

Oral Submission by Tara Long

Good morning commissioners, counsel, and family members.

My name is Tara Long. I am Aaron Tucks sister and closest living blood relative, to the best of my knowledge. I have tried to find Aaron's birth father Orrin Tarbox and have been unsuccessful.

I am here because on April 18th, 2020, my brother Aaron, Sister-in-law Jolene, and Niece Emily were murdered and after more than two years and millions of dollars spent on this inquiry, I have more questions than answers. Today I want to put some of them on the record.

Let me be clear, I don't want to be here. I'd rather be spending my time in Truro with my family. Hearing about the success Emily would be having in her career, she wanted to be a welder. Looking at the recent work she and Aaron would have done on the Pinto and catching up with Jolene. But my family is gone, and I am the only one who can speak for Aaron, so I am here.

Aaron and I didn't grow up together, our mother put him up for adoption when he was a baby. I saw him a few times at Christmas when we were very little. When I was around 3 and Aaron was around 6, he came to Liverpool for a visit. The story of that visit, according to Aaron, is that he took me fishing off the dock and he caught a fish, apparently, I stole that fish and when we got home, I told everyone that I had caught it. Being who he was, he didn't set the record straight, but he never let me live it down, either. He loved that story and told it almost every time I saw him

On October 16th, 1993, When I was 16 and he was 19. I was overcome by the need to reconnect with my brother. It wasn't an easy task, but I did manage to find his phone number and I called him.

My call woke him up.

After I confirmed I had the correct Aaron Tuck, I asked if he knew who this was. In his gruff voice that was thick with his Cape Breton accent he said, "It's my f***ing sister!!" I can still hear his voice in my head. I will always remember that.

That was the day my life changed. We talked on the phone several times and we made plans to meet at my friend, Tanya's house.

Aaron and his friend Clarence drove up from Cape Breton to the south

shore. Tanya and I thought it might be a funny idea to switch identities and pretend she was me and I was her when we met him. I found out later that he and Clarence thought about doing the same thing. Neither of us did that but we often laughed about how funny it would have been if we had.

We both moved a lot over the years. We moved to London Ontario together, with our mother. Then we all moved to Boston Bar BC and in with Aaron's birth father, Orrin. We lived there together for about a year. Before Aaron moved back to Cape Breton and I moved to Vancouver Island. Though we lived on opposite sides of the country, we remained very close and talked on the phone often. Fortune brought us together again when, for a while we both lived in Calgary where we could visit each other whenever we wanted. Our lives took us in different directions again and I moved to Saskatchewan while he and his family moved back to Nova Scotia. Geography couldn't keep our hearts apart though, and in 2015 I moved back here to be closer to them, and we were finally in the same province again. We had always dreamed about one day having a piece of property where we'd live and raise our families together.

We didn't fight like siblings generally do, but we did have two fights in our lives.

One was a stupid one over a Pink Floyd "the Wall" cassette that I destroyed and the other one probably saved the lives of my daughter and me.

I'd had a major car accident in 2017 that resulted in a permanent brain injury and other serious medical conditions. As a result, I was left unable to work. I needed to sell my house and Aaron and I thought it was a good opportunity for us to finally realize our dream of living on the same property. He cleared a spot for me at his house in Portapique so I could put an RV and then build a house. The day I called to tell him my house had sold, and I was ready to move to their property, we had a fight on the phone, and he hung up on me. It was 6 months before he called and apologized for that hang up. During that time, I bought a house and didn't move to Portapique. That hang up may have saved mine and my daughters lives. It feels like divine intervention.

As siblings do, we made up and were back to normal. It was great that they lived in Portapique because my daughter and I could visit frequently.

I remember when Aaron and Jolene had Emily. He called me to brag about his beautiful daughter, he was so proud. While they lived in Calgary,

and Emily was around 9, Aaron came across a homeless guy from Cape Breton, he had been a fiddle player with the Ashley MacIssaac band at one point. He had a drug problem and Aaron took him home and helped him clean up. While he lived with them, he taught Emily to play the fiddle. Aaron was so proud of her; he'd call me, and Emily would play her fiddle over the phone, and we would dance. When I had my daughter, she'd play over the phone for us, and we'd dance. Whenever we visited, Emily played that fiddle for us, and my daughter would dance. No matter how far from each other we lived we were always very close. And our kids were very close too. My daughter, who is now 9, recently asked me why no one thought to give her one of Emily's fiddles considering how much time she spent listening to her play them. I had to tell her, that we are not considered family because of Aaron having been put up for adoption, even though we are family. She doesn't understand how anyone could say that.

