

Small Group Session

Séance en petit groupe

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. Sandra McCullough	Participant's Counsel
Mr. Leo Artalejo	Facilitator
Ms. Emily Hill	Commission Counsel
Dr. Kim Stanton	Commissioner
J. Michael MacDonald	Commissioner
Leanne Fitch	Commissioner
Maureen Wheller	Commission Community Liaison Director

III

Table of Content / Table des matières

	PAGE
Small Group Session with Mr. Nick Beaton	1

Truro, Nova Scotia

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

--- Upon commencing on Tuesday, September 20, 2022 at 4:00 p.m.

MR. LEO ARTALEJO: We have --- why don't we just name --- Emily is Commission counsel and Maureen Wheller, who you probably know is the Family Liaison, the Commissioners, myself, we are really grateful that you are here today and we are really looking forward to hearing from you and learning from you. The purpose of these sessions is to really make sure that we hear your perspective about 1. your experience but 2. also, what you would consider is the most important thing to get right as we start to formulate recommendations coming out of the Commission.

So, my role as a facilitator is just to support you and keep track of the flow of conversation. Some of the topics that we are hoping to hear from you about today is your experience as a family member during the mass casualty. How you accessed information? How you gathered support from services both immediately after and longer term and what was missing that might have been helpful to you so that we can get a real sense for how we can be better prepared in the future to help Canadians during these types of events.

NICK BEATON: Hopefully we don't, but God willing, but.

MR. LEO ARTALEJO: Yeah, we would all – we would all hope that. Yeah, so when you're talking, we're happy to listen to you respectfully. If there's anything I can do to support you, please let me know. I will offer you a break between the rounds. And we're just really grateful that you've taken the time to be with us here today.

NICK BEATON: I appreciate the opportunity to have it too, to sit one-on-one, it means --- it is just nice to --- without so many people in between.

MR. LEO ARTALEJO: Yeah, I am really glad to hear that and I also wanted to acknowledge that you were a big part of, when we talked way back in June, there are a couple of things we heard about this design in the sessions. One was important to meet with families individually, that we needed to keep the focus on the

1 witness testimony that was happening at that time.

2 So, we've moved the --- to this [indiscernible] format and it was ---
3 you know, it was your passion and your feedback that helped us design these sessions.
4 So, I just wanted you to know that we appreciate that and we are glad you are here
5 today.

6 So, round one is, what do you want to tell us about your experience
7 seeking information and getting support during and immediately after the mass
8 casualty?

9 **MR. NICK BEATON:** So, like at first it was obviously just
10 overwhelming because like, where it was so public, Canada --- like everyone was trying
11 to do something. Like, you know what I mean, like people were trying to go to the
12 bathroom for me. I mean, I am stretching the truth but like, they were just wanting to do
13 everything. And then like, you had Victim Services reaching out. And it like, it was kind
14 of overwhelming to the point of like, you know, just, excuse my French, like leave me
15 the fuck alone. Just leave me alone.

16 Like, just --- because it was like, boom, boom, boom. But then it
17 almost seemed like, at the point that I needed, you know, Victim Services or there, like -
18 -- and I get everyone's different, right. Maybe people did want help right off the get go
19 but it was like, I had so many notes and so many papers everywhere and everything. It
20 was just hard so the time that I did need it, it was hard to get, because then I am calling
21 a 1-800 number and like, oh no, you are looking for this person.

22 So, I felt that there was a kind of a big gap there because at first,
23 they were reaching out saying, hey, do you need help, do you need help, do you need
24 help, and I didn't. And then when I needed it, it was hard to kind of find it, I guess, from
25 like, Victim Services or them avenues.

26 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** So, it was sort of like a firehose at first?

27 **MR. NICK BEATON:** Yeah.

28 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** With all these offers of support?

1 **MR. NICK BEATON:** Yeah.

2 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** And then kind of, leaving it more up to you
3 to ---

4 **MR. NICK BEATON:** Yeah, when everyone else started like, living
5 their lives again and petering off and then when you are by --- you know, you are by
6 myself, basically, me and my son, it was just more and more and more by yourself
7 completely. And then, even like your friends and family, like, they don't know what to
8 do. So, then you are like literally by yourself and it was at that time that I kind of needed
9 help and I will speak to like ---

10 I just started seeing a professional and I tried to go through the EA
11 program at work which was --- that caused me trauma. I just ended up giving up on
12 that. It was like, whatever. So, then I reached out to Victim Services and it was kind of
13 my own fault for waiting so long that I needed help right then. I was like, I need to talk
14 to someone like right now. Just dark and just everything hit me and it just piled up on
15 me and I literally was having some extremely dark thoughts.

16 And I was like, I need help now. And it was still three weeks to get
17 it. So, it was like, well here is a list of people and then they give me a list like this and
18 me trying to focus on anything for any amount of time since this happened, it was very
19 difficult. So, it was like, oh, these are the people and this person does this. Like, it just -
20 -- it was almost too much and I almost like --- I am going to say, babysat or it should
21 have been like, clear. Like, hey, like, here is a suggestion. Look at these people and if
22 this doesn't, you know.

23 But like, I have got a thing like that at people, that professionals that
24 you can talk through the government and whatnot that would be funded from Victim
25 Services but it was just --- and then even then when I found somebody, I kind of went
26 through --- because I wanted someone that, if there is a point where I want **C1** to be in
27 there with me or have them talk to him, like, so that narrowed it down. And this person
28 like, it was just --- it was three weeks, I think. It was a ---

1 After I am like, okay, I need help like today. I need to talk to
2 somebody like today. There was like nobody and like, I called the EAP program and it
3 was like all automated. You never actually get --- like, I assumed like, okay, I need
4 somebody. Pick up the phone and there would be someone there or like, automated ---
5 like somebody would be there to talk to. Like, it is alright. Like, you know. To be there
6 for you, I guess, type of thing. So, there was nothing really ---

7 For someone like me it was really hard to admit that I needed help.
8 Like, I needed to talk to somebody because I am kind of old school and like, I am a
9 man. I can do this. I can, like, you know, I can chew on this, I can do it but it just got to
10 a point where it is just like, wham. It just hit me and at that point I needed to talk to
11 somebody. It just ---

12 I just figured, even through the EAP program at work that you
13 would be able to like, someone on the other line to be like, you know, it is all right. Talk
14 you down or to talk you off that edge or whatever but there was --- It wasn't like that.

15 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** So, I am hearing that there is --- that
16 grieving is tough enough and then when you actually ask for help there is still a lot put
17 on your shoulders to sort out the list and the availability and who is the best fit for you
18 and your son.

19 **MR. NICK BEATON:** Yeah.

20 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** Like basically, there needs to be support
21 around helping you connect with an actual provider?

22 **MR. NICK BEATON:** Yeah, exactly. Like again, like even like to --
23 - like even having work --- a good program through work, if that was --- you know which
24 has nothing to do with this but it is just --- even that I was like, whoa, like I was just --- It
25 was very frustrating almost to the point where I almost gave up on it but I knew, for me, I
26 needed to get myself better for **C1**. And that is like my main objective and my main
27 goal is that I need to be able to be a dad for **C1** right, because it's all he's got, so.

28 That is the only thing that kept me grounded. If it wasn't for **C1**, I

1 would probably still wouldn't be talking to anyone to be completely honest, just because
2 I would have given up. Because like, I am no more special than the next person. I
3 might need to talk to somebody but it is like, I need to --- you know. It was frustrating to
4 say the least.

5 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** Yes. Can you --- just to take you back a
6 little bit to after the mass casualty, what were the pathways that you were offered at that
7 time? I hear what you are saying that you were not ready at that time but I was just
8 interested as we think forward, to other ---

9 **MR. NICK BEATON:** To be completely honest, it is kind of cloudy
10 because it is just like a tornado coming through. That would be the best way to
11 describe it. Like, you know, we woke that morning and she kissed me goodbye and
12 then it was just a tornado. And it still kind of is but I know, like, Victim Services --- So, at
13 the time, I didn't know what Victim Services was. I didn't know it existed so I am like, is
14 this even just media trying to get information? Like, yeah, they say they are Victim
15 Services but how do I know that?

16 And we've --- you know, we've heard of media doing different
17 things to trick you and whatnot. I am like, okay, are they with the RCMP because it is at
18 that point where it is like, I started not getting information from the RCMP and I am like,
19 okay, there's holes here. What is going on? Like, are you with the RCMP? What do I
20 tell these people? Do I want to talk? And that was like --- I didn't know what Victim
21 Services was? I didn't know it existed because I have never had anything happen that I
22 even --- to know they existed.

23 So, it is like, what are you, like you know? Is it independent? Are
24 you part of the RCMP? Like, what is it because I had so many people reaching out,
25 right?

26 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** Right, yeah. And then there are Victim
27 Services on the provincial level.

28 **MR. NICK BEATON:** (checking phone) Sorry, my son is at school.

1 I just want to make sure. No need to answer.

2 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** Yeah, if you need to answer it.

3 **MR. NICK BEATON:** No, it is good.

4 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** So, I am also hearing that, yeah, if
5 somebody could have explained the landscape of service providers or what was
6 available and how they were --- what the relationships between those and which ones
7 were the RCMP and which ones weren't.

