MASS CASUALTY COMMISSION

COMMISSION DES PERTES MASSIVES

Perpetrator's Violence Towards His Common-Law Spouse

Foundational Document

Prepared by: Counsel for the Mass Casualty Commission

NOTE 1:

This document is based on an analysis of materials available to Commission Counsel as of July 7, 2022. Further production and investigation are ongoing. Should new information reveal inaccuracies in this document, an addendum may be issued.

NOTE 2:

This document contains sensitive and disturbing material. Please read this information about the potential of being affected and/or overwhelmed when hearing, talking about, and/or reading distressing material:

Sometimes thinking, reading, or hearing about a distressing or emotionally overwhelming experience can remind us of circumstances that are upsetting and disturbing. It can bring up a specific thought pattern or memory that is difficult to think about and could cause psychological distress. Having an immediate short-term effect like this would be a usual way to feel. This is often referred to in literature as having a "triggering effect" or a "flooding of distressing memories."

If you are experiencing distress and overwhelming emotions you can call the **Nova Scotia Provincial Crisis Line**. This service is available twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. It is open to persons of all ages, and you can call for yourself or because you have concern for someone else. The Nova Scotia Provincial Crisis Line is aware they may receive some additional calls and are ready and prepared to take your call as needed. You do not have to be in a crisis to call, and nothing is too big or too small a reason to reach out. The staff responding when you phone are skilled crisis clinicians. They can also provide the contacts for other 24/7 crisis services if you live outside of Nova Scotia. The number is **1-888-429-8167**.

SUBJECT MATTER

This document summarizes evidence currently in the possession of the Mass Casualty Commission about the perpetrator's violence, coercion, and controlling behaviour towards his common-law spouse, Lisa Banfield ("Ms. Banfield"), throughout their 19-year relationship. It covers the perpetrator's physical violence and also non-physical forms of abuse, including verbal and emotional abuse and financial control, as well as his controlling and possessive behaviour towards her. The information in this foundational document includes Ms. Banfield's description of the perpetrator's violence and abuse towards her, as well as the observations of other people who witnessed or were aware of his violence and abuse of Ms. Banfield. The document also includes references to the perpetrator's infidelity, alcohol use disorder, and the presence of weapons in their home.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION **4**
Gender-Based Violence 4
Intimate Partner Violence 5
Coercive Control 7
SPECIAL TERMS **8**
KEY RESPONDERS **8**
KEY CIVILIAN WITNESSES **9**
BACKGROUND RELATIONSHIP PROFILE **11**
Meeting the Perpetrator 11
Living Situation 12
Home Dynamics 13
Perpetrator's Infidelity 14
The Perpetrator's Alcohol Use Disorder 16
Finances and Employment 16
Presence of Weapons in the Home 21
THE PERPETRATOR'S VIOLENCE **22**
Lisa Banfield's Description of the Perpetrator's Violence and Abuse Towards Her 22
Sutherland Lake Assault 31
The Cottage Assault in the Presence of Tom Evans 38
Threatening Lisa Banfield with Handguns 40
Cottage Choking and Assault 43
Intimidating Lisa Banfield with Dangerous Driving 45
Other People's Knowledge of the Perpetrator's Violence and Abuse Towards Lisa Banfield 46
Lisa Banfield's Reluctance to Report the Assaults to the Police 46
Third Party Reports to the RCMP 47
Knowledge within Ms. Banfield's and the Perpetrator's Families 54
Medical Providers' Knowledge 60
Knowledge among Ms. Banfield's Friends 61
Knowledge within the Community 63
Perpetrator's Behaviour in the Weeks Preceding the Mass Casualty 68
April 18, 2020: Immediately Preceding the Mass Casualty 71

Arrival at Leon Joudrey's Residence and Initial Contact with RCMP 94

INTRODUCTION

1. This document summarizes evidence currently in the possession of the Mass Casualty Commission about the perpetrator's violence, coercion, and controlling behaviour towards his common-law spouse, Lisa Banfield ("Ms. Banfield"), throughout their 19-year relationship. It covers the perpetrator's physical violence and also non-physical forms of abuse, including verbal and emotional abuse and financial control, as well as his controlling and possessive behaviour towards her.

2. The Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure allow it to receive any evidence that is relevant and helpful in fulfilling its mandate. This foundational document is based on information provided by Ms. Banfield, her family, and other individuals to both the RCMP and the Commission; medical and financial records for Ms. Banfield and the perpetrator; Ms. Banfield's email correspondence with the perpetrator; evidence collected by the RCMP; and other evidence reflecting community observations and awareness of the perpetrator's violence.

3. Ms. Banfield was interviewed by the Commission on five separate occasions, which allowed for an in-depth discussion of the dynamics within the relationship and the perpetrator's violence towards her. As the Commission's interviews had a different purpose and focus than the interviews conducted by the RCMP, Ms. Banfield expanded on and clarified some of her earlier statements about the perpetator's coercive and controlling behaviour and the violence that occurred during their 19-year relationship.

4. The identities of other individuals referenced in this foundational document who experienced violence or abuse from the perpetrator have been anonymized to protect their privacy and dignity interests.

5. Other foundational documents prepared by the Commission have organized factual information about what happened during or in connection with the mass casualty. The information in this foundational document is presented and catalogued for a different purpose, in furtherance of the Commission's specific mandate to examine the "role of gender-based and intimate partner violence" as part of its investigation into the causes, context, and circumstances of the mass casualty.

6. To help provide context for the Commission's investigation into the role of gender-based and intimate partner violence, this document begins by exploring the concepts of "gender-based violence" (GBV), "intimate partner violence" (IPV), and the related term "coercive control." This background information is included to offer a framework for understanding the information presented in this foundational document.

Gender-Based Violence

7. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees defines gender-based violence as follows:

> Gender-based violence refers to harmful acts directed at an individual based on their gender. It is rooted in gender inequality, the abuse of power and harmful norms. Gender-based violence can include sexual, physical, mental and economic harm inflicted in public or in private. It also includes threats of violence, coercion and manipulation. This can take many forms, such as intimate partner violence, sexual violence, child marriage, female genital mutilation and so-called "honour crimes."

- Gender-based Violence, UNHCR, https://www.unhcr.org/gender-based-violence.html: COMM0059534

8. Drs. Carmen Gill and Mary Aspinall, from the Department of Sociology at the University of New Brunswick, prepared a report for the Mass Casulaty Commission titled "Understanding Violence in Relationships." In this report, Drs. Gill and Aspinall define GBV as "violence experienced due to a person's gender or how they express it." The authors explain that: "In addition to physical violence, gender-based violence may also include more covert behaviours that are not criminal yet still cause victims to feel unsafe and threatened and can have long-term physical and emotional impacts. As a result, women, especially those who identify as Indigenous, 2SLGBTQ+, live with disabilities, and/or reside in rural or remote locations, are at much higher risk of experiencing gender-based violence."

- Expert report prepared by Drs. C. Gill and M. Aspinall, "Understanding Violence in Relationships," June 2022: COMM0058937 at p. 7 (citations omitted)

9. GBV is a very broad term and includes all forms of violent behaviour targeted at someone because of their gender. GBV is a by-product of gender inequality and power imbalances. Although men may also be victims of GBV, women, particularly those with increased vulnerabilities, are the predominant victims of GBV.

- Expert report prepared by Drs. C. Gill and M. Aspinall, "Understanding Violence in Relationships," June 2022: COMM0058937 at p. 7 (citations omitted)

Intimate Partner Violence

10. The World Health Organization defines intimate partner violence as:

> . . . behaviour by an intimate partner or ex-partner that causes physical, sexual or psychological harm, including physical aggression, sexual coercion, psychological abuse and controlling behaviours. It can occur among heterosexual or same-sex couples, and does not require sexual intimacy.

- "Violence against Women," World Health Organization, March 9, 2021: https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/violence-against-women: COMM0059535

11. Drs. Gill and Aspinall define IPV as "behaviours occurring solely between current or former intimate partners, whether or not currently living together. It may include physical violence as well as sexual, psychological, or emotional harm." IPV occurs in "a wide range of relationship dynamics that contain various degrees of sexual intimacy or geographical proximity."

    - Expert report prepared by Drs. C. Gill and M. Aspinall, "Understanding Violence in Relationships," June 2022: COMM0058937 at p. 8 (citations omitted)

12. Dr. Katreena Scott is a clinical psychologist, professor and director of the Centre for Research and Education on Violence against Women and Children at Western University in Ontario. Dr. Scott prepared a report for the Commission titled "When We Know Something is Wrong: Secondary and Tertiary Intervention to Address Abuse Perpetration." In this report, Dr. Scott defines IPV as "violence and abuse that occurs in the context of an intimate relationship. This relationship can refer to a dating relationship, co-habitation or marriage and includes same-sex relationships." Dr. Scott notes that although both "men and women may be perpetrators of violence, research suggests that male violence against women is more severe in terms of victim's fear, hospitalization for injuries, absenteeism from work, and homicide."

    - Expert report prepared by Dr. K. Scott, "When We Know Something is Wrong: Secondary and Tertiary Intervention to Address Abuse Perpetration" forthcoming. When finalized, the report will be available on the website of the Mass Casualty Commission.

13. Dr. Scott also explains that:

    > IPV includes a range of different behaviours including, but not limited to, the use of physical violence against an intimate partner. Other common forms of IPV are sexual abuse (any unwanted, nonconsensual activity), psychological or emotional abuse (gestures, words or activities that serve to threaten, intimidate, undermine, humiliate, and isolate the victim), economic abuse (actions that deprive a victim of the ability to provide for their basic needs and/or those of their children) and spiritual abuse (exerting power and control over someone by using their faith or beliefs, blaming abuse on spiritual figures).

    - Expert report prepared by Dr. K. Scott, "When We Know Something is Wrong : Secondary and Tertiary Intervention to Address Abuse Perpetration" forthcoming. When finalized, the report will be available on the website of the Mass Casualty Commission.

14. Like GBV, IPV takes many forms; however, whereas GBV is a broader concept, IPV is limited to violent behaviour targeted at a current or previous intimate partner, making it a much more specific term in application. IPV occurs in all types of intimate relationships and couple pairings: casual or serious, exclusive or non-exclusive, short-term or long-term, and everything in between.

Coercive Control

15. GBV and IPV are more commonly used terms than "coercive control," which is also a form of violence that occurs within intimate partner relationships. Drs. Gill and Aspinall use this term to refer to "the ongoing patterns of abuse and accumulation of harm that occurs through both time and space as opposed to the incident-specific and injury-inducing violence that predominates in current definitions and law enforcement responses towards intimate partner violence."

    - Expert report prepared by Drs. C. Gill and M Aspinall, "Understanding Violence in Relationships," June 2022: COMM0058937 at p. 9 (citations omitted)

16. Dr. Scott defines coercive control as "a pattern of behaviours to assert control over a person through repeated acts that disempower the other partner in a number of possible ways including through fear for the safety of self or others, removal of rights and liberties or fear of this removal, by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, removing the victim's rights and liberties, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance, and escape, and regulating their everyday behaviour."

    - Expert report prepared by Dr. K. Scott, "When We Know Something is Wrong: Secondary and Tertiary Intervention to Address Abuse Perpetration" forthcoming. When finalized, the report will be available on the website of the Mass Casualty Commission.

17. In reviewing this foundational document, it is helpful to understand coercive control as a term that refers to a course of intimidating, degrading, and regulatory practices used by abusers to manipulate, intimidate, and instill fear in an intimate partner. It may be manifested by acts of physical, sexual, and emotional abuse; limitations on access to family members, friends, transportation, communication, food, school, and work; financial control; and/or implicit or explicit threats to harm victims or their children, family members, pets, belongings, or others. Coercive control effectively traps victims and removes their sense of individuality and freedom in the relationship. The individual actions may seem normal or unremarkable on their own; it is the repeated and cumulative effect of the behaviour that creates the coercive control.

18. Although this document draws out and discusses certain specific incidents of physical violence, it is important to note that this approach was used for ease of organizing information shared by Ms. Banfield and other individuals who witnessed or were aware of these specific incidents.

SPECIAL TERMS

Command Post	The RCMP's critical incident command post set up at the Great Village & District Volunteer Fire Brigade hall in Great Village, Nova Scotia
EMRT	RCMP Emergency Medical Response Team
ERT	RCMP Emergency Response Team
FLIR	Forward-Looking Infrared Technology – thermal imaging
H-Division/H-Div	Nova Scotia Royal Canadian Mounted Police
HRP	Halifax Regional Police
OCC	RCMP Operational Communications Centre (located in Truro, Nova Scotia, at the time of the mass casualty)
Replica RCMP cruiser	The decommissioned RCMP Ford Taurus Interceptor purchased from GCSurplus and rebuilt by the perpetrator to replicate a fully marked RCMP police cruiser with call sign "28B11"
Silent Patrolman	Informal term for the metal and Plexiglas shield separating the front and rear seats in a police vehicle. Sometimes also referred to as a "silent partner."
SiRT	Serious Incident Response Team – SiRT is the Nova Scotia civilian agency charged with independently investigating matters of significant public interest that may have arisen from the actions of any police officer in Nova Scotia
TAV	Tactical Armoured Vehicle

KEY RESPONDERS

Staff Sergeant (S/Sgt.) Steve Halliday	Acting Operations Officer and District Advisory Non-Commissioned Officer, RCMP Northeast Nova District
S/Sgt. Jeff West	RCMP Critical Incident Commander, H-Division
Constable (Cst.) Troy Maxwell	RCMP Bible Hill Detachment, Colchester County
Corporal (Cpl.) Duane Ivany	RCMP Emergency Medical Response Team, H-Division
Cpl. Mark Johnson	RCMP Emergency Response Team, H-Division

Cst. Ed Clarke	RCMP Emergency Response Team, H-Division
Cst. Kyle Josey	RCMP Emergency Response Team, H-Division
Cst. Brent Kelly	RCMP Emergency Response Team, H-Division
Cst. Ben MacLeod	RCMP Emergency Response Team, H-Division
Cst. Trent Milton	RCMP Emergency Response Team, H-Division
Cst. Terry Brown	RCMP General Investigation Section, Colchester County
Cst. Dave Melanson	RCMP General Investigation Section, Colchester County
Cpl. Angela McKay	RCMP Northeast Nova Scotia Major Crime Unit
Cpl. Gerard "Gerry" Rose-Berthiaume	RCMP Northeast Nova Major Crime Unit, Primary Investigator
Cst. Shawn Stanton	RCMP Northeast Nova Scotia Major Crime Unit, File Coordinator
Sergeant (Sgt.) Fraser Firth	RCMP Polygraph
Cst. Dayle Burris	RCMP Southwest Nova Major Crime Unit

KEY CIVILIAN WITNESSES

- Janice Banfield
- Lisa Banfield
- Maureen Banfield
- Denise Crowell
- Robert Doucette
- EE
- Richard Ellison
- FF
- Stephanie Goulding
- BL
- John Hudson
- Nancy Hudson
- Donald Johnson
- Leon Joudrey
- Renee Karsten
- Christiane Lonergan
- David McGrath
- Allison Miller
- Kim Mills
- Angel Patterson
- Cassandra Sutherland
- Keith von Bargen
- Chris Wortman
- Glynn Wortman

- Brenda Forbes
- George Forbes
- Chris MacAloney
- David Major
- Margaret Wortman

Perpetrator's Violence Towards His Common-Law Spouse: Foundational Document

BACKGROUND RELATIONSHIP PROFILE

19. Lisa Banfield is a 53-year-old woman who was born and raised in Lower Sackville, Nova Scotia. Ms. Banfield is the second-youngest of nine siblings, including sisters Maureen and Janice Banfield. Ms. Banfield also has a niece named Stephanie Goulding. Ms. Goulding, Maureen Banfield, and Lisa Banfield sometimes refer to each other as sisters, because they are close in age and grew up together.

20. At the time of the mass casualty, the perpetrator and Ms. Banfield had lived together for approximately 19 years. Ms. Banfield moved into the perpetrator's home on Portland Street in Dartmouth in July 2001. Although Ms. Banfield wanted to get married, the perpetrator "did not believe in marriage," and they were never wed.

    - Mass Casualty Commission interview of Lisa Banfield, April 6, 2022: COMM0058494 at p. 25

21. Ms. Banfield had always wanted to have children. However, sometime after moving in with the perpetrator, she learned he had undergone a vasectomy years before she met him. Maureen Banfield told the Commission that all Ms. Banfield "ever wanted, was a family and to have kids," but that she "acquiesced" to the perpetrator: "At some point, it wasn't going to happen, so, she kind of lived with that."

    - Mass Casualty Commission interview of Lisa Banfield, April 6, 2022: COMM0058494 at pp. 62–63
    - Mass Casualty Commission interview of Maureen Banfield, May 30, 2022: COMM0059032 at p. 11

Meeting the Perpetrator

22. Ms. Banfield met the perpetrator in May 2001 at the Thirsty Duck bar in downtown Halifax. At the time, Ms. Banfield had been separated from her ex-husband for "almost a year" and was living with her sister, Maureen Banfield.

    - Mass Casualty Commission interview of Lisa Banfield, April 6, 2022: COMM0058494 at pp. 10–11
    - Mass Casualty Commission interview of Lisa Banfield, April 11, 2022: COMM0058495 at p. 85
    - Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 28, 2020: COMM0004070 at lines 1249–71

23. The perpetrator was also previously married. The perpetrator and his ex-wife separated in 1999 and divorced approximately a year or two later.

- Statement of FF: COMM0008405 at lines 51–52
- Note: Additional details concerning the perpetrator's relationship with FF are contained in the *Perpetrator's Violent Behaviour Towards Others* Foundational Document.

24. The perpetrator showed up at Maureen Banfield's house to pick Ms. Banfield up for their first date "in a convertible with two dozen long stemmed roses." Ms. Banfield was not impressed by this gesture, and found it too showy. However, later on during the date, a woman rear-ended them and damaged the bumper of the perpetrator's brand-new car. Rather than losing his temper, the perpetrator was very understanding. Ms. Banfield noticed and was impressed by his reaction: "And he got out and he was just, it's okay, and he was just calm and he was just, uh, I thought, oh, like he's so sweet." Maureen told the Commission that the perpetrator's "humbling and gracious" response was what "really sealed it" for Ms. Banfield.

- Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 28, 2020: COMM0004070 at lines 1271–80
- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Maureen Banfield, May 30, 2022: COMM0059032 at p. 3

Living Situation

25. Ms. Banfield moved into the perpetrator's house on Portland Street around July 1, 2001, less than three months after meeting him. Maureen Banfield described the move as "lightning speed," but also said that it made sense because the perpetrator "really wooed her to the point that she was overcome." Maureen recalled the perpetrator asking Ms. Banfield to move in with him "within weeks."

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Lisa Banfield, April 6, 2022: COMM0058494 at pp. 10–11
- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Maureen Banfield, May 30, 2022: COMM0059032 at p. 4

26. Thereafter, apart from a few brief periods of seperation, Ms. Banfield and the perpetrator lived together at 193 Portland Street in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. The couple used the top floor of the property as their residence and the lower floor for the perpetrator's denture clinic.

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Lisa Banfield, April 6, 2022: COMM0058494 at p. 26

27. Ms. Banfield told the Commission that "within the first year" of moving in together, the perpetrator presented her with a document to sign, which she understood was intended to protect his ownership of the property and other assets. He told her that his parents wanted her to sign the document. Ms. Banfield initially questioned why she needed to sign the document, but the perpetrator pressed her:

> And I'm like, why would I sign something? I didn't take anything [from] my husband when I got divorced; that's not who I am. And he's like, Well, how do I know that

> you wouldn't do that? You've learned your lesson or whatever. So. And at first, I thought I I was taken back because I thought, you obviously think that I'm this money-hungry person that I would take from you kind of thing. And then he's like, Well, if you're not, then what is the issue? So then I thought about it and it's like, well, true. Like, I'm not that and I wouldn't take it. So why is it an issue? So, so yeah, then I was fine.

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Lisa Banfield, April 6, 2022: COMM0058494 at p. 26
- Note: The Commission has not been able to locate the document Ms. Banfield recalls signing, and its whereabouts are unknown.

28. In October 2002, the perpetrator bought a cottage in Portapique located at 200 Portapique Beach Road, where the couple spent time together and worked to fix up the property over the years. The perpetrator also spent time in Portapique without Ms. Banfield and shifted his work schedule over the year so that he was eventually spending more time in Portapique than in Dartmouth. During one of her interviews with the Commission, Ms. Banfield explained that the perpetrator gradually cut back his work at the denture clinics in Dartmouth and Halifax to four and then three days a week and regularly spent "from Wednesday to Sunday" in Portapique.

    - Mass Casualty Commission interview of Lisa Banfield, April 6, 2022: COMM0058494 at p. 80

29. Ms. Banfield often stayed in Dartmouth to attend to work for the clinic or spend time with her family while the perpetrator was in Portapique. She spent significantly less time in Portapique than he did: "sometimes I would go up there every weekend and then...and then I wouldn't for weeks or months at a time. So it just...it all depended on how he was if I would want to go up…."

    - Mass Casualty Commission interview of Lisa Banfield, April 6, 2022: COMM0058494 at p.80

Home Dynamics

30. In addition to her work at the perpetrator's clinic, Ms. Banfield also took care of all household-related duties. David McGrath, Maureen Banfield's partner at the time, stated that the perpetrator "didn't do any household chores….He had his meals made, he had his clothes clean, he had his house clean."

    - Statement of David McGrath: COMM0003005 at lines 494–99

31. Although her family expressed concern about her single-handedly carrying the burden of the household, Ms. Banfield said she liked taking care of the perpetrator in this way. In her statement to the RCMP after the mass casualty she said:

> ... the way I was brought up, is my mom waited on my dad hand and foot and I did that with whoever I was with, but it wasn't because I felt like I had to, I wanted to and I didn't have a problem with it. Even my sisters, like, they'd say, like Lisa, like,

> you know I think he can do it himself, like Janice, it doesn't bother me, like it's not a big deal. But, you know, it's just the way that I was with people that I was with, is I would just do it because it made me feel good to do it…

- Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 28, 2020: COMM0004070 at lines 2473–77

32. Ms. Banfield told the RCMP that she would sometimes stay at their house in Dartmouth while the perpetrator would go to the Portapique cottage alone because "like, we worked together, lived together so there'd be times that I would like some time, it's just too much and I needed a break from him 'cause I'd wait on him and foot and I just, I needed a break."

- Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 28, 2020: COMM0004070 at lines 1054–58

33. In one of her statements to the Commission, Ms. Banfield expanded on this point. She described being with the perpetrator as "constant[ly] building him up and I couldn't [go] out with any of my family or do anything that I wanted to do for myself because if I went anywhere, it's like where are you going, what time are you getting back and, or even to have to worry about somebody else. I just didn't want to have to deal with him and his moods and whatever was going on with him at the time. It's just like, I need a break, so."

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Lisa Banfield, April 6, 2022: COMM0058494 at p. 81

Perpetrator's Infidelity

34. There were several instances of infidelity on the perpetrator's part throughout the course of their relationship. Ms. Banfield stated that the perpetrator "cheated on me multiple times and I always took him back."

- Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 20, 2020: COMM0003436 at p. 18

35. Ms. Banfield told the RCMP after the mass casualty that the perpetrator had affairs with other women, including women in "crack houses" and with his patients.

- Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 20, 2020: COMM0003436 at p. 23

36. In one of her statements to the Commission, Ms. Banfield clarified that she once discovered that the perpetrator was having an affair with one of his patients, YY.

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Lisa Banfield, April 6, 2022: COMM0058494 at pp. 38–39

37. On another occasion in Dartmouth, she woke up in the middle of the night and discovered the perpetrator was not home. She drove around the street looking for the perpetrator but could not find him. She was in her vehicle in the driveway when she saw two women "coming up the alleyway" with a man but it was pitch-black and Ms. Banfield could not tell if the man was the

perpetrator. Ms. Banfield sat in her vehicle "waiting and waiting" to see what direction the man was coming from but could not see anything. Eventually, she went inside to get some sleep.

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Lisa Banfield, April 6, 2022: COMM0058494 at pp. 42–44

38. Ms. Banfield suspected that the perpetrator spent the night at the apartment next door to their residence. The next day, Ms. Banfield went to the apartment next door and asked for the perpetrator by name. She was pointed in the direction of a room, where she found two women who told her that the perpetrator was "there last night with all these girls and he was a pig."

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Lisa Banfield, April 6, 2022: COMM0058494 at pp. 42–44
- Note: Ms. Banfield told the Commission that she referred to the apartment next door as the "crack house" because the perpetrator told her that "they're all on crack over there. So we used to always say the crack house. So that's what I said. But if it was or wasn't, I don't know. But you would see people going in and out all the time, so you would assume that there's some kind of drug dealing or something going on" (see: Mass Casualty Commission interview of Lisa Banfield, April 6, 2022: COMM0058494 at p.40).

39. Ms. Banfield told the Commission that, after this incident, she moved out of the perpetrator's home and into her sister Maureen Banfield's basement for two weeks. The perpetrator came "knocking on the window" of the basement (so that Maureen would not know he was there) to apologize: "he just said he was sorry and [he] was drinking and it won't happen again." Ms. Banfield went back to the perpetrator.

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Lisa Banfield, April 6, 2022: COMM0058494 at p. 46
- Note: This incident happened early on in their relationship; Ms. Banfield told the Commission that it was Renee Karsten who informed her that the perpetrator was next door. Ms. Karsten worked for the perpetrator from approximately 2001 to 2006.

40. When Ms. Banfield was not in Portapique, the perpetrator engaged in sexual activity with other women at the cottage.

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of EE: COMM0046242 at p. 18
- Note: The perpetrator's intimate relationships with other women while with Ms. Banfield, and his non-sexual conduct towards some of these women, is detailed in the *Perpetrator's Violent Behaviour Towards Others* Foundational Document.

41. The perpetrator's infidelity affected Ms. Banfield. On November 11, 2019, she wrote in the Notes application on her iPhone that she was devastated after witnessing what she took to be an act of infidelity at a friend's house. Ms. Banfield described feeling sick to her stomach that the perpetrator would hurt her again and remarked that she was clearly wrong for thinking that their relationship had changed for the better.