As much of a tough guy as Aaron was, he had a soft spot for kids, especially mine. The last time we went to see them, he took me to the store up the road which had been the Bass River Chair company at one point. I bought a bag of ketchup chips for my daughter, who was about 6 at the time. When she opened the bag, before she took any for herself, she offered him one and he melted. I will always remember his face when he looked at her. He simply melted. I'd never seen him do that before. He loved her so much and she loved him too. She often sits on the bench that Tim and Sharon made for us and talks to their picture and cries.

This was the worst thing I could have ever imagined happening to our family. But the pain and suffering were amplified by what happened afterwards.

On Sunday morning I woke up and got a phone call from one of Aaron and my mutual friends asking if I'd heard from him. I started calling and messaging Aaron on Facebook and got no response. I cannot describe the amount of terror I felt at that time. I called the RCMP and requested a wellness check. This is when my questions start to arise.

I got a phone call back from Cpl. Rodney Peterson who told me he had heard that there was an evacuation center and he'd find out if my family was there.

Cobequid Court had been known in the Command Centre since approximately 2:50 am. The CIC boards for evacuation, listed Cobequid Court, however they never did so.

See foundation document

RCMP Command Post, Operational Communications Centre, and Command Decisions;

COMM0057771: 291. *At the Command Post, boards were put up that listed addresses for possible evacuations on Portapique Beach Road, Orchard Beach Drive, Portapique Crescent, Cobequid Court, Bay View Court, Faris Lane, and Coast Lane (Coast Lane is identified on Google Maps but is not in fact a residential street)*

- **Why is it, if there was no gun fire going on, and other people could be evacuated ie Griffin, why would you leave Bayshore road and Cobequid Court until the next afternoon, approximately 14 hours later?**
- **If you believe the gunman deceased and there is a period of inactivity, why are you sending members home at 6:30am, instead of evacuating.**

I heard on Sunday night that there was confirmation of dead bodies at my brother's house, so I called the RCMP, and I was told that 3 bodies had been found but they couldn't confirm who they were. I was never given confirmation by the RCMP that it was Aaron, Emily, and Jolene. The way I found out was after getting nowhere with the RCMP, I called the medical examiner's office, and I was told that they were on their way to the office, so she assumed they were dead. To this day I still haven't gotten confirmation from the RCMP.

I remember speaking to Skipper Bent as some point, it may have been Monday. He asked me for a photo of Aaron and gave me his email address to send it to. In my state of mind, I typed in the incorrect email address and the photo never made it to him. After that he told people that I didn't send the photo, and I was kept out of any communications that had to do with my family and was treated like an outsider. I was never allowed to go to Aaron's house to say goodbye. I wasn't after things of monetary value, I asked for something that smelled like Aaron, a hoodie or something like that, and never got it.

Immediately things didn't add up to me and as time went by, they made less sense.

The timeline of when events started is hard to pin down.

Jamie Blair called 9 11 at 10:04pm and was told that the perpetrator left the Portapique area at 10:48pm.

During this 44-minute period, we are told that a single individual, went to 7 locations and murdered 12 people and burned down 4 buildings. That gives 6.2 minutes per location, including travel time.

Were the building set on fire before this person went to the Blairs house?

Ms. Banfield says she was on a facetime call with friends and the conversation that took place was the catalyst for the following events. However, there has been no record found of this call that I have been made aware of, even though the FBI searched. I've asked what time it took place and am still waiting on an answer. This call would have been made using an app so the time it took place should be easy to find.

- **How did the RCMP rule out multiple shooters? According to Cst. Dorrington in his MCC interview, "We still have no clarity as to the number of shooters that are involved"**
- **What were the RCMP doing between that time and when the shooting started again the next morning?**
- **Why are there so many accounts of gun shots until much later that night?**
- **Why was my family not found until late afternoon on Sunday?**

When Jolene's mother couldn't get ahold of her on Sunday morning, she called the RCMP to do a wellness check. That check was never done.