8 **MR. NICK BEATON:** Yes, like, and to be 100 percent --- I want to
9 be completely honest and frank. They might have but in the whirlwind of just so much
10 stuff coming at me, I don't think they did but, yeah, it should be kind of better explained
11 to maybe like, okay, this is who we are or we are going to mail this you this out or like,
12 you can come pick this up. It is a package so you know, it is like, this is who we are.

13 Like, you know, if you went into an actual building that is a
14 government building and you would know that they should be trustworthy. It is just ---
15 because a phone call, if you get a phone call at that point because, as you can imagine,
16 my phone was literally blowing off the hook from every angle and from every thing, so.

17 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** So, anything else before we go to the
18 round two question just about seeking information and gathering support? Is there
19 anything else you would like to talk about when it comes to that?

20 **MR. NICK BEATON:** I am sorry. I am just scanning my notes
21 here. It is just --- I don't really know how to make it any better because, you know, if it
22 happened to you, you would be different. Like, maybe when they reached out you
23 would want that help right away. It is like, everyone is completely different but I guess,
24 just something like, handed to you that is official to let you know, to let the person know,
25 like, this is who we are.

26 Like, it isn't like a news agency trying to get the next story or
27 whatever. Like, it was --- that was like a big worry for me and not knowing who different
28 --- like, I had different levels of people reaching out to give help and it wasn't just Victim

1 Services. There were other agencies. I couldn't even tell you what they were right now.
2 But it was like, what is this person? Like, who is this? Like, what are you? Like, what
3 am I entitled to and they tell you everything.

4 You are just like, you know, so. Almost like if there was a number
5 that you could contact. Like, if this happens, like, call this number and then you could
6 get where you don't have to call the --- google the Victim Services and then call a 1-800
7 number and it has got like, 37 prompts to get you to the --- you know?

8 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** Right, I hear what you are saying. It is
9 even --- even to know to google the term Victim Services.

10 **MR. NICK BEATON:** Yeah.

11 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** You have to --- you are trying to make ---
12 you are already trying to make sense of what has happened and it is really tough, yeah.

13 **MR. NICK BEATON:** Yeah.

14 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** So, it is almost like proactive outreach.

15 **MR. NICK BEATON:** Hmmm, like, as a kid you always knew to call
16 the kid's help phone if you needed it. It was on milk, right. It was on that. You know
17 what I mean? So, something like that, you know, like, which is very important but like,
18 you know, adult help phone. You know what I mean?

19 Like, so, if there was like a 1-800 number that took you to --- well, I
20 need to talk to somebody right now or I need to --- this is the help that I need. Okay,
21 Nick, leave it with me. I will get back to you and that person is your contact for all that,
22 not like, [sound effect].

23 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** Almost like a caseworker approach.

24 **COMMISSIONER STANTON:** We heard that very suggestion,
25 right? That was with Peel Region Mass Casualty Bureau.

26 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** Yes. Yeah, yeah.

27 **COMMISSIONER STANTON:** And they suggested that and what
28 they have set up is a 1-800 number for people most affected to call for whatever it is

1 they need and those people figure out how to help you navigate and connect you with
2 what you need and so on. And it is one stop shopping.

3 **MR. NICK BEATON:** That is actually effective now?

4 **COMMISSIONER STANTON:** Yes, in Peel.

5 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** In Ontario.

6 **MR. NICK BEATON:** Oh, okay. Yeah.

7 **COMMISSIONER STANTON:** Yeah, so, yeah it is.

8 **MR. NICK BEATON:** Because, I mean, lets face it. The world is
9 not getting any better. You know what I mean? And what you might consider
10 something that is life changing, the next person might not. I mean, you know. It could
11 be a divorce or ---

12 **COMMISSIONER STANTON:** We asked them for a presentation
13 on it because we thought it may be helpful for us in thinking about models going
14 forward.

15 **MR. NICK BEATON:** Absolutely.

16 **COMMISSIONER STANTON:** Yeah, so, that is something that ---

17 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** Good to hear you suggesting that so.

18 **COMMISSIONER STANTON:** Thank you. Yeah, you basically
19 confirmed that that is the right idea.

20 **MR. NICK BEATON:** Yeah, absolutely because I mean, like, if you
21 say, kids' help phone to anyone, they are going to know. Like, there is probably no one
22 that doesn't know, I would think. But ---

23 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** Yeah, the only other thing that comes to
24 mind for me is the 811 number, I believe is the provincial number.

25 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** Yes.

26 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** It is the kind of health gateway. You often
27 will talk to a nurse but I think that is what the Nova Scotia government has put in place
28 as an inbound.

1 **MR. NICK BEATON:** Oh, see, I didn't even know ---

2 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** 811 instead of 911 but it is more to Nova
3 Scotia Health and then I think they ---

4 **MR. NICK BEATON:** Oh, yeah.

5 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** I am not saying that somebody is going to
6 pick up the phone and be able to help you right then.

7 **MR. NICK BEATON:** Yeah.

8 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** But it is a way of trying to help people find
9 health care providers ---

10 **MR. NICK BEATON:** But even just to know that it is like, hey, and
11 you talk to that person and they are like, I can't help you but I will find someone that
12 can.

13 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** Yes.

14 **MR. NICK BEATON:** It is not like, push 1 if you are in --- It is not
15 like --- that is so frustrating to me to listen to that and just be like ting [sound effect], you
16 know. That is where the world is going with anything now.

17 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** Right.

18 **MR. NICK BEATON:** You know?

19 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** How are you doing, Mr. Beaton? Are you
20 good?

21 **MR. NICK BEATON:** Good.

22 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** Do you need a donut or a drink or are you
23 okay?

24 **MR. NICK BEATON:** Yeah, I am good, thanks.

25 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** Alright. So, round two is something that is
26 very topical for this week. That the work that lies ahead for this Commission is to make
27 recommendations that are effective, people centered and meaningful that will bring
28 about meaningful change. It is something that I think all of us in this room can agree on

1 deals with recommendations and getting those right is very important. So, it is really
2 helpful to us to understand for you, which issues are most important for you that the
3 Commission focus on as we formulate those recommendations.

4 **MR. NICK BEATON:** So, right off the top, which you guys have
5 probably heard me being vocal about, is that Alert. I honestly, deeply believe that I
6 would have two children in my house right now and a wife if that Alert came out
7 because without a shadow of a doubt, Kristen would have come home. Like, without a
8 doubt, you know and especially when you hear that this mad man dressed like a cop
9 with a cop car, you are going to be like, okay, this just isn't a domestic --- you know.
10 This isn't like a one-off. This is obviously a sick person to do this.

11 So, just let people know everything. Like, don't --- why hide that?
12 You see what happened. There's 23 lives taken because it was such a secret which ---
13 Saturday --- you know, proactive maybe, it would have prevented but I mean, Sunday,
14 there is absolutely no way that --- and no reason that we shouldn't have been --- we all
15 know that Lisa came out of the woods at whatever and said, this is what he has got and
16 provided pictures.

17 The second that went, boom, it should have went [sound effect],
18 you know? By seven o'clock Kristen wouldn't have even left the house, you know and if
19 she did, she would have just been getting ready to leave the house and there is not a
20 chance she would have left the house to go anywhere. So, it is --- with --- I am very --- I
21 have heard different professionals say it would have helped, it wouldn't have helped.

22 But maybe it would have scared some people but sorry, if that
23 would have scared you. My wife would still be here and that means more to me than
24 being scared. Like, when that Alert goes off now, I am not going to lie, I tremble. I
25 tremble. I vibrate but it gives me the tools to protect me and my son and what is left of
26 my life. Do you know what I mean? If it is in Truro, I am not in Truro. Do you know
27 what I mean?

28 So, it is absolutely like that and just like transparency and I kind of

1 ventured off of what you --- I kind of forget what you asked me exactly and ---

2 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** No, no, this is --- Public Alerting is one of
3 those issues to get right.

4 **MR. NICK BEATON:** Yeah, so ---

5 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** I am hearing you say that there is a need
6 for a really clear protocol.

7 **MR. NICK BEATON:** Yeah.

8 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** And that people know how to use it and
9 they use it earlier rather than later.

10 **MR. NICK BEATON:** So like, even, like, they give the RCMP the
11 right now to use it and I think they made that public or whatever and now the RCMP,
12 like they can actually do it. They don't have to go through different avenues but like,
13 HRP (Halifax Regional Police), Truro Police, like how come they don't because I mean,
14 there could be ---

15 Like in Saskatchewan, that was like an isolated event, you know, in
16 the Reservation but if there was someone running around Truro stabbing people, like
17 the Truro Police should have access to that. Like, they are no less important than
18 anyone else and it is the little towns now like Truro are getting as bad as the big cities.
19 Like, the stuff that is going on in Truro right now is absolutely crazy. You know, like, the
20 Truro Police have like sometimes four or five knife calls a night and like, it is just not
21 getting any better.

22 Like, they should have --- so, if this person is on Lyman Street, they
23 should have access to be like, at least reach out to --- and RCMP members, you know.
24 it just ---it all seems like it has to be based around the RCMP and they are beating on
25 their chests. Yeah, and they are like, we are the RCMP and they talk down to the Truro
26 Police and I know that because I work for the Town and I am around the Truro Police all
27 the time. They are inferior.

