recommendations.

19 We hope they're helpful to you, these materials, in beginning to
20 answer your questions about the mass casualty.

21 Tomorrow we're hearing from an expert witness panel about their
22 research regarding the links between gender-based violence and mass casualties.
23 Again this week the materials relate to the sections of the mandate that direct us to
24 examine issues that include contributing and contextual factors, including the role of
25 gender-based and intimate partner violence, access to firearms, police policies,
26 procedures, and training in respect of gender-based and intimate partner violence, and
27 policies with respect to police response to reports of the possession of prohibited
28 firearms.

1 We'll also be hearing from Commission Counsel tomorrow, who will
2 present a Foundational Document focused on the perpetrator's violence toward his
3 common-law spouse.

4 Thanks for joining us today.

5 Please note that tomorrow morning we're starting a bit earlier.
6 We'll be here at 8:30 tomorrow morning. And we'll see you then. Thank you.

7 **REGISTRAR DARLENE SUTHERLAND:** Thank you. The
8 proceedings are adjourned until July 13th, 2022 at 8:30 a.m.

9 --- Upon adjourning at 1:03 p.m.

10

11

C E R T I F I C A T I O N

12

13 I, Maxime Roussy, a certified court reporter, hereby certify the foregoing pages to be an
14 accurate transcription of my notes/records to the best of my skill and ability, and I so
15 swear.

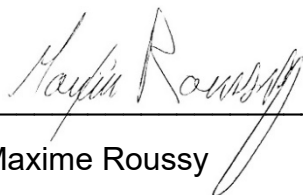
16

17 Je, Maxime Roussy, un sténographe officiel, certifie que les pages ci-hautes sont une
18 transcription conforme de mes notes/enregistrements au meilleur de mes capacités, et
19 je le jure.

20

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Maxime Roussy