- Notes extracted from Lisa Banfield's cell phone: COMM0013830 at p. 21

The Perpetrator's Alcohol Use Disorder

42. Ms. Banfield told the RCMP that the perpetrator was an alcoholic who drank everyday.

    - Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 28, 2020: COMM0004070 at line 187

43. EE – a woman with whom the perpetrator maintained a friendship and casual sexual relationship over a number of years while he remained in a relationship with Ms. Banfield – told the Mass Casualty Commission that the perpetrator attempted sobriety "off and on." Most of the time EE spent with the perpetrator involved the perpetrator drinking, typically to excess.

    - Mass Casualty Commission interview of EE: COMM0046242 at p. 16

44. The perpetrator's ex-wife, FF, stated that the perpetrator became aggressive when he drank. His uncle, Glynn Wortman, described the perpetrator as having "horrible points" and told the RCMP that "when he drank he went off his stick. He was uncontrollable." Maureen Banfield told the RCMP that the perpetrator only drank beer because "years and years ago" he was drinking either rum or vodka and "got violent."

    - Statement of FF: COMM0008405 at lines 297–99
    - Statement of Glynn Wortman: COMM0008447 at lines 100–1
    - Statement of Maureen Banfield: COMM0003019 at lines 78–80

Finances and Employment

45. After graduating from high school in Dartmouth, Ms. Banfield attended the Academy of Cosmetology for a year and then worked at a hair salon cutting hair. Prior to working at the hair salon, Ms. Banfield worked at Royal Bank of Canada (RBC) and subsequently left the hair salon to return to RBC. In total, she worked at the bank for "close to 15 years on and off."

    - Mass Casualty Commission interview of Lisa Banfield, April 6, 2022: COMM0058494 at pp. 6–8

46. Ms. Banfield was working at RBC when she met the perpetrator, and she continued working at the bank for approximately a year or two into their relationship, when the perpetrator began encouraging her to quit her bank job and work for him. He told her: "Oh, you know, you should work for me. You know, that way we could take vacation together. You don't have to worry." Ms. Banfield acquiesced because "he just made it sound so perfect that it's like, Yeah, Ok."

    - Mass Casualty Commission interview of Lisa Banfield, April 6, 2022: COMM0058494 at p. 13

47. Maureen Banfield told the Mass Casualty Commission that the perpetrator was "really urging" Ms. Banfield to quit her job at the bank. Maureen was "a little nervous about that, just for [Ms.

Banfield's] own independence," but understood that working for the perpetrator aligned with the couple's goals for travelling.

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Maureen Banfield, May 30, 2022: COMM0059032 at p. 4

48. At first, the perpetrator paid someone else to train Ms. Banfield while another employee of the clinic, Renee Karsten, supervised any work she did at the clinic, with the understanding that at the end of the training, Ms. Banfield would work for him.

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Lisa Banfield, April 6, 2022: COMM0058494 at p. 17

49. Sometime during the course of Ms. Banfield's training, while the perpetrator was down in Portapique, Renee Karsten suggested that Ms. Banfield should "go work for a lab" because she was really good at the work. Ms. Karsten called up a lab she knew that was willing to interview Ms. Banfield. Ms. Banfield told the Mass Casualty Commission that she was apprehensive about the prospect of working at the lab: "I'm like, I don't know, like, I can't talk to [the perpetrator] because he didn't have a phone. So I couldn't ask him what his thoughts were on it because I thought he's paying somebody to train me and then I'm going to say, See you later."

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Lisa Banfield, April 6, 2022: COMM0058494 at p. 14

50. With Renee Karsten's encouragement, Ms. Banfield decided to take the interview at the lab: "So I went and had my interview and within 15 minutes they hired me. And it's like, OK. And then it's like, Oh my gosh, now I got to tell him, and I don't know how he's going to react kind of thing. So that didn't go over well in the beginning."

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Lisa Banfield, April 6, 2022: COMM0058494 at p. 15

51. Ms. Banfield was worried about the perpetrator's reaction because "I knew his temperament. And yeah, I just knew he would be really upset. And he was." The perpetrator's initial reaction was "screaming and yelling," and he accused Ms. Banfield of going behind his back. Ms. Banfield explained that the job was "sprung on her" and told the perpetrator that she would not take the job if he did not want her to.

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Lisa Banfield, April 6, 2022: COMM0058494 at pp. 15–16

52. After the perpetrator gave the job some more thought, "he thought of it somewhat as a good thing, like, OK, great, go with them, get more training with them, and then when I need you, I'll pull you back with me. And that way I have more experience and he's not paying to have me be experienced…."

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Lisa Banfield, April 6, 2022: COMM0058494 at p. 15

53. Ms. Banfield trained at the lab for a year before she started working for the perpetrator in 2005. She was employed full-time at his denture clinic, Atlantic Denture Clinic, located on the bottom floor of their residence at 193 Portland Street. Her official job title was unclear but her work included administrative duties such as organizing patient files; arranging payment through insurance plans; cleaning the clinic; and acting as a receptionist, including answering the phone, scheduling patient appointments, and greeting patients on arrival. She also performed technical duties such as preparing the dentures for insertion into a patient's mouth, which involved waxing, trimming, and polishing work. Ms. Banfield told the Commission that she "did all the lab work" on site at the Dartmouth clinic. When not at the clinic, Ms. Banfield would forward the clinic's business number to her personal cell phone and answer calls. She stated that she did this "to get more business."

    - Mass Casualty Commission interview of Lisa Banfield, April 6, 2022: COMM0058494 at pp. 17, 19
    - Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 28, 2020: COMM0004070 at lines 1939–45

54. The perpetrator paid Ms. Banfield by the hour. Ms. Banfield believes her starting pay was $18 per hour. Throughout her time working for the perpetrator, Ms. Banfield received two pay bumps (to $20 per hour and then $25 per hour), representing raises that she told the Commission she "might have initiated because I knew how much he was paying the other girls, and I knew what I was doing was more than what they were doing. And yet they're getting paid more than what I'm getting paid. And then I knew my worth as far as my work because when I worked, I worked hard."

    - Mass Casualty Commission interview of Lisa Banfield, April 6, 2022: COMM0058494 at p. 23

55. At the time of the mass casualty, Ms. Banfield believes she was making about $25 per hour: "Well, he told me that he was paying me $25 dollars an hour. So I assume whatever, like he dealt with all the money things, so I trusted whatever ... You know what I mean?" The perpetrator's clinic did not have a regular payroll system, and the perpetrator instead wrote Ms. Banfield cheques from the business account or gave her cash as her payment. He sometimes unilaterally deducted money from her cheques that he said he was putting towards their retirement.

    - Mass Casualty Commission interview of Lisa Banfield, April 6, 2022: COMM0058494 at pp. 19, 22–23
    - Mass Casualty Commission interview of Lisa Banfield, May 17, 2022: COMM0059014 at p. 23

56. Ms. Banfield told the Commission that the perpetrator did not like when she spent money, and tried to control her spending:

    > So, there would be times that he would take part of my pay and say it's towards retirement. Or if I did extra work or I did more work and brought more business in, he would put that money aside for retirement. So, he liked to control the money. So, a lot of times if I did purchase something, I wouldn't tell him because I just wouldn't want the fight.

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Lisa Banfield, May 17, 2022: COMM0059014 at p. 23

57. Ms. Banfield and the perpetrator each had personal accounts, and also held accounts jointly. Ms. Banfield sometimes cashed her paycheque into her personal account (which she told the Commission the perpetrator did not have access to) and sometimes into one of the couple's joint accounts, depending on which bank she went to on a particular day.

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Lisa Banfield, April 6, 2022: COMM0058494 at p. 24

58. Ms. Banfield once told the perpetrator that she should be paid more and he responded, "I compensate you in other ways with investments and doing stuff." Ms. Banfield stated that the perpetrator always made her feel like she would be taken care of and did not have to worry.

- Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 28, 2020: COMM0004070 at lines 1973–76

59. In her statement to the RCMP after the mass casualty, EE reported that Ms. Banfield worked for the perpetrator and he "got mad" when "she gave herself a raise."

- Statement of EE: COMM0003616 at lines 206–9

60. There is no evidence available to the Commission to suggest that Ms. Banfield had an source of money independent from the perpetrator. She did not have a second job or her own money-generating investments. Ms. Banfield told the RCMP that the perpetrator "took care of the money," and that "he was good with his money, so I just trusted whatever he did." Although Ms. Banfield contributed, the perpetrator paid "the majority" of household and other expenses.

- Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 28, 2020: COMM0004070 at lines 1935–37
- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Lisa Banfield, April 6, 2022: COMM0058494 at p. 30

61. At the beginning of her relationship with the perpetrator, Ms. Banfield owned a car. However, the perpetrator did not like that Ms. Banfield drove a car that she had driven in her previous marriage, and he told her to "sell that vehicle and we'll get you another vehicle." Ms. Banfield told the Commission that "I think [the other car] was in his name…."

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Lisa Banfield, April 6, 2022: COMM0058494 at pp. 12–13

62. In her interview with the Commission, Maureen Banfield recalled that early in the relationship the perpetrator "pushed, and [Ms. Banfield] succumbed to him suggesting that she get rid of her car. And we discovered later that the new car was in his name. And that changed eventually. But initially, he ... he was able to control if she got to use the car…."

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Maureen Banfield, May 30, 2022: COMM0059032 at p. 5

63. Ms. Banfield eventually drove a 2015 C300 model Mercedes, purchased on July 9, 2015. During one of her interviews with the Commission, Ms. Banfield stated that the vehicles were all owned in the perpetrator's name, except for the Mercedes, which she believed was jointly owned. The perpetrator bought and chose all the cars but she paid the maintenance on the cars. According to Service Nova Scotia's Registry of Motor Vehicles, the registration for the Mercedes was in the perpetrator's name and he was also the sole plate owner.

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Lisa Banfield, April 6, 2022: COMM0058494 at p. 30
- Ownership event details – NS Vehicle Registry – July 2015 to May 2020: COMM0000819

64. The home in Dartmouth, as well as the cottage and warehouse in Portapique, were registered in the perpetrator's name alone, as were all his other properties.

- Profile for the perpetrator: COMM0003550 at p. 1

65. In a will prepared by the perpetrator dated March 29, 2011, Ms. Banfield is named as executrix of his estate. He also left her certain bequests, as well as the full residue of his estate.

- Last will and testament of the perpetrator, March 29, 2011: COMM0000978

66. Although the perpetrator eventually included Ms. Banfield in his will in 2011, Maureen Banfield was worried about her sister's fate if she and the perpetrator broke up:

> I was really concerned about her not having her own investments and ... but she was just like, "You know, he's looking after ... after everything. He's good with his money, etc., I don't need to worry." I said, "Well, yeah, Lisa, but if anything happens, he just says, 'Good-bye.' You have nothing, like." And anyway, so that's when she was a little bit more vocal in terms of, you know, him ... her getting a raise and all that kind of stuff.

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Maureen Banfield, May 30, 2022: COMM0059032 at p.12

67. Maureen Banfield told the RCMP that Ms. Banfield was "quite dependant" on the perpetrator since she worked for him, lived with him, and did not have any assets of her own.

- Statement of Maureen Banfield: COMM0003019 at lines 818–29

68. David McGrath reported that the perpetrator described Ms. Banfield to him as "so spoiled and she's got everything, and has no concept of money" because he paid for everything. The perpetrator talked about how Ms. Banfield "had no bills and no sense of money."

- Statement of David McGrath: COMM0003005 at lines 2147–49

69. David McGrath stated that the perpetrator spent large amounts of money on Ms. Banfield unnecessarily. For example, Mr. McGrath recalled that although Ms. Banfield wanted a Honda, the perpetrator bought her a $60,000 Mercedes.

    - Statement of David McGrath: COMM0003005 at lines 2149–59

70. David McGrath also told the RCMP that he and Maureen Banfield discussed how, if the perpetrator and Ms. Banfield ever broke up, she would be "destitute" and unable to access a Canada Pension Plan, since much of her work was "under the table."

    - Statement of David McGrath: COMM0003005 at lines 672–75
    - Additional information about the perpetrator's underreporting of income is detailed in the *Perpetrator's Financial Misdealings* Foundational Document.

71. Robert Doucette lived on Portland Street in Dartmouth and was hired by the perpetrator to do some construction work on his properties. Mr. Doucette told the RCMP after the mass casualty that the only place the perpetrator allowed Ms. Banfield to work was at his denture clinic. He stated that if she did something that the perpetrator did not 100 percent agree with, he would "fire her for two weeks.…That way she didn't have any money. That way she couldn't do nothing."

    - Statement of Robert Doucette, April 19, 2020: COMM0003048 at lines 1022–40

72. In May 2020, Ms. Banfield renounced her role as executrix and her right to administer the perpetrator's estate.

    - Lisa Banfield renunciation of executrix role in perpetrator's estate, May 14, 2020: COMM0000979

73. In a Statement of Claim dated September 24, 2021, Ms. Banfield asserted a property interest in some real estate parcels that form part of the perpetrator's estate, including the properties in Portapique where the cottage and the warehouse once stood. Ms. Banfield's claim states that the perpetrator "insisted on being in full control of the finances" and that she "had no other source of income beyond the revenue" generated by the clinic.

    - Statement of Claim, September 24, 2021: COMM0051435 at p. 6

Presence of Weapons in the Home

74. In a statement given after the mass casualty, Ms. Banfield told the RCMP that she knew the perpetrator possessed guns from the beginning of their relationship. She stated that the perpetrator's weapons made her uncomfortable, that she never liked guns, and that she did not want the perpetrator to have any.

    - Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 28, 2020: COMM0004070 at lines 3153, 3464–66

- Note: In June 2010, as part of an investigation into a complaint that the perpetrator had threatened to kill his parents, Halifax Regional Police (HRP) attended the perpetrator's residence in Dartmouth and spoke with Ms. Banfield. HRP investigation notes stated that Ms. Banfield advised that there were no weapons in the house. Further details of this complaint and Ms. Banfield's response are discussed in the *Violence in the Perpetrator's Family of Origin* and the *Firearms* Foundational Documents.

THE PERPETRATOR'S VIOLENCE

Lisa Banfield's Description of the Perpetrator's Violence and Abuse Towards Her

75. Ms. Banfield told the RCMP after the mass casualty that when she first met the perpetrator "he seemed like the perfect guy." She described the first two and a half years of their relationship positively: it was "really good and he was loving and kind and generous."

- Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 28, 2020 : COMM0004070 at lines 1248, 1281
- Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 20, 2020: COMM0003436 at p. 18

76. In her interviews with the Commission, Ms. Banfield clarified that the perpetrator's violent behaviour began much earlier in their relationship, with the Sutherland Lake assault (described below) occurring in 2001, months after the couple first met.

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Lisa Banfield, April 6, 2022: COMM0058494 at p. 19

77. Ms. Banfield told the Commission that throughout her relationship with the perpetrator, she had to focus on what was in front of her at the moment, rather than what had happened in the past or what might happen in the future, as a means of coping and of getting through. It was only when Ms. Banfield went back and read some of the journals she kept during their relationship that she recognized the frequency of the violence and how early on the perpetrator's mistreatment of her had started.

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Lisa Banfield, May 17, 2022: COMM0059014 at p. 82

78. That said, Ms. Banfield also described the perpetrator to the RCMP as "very controlling":

> … even in the beginning of our relationship he was very controlling in the fact that he wanted me to, all to himself. He didn't want me, like, and I'm close to my siblings, I talk to them every day, could see them every day. But, he didn't like that because he wanted all my attention and if I didn't give it to him, like, he was like a little boy in some sense that needed that constant, you know, build me up kinda thing. And I would do that but it comes to a point that I need me time too.

- Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 20, 2020: COMM0003436 at p. 20

79. Ms. Banfield told the RCMP that the perpetrator would question why she wanted to see her family and would get upset that she wanted to see her family often.

- Statement of Lisa Banfiel, April 28, 2020: COMM0004070 at lines 1281–1285

80. The perpetrator did not like that Ms. Banfield was close to her family. She told the Mass Casualty Commission that he would often question her plan to spend time with them, saying something like, "you were just there yesterday" or "you just talked to them, what are you talking to them about?" Maureen Banfield also described a shift in her relationship with her sister after Lisa's relationship with the perpetrator began. While they remained close, they talked on the phone more and saw each other less.

- Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 6, 2022: COMM0058494 at p. 60
- Statement of Maureen Banfield: COMM0003019 at p. 5

81. Ms. Banfield also described how the perpetrator restricted her ability to spend time with her nieces and nephews at their home in Dartmouth. She explained that because she knew that the perpetrator "didn't like to be around kids," she would take her nieces and nephews upstairs when the came over to spend time with them away from him:

> So then this one particular time I took them upstairs to hang out with them, and he came up after maybe 20 minutes and he said, OK, the party's over. And I'm like, what do you mean, the party's over. He's like, it's time for them to go and I'm thinking, they're not bothering you. I took them away from you. I'm spending time with my family and it was just a big fight. So thereafter I would just go to their place to see the kids.

- Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 6, 2022: COMM0058494 at p. 60

82. Sometimes the perpetrator would not allow Ms. Banfield to use the vehicles when she wanted to go see her family:

> [H]e's like, no, you know, it's gas and wear and tear. You just seen them. So if you're going to go out to see them make it all in one day kind of thing. And it's like trying to control how much time I get to see them. And I didn't like that, but he would... He wouldn't let me drive the car and so then I'm stuck.

- Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 6, 2022: COMM0058494 at p. 61

83. Ms. Banfield also told the Mass Casualty Commission that sometimes when she would invite her sisters to come and spend the weekend with her in Portapique, the perpetrator would be okay with the plan at first but then abruptly change his mind at the last minute, sometimes when her sisters were already on their way. Ms. Banfield would then "have to call them to make up some kind of lie" about why they could no longer come visit.

- Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 11, 2022: COMM0058495 at p. 25

84. Ms. Banfield liked going to play bingo with her sisters. The perpetrator did not like this "because he's like you're spending money you don't need to spend." Ms. Banfield recalled that "a lot of times" when the perpetrator was in Portapique and she stayed in Dartmouth for the weekend and let him know that she was going to go to bingo with her sisters on Sunday, he would respond "Well, I'm coming home, so don't go to bingo." Ms. Banfield would then stay home waiting for the perpetrator but "then sometimes he wouldn't show up until late, and it's like, 'Oh, I could have [gone].' But it's like he just didn't want me to go." Sometimes, Ms. Banfield would go to bingo and not tell the perpetrator that she was going.

- Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 11, 2022: COMM0058495 at p. 34

85. Ms. Banfield stated that as their relationship continued, the perpetrator continued to display controlling and jealous behaviour:

> But, even throughout our relationship, like, he'd be very controlling in the sense of where are you going, like when are you coming back, you know, you didn't answer your phone or. Like, even if I, you know, went over to my sister's, he would accuse me of, I'm doing something. Or even times like we'd be walking through a mall and if a guy looked at me, he'd be like, yeah, what are you looking at? Like, and, and I was like, [perpetrator], like, seriously, calm down. Like, it would be, and it just started escalating in different ways like that.

- Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 28, 2020: COMM0004070 at lines 1293–98

86. Ms. Banfield stated that "as much as I hated what he did, I would still forgive him and, and just, you know, show him that he's loved… 'cause he said everybody always left him and, you know. And he goes, Lisa, like you, you're, you're the one person in my life that I care about, like you're my life, my love and if I don't have you, I have nothing."

- Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 20, 2020: COMM0003436 at p. 8

87. After repeatedly reconciling with the perpetrator following significant physical assaults, Ms. Banfield eventually told him that "if he ever did it again, like that would be it…. He knew I was done 'cause I said the older I get I'm not putting up with your shit…I don't deserve it. I didn't do anything to you, I've always been there for you." She told the RCMP after the mass casualty that for about a 10-year period after this conversation with the perpetrator, he was not physically violent with her although "he would get ugly at times."

- Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 20, 2020: COMM0003436 at p. 19

88. On April 20, 2020, the RCMP conducted a second interview with Ms. Banfield while she remained in the hospital recovering from the perpetator's April 18, 2020, assault. During this interview, Ms.

Banfield told the RCMP that the last time the perpetrator was physically abusive to her prior to the evening of April 18, 2020 (discussed below), was approximately three years prior. She also told the RCMP that she could not recall specifics about that incident, stating that "it's weird because I used to say to him when little things happened, he'd lose his mind. If something major and big happened, he'd be calm as anything….throughout our whole relationship, if it was a little fight over something stupid…And I'm thinking, you know, that's nothing, he would lose his mind. But over something major that happened, he'd be like, it's no big deal."

- Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 20, 2020: COMM0003436 at pp. 20–21

89. Ms. Banfield also explained that there was no discernable pattern to the perpetrator's physical abuse: "For a long time I was on egg shells and I didn't know, like …it'd be no rhyme nor reason for it, he'd just, he would just lose it and I would just try to calm him down."

- Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 20, 2020: COMM0003436 at p. 19

90. In another interview with the RCMP 10 days after the mass casualty, Ms. Banfield stated that she "can't even remember" other instances of domestic violence, because "there's so many times." Ms. Banfield was then asked, "When you say so many, how many times do you figure he abused you physically?" Ms. Banfield responded "ten maybe." She also reported that "years" would go by without physical abuse and that she would think things were back to "normal."

- Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 28, 2020: COMM0004070 at lines 1383–88, 1541–44.

91. In her interviews with the Mass Casualty Commission, Ms. Banfield provided a more comprehensive account of the patterns of violence and coercion in her relationship with the perpetrator, and the methods she used to cope during this period in her life:

> Gillian HNATIW [00:36:48] When you were interviewed by the RCMP in the aftermath of the mass casualty, you know, you reported that there had been approximately 10 incidents of violence over the years-
>
> Lisa BANFIELD [00:36:59] Yeah, no.
>
> Gillian HNATIW [00:36:59] ... and you've obviously told us about a lot more in the course of these interviews.
>
> Lisa BANFIELD [00:37:04] Mm-hmm, yeah.
>
> Gillian HNATIW [00:37:04] Any ... any thoughts as to-
>
> Lisa BANFIELD [00:37:06] I didn't know I told them 10 times. Because that's the thing, like, I've journaled my whole life. So, as you know, like ... and I don't know if I told you, but if I journaled something, I didn't go back and read it. So, in my mind I'm thinking, "Oh, it hasn't happened in years," even though it's been happening all

> along. But I would just have to block it out because in order to stay, I needed to deal with whatever is going on in that moment, so I couldn't think about what's gone on, I had to focus on what's in front of me. So, that's how I dealt with what's happening in this moment, not what's happening here, what's happening over here, what's happening right here.

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Lisa Banfield, May 17, 2022 : COMM0059014 at p. 82

92. Ms. Banfield also expressed to the Mass Casualty Commission that during her RCMP interviews, "I just didn't trust; I just don't trust very well, and I was just scared to say anything" about the violence she had endured.

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Lisa Banfield, May 17, 2022: COMM0059014 at p. 83

93. When the perpetrator was physically violent towards Ms. Banfield, he would often punch and kick her. She suffered bruises on her arms and legs. The perpetrator would hit Ms. Banfield on parts of her body that could be concealed with clothing.

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Lisa Banfield, April 11, 2022: COMM0058495 at p. 14

94. Sometimes, the perpetrator would choke Ms. Banfield, which would leave visible injuries on her neck. Ms. Banfield told the Mass Casualty Commission that whenever she had visible injuries from the perpetrator's physical assaults, she would cover the marks with makeup.

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Lisa Banfield, April 11, 2022: COMM0058495 at p. 15

95. The perpetrator also pulled Ms. Banfield's hair "all the time":

> Gillian HNATIW [00:25:22] Would he pull it out?
>
> Lisa BANFIELD [00:25:23] He would ... like, because I would be down on the ground or the floor, and he would pull me by the hair like my scalp, and he'd tell me to get up and part of me, I would be spiteful to say, "No, like, I'm not getting up," and he would pull it and pull it. And then he would say stuff like, "You're just like ... you got a little bit of spite in you, you little bitch, you're like Gillie and Beulah"because my parents. And then it would hurt so much that I felt like my scalp was coming coming off, so then I would stand up.

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Lisa Banfield, April 11, 2022: COMM0058495 at p. 14

96. After physically abusing her, the perpetrator would blame Ms. Banfield for his violence:

> And then he'd always say like, why did you make me do that? It's your fault. Like, and I knew it's not my fault, I'm not stupid. But yet, you know, why I put up with it, I don't know. 'Cause I've never been in a relationship like that ever in my life.

- Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 28, 2020: COMM0004070 at lines 1590–92

97. Ms. Banfield described her relationship with the perpetrator as having "no even keel ever":

> He's always been like a doctor Jekyll mister Hyde kinda, like, he could be so sweet on one uh, when it was bad, it was really bad and when it was good, it was great…It's how our relationship with him always was. It's just the way he was.

- Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 20, 2020: COMM0003436 at p. 3

98. Ms. Banfield explained to the Mass Casualty Commission that the perpetrator "could always make me feel like I can't do any wrong and in the next moment, he's tearing me down like I'm dirt on the bottom of his feet":

> And if I was hurt, if I got hurt by anybody, he would be like, hated that. But it was OK if he did it, but nobody else could do it. Do you know what I mean? Like, it didn't even make sense, but yet if I was sick, like he would go and get me medicine. He'd go do whatever to try to fix me, kind of thing. But yet at the hands of him, like it was so warped it didn't even make sense to me because I'm thinking, you know? I just didn't understand like somebody could be so cruel and yet so sweet at the same time.

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Lisa Banfield, April 6, 2022: COMM0058494 at p. 100

99. Ms. Banfield told the Mass Casualty Commission that when she was in Portapique, the perpetrator "didn't want me socializing with anybody when ... especially if he wasn't around" because "he didn't like" that people liked her:

> Like I said, I think when we were all drinking, when he was drinking and he was having a good time, he was fine. But as soon as he would see that I was having more fun than him, maybe, I don't know. Yeah, he would be the same like, if I was having a good time, "Let's go," and he would make it seem ... like, it seemed like he would try to put it on me in front of the guys, like, "Look at her," kind of thing, like "acting like an idiot," or I don't know, like he would just diminish me to say, "We're going," kind of thing like, you know, to try to put it on me, like I did something wrong and that's why we have to go.

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Lisa Banfield, April 11, 2022: COMM0058495 at p. 11

100. The perpetrator would physically pull Ms. Banfield out of neighbourhood gatherings: "he would grab me by the arm."

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Lisa Banfield, April 11, 2022: COMM0058495 at p. 5–6

101. If Ms. Banfield refused to leave with the perpetrator, "It wouldn't be good. He would be violent."

    - Mass Casualty Commission interview of Lisa Banfield, April 11, 2022: COMM0058495 at p. 12

102. When asked what the perpetrator being violent looks like, Ms. Banfield responded that "He would slap me in the face or hit me in the head. He would pull my hair, he would punch me.... Everywhere. Like, he'd hit me in the head and a few times, he hit me in the face, and I would just try to protect my face because I can't hide my face, kind of thing."