28 Like, I had the family meeting with the RCMP and it was like,

1 whenever I said the Truro Police it was [sound effect]. When I was like, they could have
2 fucking --- excuse me, they could have locked the town. Do you know what I mean?
3 Like, he drove right through the town. So, like, that too. They need to --- it is --- like I
4 said to that Darren Campbell and I said to like different --- it is like the good ole boys'
5 club. They are like, we are the RCMP. We are better than everyone else. Do you
6 know what I mean?

7 And it is --- I think you know, you have probably seen that and like,
8 it is just --- they just need to not be so high on their horses for lack of a better term and
9 look at other police agencies that could have helped. Because like we heard like
10 Millbrook reached out to help. Millbrook RCMP which is RCMP, reached out to help;
11 Millbrook, no. Truro Police I know, for a fact, reached out and I know many of them
12 didn't even know. I know the K-9 guy was in town. He lives in Masstown. He was
13 headed to get the work truck and the police dog because he was in town doing
14 something and he was like, okay, I am probably getting a call. He met the Wort and
15 didn't know that he met him until after he found out what he was driving because he was
16 like, that cruiser was kind of odd, type of thing. And then he just headed on his way to
17 go home to get the dog warmed up and get it ready and then when he come to find out,
18 he was like, holy shit.

19 I met him. There he is a Truro Police. He could have turned
20 around in his Toyota Tacoma and followed him and called it all in to dispatch and then
21 they would have had eyes on him and he wouldn't have even have known he was being
22 followed.

23 So, like, they all have emails and they get different emails on
24 different stuff. They should just be kept in the loop about anything that is going on.
25 Like, just because it is in Portapique, in Kemptown or where ever, it could come through
26 town. Like, this is a main artery. This is the hub, right. Like, where ever you are going
27 to go, chances are you are coming through here. So, they should be included. Why
28 hold that information? Because there's ---

1 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** Something around like, kind of mandatory
2 partnership with other police agencies?

3 **MR. NICK BEATON:** Absolutely, because, I mean, Truro, you
4 know --- even if there's --- you have at all times, I know, in Truro, like there are four
5 officers in cruisers on duty 24/7 in the Town of Truro. And like, last Saturday there was
6 like, three RCMP members for like, how many hundreds of kilometers? So, you get a
7 domestic dispute in Portapique and you get a domestic dispute in say, Tatamagouche
8 and there is one officer that is like --- goes for backup.

9 There is no one around. There are no other officers around, right,
10 but you have got four active members on duty in Truro that could be responding. They
11 could help out. And, you know, vice versa. Like, I know even the Truro Police feel they
12 can't --- ah, geez, we really don't want to reach out to them because of the --- Like, it is
13 kind of disgusting, really, because they have the same training. And even some of the
14 smaller forces have better training than the RCMP because they have the town money
15 to do things. Everyone of them is clear to carry a C8. Every one of the members and
16 they have hard body armour.

17 Some of the RCMP members that responded that night didn't. So,
18 like they are better equipped than the RCMP but they are looked down on. So, that is
19 another thing. Like, just --- there is no reason, right. I mean like, they are going to keep
20 things secret the same as the RCMP member that is not on duty. Like, even him at
21 home gets an email. "Oh geez, I dealt with that guy before." There should be an
22 internal thing that could be --- email could be easy because of mass email. Oh geez, I
23 dealt with that guy before, you know. Hey, let him know to be careful because that guy
24 is --- you know.

25 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** It is information sharing, co-ordination
26 between police agencies?

27 **MR. NICK BEATON:** Absolutely, yeah. Yeah, so, the Alert
28 agencies, you know, relying on each and if they rely on each other and they have ---

1 Okay, funding is lacking here, here and here, well, they know you have this and we
2 have this so let' s work together. Like, at the end of the day it is for all our safety. And
3 case in point, he could have been stopped at --- you know, he came across that Bible
4 Hill Bridge, you know. It is a small bridge. One car easily could have stopped it. And
5 when we heard today on the highway, you know, an interchange, one car sitting there.
6 It is just ---

7 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** So, there is the information sharing and
8 then there is the co-ordinated response of all the agencies.

9 **MR. NICK BEATON:** And not being so high on the horse to accept
10 the help. Like, if you have an agency that is trained, you know, it is not like, hey, this is
11 Nick Beaton. I got a shotgun; I'll come help. Like, you know, they are actually trained
12 professionals much like themselves. They just wear different uniforms. So, if that ---
13 like, that was so frustrating to me to hear that and then to find out that the Truro Police
14 were actually sitting ducks because the RCMP knew. I know --- I talked to the officer
15 that was staged at the Truro Hospital. He was there. Lisa Banfield and them were
16 there.

17 So, whenever there is a shooting and they are in, obviously the
18 Truro Police are the ones to guard the Truro Hospital and he didn't know that the
19 shooter was in a uniform in a marked car until he got to Brookfield. And he was solely
20 there to protect the hospital from the shooter and he wasn't equipped with that
21 information until he was along with Brookfield. Like, that is very important. So, like, if
22 he had have walked into that hospital, how many more --- you know what I mean? To
23 say, to get to her or finish off Andrew McDonald or whatever. It is just ---

24 So, like, I am talking about high on the horse. When I say maintain
25 the right, do you know what that is? Do you know what that slogan is?

26 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** What is it?

27 **MR. NICK BEATON:** Maintain the right. I know you do. It is a
28 slogan, around the buffalo in French.

1 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** Okay.

2 **MR. NICK BEATON:** And that is the thing, no matter what, they
3 maintain the right and it doesn't matter. Right or wrong, maintain the right. So, if we are
4 going to change things and people are going to start to have faith in them again, maybe
5 they should look at changing that old boys' club, the old way that it is. Like, no matter
6 what, maintain the right. They are never wrong. They are all about protecting that
7 image.

8 So, I mean, like, just --- that is like, maintain the right no matter
9 what. It is -- just to see that on every car going by or every --- it just --- We are above
10 you, you know, no matter what and yeah. So, I guess, one thing that I have got to note
11 here going back to like, things --- like, reaching out. Like, I just got two of my wife's cell
12 phones back last week. Like, when you are talking about communication and stuff, like,
13 I let --- and the reason I got it back was because of the gentleman that sits here all the
14 time. The Super.

15 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** O'Malley [Chief Superintendent Michael
16 O'Malley].

17 **MR. NICK BEATON:** O'Malley, yeah. He was --- I talked with him
18 and he was like, what? and he took it upon himself. He said --- he got my contact and
19 reached out and he was like --- But this is the kicker. I knew they had Kristen's nurse
20 phone. I called it the VON phone. He called and he was like, there is another phone
21 here, Nick.

22 I said, no, I got one back because that was a --- I had to actually
23 literally threaten the Bible Hill RCMP to get it back. I am not proud of it but it is down
24 and out. It is all I had left because we are coming to Kristen's funeral and I wanted the
25 pictures and videos off of it. There were 80 pictures and videos of her and **C1** on it.

26 And so, my comment was like, well, no. And he was like, yeah. It
27 is the picture of Kristen and **C1** on here. It was an S7 so they seized and never told
28 me. So, Skipper coming to the house all them times and never told me. And like, I was

1 asking for the S10 phone back because that the one that she was active ---

2 It was active and she had the S7 with all of our wedding pictures on
3 it. Like, a bunch of like, **C1** as a brand-new baby, right up through. Like, this is like
4 very important to me. Like, this is all I have left of her to show **C1** and like, here is you
5 and mummy, right, because when it is her taking it, it is her voice in it. Like, she is
6 taking videos and I was at work. I didn't even know half these videos existed.

7 And Skipper or no one else in the RCMP before Mike told me even
8 knew this phone existed. I tore the house apart for the last two years looking for it. I
9 looked in the garage and looked in the house and I was like, where is it? Like, where
10 would it be not even thinking that it was in the car and it was and so, that is the
11 communication.

12 Like, I kind of completely skipped over that. The communication is
13 absolutely horrible from the RCMP. Like, literally, like you heard today, Skipper called
14 and be like, yeah. I can't talk long. I am going to call all the family members. Turn the
15 6 o'clock news on and then hang up. So, I am like, what the fuck? What am I going to
16 find out here? So, you guys sitting home. You know, you guys not even living in ---
17 somebody not even living in the Truro area were finding out this information the same
18 way I was at the same time. You know? And when they come --- so, I called. It was
19 like, ten to six because yet again, I had to call and threaten the RCMP. Like, I just
20 want to know, is my wife alive? Is she not? Like, I just want to know. Just tell me. I
21 called and I described her tattoos. I said about different marks she had on her body.
22 She has this pierced and this pierced. Like, I was clearly not the media reaching out. I
23 said, this is her licence plate. You know, there is a sticker on her car. Like, you know,
24 knowing that maybe something really bad happened that you couldn't identify her. Well,
25 this is her vehicle at least, right.

26 They wouldn't tell me nothing. I said, her shifter, it was going in on
27 Monday. It had scotch tape around it. There was just stuff that nobody could just make
28 up and I very clearly told them and at ten to six, the two guys pulled in, in this van. One

1 guy got out and the first words to me was like, "You will be happy to know." So, I got
2 excited. I was waiting for him to say that you will be happy to know that she is in the
3 van. We have been holding her. She seen what happened. You know? Just a million
4 things.