In Cst. Dorrington's notes he has a note about a wellness check called in by Cheryl Blaikie at 11:10am.

GPS shows Cst. Dorrington **stopped** in front of the Bond residence for 30 seconds at 10:26am COMM0058252. As well as at the intersection of Orchard Beach Rd and Cobequid, directly beside my brother's house @ 10:27am for another 30 seconds. COMM0058252. He was tasked by Sgt Obrien to search for bodies

- **How did Dorrington NOT see the bodies of my brother and Mr. Bond in the front doorways of these residences?**
- **Why was the wellness check never completed since he was in Cobequid until 5:30pm? This is over 6 hours, with an outstanding wellness check.**

- **Skipper Bent send a text message to Aaron's phone at 1:15pm Sunday afternoon to see if they were all right rather than going to check when Cobequid had been under an evacuation order for now, nearly 11 hours?**

Corporal Rodney Peterson says in his Affidavit that he spoke to Rodney

MacDonald and Trent Lafferty on Sunday, and that the perpetrator had a sniper rifle and a 50-caliber rifle, neither of which seem to have been recovered.

- **Where did that information come from?**
- **Where are these weapons?**

The East Hants radio logs show that staff sergeant Halliday says the perpetrator was “highly trained sharpshooter”.

- **Where did that information come from?**
- **Why were there no inquiries by the MCC into these mentions of highly trained and sniper rifles**

Aaron was found in the doorway of his home. To have killed Jolene and Emily where they were found the shooter would have had to step over him to get into the house.

- **Why was there no DNA from any of them found on the suspects person or clothes?**

According to the autopsy, the first two shots didn't kill Aaron, he would have been fighting the perpetrator for his life and to protect the girls.

- **Were Aaron's hands bagged and checked for DNA?**

Aaron rarely smiled in photo's because his teeth were in poor condition. Just prior to his death, Aaron had his teeth fixed and you can see that in some of his more recent photo's because he was smiling. But his autopsy says his teeth were natural and in good condition.

- **If he was shot intra orally, how is that the autopsy fails to mention dentures?**
- **How does the ME explain two gunshots to the head and chest, both at an upward trajectory when he would have been standing?**

There had been multiple references to there being more than one shooter.

- **How was that dispelled?**

Greg Pineo and Ashley Wood, the paramedics who drove Ms. Banfield to the Colchester hospital from the Great Village fire hall but neither of them

has given any statements or interviewed.

- **Why not?**
- **Why didn't the MCC do interviews with them?**

There are over 400 pages of emails referred to in the foundational documents between Lisa Banfield and Wortman.

- **Why has only a small portion of these been released?**
- **Of those that have been released, they raise more questions than answers.**

Kevin Von Bargen, a lawyer, and friend of Wortman's, turned over thousands of emails between himself and Wortman.

- **What are they talking about?**
- **Where are those emails?**
- **Why hasn't the MCC interviewed him?**

In her affidavit, under threat of perjury and potential jail time, Cst. Vicky Colford swore that she does not recall having a conversation with Katie MacDonald about the blueberry field road exit. She also swore she doesn't recall making the transmission about the blueberry field road. Additionally, she swore, the first time she recalls seeing of a map the blueberry field road was days later at an RCMP press conference.

- **How is it that her recollection is so different from the radio transcripts?**
- **Why has this not been inquired into more by the MCC?**

The photo that Nick Dorrington had of Gabriel's license from when he pulled him over was being sent out to members "upon request".

- **Why wasn't it sent out to everyone immediately?**
- **Why did Dorrington not send this to the Command Centre?**

*Bjorn Merzbach and Alison Francis, Residents of Portapique

- **How is it that Mr. Merzbach was permitted to remain in Portapique post the shooting?**

In COMM0003688, his interview with the RCMP, he states that he has a lot of cameras all around his property.

In COMM0003685, RCMP Task ID 145, it states that Mr. Merzbach has

videos on his phone of the fire at Frank and Dawn's.

In COMM003685, RCMP Task IDs 286 & 385, Sgt. Raaymakers collected a USB stick to from Mr. Merzbach and gave it to Cpl. Peddle of **surveillance videos and photos** of the fire and also Dave Lane collected **cell phone** video.