    - Mass Casualty Commission interview of Lisa Banfield, April 11, 2022: COMM0058495 at p. 12

103. Ms. Banfield confirmed that after Brenda Forbes, a neighbour in Portapique, told her about the perpetrator's infidelity, the perpetrator did not let her see Ms. Forbes anymore. She said the perpetrator was "controlling that way, like not wanting me to talk to anybody…so, if I did talk to them, I wouldn't tell him because it would just be a fight."

    - Mass Casualty Commission interview of Lisa Banfield, April 11, 2022: COMM0058495 at p. 11

104. The perpetrator also verbally abused and threatened Ms. Banfield. She told the RCMP that the perpetrator would "just make me feel so low," "make me feel like shit," and "make me feel like as little as possible."

    - Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 28, 2020: COMM0004070 at lines 1375, 1957–58

105. In her interview with a forensic psychologist retained by the RCMP to prepare a profile of the perpetrator, Ms. Banfield reported that the perpetrator would sometimes apologize for something he had said or done. She explained that she used to tell the perpetrator that he was a "repeat offender; you say you're sorry but then you do it over and over."

    - Transcript of Recorded Interview between Lisa Banfield and Dr. Matthew Logan: COMM0050847 at pp. 7–8

106. The perpetrator frequently threatened to harm Ms. Banfield or her family if she left him. Ms. Banfield told the RCMP after the mass casualty that there were times in the relationship where she contemplated leaving the perpetrator but was worried he would harm her or her family.

    > ….But, even times, like I thought if I leave, like I don't know, 'cause he said, like he would do something to me or my family or, like, he would always say stuff like that. So, I was scared not to, not, like to leave kinda thing.

    - Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 28, 2020: COMM0004070 at lines 1302–4

107. Ms. Banfield expanded on the perpetrator's threats to her family during her interviews with the Mass Casualty Commission:

> If we were fighting or whatever, he would be like, "I know where your family lives," and he would look at me a certain way like, that I know exactly what he's saying. And it was like, intimidating me. Like, "I know where your family lives," and, you know, and he knew my family's my life link, and that's why he was so threatened with them in our relationship, because we were so close. So ... so, when he would say that kind of stuff and just look at me like ... like with ... like, I just ... I know what he meant by that.

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Lisa Banfield, May 17, 2022: COMM0059014 at p. 83

108. Ms. Banfield explained that "I knew that like, you know, where am I gonna go even if I left. He knows where they all live and I didn't know what he would do."

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Lisa Banfield, April 6, 2022: COMM0058494 at p. 100

109. A review of the private emails exchanged between the perpetrator and Ms. Banfield dating from mid-July 2017 until April 17, 2020, do not reveal any explicit references to the perpetrator's physical violence towards Ms. Banfield. The majority of their emails involve mundane, everyday communications about errands, plans, and other events in the couple's lives.

110. The perpetrator sometimes used sexually explicit and degrading language when referring to Ms. Banfield in their correspondence. For example, the perpetrator variously referred to Ms. Banfield as a "shithead," "slut," and "bitch." On some occasions, Ms. Banfield objected to the perpetrator's language and repeatedly told him not to call her any of these words or speak disrespectfully to her. The perpetrator sometimes explicitly acknowledged Ms. Banfield's objection and at other times ignored her comments.

- Emails between the perpetrator and Lisa Banfield: COMM0020257 at pp. 10, 47, 190, 301, 333, 589

111. Ms. Banfield told the Mass Casualty Commission about an occasion when she was worried about the perpetrator finding out she was out with her sisters at a bar, because she saw another denturist there:

> I didn't run into her, but we locked eyes and I thought, "Oh my God, like if she goes to a meeting and she says that, 'Oh, I seen Lisa downtown,' like, this isn't going to be good. Like, how can I get out of this?" And then it seemed like ... I don't know how he found out, but he knew, it seemed like the next day because he's emailing me, calling me a slut, calling me this, calling me that. And I'm thinking, "Oh my gosh," like, so, I'm trying to make up an excuse, like why I was even down there, even though I was just down there having a drink with like, my ... it just wasn't rational thinking.

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Lisa Banfield, April 11, 2022: COMM0058495 at p. 33

112. During Ms. Banfield's interview, her sister Janice Banfield commented that Ms. Banfield was "freaking out" because she saw another denturist there and was worried that the denturist would tell the perpetrator she saw her there.

    - Mass Casualty Commission interview of Lisa Banfield, April 11, 2022: COMM0058495 at p. 32

113. In her own interview with the Mass Casualty Commission, Janice Banfield remarked that "it was a matter of [Ms. Banfield] not having [any] kind of free will just to come and go as she pleases" and stated that it felt as if Ms. Banfield had to justify to the perpetrator the time she was spending with her family.

    - Mass Casualty Commission interview of Janice Banfield, May 26, 2022: COMM0059004 at p. 5

114. Ms. Banfield was employed full time by the perpetrator. Ms. Banfield described working with the perpetrator as "hard because he was the boss and …there were times he would…degrade me in front of people." She explained "I'm thinking he's my boss, but he's also my person, and he shouldn't be talking to me like that regardless."

    - Transcript of Recorded Interview between Lisa Banfield and Dr. Matthew Logan: COMM0050847 at pp. 6–7

115. The perpetrator sometimes embarrassed Ms. Banfield in front of patients and once fired her in the presence of a patient. Ms. Banfield left but came back because the perpetrator needed her.

    - Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 28, 2020: COMM0004070 at lines 1959–67

116. Ms. Banfield told the RCMP that when she made mistakes at work, the perpetrator would humiliate her by reprimanding her in front of patients.

    - Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 28, 2020: COMM0004070 at lines 1947–54

117. Ms. Banfield reported that sometimes the perpetrator would demand that she call patients and tell them a mistake was her fault. She would call the patient and apologize for "making a mistake" as directed by the perpetrator.

    - Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 28, 2020: COMM0004070 at lines 1954–58

118. Ms. Banfield told the Mass Casualty Commission that, "I thought about quitting at one point. I mean, more than one point or whatever. But then I thought, where am I going to ... Like, where am I going to go?"

    - Mass Casualty Commission interview of Lisa Banfield, April 6, 2022: COMM0058494 at p. 25

119. Ms. Banfield enjoyed the work she was doing at the perpetrator's denture clinic, and considered going to work for another denturist. However, Ms. Banfield recalled that the perpetrator would make her feel "inadequate" and tell her that other denturists would not hire her. As a result, she "wasn't confident enough to even ask any of the other denturists" for a job.

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Lisa Banfield, April 6, 2022: COMM0058494 at p. 25

Sutherland Lake Assault

120. Ms. Banfield and a number of witnesses recounted an assault at Sutherland Lake, which is an approximately 30-minute drive north from Portapique. The date of this assault is not known. The earliest possible date is provided by Maureen Banfield, who estimated it occurred approximately 20 years before the mass casualty, which would be 2000. Some witnesses place it later in time, providing dates of 2003 and 2006 or 2007. In an interview with the Mass Casualty Commission on April 11, 2020, and in a written statement she subsequently provided, Ms. Banfield recalled that this incident occurred in 2001. However, most accounts of the incident include details that refer to 200 Portapique Beach Road, which records available to the Commission suggest was not purchased by the perpetrator until October 2002. The Commission believes the Sutherland Lake assault likely occurred after that date.

- Statement of Maureen Banfield: COMM0003019 at lines 803–8
- Statement of Renee Karsten: COMM0010163 at lines 94–120
- Statement of John Hudson: COMM0011650 at lines 37–50, 238–39
- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Lisa Banfield, April 11, 2022: COMM0058495 at p. 19
- Written statement from Lisa Banfield to Commission provided June 22, 2022: COMM0059355 at p. 2
- Letter Re: Purchase of 200 Portapique Beach Road dated October 25, 2002: COMM0056591

121. According to Ms. Banfield, she and the perpetrator were invited to a cottage party by Renee Karsten, who was employed by the perpetrator at the time. Although Ms. Banfield "really didn't want to go," she agreed to accompany him to the party. The perpetrator and Ms. Banfield drove to the cottage in the Sutherland Lake area in his Jeep and they agreed that the perpetrator would not drink so that he could drive them home. Once they arrived, however, the perpetrator started drinking and the couple were invited to stay the night. Ms. Banfield told the perpetrator that he could stay but she did not want to and was going to go home. This "set him off… and that turned into a fight" because she had to take the Jeep to drive back to Portapique. In a statement given after the mass casualty, Ms. Banfield told the RCMP:

> …. So I started driving and he jumped in and while I was driving he starts hitting me or whatever because he wanted to stay and then I thought, I just watched Oprah, and you know how they say you always run, the next destination, you're going to die, so I'm like, as he's hitting me, I'm like, trying to drive and he's whacking me in the head and stuff, and I can't see and I'm crying, so I just stopped the car and I jumped out and I just ran through the woods, and then he was running

> after me and I was screaming my head off, and then he caught me and then he (inaudible) you know, I had blood all over me and he was dragging me back to the Jeep…

- Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 28, 2020: COMM0004070 at lines 2829–43

122. Ms. Banfield stated that at some point, the perpetrator dropped her when some people came, and she "ran through the woods" to get away from him. Ms. Banfield recounted that the perpetrator got back in the Jeep and then told Renee Karsten that "she [Ms. Banfield] just went crazy" and he did not know what happened to cause the altercation. Ms. Banfield understands that when he recounted the incident to Ms. Karsten, he spoke "as if [she] did something wrong."

- Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 28, 2020: COMM0004070 at lines 2844–46

123. Ms. Banfield stated that Renee Karsten found her in the woods and brought her back to the cottage, and the police came and drove the perpetrator home. Ms. Banfield stated that this was the only time the police got involved in the perpetrator's physical violence towards her. She stated that:

> ….Renee came and found me in the woods and brought me to this house, and the police came and drove [the perpetrator] home. And um, and that's when they wanted me to stay at their place and I just, I wanted to go home, I just wanted to, that was the very first time that I ever got abused and so I thought I just want to go home, and it was a shitty rainy night and I don't even, anyway, they wanted me to stay and I just said, I just want to go home, and so they unhooked something in the Jeep so that I couldn't go 'cause they knew that I was a wreck and I couldn't drive so, the people at the party, so they said just wait a couple hours and then you know, we'll let you go or whatever…

- Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 28, 2020: COMM0004070 at lines 2847–53

124. Ms. Banfield recounted that sometime later, she left the Sutherland Lake cottage in the perpetrator's Jeep and returned to Portapique. She parked the Jeep at a graveyard close to the cottage. Her plan was to run into her car without the perpetrator noticing her and attacking her again. She noticed a truck come up behind her, with the perpetrator and their neighbour Ellison Sutherland (now deceased) in the truck. Ms. Banfield told the RCMP that the perpetrator got out of Mr. Sutherland's truck, threw her out of the Jeep, and then drove away in the Jeep.

- Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 28, 2020: COMM0004070 at lines 2855–60

125. At some point, Ms. Banfield asked Ellison Sutherland (now deceased) for help driving back to the perpetrator's cottage to get her car and belongings. When they arrived there, the perpetrator was taking the wheels off her car and throwing them over the bank so she could not leave.

- Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 20, 2020: COMM0003436 at p. 19

126. Ms. Banfield told the RCMP that at this point, the perpetrator told Ellison Sutherland (now deceased) to leave, and asked her to come inside the cottage, promising not to hurt her. Ms. Banfield refused to get out of Mr. Sutherland's vehicle because she "just knew it would be bad."

- Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 20, 2020: COMM0003436 at p. 19

127. In her interview after the mass casualty, Renee Karsten told the RCMP that although she "had known for quite a few years" that the perpetrator was abusive to Ms. Banfield, she did not witness the perpetrator physically assaulting Ms. Banfield until the Sutherland Lake incident, which she stated took place during the last year she worked at the clinic:

> … Um, ah… there was so many times like that just, but I never saw him physically touch her until the last year. We um, I had friends up in Sutherland's Lake that had a cottage and they were just up in Portapique and ah, we had invited them over for a party and she was mingling because she was a social person and [the perpetrator] was just standing there in the corner like pissed off and they had a verbal argument, they ended up leaving, they got into an argument in the driveway um, when I could hear Lisa screaming I went out and he was dragging her by the hair of the head in the driveway and of course I lost it and tried to intervene and he let her go and it shocked him because I know he didn't want me to see him that way even though I had known for quite a few years that he was abusive to her.
>
> Um, that was the first time I actually – he really scared me physically because he just turned into somebody that was like; his face and just the look in his eyes was just – it scared the hell out of me um, anyways he ended it up leaving, she stayed with us. Of course a few hours later she wanted to go home with him and fix things or whatever, so ended up picking her up, now mind you everyone's drinking and what not, so she left and, so come Monday I went back to work um, we never discussed it... she was never the same with me after that, ah our friendship – she just, wou- she wasn't coming downstairs anymore um… yeah I – I think he just told her she wasn't allowed to talk to me or something I don't know….

- Statement of Renee Karsten: COMM0010163 at lines 52–66
- Note: Ms. Karsten's recollection that Ms. Banfield confided in her about the perpetrator's physical abuse prior to the Sutherland Lake incident is inconsistent with Ms. Banfield's recollection, described above, which is that the Sutherland Lake incident was the first time the perpetrator physically abused her.

128. Renee Karsten told the RCMP that she quit working for the perpetrator in approximately 2006 or 2007. She stated that after the Sutherland Lake altercation between the perpetrator and Ms. Banfield, she "was scared to death to go to work every day because [she] didn't know if he was going to come down and hit [her] in the back of the head." She said that she would physically get

sick on the way to work and have to pull over. Ms. Karsten also stated that the perpetrator's unethical business practices made her hate the denturist profession, and so she "had to get out of there."

- Statement of Renee Karsten: COMM0010163 at lines 94–120

129. Following the mass casualty, John Hudson, another neighbour in Portapique, described a similar incident to the RCMP, which he estimated "occurred around 2003-2004." Mr. Hudson said that at approximately 10 p.m. one night, the perpetrator came over to a bonfire the neighbours were having and stated that he "wanted to go find Lisa" but because he had been drinking, he did not want to drive. Mr. Hudson, the perpetrator, Ellison Sutherland (now deceased), and another individual, Kim Mills, drove up "around Shortts lake or Sutherland's lake" area in Mr. Sutherland's truck but were told on arrival that Ms. Banfield had already left. On their way back to Portapique, the perpetrator spotted Ms. Banfield's car and kept telling Mr. Sutherland to "Pull out – pass her and then get in front of her and hit your brakes so she has to stop." Mr. Sutherland did not do this. Instead, according to Mr. Hudson, they followed Ms. Banfield back to the perpetrator's cottage in Portapique. The perpetrator got out of Mr. Sutherland's truck at his house, and Mr. Sutherland, Mr. Hudson, and Mr. Mills returned to the bonfire.

- Statement of John Hudson: COMM0011650 at lines 37–50, 238–39
- Note: Mr. Mills told the RCMP that he does not remember this event as he was "loaded" that night.
- Statement of Kim Mills: COMM0012138 at lines 1171–76

130. John Hudson recalled that sometime later, Ms. Banfield came over to the bonfire and said that she wanted to go home (presumably to Dartmouth) but the perpetrator refused to let her get her belongings from the cottage. Mr. Hudson stated that, after giving the perpetrator about an hour to "cool down," he and Ellison Sutherland (now deceased) drove Ms. Banfield over to the perpetrator's residence. When they arrived, Mr. Hudson noticed that the perpetrator had taken the tires off Ms. Banfield's car. Ms. Banfield went inside the cottage, then came back outside and told him that the perpetrator would not let her get any of her belongings. She asked Mr. Hudson to talk to the perpetrator and help her collect her belongings, so that she could call someone and leave. Mr. Hudson agreed to this request. The perpetrator "came up out the door just as [Mr.Hudson] was about to go up the stairs" and asked what he wanted. Mr. Hudson explained that he was asked by Ms. Banfield for help collecting her things. The perpetrator refused to let Mr. Hudson enter his cottage. He told Mr. Hudson, "No one's coming in this house and I'm just letting you know, I've got guns in here." Mr. Hudson went back to Mr. Sutherland's truck and told Ms. Banfield that the perpetrator refused him entry.

- Statement of John Hudson: COMM0011650 at lines 51–77

131. John Hudson described the perpetrator as fairly intoxicated at the time:

> Cst. BURRIS: OK. And tell me about his level of intoxication.

> John HUDSON: He – he – he was fairly on s- say on one to ten, he was a, at least a good seven – seven and a half

- Statement of John Hudson: COMM0011650 at lines 320–22

132. John Hudson's wife Nancy Hudson told the RCMP after the mass casualty that she was also at the bonfire on the night of this incident. Ms. Hudson stated that the bonfire was at Kim and Ruby Mills's house. She told the RCMP that Mr. Hudson, Ellison Sutherland (now deceased), and Ms. Banfield had returned to the bonfire after going to the perpetrator's cottage to try to collect Ms. Banfield's belongings. They recounted what happened at the perpetrator's cottage. Ms. Hudson asked Ms. Banfield "why don't you phone the police and get this sorted out?" Ms. Banfield responded that she did not want to get the police involved. Ms. Hudson stated that Ms. Banfield used her phone to call someone back in Dartmouth to come pick her up. Ms. Hudson did not think that Ms. Banfield "really wanted to discuss what had happened prior." She seemed "nervous" and "felt on edge." Ms. Hudson advised her to "just stay here with us, don't go up there, don't try to… start anything more up…let this end for the night." Ms. Banfield's ride arrived at approximately 1:30 a.m. to pick her up.

- Statement of Nancy Hudson: COMM0011647 at lines 59–83

133. Ms. Banfield told the RCMP that Ellison Sutherland (now deceased) took her back to his house in Portapique and she called her niece, Stephanie Goulding, who came and picked her up from there.

- Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 20, 2020: COMM0003436 at p. 19

134. In her statement to the RCMP after the mass casualty, Stephanie Goulding described having been called by Ms. Banfield to pick her up from Portapique after this incident. Ms. Goulding described Ms. Banfield as having scrapes and blood on her face and stated that her shirt was ripped. Ms. Goulding told Ms. Banfield that they were going to stop at Truro Police to report the assault but Ms. Banfield refused. Ms. Goulding took Ms. Banfield to her home to stay. Ms. Banfield begged her not to call anyone or do anything about the assault. Ms. Goulding called Ms. Banfield's sister, Maureen Banfield, who came over and took pictures of Ms. Banfield and wrote down what had happened to her. Ms. Banfield still did not want to get the police involved or lay charges against the perpetrator. Ms. Goulding described this event as follows:

> ... Ah, I was pregnant with my daughter at the time and she had called me in the middle of the night and I went up there and I was all upset. I'm like, Lisa, like, you can't keep doing this, like here I'm pregnant and I'm trying to come up and get you, I don't know what kind of situation I'm coming into. And I, I had to pick her up and a neighbour's house and she got in and I was just kind of, not even looking at her cause I was kind of pissed cause I had to do this in the middle of the night. And ah, at one point I remember driving that road towards Great Village and I looked over at her and her whole profile. Like she was full of scrapes and blood and her

> shirt was ripped, everything. And I, like I lost it. And I was just like we're stopping at Truro Police. Like and I was in my pyjamas. I'm like we are stopping in Truro. No, she was like Stephanie, no. I'm just like Lisa, like, anyway I took her home, we were living in a different house at the time. And she just said, let me just stay here, so she slept upstairs. And she begged me and begged me and begged me not to call anybody, do anything. And under, you know, against all of, I didn't. Well I called my sister Maureen, and I'm like Maureen, you got to get over here like. Anyway, so she basically said that you know, she did not want to lay charges, and that. I mean I remember at the time we took pictures of her, we ah, copied everything down, like, like the events to try to, in case anything ever did come out of anything.

- Statement of Stephanie Goulding: COMM0004407 at lines 76–94
- Statement of Maureen Banfield: COMM0003019 at lines 803–8

135. Maureen Banfield no longer has the photos she took documenting the perpetrator's physical violence of her sister. Maureen told the Commission that:

> ... [Ms. Banfield] was reluctant to take those pictures, but we did, and we had them in storage for years and years. Stephanie made two house moves and she thinks in one of those it got lost, but anyway. But we had the Polaroid pictures for years just in case she ever changed her mind, or ... I ... I didn't honestly anticipate that she would go back to him after that beating, but as we know…

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Maureen Banfield, May 30, 2022: COMM0059032 at p. 6

136. Ms. Banfield also reported that Maureen Banfield took photos of her and wanted to get the police involved but she refused.

- Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 20, 2020: COMM0003436 at p. 19

137. Maureen Banfield told the Commission what she recalled of Ms. Banfield's injuries after this assault:

> What I recall, and it's ... it's still quite a blur to me, but it was vivid around her face, lots of bruising and sort of veinish, brashy sort of look, definite marks around her throat. She had bleeding from her ... actually, her arms, her face ... I don't know if it was her ... in her hair as well. I took ... I took several body shots and her legs were all beaten up, too. I don't know if he had kicked her or if it was from falling in the woods, I'm not really sure.

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Maureen Banfield, May 30, 2022: COMM0059032 at p. 9

138. Ms. Banfield staunchly refused to report this incident to the police. Maureen Banfield recalled that she [Maureen] was scared and they were "all very shocked." Ms. Banfield also refused to seek medical attention for her injuries: "She's very private and I think she was still in shock; I think she was very embarrassed, at some point. Certainly following it, there was some shame attached to that quite immediately that, just block it out, just block it out. And I don't even think we shared outside of the girls [Janice, Maureen and Stephanie Goulding] that it happened. I reached out to the family eventually, but initially it was a very small group that were aware of what happened."

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Maureen Banfield, May 30, 2022: COMM0059032 at p. 9

139. In a statement to the RCMP after the mass casualty, when asked if the perpetrator got in trouble for the physical violence towards her, Ms. Banfield responded "I guess not. Nothing I know came out of it."

- Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 28, 2020: COMM0004070 at lines 2883–85
- Note: The circumstances surrounding the police involvement in the Sutherland Lake incident are unclear. Details around who called the police, when the police arrived, why the police were called, and what the police understood at the time are unknown. Police records may have been purged at this point but the Commission continues to investigate.

140. Ms. Banfield told the RCMP that the day after this incident, an unnamed friend drove Ms. Banfield back to the perpetrator's cottage in Portapique to pick up her car. Ms. Banfield came upon the perpetrator's parents, Paul and Evelyn Wortman, in the cottage driveway. She described this encounter to the RCMP as follows:

> ... And then the next day is when I got a friend to bring me up, and his parents were in the driveway, and the tires were back on my car, and Evelyn and them guys are like, are you okay? I said, do I look okay, 'cause I was all bruised and, and she's like, what happened? I said, your fucking son is what happened, or whatever. And then he's like, mother, go in the house it's none of your business. And she went in the house and Paul's just doing gardening like nothing…

- Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 28, 2020: COMM0004070 at lines 2874–78

141. The perpetrator blamed Ms. Banfield for his violence towards her.

> … And he comes into the bedroom, 'cause I was just getting some stuff, and he goes, you know Lisa, this is your fault, you made me do this, and I just, I was just numb, I just wasn't saying anything, I just grabbed a few things and then I left.

- Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 28, 2020: COMM0004070 at lines 2878–80

142. After this incident, Ms. Banfield briefly moved in with her sister, Maureen Banfield. Ms. Banfield told the RCMP that a couple weeks later, the perpetrator came knocking on her window and apologized, and said he would never hit her again. She said that the perpetrator was "so sorry" but told her she drove him to it and again tried "the bull shit of trying to manipulate me [into] thinking it was my fault when I knew…it wasn't my fault."

    - Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 20, 2020: COMM0003436 at p. 19

143. Janice Banfield told the Mass Casualty Commission that she had heard about the perpetrator's assault on Ms. Banfield from family members, and that their father and Janice's husband at the time went over to Dartmouth while the perpetrator was there and "got Lisa out of the house...and moved her to Maureen's." Janice recalled that her ex-husband told her that the perpetrator did not try to stop Ms. Banfield from leaving but walked past their father and "made a comment, like, you know, 'Shit happens.'" Janice told the Mass Casualty Commission that she did not consider contacting the police because Ms. Banfield asked them not to do so and wanted the family to move on.

    - Mass Casualty Commission interview of Janice Banfield, May 26, 2022: COMM0059004 at pp. 9–10

144. Maureen Banfield told the Mass Casualty Commission that Ms. Banfield stayed in her basement for "a couple of weeks" and that she [Maureen] thought that Ms. Banfield was serious about leaving the perpetrator. However, "unbeknownst" to her, the perepetrator was calling Ms. Banfield while she was living in Maureen's basement, and would visit Maureen's house, knock on the window of the basement, and speak with Ms. Banfield.

    - Mass Casualty Commission interview of Maureen Banfield, May 30, 2022: COMM0059032 at p. 10

145. Ms. Banfield told the RCMP that following the Sutherland Lake incident, the perpetrator did not commit physical violence against her for several years.

    - Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 20, 2020: COMM0003436 at p. 19

The Cottage Assault in the Presence of Tom Evans

146. Ms. Banfield described another incident of physical violence to the RCMP, which occurred while the perpetrator's close friend Tom Evans (now deceased) and another man (unknown) were visiting the perpetrator's cottage. Ms. Banfield stated that:

> Lisa BANFIELD: Um, and Tom was there and I don't even know what the fight was about but I ended up in his bedroom and he had me on the bed and he was choking me and I'm screaming and he's hitting me and punching me and I couldn't breathe. And, and I could hear Tom and the guys out in the kitchen and Tom yelling, like,

> [the perpetrator's name], okay, enough, like, leave her alone kind of thing but not coming in to stop it or anything, just, [the perpetrator's name], like, come on, come on out here with us or whatever.
>
> And finally he stopped and, and then that same day is when, when he left I went out the bedroom window and I started running down by the beach area and I'm thinking, where am I gonna go? And I car, I'd just jump in my car and go and when I came around the corner they were outside by the car, sitting out having drinks so I couldn't get in my car. And once he seen me he started running after me and them two were all in chairs, like, the garage door was here, they're in chairs here and the vehicle was here and [the perpetrator's] chasing me around the vehicle and they're not doing anything, just pretending is uh, it's not even going on and I'm screaming and none of them are doing anything. And he finally got me and he brought me in the house and, basically, told me if, you know, if I left again I would get another beating and. So, then I just stayed in the house and then it was night time and I remember just wanting to go to bed.
>
> So, I went in my bed and they were at the kitchen table and [perpetrator's name] came in and said make them something to eat. I said I'm not making them anything to eat. And he pulled me by the hair (Inaudible) like, he got right in my face screaming saying, get up and get them something to eat and he pulled me by the hair out in the kitchen and they just sat there and I just kept my head down and he didn't even eat. He just wanted me to feed them and he went in the other room and I was just, you know, um, making them something to eat, put it on the table. They didn't say anything to me, I didn't say anything to them and then I just went to bed.

- Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 28, 2020: COMM0004070 at lines 1561–86
- Note: This assault occurred prior to 2009 as Tom Evans passed away in that year.

147. Ms. Banfield told the Mass Casualty Commission that she confided in Brenda Forbes about the perpetrator's domestic violence on this occasion. She told the Commission that Tom Evans (now deceased) and "a couple of workers" were working on the roof of the cottage when the perpetrator assaulted her:

> Lisa BANFIELD [02:37:01] They were outside of the garage drinking and [the perpetrator] was there. I don't know if [the perpetrator] and I got an argument or something. And then [the perpetrator] had me in the bedroom and he was being abusive to me and was screaming. And they were up there. And then after a while, Tom, yelled in, just leave her alone, come out with us and when he did finally leave, I jumped out of the window like it looks like a door like this, like it's two doors and it has a screen and I just went through the screen and I went behind the house because they were in the front yard and I went to the beach area, thinking where am I going to go and I went to see Brenda. And then she had said, you know, she

> tried to talk to me, but it was just like, I gotta go back because I didn't know what he would do if I wasn't there. So I came up the road and then he spotted me, and they were all sitting out front on lawn chairs in front of the vehicles and [the perpetrator] chasing me around the vehicles, and they're not doing anything. I'm thinking like they're not even doing anything to help me. And then I went inside the house. And then he came at me again. And then finally, he left me alone. I was just in the bedroom, and then it was nighttime, and he wanted me to make them supper. And I was in bed and I'm like I'm not making him supper and he was saying, get up. And then he grabbed me out of the bed by my hair, and said make them something to eat. But he didn't even eat himself. So he went in his bedroom and I went out in the kitchen and made them supper and then I went back to bed.

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Lisa Banfield, April 6, 2022: COMM0058494 at pp. 98–99

148. Ms. Banfield further described the perpetrator's physical assault on this day:

> He was on top of me, strangling me and then he made me get up against the wall and he told me to stand there while he watched me. And then degrading me and calling me cunt and everything and just and if I wanted to move he said, don't move. And then he said, I could grab your neck and rip it off and then he came over and grabbed me by the neck and pulled me up off of my feet and it's like, I can't breathe. I tried to fight him but he's stronger than me. And I just started screaming and then Tom just yelled and said just leave her alone and come out with us and he finally listened.

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Lisa Banfield, April 6, 2022: COMM0058494 at p. 99

149. Ms. Banfield did not report this incident to the police because she was scared the perpetrator would physically harm her if she did, or "go after my family, because he's threatened that before."

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Lisa Banfield, April 6, 2022: COMM0058494 at p. 99

Threatening Lisa Banfield with Handguns

150. Ms. Banfield told the Mass Casualty Commission that "a couple times," the perpetrator "put a gun to her head":

> Lisa BANFIELD [00:19:40] Yes. Yeah, a couple times he put a gun to my head, but then he joked around to say it wasn't loaded, but I knew that they were.
>
> Liz MONTGOMERY [00:20:08] Sorry, I know that I ... I know this is really hard and I know I'm going into a lot of detail, but I think it's kind of important. Did you ... you

just ... you just said ... just for clarification, you said you ... he put a gun to your head?

Lisa BANFIELD [00:20:24] Mm-hmm.

Liz MONTGOMERY [00:20:26] On a couple of occasions?

Lisa BANFIELD [00:20:25] Yes.

Liz MONTGOMERY [00:20:27] And do you remember when that was?

Lisa BANFIELD [00:20:31] No. It would have been years ago. The first time was at the cottage, in the kitchen.

Liz MONTGOMERY [00:20:41] So, stop there, and let's talk about that one incident. So, it was in the kitchen at the cottage. Tell me what happened.

Lisa BANFIELD [00:20:49] I couldn't even tell you. We had gotten in an argument. He was in the bedroom and I was out in the kitchen and he came out with a gun and he put it to my head and like, I was just in shock because if we had an argument, it wasn't like I would think it's anything big, but it was the little things that would set him off because big things, he seemed to be fine with. If big things happened, he was fine. It was the little things that would make him go crazy. But he came out to the kitchen and I remember him putting the gun to my temple and he said, "I could just blow your head off right now." And I would just I ... I wouldn't say anything because I didn't know what would set him off anymore. And then he just stopped, and he would laugh and he said it wasn't loaded.

Liz MONTGOMERY [00:21:53] Do you remember what that gun looked like?

Lisa BANFIELD [00:21:57] I think it was a little ... a black handgun.

…

Liz MONTGOMERY [00:22:15] So, you said there was two incidents that you recall. So, that incident was, you said a few years back?

Lisa BANFIELD [00:22:22] Oh, it would have been years ago. Like, I don't know, I can't remember how many years ago.

Liz MONTGOMERY [00:22:30] But quite some time ago?

Lisa BANFIELD [00:22:31] Mm-hmm.

Liz MONTGOMERY [00:22:32] And then the second incident?

> Lisa BANFIELD [00:22:36] It would have been in Dartmouth. I think it was ... I'm thinking it was in the kitchen/dining room because it's open area. And again, I couldn't tell you what the fight was about.
>
> Liz MONTGOMERY [00:22:51] And did he repeat the same kind of thing?
>
> Lisa BANFIELD [00:22:56] Pretty much.
>
> Liz MONTGOMERY [00:22:57] Did he say the same words or something a little different, do you remember?
>
> Lisa BANFIELD [00:23:15] He called me a little cunt. And he would say afterwards, "If I didn't love you, I wouldn't do this because that's how much I care about you." And a lot of times, like I said, I wouldn't say anything because I wouldn't know what's going to set him off, but then, I would try and like, you know, to calm him down, just saying, "It's okay," kind of thing, but that seemed to irritate him more.

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Lisa Banfield, April 11, 2022: COMM0058495 at pp. 13–14

151. In a subsequent interview, Ms. Banfield recalled an occasion where the perpetrator discharged one of his handguns inside the house. Ms. Banfield and the perpetrator were alone on this occasion:

> Gillian HNATIW [00:50:18] I know that you told us on one of our prior meetings about the two occasions where...where [the perpetrator] held the gun to your head. Did he ever discharge the guns in your presence?
>
> Lisa BANFIELD [00:50:32] He discharged the gun that day that he was going to kill his parents, inside the Dartmouth house.
>
> Gillian HNATIW [00:50:41] He shot the gun inside the house?
>
> Lisa BANFIELD [00:50:43] Yes.
>
> …
>
> Gillian HNATIW [00:53:06] Why was he shooting the gun that time?
>
> Lisa BANFIELD [00:53:10] I don't know. He was upset. I don't know if he wanted to scare me to say, you know, if police come like I'm going to be shooting kind of thing. So I don't know if it was just to scare me so that I...I don't, I don't know what his mind thought was on that.

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Lisa Banfield, April 20, 2022: COMM0058497 at pp. 25–27
- Note: The perpetrator's threat to kill his parents occurred on June 2, 2010, and is further discussed in the *Violence in the Perpetrator's Family of Origin* Foundational Document.

152. Maureen Banfield told the RCMP after the mass casualty that Ms. Banfield told her about the perpetrator discharging his firearm inside their home on the night he threatened to kill his parents.

- Statement of Maureen Banfield: COMM0003019 at lines 182–94

153. As further discussed below, the perpetrator also discharged a firearm in Ms. Banfield's presence at the warehouse in Portapique, at the beginning of the mass casualty.

Cottage Choking and Assault

154. After the mass casualty, Ms. Banfield and several witnesses in Portapique described to the RCMP an incident where the perpetrator choked Ms. Banfield. Ms. Banfield also further elaborated on this incident during an interview with the Mass Casualty Commission.

155. Ms. Banfield told the RCMP that the perpetrator choked and punched her while they were in the front yard of the cottage and his uncle Glynn Wortman tried to intervene:

> Lisa BANFIELD: He would just make me feel so low. And, at one point, when Glen lived across the street from where our warehouse was, him and another neighbour were coming up and [the perpetrator] had me on the front yard and he was choking me and punching me in the face and stuff. And Glen came up and said, you're just like your father, get off of her. And he stopped and I just ran and, and I jumped in the car and then I just ran home and I don't know what exchange there was or whatever. But, he would just be like, like his eyes just changed. Like, it was just, it was like, I could tell in his eyes, like, the, just the coldness and there was just, like, nothing there. Like, I, like, just, like a, a switch kinda thing. And then he would say he's sorry and that he loved me and that he couldn't live without me and I'm the one for him and. But, he goes, you know, all you have to do is just listen to me, Lisa, and, you know, you don't even have to think. And I said, I have a brain, I can think, I don't need your thoughts. Like, sometimes I would stick up for myself because I would be so angry that he's talking to me like I'm pathetic. And then other times I would just do and say whatever he wanted because I was just scared.

- Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 28, 2020: COMM0004070 at lines 1372–83
- Note: Glynn Wortman is spelled as "Glen" in some RCMP statements.

156. Ms. Banfield told the Mass Casualty Commission that the perpetrator "got ticked off" at her because he did not like the close relationship she had with his uncle, Glynn Wortman. Ms. Banfield

liked Glynn and would help him run errands and get groceries: "he could always make me feel like I'm doing something wrong by liking Glynn":

> So, we grew closer, but he didn't like that. I don't know what happened. We got in an argument or whatever, and [the perpetrator] said, "We're leaving," and we had this side-by-side, and he said, "Get in the vehicle," because I was just going to walk. So, I got in and he was driving like a maniac. So, Glynn thought ... okay, I assumed Glynn thought, "This isn't going to be good." So, I remember we got back over to the house, and when I got out of the jeep, he grabbed me and he had me on the ground and he was choking me and I was just screaming like ... like trying to calm him down, kind of thing. But he was on top of me and he was choking me and I was just screaming. Then all of a sudden, I see Glynn and I think it was Dave and they were standing ... they came out through the woods, the path going over. And I just remembered Glynn yelling at him, like, "You're just like your father, get off of her!" And I'm like, "Glynn, it's okay," because I didn't want him to go after Glynn. And anyways, Glynn wouldn't let up. And then [the perpetrator] got up, and as soon as [the perpetrator] got off me, I just ran. And I ran around the house and then I thought, if I can just get in my car and get out of here. So, I got in my car, and then Glynn was on the side of the road, by the end of our property, with [the perpetrator] and they're yelling back and forth, and I just got in my car and I just left. So, whatever was said, I don't know.

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Lisa Banfield, April 11, 2022: COMM0058495 at pp. 6–7

157. Glynn Wortman told the RCMP that on one occasion, he came over to the perpetrator's cottage and saw the perpetrator straddling Lisa:

> …. He was straddling her. Right on top of her. And he was strangling her, choking the shit out of her. I said, get the fuck off of her. Well he got up. He's a big man, big fists, he clenched them. I thought Jesus Christ if he hits me he's going to knock me into next week. He's a big bastard. Was.

- Statement of Glynn Wortman: COMM0008447 at lines 163–66

158. Richard Ellison told the RCMP that his brother David Ellison witnessed the incident sometime around 2011 and told him what happened, and that another neighbour Ellison Sutherland (now deceased) also reportedly witnessed the incident.

- Statement of Richard Ellison: COMM0003079 at lines 91–100, 230–34

159. According to Richard Ellison, who was told this information by his brother David Ellison, Glynn Wortman went over to the perpetrator's cottage when Ms. Banfield was there alone. After some time, the perpetrator, who was down the street drinking at a party, wondered what was going on

and returned to his cottage on his four-wheeler. When he got there, he accused Glynn of trying to get into bed with Ms. Banfield and flew into a jealous rage. Richard recalled David telling him that the perpetrator had Ms. Banfield on the lawn with his hands around her neck and "pretty near choked Lisa to death."

- Statement of Richard Ellison: COMM0003079 at lines 91–100, 230–34
- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Richard Ellison, September 21, 2021: COMM0050584 at p. 11

160. In her statement to the Mass Casualty Commission, Brenda Forbes stated that she had not been given an update on the status of the investigation in 2013. The members did not take an audio recording or a signed written statement of her complaint. Ms. Forbes also stated that the RCMP member who interviewed her on May 14, 2020, informed her that the RCMP located that she made a complaint but that the paperwork was gone.

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Brenda and George Forbes: COMM0003883 at p. 31

Intimidating Lisa Banfield with Dangerous Driving

161. Ms. Banfield told the Mass Casualty Commission that the perpetrator would "torture" her with his driving. She explained that on one occasion when they were returning from the US, she was driving because the perpetrator was drinking. On this evening it was "really foggy and dark and raining" and she was behind an 18-wheeler truck, and the perpetrator demanded she pass the 18-wheeler:

> …he goes, 'Hurry up and pass them.' So, he's yelling at me. So, I'm trying to pass him and I'm like ... I'm scared and I'm just holding the wheel like this. And ... and I couldn't even see the road, and he's just like, 'You're going to kill us,' and he grabs the wheel and turns it like this. And I thought, 'We're going to go off the road.' He's like, 'Get out,' and he pulled me out of the vehicle and he jumped in the driver's side. I jumped in the passenger side and he's flying, and I'm like ... I can't even see, so, I don't even know how he can see, and I thought, 'We're going to die.

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Lisa Banfield, April 11, 2022: COMM0058495 at pp. 72–73

162. On another occasion, the perpetrator and Ms. Banfield were heading to Moncton for their anniversary. He was driving faster than Ms. Banfield felt comfortable with and she asked him if he can "slow down a little bit." In response:

> He's like, 'You think I'm going fast, this ... now you have something to complain about,' and he nailed it to like, 200, and he's weaving in and out and I'm just like ... I'm balling and I'm asking him to stop and he wouldn't stop. So, I'm just looking out the window and I'm just praying to God, like, 'God, just please let us stop.' And

> he's like, 'Look at me' and I'm like ... and he's like, 'Now, yeah, you think I'm going fast now,' like this, and I'm just like, '[perpetrator's name], can you just stop,' and he ... and I said, 'I'm going to be sick, like, I have to go to the bathroom. You need to stop.' And finally, he stopped and pulled into this business park and I thought, 'I'm getting out of the vehicle and I'm not getting back in.' So, I got out and I'm like, 'I'm not get back in.' I don't know how I'm going to get home. I don't care, I'll walk, I'll do whatever I have to, but I'm not getting back in the car. And then he's circling me, and he's like, 'If this was a hostage situation, you'd be dead right now.' And he's like, 'Get in the car.' And I'm like, 'I'm only getting in the car if you promise me not to speed.' And he promised me, so I got in the car and he stuck to his word, but he's like, 'We're not going to Moncton, we're going back home. You ruined it.' So, then we turned around and I just stared out the window and I didn't say anything the rest of the way.

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Lisa Banfield, April 11, 2022: COMM0058495 at p. 73

163. Ms. Banfield described the perpetrator's demeanour in the car, when he was driving really fast despite knowing that she was terrified, in the following way:

> Oh, he'd be raging, he's screaming at me and I'm just trying to like ... I'm just not seeing anything, and he's like, 'Oh, you're going to give me the silent treatment, you little bitch. Talk to me.' And I'm like, I'm thinking, 'What ... what am I going to say?' like. And so, I was just crying, asking him to stop.

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Lisa Banfield, April 11, 2022: COMM0058495 at p. 73

Other People's Knowledge of the Perpetrator's Violence and Abuse Towards Lisa Banfield

Lisa Banfield's Reluctance to Report the Assaults to the Police

164. Ms. Banfield stated that she never reported the perpetrator's assaults to the police. She stated that she never "told on him or anything."

- Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 19, 2020: COMM0002948 at lines 716–18

165. Ms. Banfield explained that "in the past, he was abusive and I would just, you know, appease him and say whatever I could to make it stop and I never ever said anything because I just didn't want to get him in trouble."

- Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 20, 2020: COMM0003436 at p. 3

166. For example, in reference to the Sutherland Lake Assault (described above), her sister Maureen Banfield told the Mass Casualty Commission that:

> I knew she was really, really shook up and scared and traumatized, obviously, the first time being hit so violently and unexpectedly for her. I couldn't get her to the police. [Ms. Banfield's niece] Stephanie and I both tried….

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Maureen Banfield, May 30, 2022: COMM0059032 at p. 6

Third Party Reports to the RCMP

167. Brenda Forbes gave her first statement to the RCMP following the mass casualty on April 20, 2020, via telephone. In this statement, Ms. Forbes recounted that approximately six years prior to the mass casualty, she called the RCMP to report the cottage choking and assault (described above) that Glynn Wortman had witnessed and described to her. Ms. Forbes also advised the RCMP that the perpetrator was in possession of illegal weapons. She provided the following recollection of her interaction with the RCMP:

> Glen let me know what was happening, I called the RCMP ah, and they came to my place of work at that time it was in Debert, um, I was working with the Cadets and we had an interview, and I told him, or told them, there was two guys there, uh, that he had beaten her up and um, everybody else just stood by and he said well would any of those guys be able to uh, um, confirm this. And I said just a second, I'll call his uncle 'cause I was his friend, the uncle, I was friends with his uncle. So, I called him and I said Glen would you, w-, be willing to talk to the RCMP about what, [the perpetrator] did to Lisa and that he was trying to kill her, and also the amount of illegal weapons that he had. Um, and Glen said to me, point blank, and I had it on speaker phone, so the RCMP could hear it, he said there's no way I'm going to talk to them, 'cause if I do, he'll find me and kill me, 'cause he's already told me that he killed some people in the United States. Okay, so, once that was over, um the RCMP left because they said they really couldn't do anything unless she reported something, um, and which she never did because she was scared to death of, of [the perpetrator]…

- Statement of Brenda Forbes, April 22, 2020: COMM0004004 at lines 40–51
- Note: The perpetrator's possession of weapons is further discussed in the *Firearms* Foundational Document.

168. Brenda Forbes' husband George Forbes gave a telephone statement to the RCMP after the mass casualty on April 23, 2020. In this statement, Mr. Forbes stated that his wife told him about involving the RCMP in the perpetrator's domestic abuse at the time.

- Statement of George Forbes: COMM0006423 at lines 194–200

169. Despite receiving these statements, it does not appear that the RCMP took any immediate steps to look into Brenda Forbes's previous reports about the perpetrator. In the wake of the mass

casualty, Ms. Forbes eventually told the media that she had reported the perpetrator's domestic abuse of Ms. Banfield and his possession of illegal weapons to the RCMP in 2013. As a result of Ms. Forbes's statements to the media, the RCMP began to investigate her 2013 complaints. An internal RCMP email dated May 14, 2020, reveals that arrangements had been made for the RCMP to "to re-interview Brenda and George Forbes, as there are inconsistencies in the statement [Ms. Forbes] provided to [RCMP] and what they have told the media." The email also states that the RCMP is "interested in gathering more information about the [2013 report] she made to police so the file can possibly be located."

- Internal RCMP email dated May 14, 2020, re: "H Strong Interview of Brenda Forbes": COMM0027317

170. The RCMP obtained a follow-up statement from Brenda and George Forbes in person on May 14, 2020. In this statement, Ms. Forbes repeated her initial recollection of calling the RCMP over the choking incident that Glynn Wortman told her.

- Statement of Brenda, May 14, 2020: COMM0011718 at lines 845–75

171. Brenda Forbes also expanded that the attending members were from Truro and they told her that "there's not much we can do 'cause we don't have her side of the story. And…with the weapons and stuff…we have no proof."

- Statement of Brenda, May 14, 2020: COMM0011718 at lines 881, 892–94

172. After the RCMP left, Brenda Forbes never spoke with Glynn Wortman or the other two witnesses about the choking incident again. Ms. Forbes stated that she did not hear anything further from the RCMP officers who took her statement either. The RCMP also has no record of further contact with Ms. Forbes.

- Statement of Brenda, May 14, 2020: COMM0011718 at lines 1613–21

173. Brenda and George Forbes gave a statement to the Mass Casualty Commission on August 19, 2021, in which Ms. Forbes recounted her interaction with the RCMP over the choking incident.

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Brenda and George Forbes: COMM0003883 at pp. 3–4.

174. Brenda Forbes also told the Mass Casualty Commission that at the time she would not have involved the RCMP in any other dispute aside from the perpetrator's domestic abuse because "both of us are veterans and we know that we can kind of take care of ourselves....we can protect ourselves."

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Brenda and George Forbes: COMM0003883 at p. 26

175. On May 23, 2020, in a Task Action Report pertaining to Brenda Forbes's media articles, Cst. Shawn Stanton reported that "after exhaustive queries the occurrence from 2013 that Ms. Forbes discusses reporting has still not been located in any police data bank."

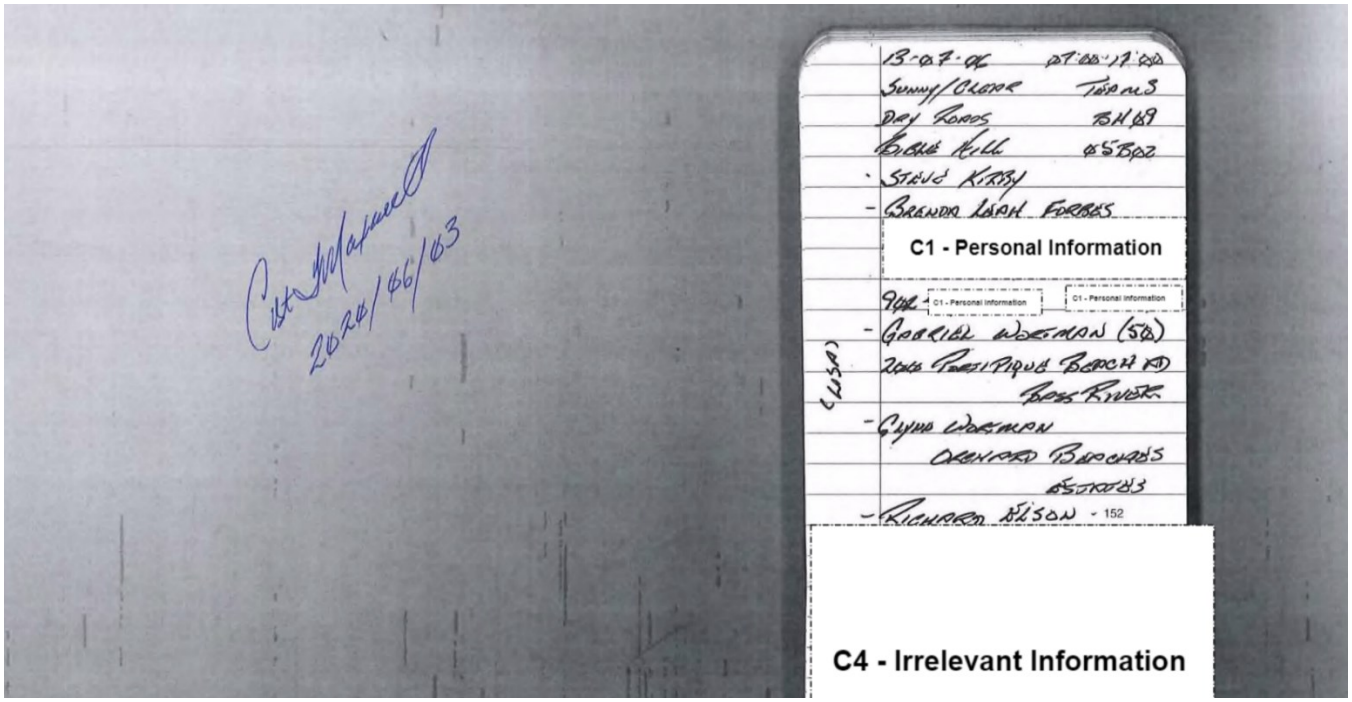
    - Task Action Report re: Brenda Forbes' Media Articles: COMM0011641

176. As a next step in the investigation, in early June 2020, the RCMP requested the notes of all members who were working in the Bible Hill Detachment between the period of June and July 2013 in which Brenda Forbes stated she spoke with the RCMP members about the perpetrator's domestic abuse.

    - Email from Cpl. A. McKay to Cst. S. Stanton dated May 29, 2020: COMM0011710
    - List of Members contacted for notes/reports: COMM0011713

177. Constable (Cst.) Troy Maxwell provided the RCMP with one page of handwritten notes. Cst. Maxwell's notes include the names of Brenda Forbes, Glynn Wortman, and Richard Ellison, as well as the perpetrator's name and address. In parenthesis on the side of the notes is written "Lisa." No other information is included in these notes.

    - Photograph #1: Handwritten notes of Cst. Maxwell.



    - Member's handwritten notes of Cst. Troy Maxwell: COMM0011709

178. On July 6, 2013, Cst. Maxwell conducted a check on the perpetrator using the Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC) database. The CPIC check notes "293 Portap" in its Remarks column.

- Offline database queries for Lisa Banfield and the perpetrator: COMM0014702 at p. 5

179. In an H-Strong Situation Report dated June 5, 2020, Corporal (Cpl.) Angela McKay wrote the following:

> Colchester members working between June-August 2013 were asked to physically check their notebooks for contact with Brenda Forbes and the complaint she has reported making to RCMP. Cst. Maxwell found minimal notes from July 6th, 2013 which are believed to be related to the complaint described by Forbes. Cst. Maxwell remembers this Saturday morning complaint as Forbes describing [the perpetrator] acting aggressively in the neighbourhood and that she, and others, were afraid of him. Cst. Maxwell does not remember Forbes reporting a Domestic and recalls the complaint was about Forbes herself. Cst. Maxwell remembers Forbes did not outline actions that he felt constituted a criminal offence, that he made two attempts to talk to [the perpetrator] which were negative and concluded the file. There was a call that day at 1000 hrs of a Cause Disturbance.
>
> Follow up is being conducted with a second member who accompanied Cst. Maxwell.