5 "You will be happy to know that you are the first one notified" is
6 what he said to me. And I still don't know how I didn't knock him out to be honest. To
7 get --- for that to be his opening line to me, you will be happy to know. And I said to
8 him, yeah, I am real fucking happy to know that my wife is dead, bud. So, then I said, is
9 the killer dead? Well, we can't answer that. So, I want to know if he is still running
10 around doing this. Like, what is going on? We don't and we don't have to answer that.
11 I said, you are not leaving this driveway until you tell me. Is he ---? Do you have him?
12 Yeah, we have him. Is he dead? I said, you are not leaving the driveway and I had to
13 actually threaten this guy.

14 And again, I know, I probably sound crazy but I mean, at that point,
15 that is all you have left. I am just like, I am eight hours in, bud. And along the way the
16 brother-in-law went out to the scene. One member comes out and tells Richard, yeah,
17 we had a young female leave here with chest injuries. So, he drives to the Truro
18 hospital. It is on lockdown. He is beating on the windows. Someone comes out and he
19 is like, I just --- you know, I want to know if --- and he said, we can't tell you that and this
20 was someone high up in the hospital.

21 And he goes, listen, all I want to know is, is my sister here? This is
22 her name. Blah, blah, blah. All we can tell you is that she is not here. So, then I called
23 every hospital like from here to Halifax, every one of them. And they are like, we can't
24 tell you. And I am like, this is who I am. This is my wife. This is what is going on. I just
25 want to know is Kristen there. I was told she left the scene.

26 So, that was like --- so I was like --- by 11 o'clock, something is not
27 right because that was not normal for Kristen at all. Call me, call me, call me, call me.
28 Text, call, Facebook, whatever. I kind of knew that something really wasn't right but

1 they could have held her. Like, she could have seen something and they take her
2 phone and not let her talk to yeah, she left with chest injuries and at this point, I don't
3 care, as long as she is alive. I don't care what state she is in. I want to go hold her,
4 right.

5 Nothing for hours and then like the one cop that I talk to at the
6 scene, Curtis and he is like, "Hi Nick. This is Curtis." So, he identified himself with his
7 first name. It wasn't Constable or Corporal or whatever. He was like, this is Curtis with
8 the RCMP, Nick. Like you know? At that time, he is not dealing with me. I am not ---
9 you know, I am not a bad guy. He knows I am just --- you know. But what he --- I will
10 never forget that out of everything. I remember him saying, this is Curtis with the
11 RCMP. It is just like he is another person, right.

12 He was very respectful and in his own way, he kind of told me that I
13 didn't have to keep sending people looking for her. They wouldn't let him. Like, he
14 knew, at that time, he knew it was Kristen. He knew but in his own way he said, you
15 know, you don't have to keep sending people looking for her.

16 And he was like, I can't tell you anymore than that or I will be in a lot
17 of trouble because I was directed right from Jerry Rose-Bartholomew (sic) to not tell
18 you. He said, Jerry, my boss, is right here. He won't let --- he is like, I am working on
19 him letting me tell you. So, like, he told me in his own way. You know, that guy is in
20 like, Yellowknife or whatever. Anyone that has helped me, any RCMP officer that was
21 nice and went out of his way.

22 Like, even Glen, he was head of major crimes. He is not now.
23 Jerry is. Jerry shit the bed here in a lot of avenues and now he is in the head --- like, I
24 don't even know where Glen is. So, to me it is like they are washing it. Like, they are
25 hiding it. Like, anyone that was helpful and went out of their way --- Rodney McDonald
26 was at the house with Skipper and Rodney actually was super nice and like, no, Nick. I
27 am taking notes and I will find that out for you, for sure. And he told me a few things
28 and Skipper goes, "That is enough. You are to say no more." He said it to him right in

1 my kitchen.

2 And that was the last time the guy came around and I haven't seen
3 him since. So, anyone that was trying to be helpful has been like, washed and pushed
4 to the side. So, anyone that has tried to be communicative or helpful with the RCMP is
5 now gone. Like, I don't --- but I know --- because Curtis reaches out still and "How's it
6 going?" It is as helpful to him as it is to me in our healing process that he reaches out.
7 Because like I told him, that is anytime man, call me.

8 He is like, I am just out here fishing with my kids thinking about you.
9 So, it puts the personal touch on it, right. Like, you know, and that is what, and I said,
10 "Man, I love hearing from you. Reach out", you know. And he is like, how is **C1** you
11 know. He is starting school. Like, it is just ---

12 So back to communication, like, anyone that kind of was helpful or
13 went out of their way to do it, they're to the wayside or pushed God knows where.

14 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** It is really helpful. I just want to reflect
15 back what I am hearing because I think your experience, there are different layers to it
16 and what I am hearing is, very difficult to find information about the location of your
17 loved one. So, there is an immediate need to, like you said, register that you have this
18 question. You are looking for this person.

19 There needs to be some proactive outreach around that. I am also
20 hearing that the interactions you did have like the one you described in your driveway
21 were poorly handled by --- So, it is sort of like, when you did get information, it was ---
22 there needs to be training around the best way ---

23 **MR. NICK BEATON:** Sensitivity.

24 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** --- to best way to deliver sensitive
25 information.

26 **MR. NICK BEATON:** I understand it is probably hard to deliver that
27 information. There is no doubt in my mind but I couldn't think that that would be the ---

28 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** There are better ways to do it.

1 **MR. NICK BEATON:** --- first thing in my mind to tell someone, you
2 will be happy to know that your loved one is dead.

3 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** And then there is the other thing that I am
4 hearing, is there is sort of ongoing and one of the things you are highlighting is that
5 Curtis was more humane in the way that he reached out to you and there is ---

6 **MR. NICK BEATON:** Absolutely.

7 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** And it is, you know, the RCMP either
8 needs that training or there may be someone else that might be better than a police
9 officer to reach out to families.

10 **MR. NICK BEATON:** Yeah, and I mean, I appreciate the fact that
11 they did send plain clothes guys and didn't pull in with a cruiser which is probably
12 common but with what took place, I mean, they at least had that common sense.
13 Because if a marked cruiser had of pulled in, I really don't know how I would have
14 handled that situation at all. Like, I still don't want to see a marked cruiser. It just sends
15 me.

16 And that is another thing, like, you almost think, from what
17 happened he took that from them. You would almost think they would be like wanting to
18 change something. Like, change their appearance, like --- you know what I mean?
19 Like, if I have a company, if I have a plumbing company and we go in and it absolutely
20 shits the bed and ruins a bunch of houses, well, you are going to change the look of
21 your company, right, to save grace, like.

22 And I see now they are changing the cruisers. They are going with
23 Dodges again from Fords. So, they are going with the Dodge Chargers again. So, that
24 kind of helps me because it is a different car. Like, if a fully marked SUV pulls in it is not
25 going to bother you but if that car pulls in, I just [sound effect] or even anywhere near
26 me, I just ---

27 Like, and when I had my family meeting I told them, I said straight
28 up. I said, if one of those cars pulled behind me and put the lights and I am not pulling

1 over and especially if **C1** is with me. And all they said was just slow your speed,
2 put your four ways on and call 911 and identify yourself and let them know, because I
3 said, I am just not --- I can't.

4 So, one thing about communication, VON called. I thought it was
5 closer to 12:00 but we heard today that it was after 12:00. I don't know if that is facts
6 but the VON called to report Kristen as a missing person and they told the VON at that
7 time that Kristen was deceased, that she is not a missing person. So, VON knew at
8 dinner time that my wife --- and the co-workers knew that it was Kristen. I am at home
9 and didn't know until ten to six. It was like 5:50 when they pulled in and I know the time
10 because there was ---

11 Oh, and that was the other thing. He was standing there and he
12 said, we want to know if we can release her name. They want me to ask. I am like, you
13 just told me. Like, and within the same sentence you want to know if you can tell the
14 world it is her? No. No. I said, her brother is out west working. She has got other
15 family members. Like, you are giving me eight minutes to let everyone know? Like,
16 yes, everyone was there because it was eight hours. Like, her dad and her brother, and
17 I was like, no. Absolutely --- and they wanted to splash her name just that quick. Like,
18 within ten minutes of me knowing they wanted the world to know that --- I said no,
19 absolutely not. And that was another --- it was just like a big thing. Like, we really want
20 to do it. Like, just --- why do you need a name. Put a number. Like, there is ---like
21 okay, there is fifteen people now. Do you know what I mean?

22 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** Would you like a break?

23 **MR. NICK BEATON:** No, I think I am good. Are you guys good?
24 This is one of the easiest things I have been through, so, compared to everything I have
25 been through, so.

26 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** Well, I just want to reflect back that you are
27 not crazy because you said it, you might think I am crazy. I don't think you are crazy.

28 **MR. NICK BEATON:** Well, it is just me saying --- always saying ---

1 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** I know.