- **Where are these photos and videos?**
- These would show, potentially the shooting of Andrew MacDonald by the perpetrator, all three cars, including MacDonalds. Mr. Wortman in a uniform. Mr. Wortman in the RCMP cruiser. The arson of Frank and Dawn's. This is an **extremely important piece of evidence.**
- **Why have these photos and videos never been disclosed?**
These would answer many questions of events that transpired on April 18th.

COMM0003685 RCMP Task ID 119, states of Mr. Merzbach "he said Lisa was a single mom with 2 kids. From what he heard Gabriel walked up and shot her -----

- **Who told him this information?**
- **How does he know it was Mr. Wortman?**
- **How does he know that Gabriel walked up and shot her?**

The implication made by this statement is that someone witnessed Lisa McCully being shot.

- **How come we have never heard of this before?**

COMM0059029 May 25, 2022, but released post MCC conclusion. Mr. Merzbach is being interviewed at Tom Taggart's office. Tom Taggart is brother of Ted Taggart, who is mentioned as the registered owner of a 2012 Honda Civic, that appears to be leaving Portapique, at a containment point. It is occupied by one female, stopped by Cst. Dorrington, at 04:24 am April 19th, 2020. COMM0003806 line 3309 – 3316

- **Was this person interviewed?**

COMM0059029 interview with Mr. Merzbach & Mrs. Francis states:

Barbara MCLEAN [00:01 :12] Okay. And Allison, since you're here, are you able to answer some questions about how you found out about Aaron and Emily and Jolene and the Bond's?

Allison FRANCIS [00:01 :21] I just remember listening to everybody's conversations outside. I'm waiting until the fire trucks could leave to go put the fires out, our neighbour's house. So, I know my mother was also ... she was

with the kids, so, I'd contact her to make sure they were still sleeping, and she'd be on the phone with people. So, it would have been through the grapevine. And then once we found out anything, I'd call him and let him know.

According to this statement, it is

- **Who is Allison Francis's mother?**
- **Was Allison Francis's mother interviewed?**
- **Did Allison know of the death of my brother and his family prior to 4:46pm on the 19th?**
- **Why is Allison's mother with the children? What Children?**
- **Why was this interview released after the MCC conclusion?**
- **Why is it filed under "round tables" instead of the foundational documents tab, so this is not easily found? Is this on purpose?**
- **Mr. Merzbach was given the option to redact anything in his statement. Why was this possible?**
- **When this investigation has about uncovering the truth and answering the questions of those "most affected" – family members such as myself?**

COBEQUID

At the very least the following officers were involved with the initial discovery of deceased bodies in Cobequid on April 19th/22

Cpl. Brad Wood

- no notes

- no member report
- no interviews with MCC or RCMP

Cst. Justin Buggie

- notes released post MCC conclusion
- no member report
- no interviews with MCC or RCMP

Cpl. Jarret MacDonald

- Notes and Member report contain conflicting information in respect to the number of bodies discovered at 41 Cobequid Court
- MCC interview released post MCC conclusion

Cst. Wayne Bent

- no member report
- no interview with MCC or RCMP

Cst. Nathan Forrest

- no handwritten notes (only typed)

- **Where is all the information / documents pertaining to Cobequid?**
- **Where are all of the documents from these officers (and others) pertaining to Cobequid?**

Only Cst. Bent provided testimony at the MCC.

The Colchester radio logs never mention Cobequid, or anything associated to Cobequid in over 6000 entries.

Cobequid has had 5 bodies identified thus far, making up 22% of total victims to date.

45 COBEQUID COURT

45 Cobequid is the home of Cyndi Starratt who was romantically involved with Gabriel Wortman

In COMM0038932 Staff sergeant Paul Vickers, who, to my understanding was, at the time, the head of MCU, has three separate entries in his notebook for Cobequid.

At 4:48pm on the 19th he has an entry for

- 1) 46 Cobequid court with 2 deceased males, an entry for
- 2) 41 Cobequid court for a deceased male and one female AND a separate entry for
- 3) 45 Cobequid court three bodies.

There is no RCMP or MCC interview with him and no member report for him.

- **What does he mean that there are three more bodies at 45 Cobequid court?**
- **Why has the MCC not followed up on this?**

This is further validated in Chief Superintendent Janice Gray's notes. She was attached to Crops Officer Chief Superintendent Leather, COMM0051382.