- Situation Report of Cpl. A. McKay, June 5, 2020: COMM0008543

180. Cpl. McKay told the Mass Casualty Commission that Cst. Maxwell showed her his notes, and she had a "brief discussion" with him, and recalls that he told her that the fact that his notes were minimal "meant that it wasn't a significant event or he would have a lot more notes than he had." During this discussion, Cst. Maxwell did not mention why Glynn Wortman or Richard Ellison's names were in his notes.

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Cpl. A. McKay: COMM0057755 at p. 37

181. An RCMP Task Action Report dated June 3, 2020, states:

> Initial conversation of Cst. MAXWELL. It was determined that he attended the Debert Military Base with Cst. Karl MACISAAC on July 6th, 2013 and later that evening he went to [the perpetrator's] Portapique residence with Cpl. Kenda SUTHERLAND.
>
> Cpl. MCKAY liaised with "H" Division ORMS and reviewed the purged occurrences for July 6th, 2013. It was noted there were zero domestic occurrences filed on July 6th, 2013. The lone PROS occurrence of note was 2013-827716, dispatched as

> "'Causing of Disturbance" and 1001 hours but concluded as "Assist to General Public". The occurrence was purged on August 8th, 2015.
>
> Investigative team is requesting Cst. MAXWELL, Cpl. SUTHERLAND & Cst. MACISAAC be contacted and notes obtained about their involvement in the July 6th, 2013 occurrence.

- RCMP Task Action Report, June 3, 2020: COMM0011704 at p. 2

182. Occurrences are "purged" from the RCMP databases after a period of time, according to RCMP Policy.

183. Cpl. Sutherland and Cst. MacIsaac could not locate any notes in relation to Brenda Forbes and/or the perpetrator on July 6, 2013. Neither member had any specific recollection about Ms. Forbes's complaint. In an H-Strong Situation Report dated June 9, 2020, Sergeant (Sgt.) Chris Romanchych wrote:

> Follow up notebook checks were completed with two additional Members who were previously stationed in Colchester on July 6th, 2013 and had assisted on Brenda Forbes' complaint. No notes were located in relation to Forbes and/or [the perpetrator], nor do they have any specific recollection about that complaint.

- Situation Report of Sgt. C. Romanchych, June 9, 2020: COMM0008541

184. In her handwritten notes dated June 3, 2020, Cpl. McKay made references to discussions about whether Cst. Maxwell could possibly be in jeopardy of being charged with the offence of failing to investigate. Cpl. McKay wrote that "I don't think that there is any from my conversation with Troy where he says there was no criminal investigation and no domestic reported by Brenda – or he would have followed up more. Also our records support that and his lack of detailed notes suggests came in as minor complaint."

- Handwritten notes of Cpl. A. McKay: COMM0005423 at p. 4

185. In an email to Superintendent (Supt.) Darren Campbell dated June 18, 2020, Cpl. McKay forwarded an en email she sent to Cpl. Laura Seeley, which explained the RCMP's position on the 2013 report Brenda Forbes made to Cst. Maxwell. Cpl. McKay stated that there seems to be "some discrepancy" with Ms. Forbes' memory of her call to the police. Cpl. McKay concluded the investigation by accepting Cst. Maxwell's version of events and deciding not to pursue the issue further. Cpl. McKay wrote:

> There seems to be some discrepancy in Forbes' memory of her call to police. Our records don't show a domestic called in on the day that Forbes describes, which we have determined to be July 6th, 2013. Our member who spoke to her in 2013 says he believes that call was about Brenda – not about a domestic against

> somewone [sic] else. He says he doesn't recall there being a criminal offence to investigate, more that [the perpetrator] was acting out in their neighbourhood and everyone including Forbes was afraid of him and his behaviour. The member says he attended [the perpetrator's] residence to address the complaint on two occasions during his block with negative results, once with a male colleague and once with a female colleague. There is nothing to refute our member's account of the complaint and it is actually supported by the type of files shown on the purged PROS review from that day. Also, the male member who attended with him has no notes and no recollection of any domestic reported by Forbes about [the perpetrator]. The female member also has no notes and no recollection of a domestic with [the perpetrator]. As this day was a Saturday, the OCC would have generated the file with the initial information as opposed to a call made directly to the detachment. The files would have gone through a supervisor to conclude and the member said if it had've [sic] been reported as a domestic, he would have followed up appropriately.
>
> The CT feels Forbes' two statements reflect what she is able to remember about [the perpetrator], what she observed in Portapique when she lived there and his abuse towards Lisa Banfield. We have interviewed the people she names as witnesses to her account and some recall the domestic (Glyn Wortman) and others don't remember the call to police... We are not planning to go back to her for a third statement to clarify, if she can, why she called the police when she did. The CT has discussed this and agrees this is outside the parameters of the homicide investigation. The CT also talked about taking a formal statement from the member who spoke to Forbes in 2013 but this was also deemed not relevant to what occurred on April 18th-19th, or in the events leading up to that time. The member has provided his notes, which have been added to the file, and there is nothing to indicate he neglected his duty in 2013 which would also fall outside the scope of H-Strong.

- Email from Cpl. A. McKay to Supt. D. Campbell, June 18, 2020: COMM0011711

186. The RCMP did not speak to Brenda Forbes about Cst. Maxwell's notes or his recollection of events. There is no indication in the RCMP records of any explanation as to why Glynn Wortman, Ms. Banfield, or Richard Ellison are referenced in Cst. Maxwell's notes.

187. In his interview with the Mass Casualty Commission, Cst. Maxwell described responding to Brenda Forbes' call on July 6, 2013, as a "driving complaint":

> Troy MAXWELL [00:11:04] Yes. I remember Ms. Forbes calling and stating that there was a gentleman in the neighbourhood driving around in an old, decommissioned police car. He was tearing around the neighbourhood, driving in a fast manner or unsafe manner.

…

> I'm pretty sure I called Mr. Wortman, he was in Dartmouth, to advise him of the complaint. Back in those days, we had to advise the complainant of the complaint, and we also had to advise the suspect what the complaint was. I didn't have any physical contact with Mr. Wortman other than on the phone. And I remember going to see Ms. Forbes and advising her that her file was concluded. Unfortunately for us, it was a first instance file, where we attended, we did not locate him or the vehicle, which for us is gone on arrival. It's something that happens quite often. And that's pretty much it.

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Cst. T. Maxwell: COMM0057751 at pp. 6, 22

188. When asked about "Richard Elson" and "Glynn Wortman," names referenced in his notes of that day, Cst. Maxwell told the Mass Casualty Commission, "I think this is Rebecca or Richard Ellison, and I don't even know who that is, and I don't even know who Glynn Wortman is."

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Cst. T. Maxwell: COMM0057751 at p. 7

189. With respect to Ms. Banfield, whose name "Lisa" was also written in his notes, Cst. Maxwell told the Commission that "If anything, I believe, and again, I don't know this to be exact, but I believe [Ms. Forbes] told me that [the perpetrator's] wife or whatever was named Lisa, and I think that's the reason why I wrote it down." He also stated that he does not know why he wrote Ms. Banfield's name down but that "she had no part to play in the file that I remember. I don't ... we never spoke to her, we didn't try to speak to her, we didn't, you know, try to locate her or anything like that."

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Cst. T. Maxwell: COMM0057751 at pp. 7, 20

190. Cst. Maxwell told the Commission that as opposed to first instance files, domestic violence complaints are "more of a high risk complaint than a first instance file of vehicles that are gone on arrival." He stated that:

> It's pretty cut and dry when it comes to domestics. If the victim says that she was abused in any way, shape or form, then Mr. Wortman would have been arrested. And if Mr. Wortman and Ms. Banfield were not there, I would have had to have contacted Halifax Police Department, we would have had members from their department attend to take statements, to do the whole process because we did not locate him. So, when I look back at this instance and remember everything that I remember from this instance, there was no allegations of any type of domestic. There was no allegations of any type of other complaint other than Mr. Wortman in this old, decommissioned police car, driving around in an unsafe manner.

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Cst. T. Maxwell: COMM0057751 at pp. 8–9

191. As described above, in an H-Strong Situation Report dated June 5, 2020, Cpl. McKay wrote that "Cst. Maxwell remembers this Saturday morning complaint as Forbes describing [the perpetrator] acting aggressively in the neighbourhood and that she, and others, were afraid of him." During his Commission interview, Cst. Maxwell was asked about how the reference to everyone being afraid of the perpetrator came about. He responded that:

> Troy MAXWELL [01:00:57] I don't know. I guess maybe because of Mr. Wortman's demeanour in the neighbourhood, I don't know. I can't answer that. I've never met Mr. Wortman, I don't know if he's imposing, I don't know if he ... you know, if he was scary, I don't know. But I do know that for us going there we would have ran him and all the other things and if any red flags or anything had have come up, then we would have dealt with Mr. Wortman again, in a ... in a different manner.

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Cst. T. Maxwell: COMM0057751 at p. 21

192. In her statement to the Commission, Brenda Forbes stated that she had not been given an update on the status of the investigation in 2013. The members did not take an audio recording or a signed written statement of her complaint. Ms. Forbes also stated that the RCMP member who interviewed her on May 14, 2020, informed her that the RCMP located that she made a complaint but that the paperwork was gone:

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Brenda and George Forbes: COMM0003883 at p. 31

Knowledge within Ms. Banfield's and the Perpetrator's Families

193. In addition to not reporting the perpetrator to the police, Ms. Banfield did not tell her family about the perpetrator's continuing physical abuse following the first incident (which is described earlier in this document):

> … But, I just, I don't know, I just tried to separate, like, even times that he was abusive or, like, I wouldn't tell my family because I thought if I get back with him I don't want them looking at him a certain way and it would just be uncomfortable so I just wouldn't say anything.

- Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 28, 2020: COMM0004070 at lines 1298–1301

194. Maureen Banfield described the perpetrator to the RCMP after the mass casualty as being "very controlling" and "very obsessive" in his relationship with Ms. Banfield.

- Statement of Maureen Banfield: COMM0003019 at lines 69–70

195. Maureen Banfield also told the RCMP that she knew about the perpetrator's first assault on Ms. Banfield and some "episodes here and there" thereafter. However, she believed the perpetrator's physical violence towards Ms. Banfield ended in the first five or so years of their relationship.

- Statement of Maureen Banfield: COMM0003019 at lines 807–18

196. Maureen Banfield explained to the Mass Casualty Commission that the family was not aware of the perpetrator's continued physical violence towards Ms. Banfield because Ms. Banfield concealed it from them. The family "learned later" that "anytime physicality would happen, she either wouldn't see us or, you know, would just text so we couldn't hear it in her voice, all those kinds of things, but unbeknownst to us."

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Maureen Banfield, May 30, 2022: COMM0059032 at pp. 10

197. Maureen Banfield further explained that the family at the time did not recognize "what [Ms.Banfield] was wrestling with internally" and just thought that she was getting "more and more..hyper…[and] compulsive":

> But we ... blindly, I just ... I didn't see the connection to what she was living every day. Like, she would call ... the only time she would call is when they got into it, but it was always about the paranoia about cheating, or it could be work related, that he was hard on her, that he would yell at her. But those are the words she's using. She's not talking about specifics around the ugliness and the viciousness of what was said and how it was said and the persistence of what was said. But we obviously knew it wasn't good, it wasn't good for her. And we encouraged her, and on and off, she would leave, but it'd be like a couple of days, she would just leave, blow things off. He would come back; she would come back. It was very much that cycle.

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Maureen Banfield, May 30, 2022: COMM0059032 at pp.10–11

198. Janice Banfield also described Ms. Banfield's personality changing during her relationship with the perpetrator. She told the Commission that Ms. Banfield became "hypersensitive to everything" and was "on edge all the time":

> [Ms. Banfield] learned to what I feel throughout so many years is just compartmentalize her life because that's what she had to do in order to get through ... get through the days. Because it could be fine, you know, one minute and then eight hours later or something, he could just snap and it would turn everything upside down, inside out. So, the sense of her ... the sense of her being wasn't her own, it was ... it was always around him.

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Janice Banfield, May 26, 2022: COMM0059004 at p. 28

199. During one of Ms. Banfield's interviews with the Mass Casualty Commission, Maureen Banfield commented that Ms. Banfield was "too paranoid to go out" with her sisters and that during the course of their relationship the sisters only went out "a handful of times." Nonetheless, every time they went out Ms. Banfield "was on frickin alert." Maureen commented that, "you know, thinking back now how paranoid she was, like she was so vigilant about where am I, who's watching, who do I know, who does [the perpetrator's name] know? And she was doing nothing ... like Lisa's not a ... you know, she is monogamous to the core and loyal, and she would never, ever cheat on on him, despite who he was to her. But ... but he ... he just got her to the point that, you know, any little thing that she did was scrutinized."

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Lisa Banfield, April 11, 2022: COMM0058495 at p. 33

200. Maureen Banfield also told the Mass Casualty Commission that she sometimes visited the perpetrator and Ms. Banfield at the cottage in Portapique, and Ms. Banfield would make elaborate meals and serve the perpetrator, but "she had to make sure everything was cleaned up before she even sat down." Maureen recalled Ms. Banfield having a "hyper vigilance that became her life":

> and I just thought, you know, she's just ... she's just getting worse, like she just ... that's just who she is now. Just like I used to think that's ... that's just [the perpetrator]. Well, that's just the new Lisa. But the new Lisa grew over time to be somebody that was ... who was hard to be around, like, she was just knee jerk with everything. And I know Janice and I talked about this a lot, like she ... she wouldn't do anything without ... without again, just double-checking, what does this mean in [the perpetrator's] eyes. Like when we went out, it was just like, "Well, I can't be seen," it's just like, "Fuck off, like, what do you mean you can't be seen? It's not like ... he's the one fucking cheating on you all the time. Like, why are you so paranoid about going out, you're just having a drink with your sisters." But again, it was just so ... she was so fearful of any retaliation. If ... if she knew a customer was at the bar or whatever, like she was hiding, it was so sad but it was so obvious and we missed it.

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Lisa Banfield, April 11, 2022: COMM0058495 at p. 27

201. David McGrath was Maureen's partner at the time. He knew the perpetrator and Ms. Banfield throughout the duration of their 19-year relationship. He described the perpetrator as "a bit of like a socio-path" and recalled that Maureen told him about an assault about 15 years ago, where the perpetrator "beat up" Ms. Banfield.

- Statement of David McGrath: COMM0003005 at lines 345–350, 1500–1

202. Like Maureen Banfield, David McGrath was concerned about Ms. Banfield's continued relationship with the perpetrator:

> … I've always said to Maureen, and I don't know how to say it. Hopefully this comes out the right way. I was always concerned for her for Lisa. I didn't think that, you know, she should be with him because I always thought he was a loose, like a loose cannon. Like I just always thought, he's abused her, he's punched her, you know. And he's a big man, and she's not, she's, she's feisty though, but she can't defend that.

- Statement of David McGrath: COMM0003005 at lines 1504–9

203. Another of Ms. Banfield's sisters, Janice Banfield, also told the RCMP that the perpetrator was abusive towards Ms. Banfield. In her statement, she described the abuse as follows:

> He's a psychopath or a sociopath, he's a narcissist. He was abusive to Lisa. Um, and not – there was one episode um, that he was very physical with her and this was a number of years ago. Like, I'm talking fif – probably fifteen years ago or longer. Um, and it happened up in Portapique…

- Statement of Janice Banfield: COMM0003036 at lines 121–23

204. Janice Banfield also stated that the perpetrator would sometimes degrade Ms. Banfield for not having a degree or an education. The perpetrator would make comments about his business and qualifications and the lifestyle that he provided for Ms. Banfield, stating that she would not have it without him.

- Statement of Janice Banfield: COMM0003036 at lines 151–57

205. Janice Banfield described the perpetrator as a "ticking time bomb" and told the RCMP that "we thought, we're gonna have to bury our sister one day."

- Statement of Janice Banfield: COMM0003036 at lines 829–32

206. Janice Banfield described to the Commission of her being aware of some of the perpetrator's physical violence towards Ms. Banfield after the Sutherland Lake assault:

> Janice BANFIELD [00:47:03] Yeah, well, some physical but like, that he would kick her, he ended up breaking her door down in her bedroom so she could never have a lock on her door, that he would get in her ... get in her face and scream and call ... you know, call her names, horrible names, slaps, that would have been ... or punches, I guess. The strangulation, I wasn't aware of that until ... until all of this came out because at that point ... somewhat early on once we kind of understood some of of the dynamics, Lisa stopped talking to us about it because she knew that it was just going to make for a difficult situation for her because she was scared. She told me that, you know, he told her that basically if she were to leave, that, you know, he would come after us. And he would always, you know, make

> reference to how he ... he was an embalmer, so he knew how to get rid of bodies or just ... you know, obviously it was, you know, pushing fear on and ... and in all honesty, I was scared of what he was capable of.

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Janice Banfield, May 26, 2022: COMM0059004 at p. 13

207. Ms. Banfield's niece Stephanie Goulding, whom she thinks of as a sister, told the RCMP that she and other family members repeatedly tried to get Ms. Banfield to leave the perpetrator over the years. Although Ms. Goulding knew that the perpetrator was still being physically abusive towards Ms. Banfield, she stated that Ms. Banfield stopped speaking to her about it:

> …. Ah, yeah, and basically you know, over the years we have tried and tried and tried to get her not to be with him. And explaining but didn't unfortunately, she stayed. And you know, she knew how I felt about everything and eventually she just stopped talking to me about those things. I knew they still happened and I know he was very controlling and very abusive towards her but ah, she just didn't tell me much after that because she just knew how I felt I guess about it.

- Statement of Stephanie Goulding: COMM0004407 at lines 94–100

208. The perpetrator's uncle Glynn Wortman recounted an incident in Wentworth where the perpetrator "flipped out" because Ms. Banfield was talking to a man in a lineup to get drinks. According to Glynn, the perpetrator ran up to Ms. Banfield and dragged her out of the lineup. Glynn also stated that the perpetrator was furious, "his eyes were just so evil looking just evil, and he said we're out of here." He drove like a maniac the whole trip back home to Portapique. He said that Ms. Banfield was "scared to death" of the perpetrator.

- Statement of Glynn Wortman: COMM0008447 at lines 100–12

209. Margaret Wortman is the perpetrator's aunt. She is married to the perpetrator's paternal uncle, Chris Wortman, and knew the perpetrator for 35 years. Margaret told the RCMP that she believes that the perpetrator and his uncle Chris last spoke sometime in 2017. However, Margaret and Ms. Banfield kept in touch by sending Christmas cards and birthday cards, and through cellphone communication. Margaret stated that the perpetrator "was extremely jealous" and controlling of Ms. Banfield. She also stated that she and Ms. Banfield had some surface level discussions about the perpetrator's controlling behaviour. Margaret felt that the perpetrator "had a lot of say as to what she did and how she did things."

- Statement of Margaret Wortman: COMM0012158 at lines 173–77

210. After the mass casualty, Chris Wortman told the RCMP that based on his interactions with the perpetrator and Ms. Banfield, he "always had the impression that um, Lisa was afraid of [the perpetrator] …and I was always under the impression that she was afraid to leave him."

- Statement of Chris Wortman, April 21, 2020: COMM0003405 at lines 102–5

211. Chris Wortman also told the RCMP that he "wasn't surprised to hear that something had happened" but that "what I always iman-, imagined was it was going to be Lisa and ah, um, I had n-, no idea that it would go to this extent…. I would have thought that anything that was going to happen would have happened to Lisa and or her family."

- Statement of Chris Wortman, April 21, 2020: COMM0003405 at lines 107–13

212. In a second interview with the RCMP after the mass casualty, Chris Wortman described an incident that occurred sometime in 2014, while he and his wife Margaret Wortman were on vacation in Dominican Republic with Ms. Banfield and the perpetrator. Chris recalled that they were all hanging out at a little cantina, and "the girls were getting into the drinks." The perpetrator demanded that Ms. Banfield leave: "And then, I don't know if Lisa was having too much fun, but out comes [the perpetrator], 'Lisa, let's go, we're done!'" Chris described the perpetrator as "very controlling" and said that Lisa had to go.

- Statement of Chris Wortman, April 28, 2020: COMM0051420 at pp. 16–17

213. Chris Wortman also described the perpetrator as controlling "To the point where he would recommend Lisa get, you know, liposuction on her thighs or or get bigger boobs or whatever." He also told the RCMP that Ms. Banfield "opened up" to his wife "every once in a while" about the perpetrator's aggressiveness, and he described Ms. Banfield as "trapped" in the relationship.

- Statement of Chris Wortman, April 28, 2020: COMM0051420 at pp. 17, 32–33

214. The perpetrator also groped Ms. Banfield in front of her family despite her telling him that it made her and her family uncomfortable:

> …if I was walking or whatever, he'd grab me by my ass all the time. And I would say, '[the perpetrator's name], like don't, like it ... it makes me feel uncomfortable. Please don't do it.' But it didn't matter because he thought it was funny and he just did what he wanted to do. And my family had said, like it makes them feel uncomfortable because it would be like out of the blue, he would just do it in front of people. And it's like, and they're looking like, 'What are you doing?' kind of thing. And it would make me feel uncomfortable. So, it was constantly like that, like 'You're mine, like I can do what I want,' basically.

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Lisa Banfield, April 11, 2022: COMM0058495 at p. 29

215. Her sisters also commented on the perpetrator's public groping of Ms. Banfield.

216. Janice Banfield commented that the perpetrator would "handle" Ms. Banfield "in a disgusting way." He would "moan and groan life as if he's like devouring her." Janice recalled even if Ms. Banfield

was in the middle of a serious conversation with her sisters and the perpetrator would go up to Ms. Banfield and say "Uh, this is mine."

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Lisa Banfield, April 11, 2022: COMM0058495 at p. 29

217. Maureen Banfield described the perpetrator's actions as "gross and disgusting," stating that "he would take his hands and like, rub up against her ass and in front of everybody during non-private times."

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Lisa Banfield, April 11, 2022: COMM0058495 at p. 30

218. Angel Patterson, a friend in Maine, also recalled that the perpetrator "would grab [Ms. Banfield] on the butt and it's odd, kinda uncomfortable for everybody."

- Statement of Angel Patterson, May 20, 2020: COMM0012711 at lines 1662–63

Medical Providers' Knowledge

219. Ms. Banfield had a family doctor during her relationship with the perpetrator, but throughout her relationship with the perpetrator, Ms. Banfield never confided in her family doctor about the perpetrator's physical abuse.

- Mass Casualty Commision interview of Lisa Banfield, April 11, 2022: COMM0058495 at p. 9

220. Ms. Banfield also never sought medical attention in relation to her injuries from the perpetrator's physical violence:

> Gillian HNATIW [00:11:37] And you never sought any kind of medical attention for those injuries?
>
> Lisa BANFIELD [00:11:41] No.
>
> Gillian HNATIW [00:11:42] Okay. Did you ... did you ever have any cuts or bruisings or any of these injuries at a time when you perhaps visited your doctor for other reasons?
>
> Lisa BANFIELD [00:11:54] I don't re ... I don't think I would have went if I had that on me.
>
> Gillian HNATIW [00:11:57] Okay. So, you would have ... is it fair to say you would have thought about that and said, "I'm not going to go to the doctor while there's-
>
> Lisa BANFIELD [00:12:05] Mm-hmm.
>
> Gillian HNATIW [00:12:06] ... this evidence of an assault on ... visible on me?"

> Lisa BANFIELD [00:12:09] Yes, yes.
>
> Gillian HNATIW [00:12:09] Okay. Did your doctor ever ask you about the dynamics within your relationship to [the perpetrator]?
>
> Lisa BANFIELD [00:12:16] No.

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Lisa Banfield, April 11, 2022: COMM0058495 at p. 9

221. At some point, the perpetrator's abuse "was so bad" that Ms. Banfield sought help from a psychologist located in Bedford, who told Ms. Banfield that she was in an "abusive relationship" with the perpetrator. The psychologist provided her with support and encouraged her to leave the perpetrator. The perpetrator found out that Ms. Banfield was "going to a counsellor" and made her stop: "I knew if I didn't, he would beat me up. He threatened to confront the doctor. I was trapped."

    - Written statement from Lisa Banfield to Commission provided June 22, 2022: COMM0059355 at p. 5

Knowledge among Ms. Banfield's Friends

222. Denise Crowell stated that she has been best friends with Ms. Banfield for approximately 35 or 36 years and that Ms. Banfield did not speak with her about the perpetrator's abuse.

    - Statement of Denise Crowell: COMM0013681 at lines 17–27

223. Ms. Banfield told Denise Crowell about only one incident of the perpetrator's physical violence. Ms. Crowell estimated that this happened "maybe ten years" prior to the mass casualty. She could not recall all the specifics but stated that "something didn't go right and I think he may have hit her, pulled her hair." Ms. Banfield told Ms. Crowell that she hid from the perpetrator on the roof of their cottage.

    - Statement of Denise Crowell: COMM0013681 at lines 218–37

224. Denise Crowell told Ms. Banfield that the perpetrator's behaviour was "not OK." She believed that Ms. Banfield "shut it down" after this incident.

    - Statement of Denise Crowell: COMM0013681 at lines 210–13

225. Denise Crowell also stated that based on what Ms. Banfield told her about hiding certain things from the perpetrator, she "thought that [he] was a bit controlling." As an example, Ms. Crowell stated that although Ms. Banfield liked going to bingo, she told her that she hid her bingo from the perpetrator, as he did not like her going to bingo.

    - Statement of Denise Crowell: COMM0013681 at lines 185–87

226. Angel Patterson lives in Houlton, Maine, and was friends with the perpetrator and Lisa Banfield. After the mass casualty, Ms. Patterson told the RCMP that Ms. Banfield had once confided in her about an incident of the perpetrator's physical abuse during a visit to Maine:

> Angel Patterson: The only thing that I recall is one time Lisa and I were sitting out in the garage at Sean's. It was just her and I, they were in the house and we were chattin' about stuff. Just about you know, our relationships and, you know, we all have up and down.
>
> …
>
> "And um, she told me one time that he had put …[a] hand on her. And I said well, you know, why are you still there. And she said because I love him, and I said, if he's hurting you that's not any reason to stay, you know. And she's like, well you know, all relationships have their ups and downs. I, I'm, like I know, you know, I know that.

- Statement of Angel Patterson, May 20, 2020: COMM0012711 at lines 1639–50

227. Renee Karsten graduated from the Nova Scotia School of Denturism in 2000 and began working at the perpetrator's Dartmouth clinic approximately a year later.