2 **MR. NICK BEATON:** I got to the point where I had to threaten ---
3 like, you are brought up to respect RCMP and police and the fact that I had to actually,
4 like, threaten. Like I threatened 911 to go out to the scene and that is like, I literally
5 said, if I don't have someone here and this is like, 5 o'clock-ish, I called. If there is not
6 an officer in my yard within a half an hour, I am coming out there. I said, I am ten
7 minutes from the scene. I am just driving ---

8 I described the truck I was driving and everything. I said, I am
9 going to drive right through until I get to her vehicle. And it is like, you put me in that
10 position. Like, what would have happened. Like, they would have probably fired upon
11 me. I probably wouldn't be here because, I mean, at --- I was willing to do anything just
12 to know. It is just disgusting that they put me in that position and it makes --- it does
13 kind of make you sound crazy when you are threatening, you know, the RCMP but it is
14 just --- but they put me in that position to do that.

15 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** But it is very helpful for us to hear the
16 different --- you are talking about like ---

17 **MR. NICK BEATON:** Frustration levels.

18 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** Disclosure. Well, frustration levels but also
19 like, there's cascading information whether you are going to let disclosure of the name
20 or all the different things. And so, by you sharing what is a very difficult experience, you
21 are helping us understand all the nuances of communicating with Canadians who have
22 experienced this type of thing.

23 **MR. NICK BEATON:** That is the whole reason I am doing this and
24 why I have been so vocal because I don't want some other husband or parent to have
25 to go through this again and if we can avoid that, like --- The worst thing imaginable
26 happened to my family but every thing that happened since has been almost as
27 traumatizing and as bad. Like, just this week getting her cell phone back. Like, do you
28 know what I mean? That is just mind numbing and nobody can believe that.

1 Like, nobody doubts it but nobody --- Like Mike O'Malley, himself,
2 he is like, "I am sorry, Nick." Like, and he took it upon himself to do it, like hand
3 delivered them and he apologized. Like, there is good people among the force but it is
4 just gets clouded by the shittyness of the good ole boys' club and I just keep saying
5 that.

6 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** I want to make sure we have that on the
7 record and that this is correct. You are saying that there were two cell phones?

8 **MR. NICK BEATON:** Three.

9 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** The VON cell phone ---

10 **MR. NICK BEATON:** There was three total. So, her personal, the
11 VON one and then the one that she had before the personal.

12 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** An older personal one?

13 **MR. NICK BEATON:** Yeah.

14 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** That had all the memories and photos.

15 **MR. NICK BEATON:** That she played music and stuff off of and ---

16 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** Okay.

17 **COMMISSIONER STANTON:** It is in the Statutory Declaration.
18 You've laid it all out in the Statutory Declaration that we've all read.

19 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** Okay, great.

20 **MR. NICK BEATON:** What? I did?

21 **COMMISSIONER STANTON:** Yeah, the one that ---

22 **SANDRA McCULLOCH:** It is the document we prepared last
23 week.

24 **MR. NICK BEATON:** Okay, yeah, yeah, yeah. I thought --- yeah,
25 because this is so current that I didn't know that if that was in ---

26 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** Yeah, we read it.

27 **COMMISSIONER STANTON:** No, that was in it and then so, Leo
28 may not have ---

1 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** Cell phone.

2 **MR. NICK BEATON:** Yeah, oh, it is fine. I don't know how you
3 guys keep track of everything.

4 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** Do you want to check your notes? I see
5 that you are ---?

6 **MR. NICK BEATON:** I just kind of --- so, I got the cell phone thing.

7 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** Yeah.

8 **MR. NICK BEATON:** I just have a few different things I want to talk
9 about. Oh, so, the communication. I was left to worry that there was a second shooter
10 that got away. So, Skipper Bent was my communication. He was out at the house and
11 I had his contact which, it was nice being able to pick up the phone and --- I want to be
12 very clear with that. It was very nice. Pick up the phone and I didn't have to call Bible
13 Hill Dispatch and be like, I am Nick Beaton and then having to --- you know.

14 I call and Skipper is like, hi Nick. So, that very nice to have a family
15 liaison and at the point, I put a lot of faith and a lot of trust in to him and along the way
16 he completely --- I am usually a pretty good judge of character and he really frazzled me
17 and threw me for a loop. But anyways, so, at the time, I asked him --- I called him, you
18 know. There are these rumours around, blah, blah, that there is a second shooter
19 because there is a high body count, you know, and how are you escaping and so on.

20 So, his answer to me was, well, we can't rule anything out and we
21 are really not sure. So, I am home. I have done whatever, you know, news thing, so, I
22 am a face now and I am home and the only thing I have left is my boy. So, I am just in
23 hysterics. Like, is this --- you know, is there a second shooter? Like, are they going to
24 come to finish and like, obviously, if --- sometimes these psychos do it just for fame.
25 So, if they come get me, the husband of the wife that ---

26 You know what I mean? It would just be --- and so, and actually,
27 that day Stephen McNeil happened to reach out to send his condolences and say, like,
28 is there anything I can do? And I said, absolutely. I said, there is talk that there is a

1 second shooter and the RCMP won't confirm. If they are saying, like, you know, we
2 can't rule anything out and they think there might be. You know, can you get back to
3 me and let me know.

4 It wasn't half an hour, maybe 45 minutes later that, from higher up,
5 got Skipper to call me to tell me that there was indeed --- there was not a second
6 shooter. But like I said, instead of just doing that, he would be like, not that I know of
7 but let me check with --- maybe that is not pertinent information to me. Let me reach
8 out. And like, okay, you are a family and so, there could be some danger for you. Then
9 you do, you know, reserve the right to know this.

10 And it is just, everything is a secret and like, no matter what I said.
11 Well, he just --- same as he led me to believe that Kristen and the killer had a
12 relationship. He didn't say a loving relationship but a relationship that my wife had with
13 somebody, you know, that I didn't know is --- you know. It doesn't matter but he led me
14 to believe that. I believed it for, I think it was three months until he came back to give
15 the cell phone back and he was like, Jerry told me to tell you that Kristen in no way
16 knew him. So, I am left and no amount of counselling or whatever. Like, it is the last
17 thing I think about and it is the first think about.

18 I doubted my faithful wife that is now deceased like and he made
19 me do that. He made me doubt her. Again, it is just --- there is no amount of anything
20 that can fix that and take that out of me. It will be my last thought on my deathbed. I
21 guarantee it. That I doubted her. And that has been one of the biggest things for me. I
22 just --- that is something that I have got to live with, right. There is no --- I apologize to
23 her every night that I doubted her. He led me to believe it. So, that goes with the
24 communication.

25 Yeah, one other thing I have got in my notes is like, one thing and
26 like, I met with Justin Trudeau. I walked in and like, coming in here and having to go
27 through the metal detector and all that, I just --- I felt more of a personal touch. Like, I
28 walked in a room. Justin walked in, sat down like -- No, they never even so much as

1 said, do you have any weapons? Nobody, not one of the family members. It was all a
2 great big room with everyone us sitting there and we just walked from outside, walked in
3 and he walked in behind us.

4 And it is just like, I come through here and going through the metal
5 detector and it is just --- it takes --- I don't know what I am trying to say but it is just ---
6 Justin Trudeau is, you know, the Prime Minister and he is --- there was no pat down.
7 There was no nothing and I come in here and I have to go through a --- I feel like a
8 criminal coming in here and I hate it. Like, I absolutely hate it. I hate doing that. I just --
9 - just to say that.

10 I just --- I get we are in kind of a scary world or whatever but it is
11 like, you know, Justin Trudeau is kind of an important person too. You know? And like,
12 he had secret --- I would say, Secret Service everywhere but they were nowhere even
13 close to us. Like, the closest one wouldn't have been in this room, close to me. So, it is
14 just like --- to me, I just feel like dirty or like a criminal going through that. So, I just
15 wanted to voice that.

16 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** Okay.

17 **MR. NICK BEATON:** And just like the point of, you know, this is
18 the second time I have got to see, you know, you folks, you know, right like this. You
19 know, the first time and I was --- at the time I was like, the first time I was like, okay.
20 This is going to be really good. Like, we are going to be heard and we are going to be
21 included and I am going to feel like I am something to this, right.

22 And I mean, now we are here coming on two-and-a-half years now
23 and this is only the second time. I am not saying you guys aren't busy but like, it is --- I
24 would suggest if this ever happened again that this happens more because I say
25 something to Sandra and Sandra says something to Leo and Leo hands it to you and it
26 gets lost in translation. Right?

27 So, something might --- and you could, I don't know, maybe see in
28 my face, you can feel the passion in different ways and it might stick with you a little

1 harder. Or, I don't know. I just --- it would make me feel better that I was included
2 because it is kind of frustrating like, going, you know, how it goes through all the
3 different channels. Much like the RCMP, this is staged a lot like the RCMP and I very
4 vocally said it and it almost feels that way. You know, just the different levels.

5 Like, I get why I can't pick up and be like, hey, MacDonald, what's
6 up? What are you drinking tonight? You know? Like, I get that and why that can't
7 happen but why this couldn't happen a little more regularly or the option to do that. And
8 I get with this being such a big amount of people that it could be time consuming but ---

9 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** Nick, you don't have to qualify it.

10 **MR. NICK BEATON:** Yeah.

11 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** I really appreciate the feedback and it is
12 very, very honest. Yeah.