She has an entry on page 6 of her notes for

- 1) 41 Cobequid with two victims a female and a male,
- 2) 46 Cobequid with one male AND subsequently at 6:40, two hours after the bodies were discovered, on page 7 of her notes, she has another entry for
- 3) 45 Cobequid with possibly another 3 bodies.

- **Why does somebody at her level of chain in command have a third entry 2 hours later?** The information to get to her level had to be thoroughly vetted.
- **Why has this not been followed up on by MCC?**
 - Underneath this entry, it appears she has a sub-section, listing 3 RCMP regimental numbers which are 56169, Chad Morrison and 45161 which is Heidi Stevenson and 44900 which is inspector Danielle Ulmer.
- **Why has she written this in her notebook?**
- **Why has this not followed up on this by MCC?**
- **Why has Janice Grey not given testimony in front of the MCC?**

*Sgt. McEachren

In COMM13592 page 15, Sgt McEachren stated that she attended a meeting for assignments of tasks for FIS personnel at 7am in Bible Hill on April 20, 2020. The very first task she is to attend 45 Cobequid Court with Sgt McKenna and Cpl. Dean Martin. There are no public notes or member reports of either Sgt McKenna or Cpl. Martin. Equally Sgt McEachren has no member report publicly available. The subsequent tasks listed are examination of Cory Ellison at 135 on the roadway, examination of a body, presumably Lisa McCully, at 136 Orchard Beach in the yard near a fence and examination of Andrew MacDonald's car. The priority of this seems very strange as to get to 45

Cobequid, the FIS members assigned, McEachern, Martin and McKenna would have had to drive past Lisa McCully and Corrie Ellison, who were laying on or near the roadway.

This order of tasks is supported by COMM0018505. Further, Sgt. McKenna and FIS Investigators did not feel the need to go to 45 Cobequid Court on the evening of April 19th. They did however, go to 41 Cobequid Court, 46 Cobequid Court then travel ***all the way around*** to 200 Portapique Road and 293 Portapique Road.

- **Why did McKenna not check on 45 Cobequid Court at the same time as when they checked on 41 Cobequid Court and 46 Cobequid Court?**
- **Why was it such a priority to check 45 on the 20th of April, while bodies were laying out in the open?** The priority seems very odd and almost macabre, especially because all the houses have been checked the evening prior.

Reading through Sgt McEachern's notes, she follows a very linear format, and she lists things in chronological order. She updates as she goes through her tasks, so it appears as though she added the notation of "empty residence no bodies inside" ***after*** "x2 or 3 bodies inside"

Sgt McEachern's entry looks as follows:

- 45 Cobequid - empty residence no bodies
- provide (Illegible)
- X 2 or 3 bodies inside

- **Why does Sgt McEachren believe that there are bodies inside 45 Cobequid on April 20th if all the residences have been checked and cleared on the 19th as per Cst Bent's notes COMM0003794 and MCC interview COMM0057740 , Cst Forrest's member report COMM001365 and, Cpl Jarrett MacDonald's member report COMM003915?**

COMM0018505 The forensic report on page 7, crime scene report, states Forensic

Identification Services (FIS) Investigator, Sgt. McKenna gains entry to the secured property at 45 Cobequid Court. The previous day, he already went to 41 and 46. 45 sits in-between these residences.

- **Why does Sgt. McKenna return to 45 Cobequid Court, when it isn't a crime scene?**
- **Why didn't Sgt. McKenna visit 45 Cobequid Court at the same time he visits 41 & 46 Cobequid Court?**
- **Why does he gain entry to a secure residence, only to report "there were no persons injured or deceased and no indication of anything of concern having occurred at the residence." ??**
- **In respect to these 3 pieces of evidence, as the MCC done any follow up as to why or how 45 Cobequid Court plays into the days of April 18/19, 2020?**

*Debra and Peter Thibeault resident of Portapique

- **Why did the Thibeault's retain a lawyer?**
The same lawyer as many of the families – Paterson Law – they were not even present in Portapique for any of April 18/19 2022.
- **Who is Mr. Hill? Referred to in her interview. COMM0051438** Mr. Hill was / is retired RCMP. She purchased the property at the earliest July 2017 from Mr. Hill.
- **Did the MCC try to interview / locate Mr. Hill?**
- **Did RCMP Mr. Hill know Mr. Wortman or Ms. Banfield?**