- Statement of Renee Karsten: COMM0010163 at lines 17–33

228. Renee Karsten told the RCMP that she and Ms. Banfield became friends and that Ms. Banfield confided in her about the perpetrator's abusive behaviour. Ms. Karsten said that she promised Ms. Banfield that she would not say anything about the abuse because Ms. Banfield "was always staying with him." Ms. Karsten stated that "I'd still get up and go to work every day and pretend like I didn't know anything."

- Statement of Renee Karsten: COMM0010163 at lines 42–48

229. Renee Karsten also told the RCMP that there were many times when Ms. Banfield would call her crying about the perpetrator's abuse. Ms. Karsten stated that she helped move Ms. Banfield out of the perpetrator's apartment to her sister Maureen Banfield's house twice without the perpetrator's knowledge, but Ms. Banfield always returned to the perpetrator.

- Statement of Renee Karsten: COMM0010163 at lines 59–70

230. Renee Karsten recounted a time where Ms. Banfield called her at home in the middle of the night. Ms. Banfield was reportedly running down the street in her nightgown, barefoot, because the perpetrator "had attacked her and she was scared to death."

- Statement of Renee Karsten: COMM0010163 at lines 49–52

231. Cassandra Sutherland knew Ms. Banfield and her family through her work as their hairdresser until she moved from Nova Scotia to Alberta. Ms. Sutherland told the RCMP after the mass casualty that she "had a very close relationship" with Ms. Banfield and her family.

- Statement of Cassandra Sutherland: COMM0012163 at lines 24–26

232. Cassandra Sutherland recalled that Ms. Banfield told her about a fight with the perpetrator, where he took the tires off her car:

> The only thing she told me.., is that, she, they had a fight, and he took off her tires, so he could, because he bought them. And, and he was kinda controlling.., he just took them off and frig off, you're not going any where's. I bought these tires, and good luck

- Statement of Cassandra Sutherland: COMM0012163 at lines 60–65

Knowledge within the Community

233. Community members in Portapique observed or heard about the perpetrator's violent conduct towards Ms. Banfield.

234. Brenda Forbes lived at 293 Portapique Beach Road with her husband George Forbes from approximately July 2002 until 2014. Their house was close to the perpetrator's cottage. The house was later purchased by Joanne Thomas and John Zahl, who were murdered on the property by the perpetrator during the mass casualty.

- Statement of George Forbes: COMM0006423 at lines 26–28
- Note: The murders of Joanne Thomas and John Zahl are discussed in the *Portapique: April 18–19, 2020* Foundational Document.

235. Brenda Forbes told the RCMP that shortly after the perpetrator and Ms. Banfield moved in, the perpetrator started abusing Ms. Banfield. One day, after the perpetrator "beat the crap out of her," Ms. Banfield ran to her house seeking help from her:

> …he moved in with his girlfriend, Lisa and it wasn't long ah, before he started abusing her. He beat the crap out of her one day and she ran to my house. I told her that she needed to get help and that there were places out there that, that she could hide from him, he wouldn't find her but she told me point blank she was too scared to mo-, leave because he would find her and kill her….

- Statement of Brenda Forbes, April 22, 2020: COMM0004004 at lines 31–35
- Note: Based on Ms. Banfield's interview with the Commission, it is likely that Ms. Forbes is referring to the incident where Ms. Banfield was assaulted at the cottage in the presence of Tom Evans (now deceased). This is discussed above.

236. Brenda Forbes described the perpetrator as "very, very, very controlling" of Ms. Banfield. He limited "who she could see and when she could see them," including her relatives.

    - Statement of Brenda Forbes, April 22, 2020: COMM0004004 at lines 643–47

237. Brenda Forbes also told the RCMP after the mass casualty that the perpetrator was "controlling or domineering" around Ms. Banfield. If she was having a good time somewhere and the perpetrator was not the centre of attention, he would grab her and demand they leave.

    - Statement of Brenda Forbes, May 14, 2020: COMM0011718 at lines 490–95

238. In one of her interviews with the Mass Casualty Commission, Ms. Banfield confirmed what Brenda Forbes told the RCMP about the perpetrator being controlling: "he'd want to go and it's like, I'm having a good time. I don't want to go, but I knew we have to go. So, we would leave. And Brenda would say, 'Well, if you want to go,' to [the perpetrator], 'you go.' But that wouldn't work for him. So, I would always just leave because I just didn't want a big fight."

    - Mass Casualty Commission interview of Lisa Banfield, April 11, 2022: COMM0058495 at p. 5

239. Brenda Forbes further stated that the perpetrator "made Lisa quit her job as a hairdresser" and "sell her car." The perpetrator bought Ms. Banfield a new car in his name. Ms. Forbes also stated that Ms. Banfield "had to work for him at the denture clinic," and her husband George Forbes added that this was "so that he could always keep eyes on her" and "control her schedule."

    - Statement of Brenda Forbes, May 14, 2020: COMM0011718 at lines 345–53
    - Note: When the perpetrator met Ms. Banfield she was working at RBC, which, as described above, he urged her to quit to work for him at his denture clinic. Ms. Banfield also sold her vehicle at the request of the perpetrator.

240. Brenda Forbes stated that she told some of the neighbours on Portapique Beach Road about the perpetrator assaulting Ms. Banfield but they ignored her concerns because the perpetrator "fed them booze."

    - Statement of Brenda Forbes, May 14, 2020: COMM0011718 at lines 474–78
    - Note: The perpetrator's aggression towards Ms. Forbes is further discussed in the *Perpetrator's Violent Behaviour Towards Others* Foundational Document.

241. George Forbes told the RCMP after the mass casualty that everyone in the Portapique area knew about the perpetrator's physical violence towards Ms. Banfield: "everybody knew what was going on." He referred to Portapique as "that dysfunctionality and that community where nobody would actually step up and do anything."

    - Statement of George Forbes: COMM0006423 at lines 206–9

242. Brenda Forbes also stated that "all of us knew. Everybody there knew, because like I said, we'd have little yard get-togethers and stuff like that. Any time, depending on whose house it was at, if she was having a good time, it wasn't good. He would literally haul her away…. Actually grab her and pull her away." Ms. Forbes told the Mass Casualty Commission that she was "ostracized" and "slammed" by the people in the neighbourhood when she spoke about the perpetrator's domestic abuse.

    - Mass Casualty Commission interview of Brenda and George Forbes: COMM0003883 at pp. 12, 17

243. Christiane Lonergan told the RCMP after the mass casualty that she and Brenda Forbes became friends after meeting at the cadet camp in 2013. Ms. Lonergan stated that Ms. Forbes invited her to her house in Portapique and they talked about different people in the neighbourhood. Ms. Forbes told Ms. Lonergan that the perpetrator was abusing Ms. Banfield.

    - Statement of Christiane Lonergan: COMM0012867 at lines 12–29

244. Kim Mills, a Portapique resident, told the RCMP after the mass casualty that he remembered the morning that Ms. Banfield came to the Forbes residence "and begged [Ms. Forbes] to let her in the house because [the perpetrator] was gonna, was gonna kill her." Mr. Mills stated that Brenda Forbes "stood on her deck and said, [perpetrator] you step one fucking foot on my property, I'll shoot you." The Forbes residence "was a safe haven for Lisa to go to." Mr. Mills also told the RCMP that this incident was the last time that Ms. Banfield spoke to Ms. Forbes.

    - Statement of Kim Mills: COMM0012138 at lines 930–41

245. Nancy Hudson told the RCMP that the perpetrator "kept a real close eye" on Ms. Banfield. The couple did not stay long at neighbourhood parties. She described him as "domineering" and "being very possessive about her."

    - Statement of Nancy Hudson: COMM0011647 at lines 529–33.

246. Donald Johnson met the perpetrator in August 2008 when he bought a property on Portapique Beach Road. The perpetrator would sometimes stop by Mr. Johnson's place after work to have a few drinks. Mr. Johnson stated that he regarded Ms. Banfield as a "typical trophy wife" for the perpetrator. He stated that she was "beautiful…had everything, drove the nice… Mercedes car," but the perpetrator "controlled her pretty good."

    - Statement of Donald Johnson, April 22, 2020: COMM0007065 at lines 370–76

247. Portapique resident Leon Joudrey told the RCMP after the mass casualty that he met the perpetrator and Ms. Banfield in the summer of 2019 and witnessed a verbal altercation. Mr. Joudrey recalled that the perpetrator was being "an idiot, fighting with her" and "being a dick to

her." Mr. Joudrey heard "'F this, F that. Shut up.' It was not good." Mr. Joudrey told the RCMP that Ms. Banfield apologized to him after the incident.

- Statement of Leon Joudrey, April 20, 2020: COMM0009109 at lines 167–69, 1586–88, 1626–27

248. Leon Joudrey told the Commission that he "was there one day when [the perpetrator] verbally abused" Ms. Banfield. He recalled that the perpetrator "told her to shut her effing mouth and stuff like that."

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Joudrey, May 13, 2022: COMM0058518 at p. 16

249. Individuals outside of Portapique also observed or heard about the perpetrator's violent conduct towards Ms. Banfield.

250. Allison Miller told the RCMP after the mass casualty that approximately three and a half years prior to the mass casualty, she worked at the perpetrator's clinics for "about two weeks." During her first week, Ms. Miller was training with Ms. Banfield in the Dartmouth clinic. Ms. Miller recalled that she "felt stressed and uncomfortable" working for the perpetrator, who she felt "was very much like a drill sergeant." Ms. Miller stated that the perpetrator "was very argumentative with Lisa, and a little bit orderly with her." She stated that the way the perpetrator treated Ms. Banfield made Ms. Miller feel very uncomfortable.

- Statement of Allison Miller: COMM0010172 at lines 18–52

251. Allison Miller told the RCMP that while working at the perpetrator's clinic, she could feel stress "oozing out of Lisa." Ms. Miller stated that she felt like Ms. Banfield "seemed really on edge" and would be in trouble if she did not have tasks completed on the perpetrator's timeline:

> …[S]itting there in the lab working with Lisa, I felt like she had timelines and she had restrictions. And if she didn't meet those restrictions, um, she would be in trouble or something, like, I just felt like she was very stressed and…, not happy.

- Statement of Allison Miller: COMM0010172 at lines 216–40

252. Allison Miller also recalled that one day, Ms. Banfield invited her upstairs to their residence above the Dartmouth clinic, while she was making lunch for the perpetrator, "and again I felt like it was very regimented." Ms. Miller stated that Ms. Banfield seemed stressed having to prepare a "professionally made" restaurant-quality lunch for the perpetrator by a certain time: "I felt like it needed to be ready and it needed to be ready on-time, and if it wasn't: she would get…, flack for that." Ms. Miller told the RCMP "I really feel like [Ms. Banfield] was, more of a servant to him than she was anything else."

- Statement of Allison Miller: COMM0010172 at lines 242–62

253. BL met the perpetrator approximately 17 years prior to the mass casualty, and was a long-time patient and friend of his. BL told the RCMP that he witnessed occasions when the perpetrator would tell Ms. Banfield to get something done and if she wasn't "right up to par on that he would start hollering at her and getting really upset with her." She would tell him there were people out there and he would say "'f' the people." His observation was that the perpetrator seemed quick-tempered.

- Statement of BL: COMM0006451 at lines 42–46, 639–44

254. Chris MacAloney told the RCMP that he visited the perpetrator's denturist clinic and noticed that the perpetrator was verbally abusive to Ms. Banfield, who was working at the clinic during his visit:

> Ah, he was quite mean to her. Ah, he was making fun of her, calling her a monkey and telling her to dance. And it was kinda, elongated. Like he didn't give up on it. So I was there for a couple of hours sitting in that chair and the whole time I was there he was kinda battling at her and making fun of her and this and that right so. He seemed kinda cruel you know what I mean. …

- Statement of Chris MacAloney: COMM0006445 at lines 191–96

255. Robert Doucette lived on Portland Street in Dartmouth and was hired by the perpetrator to do some construction work on his properties. Mr. Doucette told the RCMP the following regarding the perpetrator and Ms. Banfield:

> You know. He lost it one day with his girlfriend Lisa up there in Portapique. He, well while she was in the shower, he jacked up the car and took all 4 wheels off the car, went down behind the house and threw them in the river that goes out to the ocean. He had to end up going, getting a zodiac to go get them tires.

- Statement of Robert Doucette, April 19, 2020: COMM0003048 at lines 253–57

256. Referring to the perpetrator and Ms. Banfield, Robert Doucette also told the RCMP that "I know he's had a gun to her head a few times." Mr. Doucette told the RCMP after the mass casualty about overhearing an argument between the perpetrator and Ms. Banfield in which the perpetrator was "throwing a fit" about how long she had spent at a store. According to Mr. Doucette, Ms. Banfield asked the perpetrator, "'what are you going to do, put a gun to my head again.'"

- Statement of Robert Doucette, April 19, 2020: COMM0003048 at lines 526–44

257. As discussed above, Ms. Banfield provided to the Mass Casualty Commission her recollection of two instances where the perpetrator pointed a gun to her head.

258. David Major dated Ms. Banfield approximately 30 years before the mass casualty, during their last year of high school. They parted ways after their relationship ended. Years later, after Ms.

Banfield had started dating the perpetrator, Mr. Major attended Ms. Banfield's mother's funeral. Ms. Banfield was quite concerned that he was there. She walked him out and told him that the perpetrator would be very upset by his presence. Ms. Banfield also told Mr. Major that the perpetrator disliked him very much. Mr. Major told the RCMP that Ms. Banfield seemed very serious about this and that he left the funeral reception as a result.

- Statement of David Major: COMM0006439 at lines 12–16, 27–36

259. Approximately five or six years after the funeral, David Major bumped into Ms. Banfield at a grocery store and joked about getting her groceries and delivering them to her home. Mr. Major told the RCMP that her demeanour immediately changed and got very serious. She told him not to ever joke about that because the perpetrator "completely hates" him. Mr. Major has had no personal interaction with the perpetrator and found it strange that the perpetrator would care about him, given that his relationship with Ms. Banfield was 30 years ago in high school.

- Statement of David Major: COMM0006439 at lines 17–20, 39–59

Perpetrator's Behaviour in the Weeks Preceding the Mass Casualty

260. Approximately five weeks before the mass casualty, on March 10, 2020, Ms. Banfield and the perpetrator moved to the cottage in Portapique as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The denture clinic had been required to close as part of the province's response to COVID-19.

- Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 28, 2020: COMM0004070 at lines 1409–15

261. Following the mass casualty, Ms. Banfield described the perpetrator's behaviour during this five-week period as "negativity all the time." In her written statement to the Commission, Ms. Banfield explained that "[e]verything that used to give him pleasure he was not interested in." He became "agitated and paranoid" and was not sleeping or eating much. She told the RCMP that although the perpetrator was normally someone who "was always active" and who would "always have the initiative to work on this or work on that," the perpetrator "got so consumed with this Covid" that he spent most of the time lying in bed watching or listening to COVID-19-related news. He would watch this news for "hours after hours." Ms. Banfield stated that the perpetrator refused to let her see her family and that his "obsession" with COVID-19 was "so draining and negative."

- Written statement from Lisa Banfield to Commission provided June 22, 2022: COMM0059355 at p. 11
- Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 28, 2020: COMM0004070 at lines 2171–89

262. Additionally, the perpetrator told Ms. Banfield "I just don't have that umph." Ms. Banfield tried to encourage the perpetrator to be positive but stated that "being up there, he became like just somewhat lazy and no fire to do anything."

- Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 28, 2020: COMM0004070 at lines 2192–96

263. In her written statement to the Mass Casualty Commission, Ms. Banfield explained that the perpetrator's friend Sean Conlogue would talk about how people could not "buy guns or ammunition anymore and they were running out of gas and other grocery items, so [the perpetrator] became even more paranoid. He said that Sean told him you are on your own to defend what you have." The perpetrator "would be talking crazy things like the world's going to end, and people are going to get desperate, and we have to protect ourselves."

- Written statement from Lisa Banfield to Commission provided June 22, 2022: COMM0059355 at p. 11

264. During this period, the perpetrator would tell Ms. Banfield that "he wasn't afraid of dying" and that "he knew when he was going to die." Ms. Banfield was scared by the things the perpetrator was saying and would change the topic.

- Written statement from Lisa Banfield to Commission provided June 22, 2022: COMM0059355 at p. 11

265. Ms. Banfield also told the Mass Casualty Commission that:

> [The perpetrator] thought the world was going to end. As extreme as his behaviour was in the past, he was doing and saying things that were not even normal for him. I was afraid I wouldn't be able to calm him down, appease him or talk about the good life we had. His moods were more unpredictable; I didn't know what to say to make him happy; he didn't even want sex or drinks.

- Written statement from Lisa Banfield to Commission provided June 22, 2022: COMM0059355 at p. 12

266. Ms. Banfield told the RCMP that the perpetrator was concerned about gas shortages: "he said, you never know, if we run out of gas at least we'll have enough gas to get us through." The perpetrator bought and stored approximately five to six hundred dollars worth of gas at both the cottage and the warehouse in Portapique:

> 'Cause a couple days prior to, or about a week or so prior to, he wanted to load up on a bunch of gas because he thought the gas is going down, it's good to have it and, in case it goes back up, he got lots of gas, so he had two 40 gallon drums of gas, plus I don't know how many jerry cans, it was like five or $600 worth of gas he bought and it was on the back of the trailer of his truck.

- Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 28, 2020: COMM0004070 at lines 580–83, 1025–26
- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Lisa Banfield, April 13, 2022: COMM0058496 at p. 16

267. Ms. Banfield told the RCMP that the perpetrator "was preparing [as] if it's, it's the end of the world kinda thing." He wanted her to "load up" on food in case the grocery stores go down. Ms. Banfield also stated that the perpetrator was a "compulsive buyer."

    - Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 28, 2020: COMM0004070 at lines 1026–37

268. During this period, the perpetrator also stocked up on ammunition. He asked Ms. Banfield's brother and brother-in-law to purchase ammunition for him and then arranged for Ms. Banfield to drive it from Dartmouth to Portapique on her next trip to the cottage.

    - Statement of Lisa Banfield, July 28, 2020: COMM0014216 at lines 556–608
    - Note: On December 4, 2020, Ms. Banfield was one of three individuals charged with unlawfully supplying ammunition to the perpetrator, contrary to s.101 of the Criminal Code. On March 9, 2022, the Crown Prosecutor withdrew the charges against Ms. Banfield, and referred her to the restorative justice program.

269. The perpetrator "became more and more convinced that Covid was a big government scheme…. he really believed that the world was shutting down. He didn't trust the police, the government, or anyone."

    - Written statement from Lisa Banfield to Commission provided June 22, 2022: COMM0059355 at p. 11

270. A number of witnesses told the RCMP that the perpetrator was worried about banks collapsing as a result of the pandemic, as described in the following paragraphs.

271. David McGrath stated that the perpetrator told him that "the whole world's going crazy and this Covid-19, everybody's lying and the government's not telling you the truth, and the banks are going to go boobs up and whatever, and I'm getting my money."

    - Statement of David McGrath: COMM0003005 at lines 155–58

272. Kevin von Bargen, an Ontario lawyer, met the perpetrator approximately three and a half years prior to the mass casualty and they became friends. The perpetrator and Mr. von Bargen shared mutual interests and social circles, and the perpetrator sometimes asked for Mr. von Bargen's opinion on his legal affairs. Mr. von Bargen told the RCMP that as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the perpetrator "was convinced that um, the world economy was going to collapse and the Canadian banks were going to collapse. So, he had contacted his financial institution…CIBC and to withdraw significant amounts of money."

    - Statement of Kevin von Bargen: COMM0003598 at lines 7–15, 92–108

273. In March 2020, the perpetrator withdrew the entire $475,000 balance from his CIBC account. The money had to be delivered to the perpetrator by Brinks because it was such a large amount. The

perpetrator had other large sums of cash he had previously withdrawn and hidden in various locations around his properties in Dartmouth and Portapique. After withdrawing the $475,000 from CIBC, the perpetrator combined this amount with other amounts of cash that he had previously collected and hidden and buried the money "in a duffel bag…underneath the concrete steps that he had built" at the cottage. The perpetrator told Ms. Banfield "we'll bury it so nobody will know where it is except for you and I. And, we'll have it . And, we'll have it in case anything ever happened that we can't get into the banks."

- Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 28, 2020: COMM0004070 at lines 2004–15
- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Lisa Banfield, May 17, 2022: COMM0059014 at p. 25
- Note: Further information about this withdrawal is set out in the *Perpetrator's Financial Misdealings* Foundational Document.

274. In one of her statements to the RCMP, Ms. Banfield described the perpetrator's behaviour in the days prior to the mass casualty as "really strange":

> …. [A]nd prior, prior to all of this a couple days prior to he, like he was so paranoid and he was so caught up in the Covid 19 thing, that it was negative, negative, negative all the time. But at one point he said, we were talking about death, or die-, you know when you die or whatever, I said … [the perpetrator's name] nobody knows when they're going to die, and he goes I know when I'm going to die. And I said like why would you say that, nobody knows where they're going to die. So, I just thought that was odd, and the fact that those couple days too, that he had his handgun, that I went into his bedroom and he had, it was the guide showing his handgun how to dismantle it, and clean it or do whatever, and I look in and he has this handgun on his bed. And he's like does this look fa-, and I'm like what are you doing, he's like oh, I'm just admiring my gun.

- Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 28, 2020: COMM0004070 at lines 345–55

275. Ms. Banfield also told the RCMP that approximately "a couple weeks" before the mass casualty, the perpetrator said to her that he "thought about digging some holes so if anybody ever, you know, you would never know. Meaning if he killed somebody, he would have, and, it wouldn't be on my property, he said, it'd be on somebody else's."

- Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 20, 2020: COMM0003436 at p. 15
- Note: As further detailed in the *Perpetrator's Violent Behaviour Towards Others* Foundational Document, an archaeological search of the perpetrator's properties in Portapique for buried bodies was conducted after the mass casualty. No bodies were found after the forensic investigation.

April 18, 2020: Immediately Preceding the Mass Casualty

276. During and after the mass casualty, the RCMP interviewed Ms. Banfield on four separate occasions. Ms. Banfield discussed the events that transpired between her and the perpetrator

leading up to the mass casualty in three of her statements to the RCMP. She also conducted a video re-enactment with the RCMP on October 23, 2020.

- Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 19, 2020: COMM0002948
- Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 20, 2020: COMM0003436
- Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 28, 2020: COMM0004070
- Statement of Lisa Banfield, July 28, 2020: COMM0014216
- Lisa Banfield Video Re-enactment with RCMP dated October 23, 2020: COMM0013731 - COMM0013734

277. Ms. Banfield also discussed her experiences with the perpetrator immediately preceding the mass casualty in her interviews with the Mass Casualty Commission. The following paragraphs rely primarily on Ms. Banfield's statements in her RCMP interviews and video re-enactment, as well as her further statements during her interviews with the Commission.

278. On April 18, 2020, Ms. Banfield and the perpetrator planned to celebrate their 19th anniversary. Although their actual anniversary was the following day, they had agreed to celebrate it early because Ms. Banfield had plans to play virtual bingo with her sisters the following day. After she made them breakfast, they took a walk, packed some lunch, and then went for a drive in the Jeep. The perpetrator drove them along back roads and he talked about a nearby penitentiary. Ms. Banfield told the RCMP that she and the perpetrator went "towards Tatamagouche way" to get to the penitentiary.

- Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 20, 2020: COMM0003436 at pp. 1–2

279. In one of her interviews with the Mass Casualty Commission, Ms. Banfield confirmed that the penitentiary they visited during their drive was the Springhill Penitentiary. She recalled that the perpetrator parked at the gate, looked at the building, and said something like "Yeah, I'd never make it in prison."

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Lisa Banfield to Commission, April 11, 2022: COMM0058495 at p. 91

280. Ms. Banfield told the RCMP that during their anniversary drive, they went down different back roads and she asked the perpetrator how he knew "all these back roads." The perpetrator told her that he would go on the back roads on his dirt bikes all the time and that he liked going on the back roads.

- Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 28, 2020: COMM0004070 at lines 1048–60

281. Ms. Banfield told the Mass Casualty Commission that she and the perpetrator went on drives "all the time" throughout their relationship, and it was pretty common for the perpetrator to drive them through back roads. The perpetrator always "seemed to be familiar" with the back roads.

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Lisa Banfield, April 11, 2022: COMM0058495 at p. 71

282. At some point while driving through the back roads, the perpetrator "came up to a road and he didn't know whether to go right or left" and Ms. Banfield told him to go in any direction, because "it doesn't matter, wherever we end up, we'll end up." The perpetrator responded saying something like "Yeah, I'm…I just… I can't get my bearings."

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Lisa Banfield, April 11, 2022: COMM0058495 at p. 91

283. The perpetrator also drove up around the Debert Hospitality Centre and Diefenbunker. Ms. Banfield explained that to get there, the perpetrator "went the back way of Great Village," took Plains Road and came in on Ventura Drive. He drove past the bunker "to the very end" where "the planes would come in." They took the same route back to Portapique.

- Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 28, 2020: COMM0004070 at lines 2652–79

284. The perpetrator mentioned that he had considered purchasing the hangar building past the bunker when it was put up for auction. Ms. Banfield confirmed that the perpetrator, "liked going up to that bomb shelter thing," had visited Debert many times, and would have known the area pretty well. The perpetrator also told Ms. Banfield that he had visited the bunker with a friend, Rick Wood, and that they "went in the bunker."

- Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 28, 2020: COMM0004070 at lines 2126–54, 2682–90

285. At some point during their drive, the perpetrator took Ms. Banfield to Sutherland Lake, which was not a place that they had visited since the time he assaulted her there early on in their relationship. However, some of the other places the perpetrator drove to on April 18 were places they had visited on past drives, including the Debert Bunker, which the perpetrator had driven to "a lot" on previous drives and a "little cottage in front of a lake" they had visited once before.

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Lisa Banfield, April 11, 2022: COMM0058495 at pp. 90, 100–101

286. Ms. Banfield told the Mass Casualty Commission that at some point during their drive, the perpetrator drove "towards Amherst way." The perpetrator pulled into the driveway of a denturist whom he knew. He called his number, and then the denturist came out on his deck. Ms. Banfield sat in the car while the perpetrator talked to the denturist in the driveway for a while. Ms. Banfield estimated that the conversation between the perpetrator lasted for what "seemed like an hour" and she was signalling to the perpetrator that she was ready to go. Ms. Banfield told the RCMP that she did not want to "talk about stupid teeth" with the perpetrator's denturist friend in Amherst on their anniversary.