13 **MR. NICK BEATON:** And so, can I ask like, so, why no pictures of
14 our loved ones? Like, in there, in those rooms? Like, how come? Is there a reason?
15 Like, you know, of the 23 victims, why is it ---? Why is that picture not ---? Like you got
16 that great big billboard that is that big and it says Mass Casualty Commission at the top
17 and it is like water or whatever it is. Like, why couldn't their pictures be on that?

18 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** So, I am hearing you say, you would like to
19 have pictures of them?

20 **MR. NICK BEATON:** Yeah, and I am just asking, like why? Was
21 that thought about? Was it talked about? Like ---

22 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** It was.

23 **MS. LEANNE FITCH:** Oh, yes.

24 **MR. NICK BEATON:** Okay.

25 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** We couldn't get agreement and
26 so, we welcomed people to take their pictures in but, you know.

27 **MR. NICK BEATON:** So, like, if there is like basically one family
28 member that didn't want it, so you couldn't put up 22 and not the 23rd?

1 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** It would have been a little
2 awkward putting ---

3 **MR. NICK BEATON:** Yeah, because I know I reached out to
4 everyone because I was going do it in Halifax and Heidi's mom asked me not to. So, I
5 was like, I can't put up 22. I just --- I was just wondering because that has been a
6 question that ---

7 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** Yeah, it is something we ---

8 **MS. KIM STANTON:** We thought about it a lot.

9 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** We wanted to do but ---

10 **MR. NICK BEATON:** It just feels very like, washed and very like, a
11 courtroom.

12 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** Yeah.

13 **COMMISSIONER STANTON:** So, we left it that we invited
14 everybody that wanted to bring a photo in to please do that but that was where we were
15 going to [* 47:23 inaudible], you know.

16 **MR. NICK BEATON:** Okay, I just had a question because I just ---
17 it is just ---

18 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** No, that is why we ended up just with
19 the names.

20 **MR. NICK BEATON:** Yeah.

21 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** Because we could get agreement
22 across the board with everybody that honouring the names every day would ---

23 **MR. NICK BEATON:** Yeah, okay. So, that was just one question
24 that was ---

25 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** Good question.

26 **MR. NICK BEATON:** So, like, the big one that you have probably
27 heard a hundred times, like why didn't we or like our counsel get to question Lisa
28 Banfield? Like, she is without a doubt, she knows the before, the during, the after.

1 Like, so, it is extremely frustrating to me. You know, she is one that can give all these
2 answers. Why? Like, and, you know Sandra stand up there and she has to present
3 herself thoroughly and properly.

4 I get why I can't stand up there because I am --- I don't want to
5 traumatize her any more but why wasn't like, say our counsel given the opportunity to
6 ask her questions? Because there are questions that she can --- and her and only her,
7 alone, can answer. So, like why? I have other notes of other things but why her,
8 specifically? Why weren't we, you know --- like, I am doing this. This is traumatizing to
9 me and I am going to go home and I am going to be --- you know, I have to relive and I
10 am reliving over and over and over again. And I am doing that because I want to help.
11 So, why not her?

12 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** So, here is what I would like to do. it is
13 really helpful to understand the questions you are still holding.

14 **MR. NICK BEATON:** Mmmhm.

15 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** But let's get the questions on to the record
16 and then I will ask the Commissioners if they have any comments or answers.

17 **MR. NICK BEATON:** Okay, so, like it is ---?

18 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** Part of what we are trying to do is preserve
19 the transparency process.

20 **MR. NICK BEATON:** Yeah.

21 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** And it could make the --- the proceedings
22 aren't completed yet and we are still hearing public submissions from your counsel and
23 others so I just want to --- I am not trying to squash your questions. It would be helpful if
24 we heard your questions and then I will ask the Commissioners if they have any
25 responses.

26 **MR. NICK BEATON:** Okay.

27 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** As opposed to a kind of a debate format.

28 **MR. NICK BEATON:** Yeah, yeah.

1 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** So, I am hearing that you have a question
2 about why Lisa Banfield was not here.

3 **MR. NICK BEATON:** Lisa Banfield --- like, Corporal Peterson ---

4 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** Yeah.

5 **MR. NICK BEATON:** --- met him, drove a mile and a half and then
6 turned around. If, in my opinion, that man had of done his job, my wife would have
7 been --- my wife was the next one killed after he seen him. So, why wasn't he brought
8 up? Like, him especially as an RCMP member, like, it is kind of his job, you know, is
9 giving evidence. So, like, then there are different ones. Like, there is like different ---
10 like meetings that you guys had behind the scene.

11 Like, it just --- like everything just seems like crammed together and
12 this brings me to like, the different like, round table debates that you had. Like, although
13 like, very important, like child poverty. Like very important but like, why was that in
14 here? Like, to me and no disrespect and no shade to that and like the women's rights
15 and like, the African heritage and then the First Nations and they all --- like, none of that
16 had anything to do with the 23 victims.

17 Like, there are 23 people and not one of them had anything to do
18 with any of that and it is just frustrating for me. Like, I am here and they have a whole
19 day, right and I have like an hour today, right. So, like, I just --- although very important,
20 this is like, why here? That would be like saying bringing the Saskatchewan inquiry
21 involved in this. Like, both need their place but why here. I am just trying to wrap my
22 head around that.

23 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** Anything else or do you --- ask the
24 Commissioners for comments or ---?

25 **MR. NICK BEATON:** Yeah, just the round tables. Yeah, I guess.

26 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** Yeah, okay. Do any of you have any
27 responses or thoughts ---?

28 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** Well, first of all, can I call you

1 Nick?

2 **MR. NICK BEATON:** Yeah, absolutely.

3 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** First of all, Nick, thanks a million
4 for coming here today and you know, you have clearly been disappointed with --- to put
5 it lightly with some of our decisions and yet you are here and so, I personally appreciate
6 that. The second thing I wanted to tell you was, I apologize to you for the afternoon that
7 Skipper Bent testified and I could have handled that a lot better and I didn't. And so, I
8 just want you to know that.

9 **MR. NICK BEATON:** I appreciate that fact. I certainly do.

10 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** Yeah, I won't monopolize this but
11 the mandate as the Orders in Council say, we don't have a choice not to explore
12 intimate partner violence and how people would be differentially impacted and by
13 differentially impacted, whether you are black or indigenous or ---

14 So, they are part of our Orders in Council. I think your point is you
15 understand that but why did we take so much time on it.

16 **MR. NICK BEATON:** Mmhmm.

17 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** And all I can say --- we have
18 groups who feel we didn't take enough time on it. So, all I can say, Nick, and I am
19 calling you by your first name again, is ---

20 **MR. NICK BEATON:** Absolutely.

21 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** --- is in the two years and our
22 Orders in Council were in October. So, almost two years of this, we have been made ---
23 there has never been a decision we made which was --- oh, that is a good --- oh, that is
24 good. Like, it is always bad or worse. So, we have just made a lot of agonizing
25 decisions and I just want you to know that we have the same goal. None of it was
26 meant to be disrespectful. It is was just that there are a lot of competing interests and
27 we are trying to, you know ---

28 We are not bragging about being perfect on any of this. We are

1 just, in the run of a day, trying to make the right decisions to keep us all safer and some
2 of them have been very disappointing for you and I regret that very much. But it is just
3 coming from --- with the same goal you have, it is just that we have competing interests
4 that we are trying to --- you know, those are in the Orders in Council.

5 Like, we have to deal with intimate partner violence, firearms. They
6 are all listed there and it has been, you know --- it is --- and I say this every time I speak.
7 It is not about us. I mean, we put a lot of work into it but, as I said to Commissioner
8 Lucki when she finished, it is like, it is not about us. It is about you, Nick, and it is about
9 Kristen's memory and your unborn child's memory,

10 And that is what motivates us and I regret so much that not all of
11 our decisions have been appreciated. But all I can tell you is, and this --- we tried to
12 articulate them as best we could and I am not diminishing your frustration with them or
13 anything like that, other than to say, we did the best we could trying to make difficult
14 decisions with competing interests is what I'm saying.

15 **MR. NICK BEATON:** And I am sorry that those competing
16 interests are upset but I mean, I and the other family members lost the most. What did
17 they lose? Like, and I ---

18 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** I ---

19 **MR. NICK BEATON:** And it is so much the world today that, oh, I
20 stubbed my toe. Well, I was [sound effect]. Do you know what I mean? It is just these
21 competing interests, like, it is so frustrating.

22 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** Yeah.

23 **MR. NICK BEATON:** And I imagine it probably is on your end too
24 but it is just like, that could have been time spent on this issue, you guys here. You do
25 your issue, like, and maybe there should be an avenue for that. Maybe something from
26 this would be like, so, if this ever happens again, that that time isn't, I don't want to say
27 wasted, but that time is used differently with somebody else. So, here is some
28 government funding for you guys to figure out what to do over here to not bring it in,

1 because it is not just me as a family member.

2 You probably heard this a couple of times. It is frustrating because
3 I am hearing like, you got the whole day? Like what? Like, this could have been better
4 spent on RCMP communications or whatever, right. So, it is ---

5 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** I acknowledge that. So, thank
6 you.

7 **MR. NICK BEATON:** So, is there --- can you touch at all on the
8 Lisa Banfield thing for me? Because that is very near and dear to my heart because ---

9 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** Oh, sorry.

10 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** No, no. That's okay. No, like sorry, I
11 was trying to get in. I was going to --- just before we moved on to that I just --- to your
12 point, Nick, I have had people ask me that, you know. Like, friends and family trying to
13 figure out why we are looking at certain areas and I was explaining --- As I explain it to
14 people---

15 And I think that one of best documents that explains it is the
16 Perpetrator's Violence Towards Other People and when you read that and to see, you
17 know, the things that he did through his clinic and how he treated different people and
18 the violence. And if, you know, people from the black community or the indigenous
19 community or the LGBTQ community felt safe coming and reporting to the RCMP or to
20 the, you know, Social Services or Health or if they felt confident in institutions, then they
21 would share information that we have learned through the Commission that could have
22 been shared, maybe before.

23 And so, when Commissioner MacDonald is talking about the
24 competing interests and I don't want to put words in your mouth but part of our mandate
25 is to look at making changes in systems and structures and a lot of that is around
26 preventing, intervening and then --- or being able to respond better if things go really
27 bad. So, if we have people in our communities that don't feel safe going to authorities
28 and don't feel safe or that they will not be heard or will be believed, part of our mandate

1 is to make sure that there is space to hear from people.

2 And I think through our process we did hear from some people that
3 we wouldn't have otherwise heard from and some of that information came out in the
4 violence against others. And our hope is that going forward this will encourage other
5 people to help raise red flags and help to intervene or prevent things from happening.
6 And so, that is how I have managed to get my head around our Orders in Council with
7 the differentially impacted and trying to explain it to some of my friends and family.

8 **MR. NICK BEATON:** So, possibly maybe instead of using like,
9 your guys' time, it is --- I am not saying it is not important but have like a kid's help
10 phone for them. You know? Like, somewhere that they could reach out. Then you are
11 not having to go to whomever you are calling. Like, this is it and that person could
12 represent, like okay, this group or person's having the trouble. Like, maybe that is an
13 option but.

14 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** Yeah. So, I don't know if that helps, if
15 that helps you. I have --- that is kind of how I have tried to explain it to other people that
16 have asked me that before.

17 **MR. NICK BEATON:** Okay. I appreciate it.

18 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** And --- because it is a really broad
19 mandate and I don't know if I have got it all right or not but, yeah.

20 **MR. NICK BEATON:** Basically ---

21 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** I am sure there are a lot more complex
22 ways to explain it but ---

23 **MR. NICK BEATON:** Oh yeah. No, dumb it down the better for
24 me.

25 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** Yeah, yeah. So, sorry, sorry to interrupt
26 I just still ---

27 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** No, that's okay.

28 **MR. NICK BEATON:** So, I am going to hammer it again because

1 this is very near and dear to my heart.

2 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** I hear you say --

3 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** Let me try to answer it as best
4 as I can and knowing that --- but I want to acknowledge your frustration and you know
5 and value that. In my experience, there are different ways to get at the truth of what
6 happened and they don't always include cross-examination. And you can --- I will
7 speak hypothetically because these rules we have, we gave a decision ---

8 **MR. NICK BEATON:** No.

9 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** So, I can't really speak about a
10 specific decision.

11 **MR. NICK BEATON:** Yeah.

12 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** But just hypothetically,
13 sometimes it is better to give the witness the security and predictability about what is
14 going to happen. In other words, and I am not talking about Lisa Banfield. I am not
15 talking about anybody.

16 **MR. NICK BEATON:** Yep.

17 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** But if I say to you, you are going
18 to take the stand and you are going to be cross-examined, that may result in people
19 being more defensive and less forthcoming and sometimes there is an opportunity to
20 have them more forthcoming if you can give them predictability. And the predictability
21 is, there will be one person questioning you and we will get questions from everybody
22 and that allows them to bring their best self to the stand or where ever it is.

23 Because we are not a trial, right.

24 **MR. NICK BEATON:** Mmhmm.

25 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** Like, we are not here --- we don't
26 have to find guilt or innocence and we can't find --- so, we just need to find out what
27 happened. And in a few instances, and as you know, there are, you know,
28 accommodation procedures and all that but in a few instances, rightly or wrongly, we

1 thought the best way we can hear from them and have them bring their best selves to
2 tell us what the heck happened, is to give them the predictability of the --- you know,
3 you will be asked a wide range of questions but they will be done through one person
4 and that will get them through it as opposed to having them ---

5 And I am not saying --- and that is for anybody at all. Having them
6 clam up and defensive while being cross-examined and why are you asking me this and
7 why are you ---? So, it is kind of like calling them in instead of calling them out. And I
8 don't expect you to agree with me or anything like that but those are the --- that is the
9 real difficult decision in the context of inquiry to try to get the best information we can.
10 And so, that's --- and I can't say, this is what we did for Lisa Banfield because that is
11 already --

12 **MR. NICK BEATON:** No, no.

13 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** --- on the record.

14 **MR. NICK BEATON:** No, that's ---

15 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** But then ---

16 **MR. NICK BEATON:** Yeah, I am fine. I am happy with that or
17 whatever.

18 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** Yeah.

19 **MR. NICK BEATON:** Yeah.

20 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** Okay, so.

21 **MR. NICK BEATON:** So, like, hypothetically, like, okay I get the
22 one person but like, even just having her counsel like, okay, if these are the questions
23 you want to ask, these are what are what is going to be asked by Leo. You know what I
24 mean? Here Leo. Leo is going to ask the questions but have like --- Not, well we might
25 --- we may or may not ask these questions. So, like, there was no option for sure that
26 this was going to get asked.

27 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** Oh, yes there was. Yeah, there
28 was the ability to have --- to have solicited from all the lawyers, what do you want to ask

1 this person and they would be asked. But not by --- I don't want to mislead you.

2 **MR. NICK BEATON:** No, no. No. So, hypothetically Leo was the
3 one person asking and he would be the one person asking all of it?

4 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** The independent counsel, yeah.

5 **MR. NICK BEATON:** Yeah.

6 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** But I really appreciate – let me
7 repeat what I said. I appreciate so much that you are here. Like, you know, it has been
8 rough on you and I know how upsetting some of the processes have been, so.

9 **MR. NICK BEATON:** I am going to be honest because when I was
10 first asked, I am horrible at reading emails. At first ask, I didn't know you guys were
11 going to be here. I thought it was just going --- I was going to sit with Leo and it was
12 going to be --- and at first it was like, nope. And then Sandra reassured me that you
13 guys were going to be here and that is why I said yes because this gives me a chance,
14 you know, to talk and this feels more --- I feel more like you care --- because you are
15 looking at me. You are hearing exactly what I have to say.

16 It is not like, well, I'll put it in an email and Sandra will
17 email it to whoever and then it will get to you. Like, this is --- if I have something to say,
18 right or wrong, agree or disagree, you are hearing it. And it is just something that you
19 might take from it and you see my emotion. You see my passion. That might sit with
20 you stronger. So this, for me, means a lot.

21 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** Yeah, I heard something you
22 said today that I didn't --- hadn't realized, you know. So, you know, that is helpful.

23 **MR. NICK BEATON:** Yeah, absolutely because it is that small
24 thing and then I get talking and I get emotional and things pop in my head and you
25 might take more from this than you might have, you know, 37 emails from our legal
26 counsel, right.

27 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** Yeah, thank you. By being here today you
28 are helping us understand that a human centered conversation is often an effective way

1 to share information.

2 **MR. NICK BEATON:** Absolutely, like, I feel really good about this
3 because I get the chance to talk and it is like, the chance that you are actually speaking
4 to me makes me feel more included than it just going through, say, Leo. You know
5 what I mean?

6 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** And that is valuable for us ---

7 **MR. NICK BEATON:** Absolutely.

8 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** --- to understand.

9 **MR. NICK BEATON:** Like one hundred percent like, without a
10 doubt. And honestly, I think you might have --- maybe if a few of these happened that
11 you might have got more from me along the way.

12 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** That's -- I have made a mental
13 note of that. That, yeah. And the other thing is, there is always a challenge about the
14 media and everything is on the record so, it is a little hard to --- the more of these
15 sessions you have, the more the media wonders, well, I know there is a transcript and
16 everything but --- but that is a challenge too.

17 **MR. NICK BEATON:** Yeah.

18 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** But I did take note of the fact that you saw
19 us --- we saw you at the beginning and we saw you at the end but I guess an optimist
20 might say we started with the families and we are ending with the families and that is
21 important to us.

22 **MR. NICK BEATON:** Just for me it feels more personal and like, it
23 actually gives a shit and you can see what you are working for. Like, what you guys are
24 putting these countless hours in for. You know? It is for me and I just --- I think maybe I
25 should have had little **C1** sitting here and it would just --- it would really hit home. Do
26 you know what I mean? And I keep looking, like lets ---. I just keep picturing him
27 beside me because that is what gets me through.

28 So, was there one more question or ---?

1 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** Well, I think we have covered it all. We are
2 about 15 minutes over time. So, I did want to offer you just a closing comment or two?

3 **MR. NICK BEATON:** So, I guess ---

4 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** Like, yeah.