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Lisa Banfield, April 11, 2022: COMM0058495 at p. 91
- Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 20, 2020: COMM0003436 at pp. 1–2

287. After the mass casualty, a denturist in Springhill named Rick Laurie contacted the RCMP to tell them about the perpetrator visiting him on April 18, 2020. Mr. Laurie's recollection was that they had a "little bit of shop talk" about their businesses being interrupted by the pandemic. The perpetrator also told Mr. Laurie that he really enjoyed driving around. Mr. Laurie described him as "happy go lucky and laughing." Mr. Laurie also recalled seeing "a woman in the car" who told him that she "donated a bunch of masks to Northwood" and remembers meeting him at a denturist meeting in Baddeck.

- Statement of Rick Laurie: COMM0003541 at lines 28–52

288. Ms. Banfield told the Mass Casualty Commission that she stayed in the Jeep the whole time they were in Rick Laurie's driveway and that she does not remember having a conversation with Mr. Laurie beyond an introductory "Hi." However, when she was told that Mr. Laurie recalled that they spoke, Ms. Banfield said "then I must have. But I don't remember."

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Lisa Banfield, April 11, 2022: COMM0058495 at pp. 93–94

289. Angel Patterson told the RCMP after the mass casualty that she spoke with the perpetrator and Ms. Banfield at around 3:00 p.m. on April 18, via FaceTime and that they (the perpetrator and Ms. Banfield) "had been out, cutting brush between the cottage" and "trying to clean the trail" out from the cottage. Ms. Patterson told the RCMP that Ms. Banfield told her that they would call back after they got cleaned up and got to the warehouse for drinks.

- Statement of Angel Patterson, May 20, 2020: COMM0012711 at lines 1004–23

290. In one of her interviews with the Mass Casualty Commission, Ms. Banfield was asked whether she recalls telling Angel Patterson that they had been clearing brush on the trail, and Ms. Banfield responded "No." She also told the Mass Casualty Commission that she was not clearing brush on April 18.

> Lisa BANFIELD [02:00:37] The only time that I talked to Angel about wood stuff was when I FaceTimed her when I would be stacking wood for pallets of wood and I FaceTimed her as I was doing it one day. But as far as the brush stuff, like, no. That day?
>
> Gillian HNATIW [02:00:57] Yeah, on the April 18.
>
> Lisa BANFIELD [02:01:00] No, no.
>
> Gillian HNATIW [02:01:00] Okay. And did you do any clearing of the brush that day on April 18?
>
> Lisa BANFIELD [02:01:07] No.

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Lisa Banfield, April 11, 2022: COMM0058495 at p. 110

291. Ms. Banfield told the Mass Casualty Commission that the last place that she and the perpetrator went to on their drive was "a food mart or something" because the perpetrator "wanted to get more beer, even though he had lots and lots of beer." The perpetrator also picked up two boxes of frozen pizza in the same place as the beer.

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Lisa Banfield, April 11, 2022: COMM0058495 at p. 97

292. Ms. Banfield and the perpetrator left for the drive before lunch and she estimates that they were gone for "hours" but she could not recall exactly how many hours. She estimates that it was "probably say around supertime" that they returned from their drive.

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Lisa Banfield, April 11, 2022: COMM0058495 at pp. 98–101

293. The perpetrator drove them back to the warehouse in Portapique where he cleaned the Jeep, which was muddy from their backroads drive. Ms. Banfield sat and watched him, then the couple had some drinks and listened to some music. Ms. Banfield took a photo of them to commemorate their 19th anniversary.

- Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 20, 2020: COMM0003436 at p. 2

294. Ms. Banfield then called their friend Sean Conlogue in Houlton, Maine. While the phone was ringing, the perpetrator said that he was not in the mood to talk so Ms. Banfield hung up. Mr. Conlogue called them back at approximately 6:26 p.m. and they spoke for approximately 20 minutes. Right after the call with Mr. Conlogue ended, Ms. Banfield placed a FaceTime call to another friend in Houlton, Angel Patterson, while the perpetrator made a drink. Ms. Patterson was with her niece and her niece's husband when she received Ms. Banfield's call. During their conversation with Ms. Patterson, the couple mentioned they were planning a commitment ceremony for their 20th anniversary the following year. While the perpetrator was in the bathroom with the phone, Ms. Banfield heard Ms. Patterson tell him "don't do it" in relation to the commitment ceremony. This "pissed [her] off," because Ms. Patterson was supposed to be her friend.

- Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 20, 2020: COMM0003436 at p. 2
- Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 28, 2020: COMM0004070 at lines 170–87
- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Lisa Banfield, April 11, 2022: COMM0058495 at pp. 102–105

295. Upset, Ms. Banfield left the warehouse and began walking through the woods back to the cottage. Halfway there, she realized she was mostly upset with her friend Ms. Patterson rather than the perpetrator, and began to feel badly for leaving so abruptly. She returned to the warehouse to

apologize but the perpetrator was already "irate." He was screaming, yelling, and pacing. In her April 28, 2020, statement to RCMP, Ms. Banfield stated that she apologized, and:

> he just went off, and just was just being rude and nasty and, and he was getting loud, and when he's getting like that I could tell like he's on the edge kind of thing. So, I know, you know, I got to get away kind of thing, so I said I'm just going to go back, I'm done, I just want to go home.

- Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 20, 2020: COMM0003436 at p. 2
- Lisa Banfield Video Re-enactment with RCMP dated October 23, 2020: COMM0013732, Video #2, approximately 4:00–5:00 mark
- Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 28, 2020: COMM0004070 at lines 194–97

296. Ms. Banfield told the RCMP that, up until that time, the perpetrator had had "at least six, maybe more" beers to drink that night.

- Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 28, 2020: COMM0004070 at line 1471

297. Ms. Banfield explained during her Mass Casualty Commission interview that she returned to the warehouse to apologize, "within minutes" after leaving, but then spent "under five minutes" back at the warehouse because:

> When I came in, he had an ugly look on and he was like yelling and screaming at me and going back and pacing back and forth and saying, "You have to ruin everything." And again, it was so much yelling that I don't even know what he was saying to me, but I just ... in my head, I was shutting down thinking, "I can't even turn this around to make it an okay night, so, I might as well just leave and he can just drink it off and I'll just go home and go to bed." So, I just turned around and I went back to the cottage

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Lisa Banfield, April 11, 2022: COMM0058495 at pp. 106–107

298. Ms. Banfield did not notice the perpetrator moving objects or holding anything when she returned to the warehouse: "he was in the middle of the warehouse, closer to the workshop area, as soon as you come in the bay door. He was more in that area, just standing there, when I walked in."

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Lisa Banfield, April 11, 2022: COMM0058495 at p. 101

299. After leaving the warehouse, Ms. Banfield walked through the woods to the cottage, got undressed, and got into bed. What seemed like minutes later, the perpetrator returned to the cottage. In her April 28, 2020, statement to the RCMP, Ms. Banfield described what happened next as follows:

> . . . [I]t just seemed like minutes later he came in and, he ripped the blankets down, and, and, and was yelling and going on like, then that, I don't even know what he was saying, 'cause I was just in shock that he was acting so, you know irrational. And so I pulled the blankets back over me and then he took them and he ripped them off and he put them on the floor, and then he grabbed me and then he had me on the ground and, he was pulling my hair and stuff,, he was telling me to get up and then when he just like I thought it, now I need to get (inaudible), in my head I'm thinking you're not telling me what to do. And, so he started pulling it harder like I could feel my scalp kind of thing, and he (inaudible) you're just, you're just have a little bit of (inaudible) don't you, you little bitch.

- Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 28, 2020: COMM0004070 at lines 197–202

300. In her recent interview with the Mass Casualty Commission, Ms. Banfield explained that the walk from the warehouse to the cottage took her approximately five minutes. When she arrived at the cottage, she went into the bedroom to drop off her things, then went out to the kitchen and heard the perpetrator rattling at the door:

> I don't know how long I was in the house, but it seemed really quick before he…I heard the door rattling and I was in the kitchen, so then I just ran into my bedroom to pretend I was asleep. But it just seemed after I left [the warehouse], it didn't seem like a long period of time, and he was at the cottage kind of thing. So I just stripped down and jumped into bed, shut the light off and pretended I was asleep.

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Lisa Banfield, April 13, 2022: COMM0058496 at p. 12

301. Ms. Banfield explained that she pretended to be asleep to avoid a confrontation with the perpetrator. The perpetrator did not come directly into her bedroom. As she lay there listening, Ms. Banfield heard a "whishing" sound that she had never heard before and wondered what the perpetrator was doing. She later realized that she had been hearing the sound of him pouring gas around the cottage.

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Lisa Banfield, April 13, 2022: COMM0058496 at p. 12, 15–16

302. After some time, the whishing sound stopped and the perpetrator burst into Ms. Banfield's bedroom, "screaming" at her and "irate":

> He pulled the blankets down halfway to like my waist a little below my waist, so I said, "[perpetrator] go to bed" and I just pulled the covers. And that's when he grabbed my phone and he took it. And I'm just watching him like thinking, what are you doing? And then he smashes my phone down and jumps on it and then he ripped the blankets down to the end of my bed and he said, "Get up." And he grabbed me out of the bed and then he had me on the floor by the side of my bed

> on top of me strangling me and yelling at me, and I don't know what he was saying because I wasn't...I don't even know, I wasn't concentrating or whatever, but I didn't know what he was saying to me. I just remember him screaming at me. And then he's telling me to get up. But before that, he was like, "I'm done, I'm done." And I'm like, you're talking about you're done. Like it's OK, 'cause in the past, the last couple times that he was abusive to me, I told him that if you did it again, that I wouldn't stay, because my body I can't take...I'm getting older and I can't take these beatings kind of thing. And so when he said, I'm done, I'm like, "It's OK", and he's like, "No, you'll never look at me the same way."

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Lisa Banfield, April 13, 2022: COMM0058496 at p. 17

303. Ms. Banfield told the Mass Casualty Commission she remembers the perpetrator destroying her phone in the bedroom: he "picked it up, smashed it on the ceramic floor and jumped on it." She also had two iPads at the cottage, which were both on her nightstand when the attack began. Consequently, Ms. Banfield believes "both iPads got destroyed," She did not specifically recall whether the perpetrator smashed the iPads as well or whether they would have been destroyed in the fire.

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Lisa Banfield, April 13, 2022: COMM0058496 at pp. 5–6

304. The perpetrator pulled Ms. Banfield down beside the bed, got on top of her, and began choking and yelling at her. Ms. Banfield tried to calm him down and de-escalate the situation, but he replied "I've had enough of this, I don't need this anymore." The perpetrator continued to assault Ms. Banfield:

> …[A]nd then he, he kicked me and then I went flying and I ended up on the post to the bed, like, my back (Inaudible) like crunched down on the back and I, I could barely get off the floor. And he's like, get up, and it's just like, I'm trying and then he grabbed me by the hair to pull me up. So, then I'm trying to hold my hair, like, first I wouldn't get up, I stayed on the floor and he's pulling my hair, get up, and I wouldn't. And he's like, oh, that's when he started saying, oh, you got (Inaudible) in ya or whatever. And, and I was just stand my ground on the ground, I don't know why. But anyway, so then he finally, like, it hurt, so I finally stood up or whatever and then he started hitting me and he said, opened my closet door and he said get dressed. And I just grabbed a pair of tights and a long sleeve shirt and I said, well, let me grab my purse and he goes you don't need your purse.

- Lisa Banfield Video Re-enactment with RCMP dated October 23, 2020: COMM0013732, Video #2, approximately 15:00-16:00 mark
-
- Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 20, 2020: COMM0003436 at p.11

- Note: According to Ms. Banfield's medical records (COMM0039106 at p.5), she sustained a contusion to her scapula and fractures to her ribs and vertebrae as a result of this assault.

305. After directing Ms. Banfield to get dressed, the perpetrator put a "rope" around one of her wrists and used it to force her "to follow him as he was throwing gas all inside." In her April 20, 2020, statement to the RCMP, Ms. Banfield said "I don't know what kind of rope" it was, and described it as "some sort of material." In her April 28, 2020, statement, she said "I don't know [if] it was like rope from his bathrobe that was plaid" and that "I'm thinking it was the belt from his housecoat, cause it was like soft."

- Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 20, 2020: COMM0003436 at p. 11
- Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 28, 2020: COMM0004070 at lines 210–12, 238–39

306. Once she was dressed, the perpetrator said in a "matter of fact" way "we can't forget about the gun." She told the RCMP that the perpetrator dragged her into his bedroom and grabbed his "handgun with the laser." As they walked through the cottage to leave, they slipped and slid along the floor because "it was obviously doused with the gas or whatever." When they got to the door, she grabbed her coat and put on her sneakers. The perpetrator told Ms. Banfield to turn around, and when she did "I could see it all going up in flames."

- Lisa Banfield Video Re-enactment with RCMP dated October 23, 2020: COMM0013732, Video #2, approximately 16:50 mark
- Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 20, 2020: COMM0003436 at pp. 4, 11
- Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 28, 2020: COMM0004070 at lines 213–16, 407–9

307. During her Mass Casualty Commission interview, Ms. Banfield stated that after the perpetrator dragged her into his bedroom, he told her "don't move" and he went "through the [adjacent] sunroom to get the gun. And I was thinking, Oh, I should run, but my back [was] so sore. And I thought, I don't know if I can run fast enough. So I just stood there watching him as he got the gun."

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Lisa Banfield, April 13, 2022: COMM0058496 at p. 17

308. The perpetrator set the cottage on fire and poured gasoline on the white Ford Taurus that was parked in the driveway. At this point, Ms. Banfield thought "this is it, like he would never have done this like if he's not ready to continue on. And that's when I was just begging him, like you know pleading with him that it you know, it's going to be okay."

- Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 28, 2020: COMM0004070 at lines 411–13
- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Lisa Banfield, April 13, 2022: COMM0058496 at p. 23

309. Ms. Banfield continued trying to de-escalate the perpetrator by telling him that "it doesn't have to go any further" and that she would take the blame for burning the cottage. However, she observed

"there was no change of whatever he had in his head." He then said to her "at the end of this night, I'll be dead and if you don't run away from me you won't be."

- Lisa Banfield Video Re-enactment with RCMP dated October 23, 2020: COMM0013732, Video #2, approximately 18:00–19:00 mark
- Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 28, 2020: COMM0004070 at line 220

310. The perpetrator and Ms. Banfield began walking towards the path back to the warehouse. When they reached the middle of Portapique Beach Road, Ms. Banfield got on the ground and began screaming and trying to kick him away from her. She was unsuccessful: "he's bigger than me and he got on me, and then he took my sneakers and threw them and I didn't have socks on, cause I didn't have time to put socks on." In her April 28, 2020, statement and in the video re-enactment, she stated that the perpetrator said to her, "now you can't run you little bitch."

- Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 28, 2020: COMM0004070 at lines 220–24, 465–66
- Lisa Banfield Video Re-enactment with RCMP dated October 23, 2020: COMM0013732, Video #2, approximately 19:00–20:00 mark

311. Ms. Banfield described her sneakers as "black Nike" sneakers. During the RCMP's search of the Portapique area following the mass casualty, a pair of sneakers were located and logged in the Exhibit Ledger as "Nike shoe" located on "200 Portapique Rd." Photos of the shoes appear below.

Photograph #2: Left foot of sneaker located during RCMP tact troop search.

Photograph #3: Right foot of sneaker located during RCMP tact troop search.

- Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 28, 2020: COMM0004070 at lines 536–38
- Photos captured during tact troop search of Portapique area: COMM0011123; COMM0011115
- Exhibit Ledger re Tact Troop Search of Portapique: COMM0011089 at pp. 1, 10–13

312. Although she was now barefoot, Ms. Banfield described digging her bare heels into the ground because she did not want to go over to the warehouse:

> …he said we're going to go over to the warehouse. And then we're going to burn the warehouse, and then he said we're going to go to Dartmouth and burn Dartmouth, and then we're going to Maureen's and then all I could think of he's going to go for my whole family.

- Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 28, 2020: COMM0004070 at lines 224–27

313. The perpetrator dragged her by the arm along the path through the woods to the warehouse and held her by the back of her coat. At some point, Ms. Banfield slipped out of her coat, which was unzipped, and "just started running." She could not see anything "'cause it's dark and then I tripped over wood and I ended up down on the ground. I'm trying to hide but he had a flashlight so he

could find me." In the video re-enactment, Ms. Banfield recalled that the perpetrator said "I can flashlight you stupid bitch," grabbed her, and pulled her up. Ms. Banfield told the perpetrator that he was hurting her, and "he goes, if you run away from me again I'll kill you but I won't if you don't."

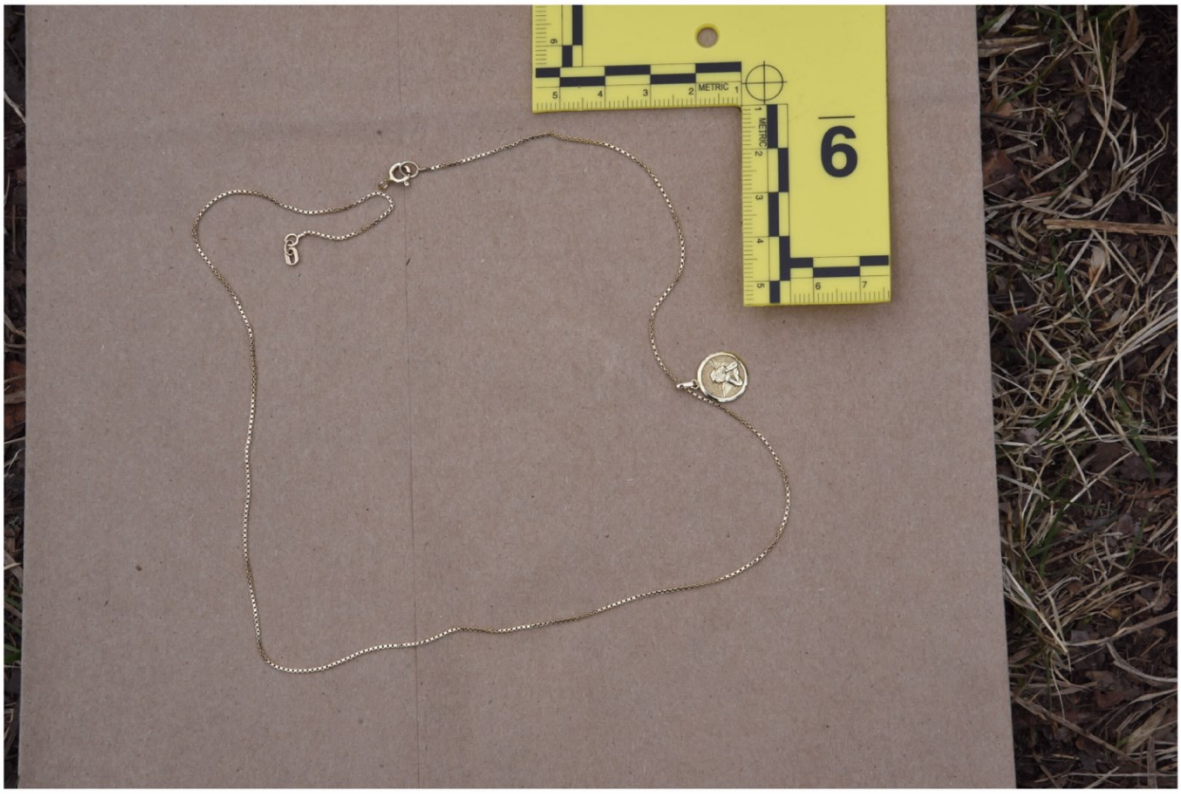
- Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 20, 2020: COMM0003436 at p. 4
- Lisa Banfield Video Re-enactment with RCMP dated October 23, 2020: COMM0013732, Video #2, approximately 20:00–21:00 mark

314. In one of her interviews with the RCMP after the mass casualty, Ms. Banfield told the RCMP that her coat "would have been right across from the cottage" where she and the perpetrator first went into the path. Ms. Banfield told the Commission that she escaped from her coat "as soon as [they] crossed over the in the little gully" after leaving the cottage. However, Ms. Banfield's coat was not located during the RCMP's tact troop search of Portapique.

- Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 28, 2020: COMM0004070 at lines 3721–35
- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Lisa Banfield, April 13, 2022: COMM0058496 at p. 26
- Exhibit Ledger re Tact Troop Search of Portapique: COMM0011089 at p. 1

315. During her RCMP interview on April 28, 2020, Ms. Banfield was asked if she lost any jewellery that night. Ms. Banfield responded that she might have been wearing a gold chain and pendant that "was round and had an angel on it" during this incident. During the RCMP tact troop search of Portapique, a pendant with a chain that matched the description given by Ms. Banfield were located in the woods and logged in the Exhibit Ledger as "pendant & chain," located on "path 200 Portapique Rd." Photos of the pendant and chain are below.

Photograph #4: Gold necklace located during RCMP tact troop search.



Photograph #:5 Gold necklace located during RCMP tact troop search.

- Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 28, 2020: COMM0004070 at lines 2550–66
- Photos captured during tact troop search of Portapique area: COMM0011215; COMM0011216
- Exhibit Ledger re Tact Troop Search of Portapique: COMM0011089 at pp. 1, 19–20

316. Ms. Banfield continued to plead with the perpetrator: "I'm like [perpetrator] it doesn't have to be like this" and "he said you'll never look at me the same way, he said I'm done."

- Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 28, 2020: COMM0004070 at lines 234–35

317. When Ms. Banfield and the perpetrator arrived at the warehouse, all the doors were locked and deadbolted. "Everything was locked up. That's what I didn't understand because to me, I felt like something must've snapped, because why would you put all these deadbolts on it to lock it up for the night like he did every other time that we left if you're going to come back and burn it? It just...it just made more work, but it just didn't make sense to me. So that's why I thought something snapped between when he left the warehouse and when he got to the cottage."

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Lisa Banfield, April 13, 2022: COMM0058496 at p. 42

318. The perpetrator began dousing the vehicles parked outside the warehouse with gas. Ms. Banfield continued to plead with the perpetrator, with no success. Once he was done with the vehicles, the perpetrator directed Ms. Banfield inside the warehouse. They were inside standing by the bar area when the perpetrator pulled out a pair of handcuffs and handcuffed her left hand. When the perpetrator demanded her other hand:

> … I said [perpetrator] please just don't do this, 'cause I thought, I don't want to be confined, 'cause I'll need my hands if I have, if I have any chance to get away.

- Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 28, 2020: COMM0004070 at lines 244–47
- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Lisa Banfield, April 13, 2022: COMM0058496 at p. 43–45

319. Ms. Banfield refused to give the perpetrator her second hand so that he could finish applying the handcuffs. In the video re-enactment, she stated that she was thinking, "if you're going to kill me just do it, 'cause I can't take it anymore." She dropped to the floor, closed her eyes, and covered her face with her hands, because she didn't want to see him kill her.

- Lisa Banfield Video Re-enactment with RCMP dated October 23, 2020: COMM0013733, Video #3, approximately 3:00–4:00 mark

320. The perpetrator demanded that Ms. Banfield get up. She stayed on the floor and continued pleading. When she refused to get up, the perpetrator fired his pistol into the ground on either side of her. Ms. Banfield told the Mass Casualty Commission that she does not know whether the perpetrator shot "down on the floor" or somewhere else, but after she heard the two shots on either side of her, she stood up and the perpetrator dragged her over to his replica RCMP cruiser:

> …and I was like this, like please don't do this, and then I just hear a shot, so it sounded like he shot beside me on one side and then he said I'm not going to tell you again. And then he shot on the other side of me, and ah, at first I thought he's just going to kill me, so I just wanted to cover my face, so I just kept covering my face, and pleading with him, and then I don't know if he pulled me up by the hair, or I got up on my [own]; I can't remember, if I was just scared and I thought I better get up. And I stood up, and why he didn't put the, it on the other one, I don't know but I think he just got frustrated with me, so then he dragged me over to the police car.

- Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 28, 2020: COMM0004070 at lines 732–39
- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Lisa Banfield, April 13, 2022: COMM0058496 at p. 43

321. The RCMP Forensic Identification Services team conducted a search of the perpetrator's burnt warehouse after the mass casualty. In his occurrence report of the scene, Cpl. Kevin Redden noted that "3 shell casings were located by [Cpl. Justin Anthony] in the area just east of the south

west corner. One casing was ruptured, one had the projectile still in place and the third was empty. In all three casings the primers were empty and were consistent with having been burnt out."

- Forensic Identification Occurrence Report of Cpl. K.L. Redden: COMM0007202 at pp. 5–6

322. Pulling Ms. Banfield by her hair, the perpetrator forced Ms. Banfield into the backseat of his replica RCMP cruiser and shut the door. The backseat and front seat of the car were separated by a plexiglass barrier (sometimes referred to as the "silent patrolman"). As is typical of police cruisers, the rear doors could not be opened from the inside. Ms. Banfield was thus trapped inside the back of the car.

- Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 19, 2020: COMM0002948 at lines 488–91

323. As Ms. Banfield looked on, the perpetrator loaded several firearms into the front seat of the replica RCMP cruiser. Ms. Banfield told the Mass Casualty Commission that the perpetrator would move his guns around but the last place she remembers seeing them was behind the bar in the warehouse. She recalled that the perpetrator "went to the bar" and then came back and threw guns into the front seat. He did not say anything to her. The perpetrator then went outside briefly before returning and heading upstairs to the apartment inside the warehouse.

- Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 19, 2020: COMM0002948 at lines 502–6
- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Lisa Banfield, April 13, 2022: COMM0058496 at p. 48

324. Trapped in the backseat, Ms. Banfield, who is approximately 5'5", tried to kick open the doors and windows, without success. She then managed to slide the handcuff from her left hand. In her interviews with the Commission, Ms. Banfield described sliding the handcuff off her wrist while in the back of the replica RCMP cruiser:

> Lisa BANFIELD [00:16:39] Oh, while I was in the back seat. That's the thing. While I was in the back seat, the whole time I was ripping it off me 'cause I thought, I don't want to be confined. And I felt like I was confined. I mean, I still have the scar, but I just kept pulling and pulling and ripping it off me. And I didn't care how much it hurt, I wasn't even thinking that I just wanted it off me, because I felt confined.