5 **MR. NICK BEATON:** Yeah.

6 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** And I also want to acknowledge that you
7 being here is of great value to the Commission.

8 **MR. NICK BEATON:** And it --- like, I say, you guys being here --- if
9 you guys weren't here, I would probably not have did this to be honest. It just makes it
10 feel like it is --- like, we are doing --- like, I just feel that you are doing this for us and I
11 have a lot of hope because at this --- I have a lot of hope but this is what I was hoping it
12 was going to be a --- I really do. Like, this is ---

13 Nothing is going to bring any of them back and this is all a lot of us
14 have to lean on is that recommendations are going to come out that some other poor
15 bastard isn't going to have to go through this, you know.

16 And like, training for the RCMP. Like, those poor men and women
17 that day that had to put the --- that put the boots on and just, you hear the chaos and
18 like, you know, radio not working and just you are thrown into any situation in any job
19 and when there is confusion, like, you kind of give up and I feel sorry because talking to
20 a lot of the members, current members are reaching out to me. And they are like --- like
21 keep up the good work. You are doing awesome. Like, if I see one of them in town and
22 they happen to go to the car and they recognize me and they are like, keep up the work,
23 Nick. Like, you are --- Like, this is as much for us as it is for you. Like, your voice and --
24 -

25 Because I have been kind of spun to kind of be against the RCMP.
26 I am not against the --- I am against the ole boys' club. I am not against the men and
27 women that, you know, a lot of them put their lives --- and there would have been many,
28 many other lives taken that day if it wasn't for them and what they did, as confusing and

1 messed up as it was. Like, they did all they could do with the resources and training.
2 Like, multiple ones didn't have C8 training.

3 Like, just --- and that was like from the Moncton shooting that
4 happened how many years ago. That was like a mandate that wasn't happening. And
5 that is like, someone made the point today. I think instead of a mandate it is --- I am not
6 really good with the words but it is like, these have to be implemented. Like, you know
7 moving forward. Not, here is a suggestion. This is like, you guys have this long. Let's
8 get the funding. Let's do it because ---

9 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** Yeah.

10 **MR. NICK BEATON:** You know? We need it. And I --- sorry?

11 **COMMISSIONER STANTON:** Sorry.

12 **MR. NICK BEATON:** Sorry. No, go ahead.

13 **COMMISSIONER STANTON:** Just the challenge of
14 implementation is that all we can do is make recommendations. Our recommendations
15 aren't binding, right. And so, what we have been trying to remind, certainly, some of the
16 senior RCMP witnesses of, and others, everybody that is involved with the process, is
17 that, you know, once we put out that report with those recommendations, then you have
18 got to pick up the mantle, right, and make sure that they are implemented.

19 And so, it is going to be a collective responsibility but we will do our
20 best to give a road map of who is responsible for what and timelines and what needs to
21 happen and who needs to do it. And so, we will do our best to lay it all out but then, you
22 know, people like yourself, are going to have to, you know, hammer on the doors to
23 make sure it happens.

24 **MR. NICK BEATON:** Yeah, and it is --- like, yet again, like, it is just
25 for that, I am not trying to toot my own horn, but I have done --- like, I shouldn't have to -
26 -- it should just --- I shouldn't have to do that. Like, the same as like the fight to get the
27 inquiry from the review, like I shouldn't have had to do that. I shouldn't, shouldn't,
28 shouldn't have, shouldn't, shouldn't, shouldn't. Maybe that is another recommendation

1 that something is putting forth that, well, you are going to be responsible for this if it
2 isn't.

3 And like, I have a lot of respect and faith for Michael O'Malley. I
4 think he is going to do and he is going to push for the RCMP. I really --- he cares. Like,
5 he is one of the ones --- like, he is just -- he is awesome and like, I can reach out to him
6 and he is like, it is not --- he doesn't toot you. He doesn't bullshit you. He says, I will
7 look into that and let you know and whether he can or he can't do it, he does.

8 **COMMISSIONER STANTON:** So, the impression that you have
9 had that, you know, a lot of the members are really looking for change as well is a
10 hopeful sign, right.

11 **MR. NICK BEATON:** Well, because they are scared. They are
12 scared for their job because of the good ole boys' club, if they speak out, they are shit
13 on. They are doing, you know, desk duty or they are, you know, doing traffic or
14 something. You know? They don't have a voice much like Kristen with the VON when
15 the Covid came. She was scared to death to say "ask for PPE" because she was
16 scared of losing her job and I hear that from a lot of the RCMP members.

17 You know, guys with 15 or 20 service in, it is just a job. And that is
18 discerning. It used to be back in the day you were proud to wear that uniform. You
19 know, I am an RCMP. A lot of them now, they are embarrassed by it because they ---
20 but they feel like --- you know, they want to do better but they just can't.

21 **COMMISSIONER STANTON:** There is an appetite for change and
22 for a positive outcome and so, yeah, we see it as a shared responsibility of everybody to
23 take that up. So, yeah, it is helpful too to hear in the meetings that we're having with
24 families is some of the themes that we have been hearing, you know, over the last while
25 with respect to recommendations from different places.

26 Like, that 1-800 number that you mentioned earlier. If I could have
27 just called somebody and say, I don't know but I will figure it out and get back to you.
28 You know, when we are hearing these repeated themes and recommendations that is

1 helpful to us so thank you. Sorry, I think I interrupted you.

2 **MR. NICK BEATON:** No, no. It is all good. So, I guess just one
3 point of like, before this, like, for instance. Like you're --- Stanton, like, when you are
4 sitting up there, like some of your --- it almost seems like mocking and like you are not
5 hearing us. Like today, like, eye rolling or like smirking. It is just --- and it just --- it is
6 upsetting to see and it almost feels like it is ---

7 Like, this is very near and dear, you know, to me, like, , this is my
8 life and there are just different things. So, it is like --- it just almost feels like dismissive.
9 Like, we are not being heard and like, it is not important and I just wanted to say that.

10 Like, it was very upsetting and like, to the point of like, when I
11 spoke out at Skipper Bent about like, you know, you are under oath. I almost felt like
12 today saying something. Is there something that is funny or like you are eye rolling?
13 Like, it is ---

14 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** Nick, I want to stop you there because I am
15 feeling like that is a very personal attack.

16 **MR. NICK BEATON:** No, no. It is --- for me it just feels like it is
17 dismissive. Like, it is not ---

18 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** Right.

19 **MR. NICK BEATON:** --- important and it is not ---

20 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** Maybe I can help here.

21 **MR. NICK BEATON:** Yeah, I am not trying to personally attack
22 whatsoever, no.

23 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** If Commissioner Stanton has ---
24 we start every day, not just when we do the opening about the lives taken, but we care
25 deeply and I am up there too. There is no --- please don't read anything into her body
26 language, my body language or anybody else's.

27 **MR. NICK BEATON:** It is just hard sitting back as me because this
28 is my life. This is my world.

1 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** I can assure you, it is a
2 misunderstanding. It's ---

3 **MR. NICK BEATON:** Okay and then it's --- and so, instead of me
4 going and blasting it, I am just being --- I am putting it forth here.

5 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** Absolutely.

6 **MR. NICK BEATON:** --- in a closed room environment. Like, I am
7 not going to go --- I just --- it feels for me --- it is like it is almost like a slap in the face
8 and I am not trying to be ignorant to you or ---

9 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** No, but what I am hearing is --- I heard
10 you say earlier is that you got a sense for the deep commitment and caring and that is
11 what is most important and we are all doing the best we can. And I can assure you that
12 it is not directed at your personally but I also want to, in the spirit of this conversation, I
13 want to keep it focused on the positive change that can come.

14 **MR. NICK BEATON:** Okay, well just recommendations. I am just
15 saying just how I feel and I --- this is my chance to tell --- like her so it is not ---

16 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** So, it's noted.

17 **MR. NICK BEATON:** Yeah, so it is not --- I am not making it public.
18 I am not doing anything. It is just ---

19 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** I am going to go ahead and close the
20 session. I really appreciate your time.

21 **MR. NICK BEATON:** I guess I should have for that thing to be shut
22 off and then do that but I never ---

23 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** It --- that is not --

24 **MR. NICK BEATON:** I guess that was the ---

25 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** This is the process. So, thank you for the
26 time. Thank you for everything you have done and I want to let you know, just as a
27 facilitator that I appreciate your honesty. And I know that you are ---

28 **MR. NICK BEATON:** That is what you are going to get with me.

1 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** Yeah, and I know that you are rebuilding
2 your life and I just really want to acknowledge all the things you have done and all the
3 things you are going to continue to do.

4 **MR. NICK BEATON:** And I appreciate everything that is being
5 done for us and I hope that there are a lot of changes, right. And I hope, you know, with
6 these recommendations there is a lot of change from it and it helps everyone from the
7 RCMP to everyone.

8 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** Okay, thank you.

9 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** Thank you.

10

11 --- Session concludes

12

13

C E R T I F I C A T I O N

14

15 I, SHIRLEY BENNETT, hereby certify the foregoing pages to be an accurate
16 transcription of the audio recording provided to the best of my skill and ability, and I so
17 swear.

18

Shirley Bennett

19

20

SHIRLEY BENNETT