- DMV Database Query and Photograph re Lisa Banfield: COMM0011722
- Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 19, 2020: COMM0002948 at lines 402–6
- Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 28, 2020: COMM0004070 at lines 265–68
- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Lisa Banfield, April 13, 2022: COMM0058496 at pp. 49–51

325. Ms. Banfield reported dropping the handcuffs on the floor of the replica RCMP cruiser before she escaped. On May 17, 2021, the Mass Casualty Commission sent an email to RCMP Chief Superintendent (C/Supt.) John Robin inquiring about whether the handcuffs placed on Ms. Banfield by the perpetrator had been recovered.

- Investigations Supplementary Report prepared by Commission investigator, Stephen Henkel, "Answer from RCMP regarding the recovery of handcuffs placed on Lisa Banfield by Perpetrator" dated May 18, 2021: COMM0015908

326. On May 18, 2021, C/Supt. Robin responded with the following response from the primary investigator, Cpl. Gerard "Gerry" Rose-Berthiaume:

> Handcuffs were located by [Forensic Identification Services] at the Clover Leaf Circle scene near the fake police vehicle that [the perpetrator] was driving. These handcuffs did not belong to Cst. Stevenson and were baldy burnt from the fire. These handcuffs were sent to the lab for DNA testing with negative results.
>
> The exhibit number is PE446.
>
> No hand cuffs were recovered in Portapique. Lisa Banfield indicated in her statement that she was able to pull the handcuffs off her wrist while in the back of the fake police car. Based on where these handcuffs were located investigators believe that the handcuffs seized at the Clover leaf Circle scene may have come from the fake police vehicle driven by [the perpetrator]. Investigators can not determine if these were the handcuffs that Lisa Banfield had on that night although the circumstances suggest that they may be.

- Investigations Supplementary Report prepared by Commission investigator, Stephen Henkel, "Answer from RCMP regarding the recovery of handcuffs placed on Lisa Banfield by Perpetrator" dated May 18, 2021: COMM0015908

327. After removing the handcuffs, Ms. Banfield managed to slide open the window in the "silent patrolman" that divided the front and back seats. She then dove through the window into the front seat. From there, she opened the driver's door, fled the vehicle and then the warehouse, and ran into the woods to hide.

- Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 28, 2020: COMM0004070 at lines 264–71

328. On April 15, 2022, Maureen Banfield sent the Mass Casualty Commission photographs of the interior of the perpetrator's replica RCMP cruiser, which were taken on Ms. Banfield's phone on September 2, 2019.

- Note: Although Ms. Banfield's phone was destroyed by the perpetrator during the mass casualty, these photos were later recovered through Ms. Banfield's iCloud account. Although Ms. Banfield gave the RCMP direct access to her iCloud account during the Operation H-Strong investigation, copies of these photos were not contained in the Operation H-Strong materials provided to the Commission pursuant to a subpoena. The Commission is investigating this discrepancy.

329. The photographs received from Maureen Banfield included the following pictures of the "silent patrolman" divider:

- Emails from Maureen Banfield to Commission dated April 15, 2022, re "Replica Pics": COMM0056426; COMM0056424

330. After escaping from the backseat of the replica RCMP cruiser and then from the warehouse, Ms. Banfield worried that the perpetrator might see her though one of the windows in the upstairs apartment. Consequently she did not run in a straight line away from the warehouse but instead

ran along the side of the road where she knew the perpetrator would not be able to see her. After travelling some ways along the road, she "ran across where there's a blue shack house or cabin or whatever... went through their property and then I just crossed the street."

- Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 28, 2020: COMM0004070 at lines 269–72, 757–60

331. After crossing at the blue house, Ms. Banfield came across a truck parked on a patch of manicured grass. The truck was open and she climbed inside, hoping to find some extra layers of clothing to wear. The truck's dome light came on, and she was "scared to death" that the perpetrator would see it. She only found some tools and a neon worker's vest inside the truck, which she decided not to put on because she did not want the perpetrator to see her in it. She left the truck because she was worried the perpetrator might come across the street and check the vehicle.

- Lisa Banfield Video Re-enactment with RCMP dated October 23, 2020: COMM0013733, Video #3, approximately 12:00–14:00 mark
- Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 20, 2020: COMM0003436 at pp. 4–5
- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Lisa Banfield, April 13, 2022: COMM0058496 at p. 55

332. Ms. Banfield began crawling barefoot through the woods, because the brush was too thick for her to walk or run. She told the Mass Casualty Commisison that there were "tight branches" and that she could not see and was "getting whacked by all the branches" so she decided to crawl. In her statement on April 20, 2020, Ms. Banfield told the RCMP that at some point while she was crawling:

> I could hear a PA, like, 'cause he had the thing that you guys have and I could hear him yelling my name, I think he was yelling my name and then I could hear him whistling, like, just weird. And just all these bang, bang, bang and explosions and it just seemed like it was getting closer to me. And, so then I'm just crawling farther, farther in as far as I, I could until I found that big stump that I could hide, try to hide uh, in.

- Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 20, 2020: COMM0003436 at p. 13
- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Lisa Banfield, April 13, 2022: COMM0058496 at p. 56

333. Ms. Banfield told the RCMP that "it seemed like I could hear more gunshots, and I don't know if it was closer, so I thought I got to keep going." Ms. Banfield kept crawling through the woods until she found a "big tree that the whole root system came out." Ms. Banfield crawled into the cavity of the tree to hide. Ms. Banfield told the RCMP that once she had crawled inside, "I covered all my hands and…my toes with my pants so that...I'd be pitch black so he wouldn't see me, so I would sort of blend in with the ground or whatever."

- Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 28, 2020: COMM0004070 at lines 280–85, 790–98

334. In her interviews with the Mass Casualty Commission, Ms. Banfield recalled that at some point after escaping from the warehouse into the woods she ripped off the soft tie that she had around

her wrist because "she was tripping on it" while crawling through the woods. This item was not located during the RCMP's tact troop search of Portapique.

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Lisa Banfield, April 13, 2022: COMM0058496 at p. 30
- Exhibit Ledger re Tact Troop Search of Portapique: COMM0011089

335. In her interviews with the Mass Casualty Commission, Ms. Banfield explained that she saw a "big tree down" and the insides of the tree were "burrowed out" and she thought "if I try to get myself in this tree then it'll protect me and be one with the tree so he can't see me." Ms. Banfield was able to put part of her body inside the hole of the fallen tree, and she lay on the ground parallel to the trunk.

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Lisa Banfield, April 13, 2022: COMM0058496 at p. 58

336. The screen photographs below are captured from Ms. Banfield's RCMP re-enactment video, showing the hiding spot Ms. Banfield identified to the RCMP:

Photograph #6: Screen capture at 33.35 mark. Captured above are Ms. Banfield and Cpl. Rose-Berthiaume.

Photograph #7: Screen capture at 36:03 mark.

- Lisa Banfield Video Re-enactment with RCMP dated October 23, 2020: COMM0013734, Video #4, approximately 32:46–36:05 mark

337. While she was hiding inside the tree, Ms. Banfield heard someone say "It's Colchester police" over a loud speaker. Ms. Banfield was unsure if it was the perpetrator or the actual police, because she knew the perpetrator had a "police horn microphone." In her April 28, 2020, statement, Ms. Banfield stated that she heard a whisper that "was eerie… almost like trying to taunt me" and then "the thing that said this is the police." She did not know if it was the perpetrator's voice or not, and she did not want to come out from her hiding spot.

- Lisa Banfield Video Re-enactment with RCMP dated October 23, 2020: COMM0013733, Video #3, approximately 18:00–19:00 mark
- Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 28, 2020: COMM0004070 at lines 803–9

338. From her hiding place in the woods, Ms. Banfield continued to hear noises and activity around her. She heard gunshots and saw a house go up in flames:

> And I could hear like bang, bang, like, sh, shots and stuff and I'm thinking, it, like, all I could think about is he's going to the neighbours to see if I'm there. And, and then, and then all of a sudden through the other side of the woods I could see this house go up in flames and I could hear a couple guys talking and I think I heard

> [the perpetrator's] voice 'cause they were yelling. And I was going to run to them 'cause I'm thinking I'm safe and then I heard, I'm, I'm pretty sure it was [the perpetrator's] voice and then I heard bang, bang. And then there was no, nothing, there was no sounds of people or anything.

- Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 20, 2020: COMM0003436 at p. 5

339. Ms. Banfield remained hidden in the tree overnight as tempatures dipped close to zero. She told the RCMP that "I didn't know if my feet went, froze or burnt because I couldn't even feel them, and I was trying to keep moving them and trying to massage them and stuff. So, I couldn't really walk much 'cause it hurt.…"

- Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 28, 2020: COMM0004070 at lines 325–26

340. At the time of her escape from the warehouse, Ms. Banfield was barefoot and wearing a pair of leggings and a long-sleeve top. In the RCMP re-enactment video, Ms. Banfield explained that she tried to stay warm in the woods by tying the ends of her pants to cover her feet and pulling her hands into her sleeve. She also buried her face in her shirt to breathe, to prevent the perpetrator from seeing her breath.

- Lisa Banfield Video Re-enactment with RCMP dated October 23, 2020: COMM0013733, Video #3, approximately 17:00–18:00 mark

341. The temperature in Portapique at 9:00 p.m. on April 18, 2020, was reported at 2.4 degrees Celsius. The temperature dropped throughout the night to a low of 0.3 degrees Celsius at 5:00 a.m. At 6:00 a.m. on April 19, 2020, the reported temperature was 0.4 degrees Celsius.

- Investigative Supplementary Report prepared by Commission investigator, Christopher Lussow, dated June 11, 2022: "Meteorological Report – 18/19 April 2020, Portapique NS": COMM0059299 at pp. 2–3

342. While in the woods, Ms. Banfield thought "I can just wait until daylight so I can try to find my way out of here 'cause I didn't uh, know where I was at this point."

- Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 20, 2020: COMM0003436 at p. 13

343. The sun rose in Portapique on April 19, 2020, at 6:20 a.m.

- Investigative Supplementary Report prepared by Commission investigator, Christopher Lussow, dated June 11, 2022: "Meteorological Report – 18/19 April 2020, Portapique NS": COMM0059299 at p .9

344. By daylight, Ms. Banfield decided she had to get out of there even though she did not know where the perpetrator was because she "was freezing and [her] back was killing." She started running

out of the woods towards the direction she came in but then saw a black vehicle go by. Fearing it could be the perpetrator in his Jeep, she ran in the opposite direction.

- Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 19, 2020: COMM0002948 at lines 600–9

Arrival at Leon Joudrey's Residence and Initial Contact with RCMP

345. After leaving the woods, Ms. Banfield knocked on the door of the first house she came to, which belonged to Leon Joudrey. Ms. Banfield told the Mass Casualty Commission that:

> As soon as I went off the road and I'm...I'm...I'm running the first side street, I remembered that Leon lived in there, so I thought I'll go to his place. So, but it seemed like it was so far in which I don't remember. But he had a trailer there and I thought, oh well maybe I'll go inside the trailer and I'll hide there and it'll be safe. But then I'm thinking, no, I gotta get somebody. So then I went to his front door and I banged on the door and his dogs came at the door and...and then finally, he came and he said, I...I woke him up and then I'm like, you need to...[the perpetrator] freaked out. And he's like, yeah. He said something sarcastic or whatever and I said you need to call 9-1-1. And he started to call them or whatever, and I'm thinking when I went in this house, I've never been in his house, but it seemed open, and I seen an opening to a door where the bathroom was. So I went straight through there 'cause I'm thinking, if [the perpetrator] comes to this house, I need to know my bearings in this house to get out. And I went into the bathroom and I thought, OK, there's a window there, so I'm standing by the door behind the door, 'cause I'm thinking if [the perpetrator] comes to this house, I'll shut the door and I can jump out the window and he was calling, I guess 9-1-1, and I came out and I remember him talking to them and I'm like, let me just talk to them. So then he gave me the phone….

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Lisa Banfield, April 13, 2022: COMM0058496 at p. 65

346. In a statement to the RCMP after the mass casualty, Leon Joudrey explained that he let Ms. Banfield inside, gave her his coat and sneakers, and then dialed 911, as Ms. Banfield was unable to do so herself. At 6:28:20 a.m., the Operations Communication Centre (OCC) received a 911 call from Mr. Joudrey. Mr. Joudrey advised the call-taker that Ms. Banfield was at his house and "freaking out" and "scared to death." At the beginning of the call, when asked by the OCC call taker if Ms. Banfield was calm enough to be able to answer questions, he responded "No, just send the cops down."

- Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 19, 2020: COMM0002948 at lines 610–16
- Statement of Leon Joudrey, April 19, 2020: COMM0003371 at lines 22–34, 51–66
- Transcript of recorded 911 calls, April 19, 2020, 00:00–08:00: COMM0006368 at lines 493–501
- Transcript of recorded 911 call of Leon Joudrey: COMM0002876 at lines 8, 34–40

347. On April 19, 2020, beginning at approximately 8:36 a.m., Leon Joudrey gave a statement to the RCMP in which he described Ms. Banfield's arrival at his door earlier that morning:

> Then Lisa, [the perpetrator's] girlfriend or common-law whatever, came knocking at my door..,
>
> BROWN: Okay.
>
> JOUDREY: ..this morning, after daylight.
>
> BROWN: Okay, gotcha.
>
> JOUDREY: So she opened the door, She had no shoes, she shaking and shivering. I let her in and she's just freaking. So I give her my coat and my sneakers and she couldn't even dial 9-1-1. So I called 9-1-1. And told them to come, bring the cops down to come get her and the SWAT team showed up.
>
> BROWN: ..um, sorry what else did he, she say? Anything else you can remember at all that she said?
>
> JOUDREY: Uh, she.., he beat her up, he handcuffed her, she got away, she hid in the woods all night
>
> BROWN: Okay.
>
> JOUDREY: And, she was just freaking, just freaking like.., not really making any sense after that.
>
> BROWN: Very upset, okay.
>
> JOUDREY: Oh, just.
>
> BROWN: Yeah. Okay.
>
> JOUDREY: Shaking, but that's, that's the only details that I really got out of her.

- Statement of Leon Joudrey, April 19, 2020: COMM0003371 at lines 25–33, 83–92

348. The following afternoon, on April 20, 2020, Leon Joudrey gave a second statement to the RCMP. In this statement, Mr. Joudrey again described Ms. Banfield's arrival the previous morning:

> I opened the door, "He lost his mind. He went crazy." I said, "Get in here. What's going on?" "It's [the perpetrator], he went crazy." I said, "I see that. His fucking house is burnt." So she goes, "I got to call the police. I've been hiding in the woods. He had me in handcuffs. He had me beat up." Like the big story,

> right? And I'm confused. I – I look. Well, you're not in handcuffs. I didn't ask many questions. I said, "What are you doing here? He hates me." She goes, "Oh, I'll leave." I said, "Fucking shut the door. You're not leaving now. Get in the fucking bathroom." She dropped the phone. I called 911. I told you, I was talking to Donnalee (PH), "Get them here now." She didn't look too worse for wear for me so if I was to talk to somebody, that's who I'd be talking to.
>
> Sgt. FIRTH: OK, so you said she didn't look for wear or worse to me.
>
> Leon JOUDREY: No.
>
> Sgt. FIRTH: Describe that to me.
>
> Leon JOUDREY: She was wearing black spandex, black top. She's 51, 52 years old. She's a good-looking woman, sort of, I guess. She didn't look dirty, she had bare feet on, there's no dirt on her feet. She said she had handcuffs on, she was beat up. I didn't see fucking blood marks, dirt, like anything, but I – what do you do? I'm freaking out. I slammed the door and called 911, "Come get this fucking woman out of my house. This guy don't like me, I know that." So they came and got her…

- Statement of Leon Joudrey, April 20, 2020: COMM0009109 at lines 1587–1604

349. Between 6:33:58 a.m. and 6:42:24 a.m., four RCMP Emergency Response Team (ERT) members, Cst. Brent Kelly, Cst. Kyle Josey, Cst. Ben MacLeod, and Cst. Andrew Ryan, arrived at Leon Joudrey's home in the Tactical Armoured Vehicle (TAV) to retrieve Ms. Banfield. They transported her to the head of Portapique Beach Road.

- Handwritten notes of Cst. B. Kelly: COMM0010324 at p. 1
- Handwritten notes of Cst. K. Josey: COMM0010322 at p. 1
- Handwritten notes of Cpl. M. Johnson: COMM0010320 at p. 3
- Handwritten notes of Cst. E. Clarke: COMM0010313 at p. 6
- Colchester Radio: COMM0003806 at lines 3673–80, 3704–5
- Note: The Colchester radio transcript uses Eastern Daylight Time. Transcript times have been converted to Atlantic Daylight Time throughout this foundational document.
- Handwritten notes of Cst. T. Milton: COMM0010331 at p. 7
- Description of events on behalf of Cst. B. Macleod, SiRT Investigative File: COMM0012927 at p. 3

350. In his statement to the Serious Incident Response Team (SiRT), Cst. Ben MacLeod described Ms. Banfield's injuries and emotional state at the time as follows:

> Ms. Banfield, who was dressed in all black, did not have any visible serious injuries. She had trouble walking due to lower back pain suffered from [the

> perpetrator's] assault on her. She may have had other injuries but Cst. MacLeod did not have a chance to assess her. She was in a state of terror, and had a distraught, disheveled appearance.

351. Cst. MacLeod said he had only seen one other person in his career who was petrified to the same extent: a woman who had been kidnapped and held for three days.

- Description of events on behalf of Cst. B. MacLeod, SiRT Investigative File: COMM0012927 at para. 10

352. Cst. MacLeod told the Mass Casualty Commission that he performed a very cursory medical exam on Ms. Banfield:

> She said that her lower back hurt. I don't even remember if I even looked at it. She said ... I asked if she had any serious injuries and she said ... I don't know how I worded that, but she hadn't been shot, stabbed, anything like that. I'd asked to make sure that there were no injuries like that. And no ... to my recollection, no blood or anything, nothing that I had to do a physical examination, it was more asking. She was able to walk, so as far as the back thing, the fact that she had been walking and I just ... I handed her off and I'm not sure what else they did for an exam. I don't think it was very much.

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Cst. B. MacLeod, September 10, 2021: COMM0015510 at p. 14

353. Cst. MacLeod recalled Ms. Banfield as "completely distraught, emotional, upset" and "extremely fearful." She had a "quivering voice, like just ... well, the best way to describe it other than distraught, she was scared, fearful for her life, that he was coming to get her."

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Cst. Ben MacLeod, September 10, 2021: COMM0015510 at pp. 14, 17

354. Ms. Banfield and the ERT team were met at the top of Portapique Beach Road by Cpl. Duane Ivany, a trained medic and the RCMP Emergency Medical Response Team (EMRT) coordinator for H-Division. Cpl. Ivany transferred from the TAV to the backseat of a Jeep Cherokee driven by Cst. Jeff Mahar and rode with Ms. Banfield as she was transported to the RCMP Command Post at Great Village.

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Cpl. Duane Ivany, January 14, 2022: COMM0050856 at p. 28

355. On route, Cpl. Ivany conducted a preliminary medical assessment of Ms. Banfield. Ms. Banfield reported that her back hurt because the perpetrator "kicked [her] down in [her] back on the ground," that the perpetrator forced her in his replica RCMP cruiser, which she escaped from, and

that she then "hid in the woods." Ms. Banfield told Cpl. Ivany that when daylight started to break and she could see where she was, she ran to the closest house to get help. Ms. Banfield also told Cpl. Ivany that she had planned on coming out of the woods when the fire department came to respond to the fires but the fire department did not come, which Cpl. Ivany explained was because of the active shooter situation.

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Cpl. Duane Ivany, January 14, 2022: COMM0050856 at pp. 28–29, 52

356. In his interview with the Mass Casualty Commission, Cpl. Ivany recalled that Ms. Banfield had "no obvious bleeding, bruises, deformation, [and] no critical injuries." He noticed that Ms. Banfield was wearing tights and a thin shirt, and that she was shivering. Cpl. Ivany told the Commission that in his professional experience, his observations of Ms. Banfield that morning were consistent with a diagnosis of "moderate hypothermia" and that, from a medical perspective, he was "confident" that she was hypothermic:

> She appeared very cool and clammy, her skin was very pale, she was shivering, you could see the bluish in her lips. And looking at her clothing, and when you feel, even through her shirt, where she said she had the pain, you could feel that her body was cold. So, the lack of her body to circulate heat indicated to me that she was outside for an extended period of time.

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Cpl. Duane Ivany, January 14, 2022: COMM0050856 at pp. 50, 55–56

357. Cpl. Ivany also discussed his professional experience dealing with hypothermia. He explained that he could not give a reliable estimate of how long it would take for a person outside in the cold to develop severe hypothermia because various factors contribute to the severity of hypothermia in a person, including "metabolic rate…what she ate… [and] what her environment was." Cpl. Ivany also explained that, in talking to Ms. Banfield, she presented with symptoms of hypothermia:

> ... And when I'm talking to her and I could see the bluishness in her lips, I know that her body has taken the warmth and put it all towards the core. So, you get the coolness in the skin, you get the bluishness in the lips. She's shivering when she's trying to talk, it's like a little kid, like, "Luh, luh, luh, luh, luh, luh, luh," in her conversation, so she's got to focus to say her words because of the cold without making that kind of a sound…Everything plays into me without suspicion to think it isn't anything but hypothermia.

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Cpl. Duane Ivany, January 14, 2022: COMM0050856 at pp. 57–58

358. When Ms. Banfield arrived at the RCMP Command Post at Great Village, she was transferred to an ambulance and assessed by Emergency Health Services (EHS) paramedic Ashley Ernst, who

noted that she complained of right-sided lower back pain and was holding on to her right flank for comfort. She also complained of head pain but no neck pain, and denied any loss of consciousness or blunt trauma to the head. She was "emotionally upset and shivering." She reported that she had been kicked and punched on her right side by her boyfriend.

- Typed notes of S/Sgt Jeff West: COMM0009070 at p. 8
- Medical records of Lisa Banfield, April 18–26: COMM0039106 at pp. 9–10

359. Once an initial assessment by EHS was complete, Ms. Banfield provided a statement to Cst. Terry Brown and Cst. Dave Melanson while the paramedic continued to monitor and assess her in the back of an EHS ambulance.

- Statement of Lisa Banfield, April 19, 2020: COMM0002948

360. During his interview with the Mass Casualty Commission, Cst. Brown recalled his impression of Ms. Banfield on April 19, 2020, as follows:

> As far as when I physically had, you know, eyes on her and had contact with her in the ambulance, she appeared distraught. And "distraught", I mean she was visibly upset, crying in pain. Like, she was -- she did appear to me to be in a substantial amount of pain. Like, it was her back where she said that he had driven his knee into her back. She said that he had pulled her by her hair. I want to say she may have rolled her ankle, but I can't remember that for sure. And she -- like, the statement she gave me, she appeared to be truthful to me. . . . And it caught me off guard that she didn't know that anybody was killed that night, but I thought, "You know what? She said she hid in the woods all night, and she was fearful," and I could appreciate that considering what the scene was down there. And, you know, there's fires and explosions, and she'd just been shot at twice in her garage, and then pulled by the hair and kneed in the back. Like, it seemed very reasonable to me that this lady would run into the woods and hide and fear for her life. So yeah, I guess Lisa Banfield appeared to be truthful to me. She appeared to be very emotional and in pain, yeah.

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Cst. T. Brown: COMM0053561 at p. 45

361. Cst. Brown also told the Mass Casualty Commission that he has "dealt with a lot of domestic violence type files" in his work as a police officer, and that based on his interactions with her, Ms. Banfield's actions were "consistent with somebody who had been the victim of domestic violence in the past."

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Cst. T. Brown, March 10, 2022: COMM0053561 at p. 45

362. Cst. Melanson told the Mass Casualty Commission that based on his observations of Ms. Banfield's demeanour and presentation at that time, "she did appear to be truthful and did appear to be a victim of the assault."

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Cst. D. Melanson: COMM0055682 at p. 16

363. Around 7:52 a.m., EHS departed Great Village with Ms. Banfield and transported her to Colchester East Hants Health Centre, where she was assessed in the emergency department and then admitted. On examination, she was noted to have tenderness in her lower right flank; superficial scratches and abrasions on her hands, feet, and legs; and bruising to her upper back. X-rays revealed fractures to her ribs and lumbar spine. Ms. Banfield was treated in hospital for five nights and then discharged on April 24, 2020.

- Medical records for Lisa Banfield, April 18–26: COMM0039106 at p. 5, 9, 20, 37

364. During the mass casualty, the ERT used a drone to attempt to locate the perpetrator by looking for a heat signature in case he was concealing himself in the woods around Portapique. However, the ERT drone had a limited flight radius and could not be launched until daylight. In addition, it was "only able to search kind of a contained area" and "to fly within the visual line of sight" of the ERT member operating it.

- Typed notes of Sgt. R. Lewis, scribe of S/Sgt. J. West: COMM0003901 at pp. 6–7
- Member report of S/Sgt. S. Halliday: COMM0010697 at p. 6
- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Cst. T. Milton: COMM0037115 at pp. 26, 27
- Note: See the *Air Support* Foundational Document for further details.

365. Although equipped with "heat-seeking" infrared capabilities (Forward-Looking Infrared Technology, or FLIR), the drone had certain limitations. Cst. Trent Milton, the ERT member in charge of operating the drone during the mass casualty, explained these limitations as follows: "when we talk of Portapique, a very rural area, a very heavily treed area; it's not going to penetrate in through the trees, it's going to see basically what's in front of you and show it." When asked if the hand-held FLIR units would have had the capacity to detect Ms. Banfield or Clinton Ellison in the woods, Cst. Milton responded:

> Only if they were at the edge of the woods, or if we were moving into an area where they were hunkered down. We wouldn't be able to, for example, from the TAV or from an open field or the road, be able to search along the edge of the woods if they were pushed back any distance into the woods to be able to see them.

- Mass Casualty Commission interview of Cst. T. Milton: COMM0037115 at p. 29

366. The ERT drone was launched at 6:13 a.m. on April 19, 2020, approximately 500 to 700 metres up the road from Leon Joudrey's house.

- Colchester Radio Transcript: COMM0003806 at lines 3572–73
- Note: The Colchester radio transcript uses Eastern Daylight Time. Transcript times have been converted to Atlantic Daylight Time throughout this foundational document.
- Mass Casualty Commission of Cst. T. Milton, June 6, 2021: COMM0037115 at p. 60