*Cst. Justin Buggie

Since the conclusion of the MCC, Cst. Buggie's notes have been released. In COMM0059163, there is an entry at reading:

"16:12 Aaron Tuck

Rod Petterson

(redacted)

Irrelevant Personal Information"

According to Cpl. Rodney Peterson, he spoke to me at 3:11pm, he subsequently phoned or contacted somebody to complete a wellness check for my brother, Aaron Tuck, and his family Jolene and Emily. Cpl. Peterson spoke to somebody in Portapique, who agreed to perform the wellness check once they had

In COMM0014567 Cpl. Buggie, appears to be

Cpl. MacDonald in MCC interview on June 13th, 2022, COMM0059036, which also released post the conclusion of the MCC, said that he had to wait for a member of MCU, before he could enter any additional houses. Cpl. MacDonald had found my brother and other deceased at 41 Cobequid Court and 46 Cobequid Court. His discoveries generated a file number. When wanting to aid injured people, he called upon Cpl. Wood; and Cst. Forrest;

“But anyhow, then I radioed and had Nathan Forrest. I don't know if he was available or he was on his way out towards Portapique, but he came and you could view, you could see both houses if you parked in the right position where Nathan eventually did to just complete, to make sure nobody was coming and going from those residences. So then he took over those scenes. So then I realized I just went two for two at these two residences. What is, like have all these other places been checked? So I ... Brad Wood, Corporal Brad Wood was up at the road, so I radioed for him to come down because I realized that is there more people that have, like are there houses around, and if there's houses, have they been ... is there people deceased in them? Or what my, again my largest concern was have they been shot and now they are still alive and need help. So I can't remember if I radioed in to OCC or called the OCC, but I said, Brad Wood and I are going to go around checking houses, I don't want to call it a canvass, but call it a, you know, a well being, check the houses to see the state of their occupants. And, uh, the Inspector at the time said no, don't do that. And I was like, because MCU needs a member there with you. And I plainly remember thinking, if we find somebody, we will let them know. And then MCU can take over the scene. **MCU looks after dead people.** I don't care about, necessarily ... ! wanted to provide, if somebody was injured and they're on their way out, I want to be there to help them. So that was, that was my thinking. And then the Inspector at OCC didn't want us doing that, so, until an MCU member got there. So, you know, and it might be on the radio, but I think there was a couple of calls or a couple of calls on the radio. Like, are you sure type thing? You're an inspector in OCC, you're not necessarily operational, you know, like you're a world away right now. I'm here on the ground just trying to help, you know, do the b-, you know, find survivors. So anyways. Wayne Bent, Skipper Bent from MCU eventually came out and we did our door-to-door canvass. And that's when I really realized, you know, the, the number of houses that were down in around that area.

Scott SPICER [00:12:42] And I mean, do you remember who the Inspector was that you reported to or who would have told you this?

Jarret MacDONALD [00:12:49] **Rodier.**”

- **Why did inspector Rodier prevent Cpl. MacDonald, Cpl. Wood, Cst. Forrest from checking on the wellness of people that may have been injured?**

It's had been over 18 hours since the start of the mass casualty. We note that the evacuation of Cobequid had been discussed, it had been 14 hours since that time. Over 5 hours since the apparent perpetrator had been supposedly killed by the police. There was no longer any threat, and yet an Inspector denied a request to check for potential victims.

This was echoed by Cst. Bent, who rather than immediately went to help, questioned a member whether it had been cleared with MCU and subsequently phoned and obtained authorization from MCU Cpl. Gerry Rose-Berthiaume. COMM0004518

Additionally, Cpl. MacDonald, stated on waiting:

[00:32:55] "I'm going to ... It's, it's another scene created or found. I didn't quite understand why. And again, it could have been a half hour, it could have been an hour and a half; I don't recall how long we waited there, but it was, it was ... just seemed really weird to me that, and there might be a big, a bigger picture and different reasons why an MCU member had to do a canvass. But really, I was under the interpretation of MC-, unless there was a dead body there, then MCU would kind of get involved. It didn't take an MCU member to find a dead body. But again, it could have been all dealt with in the background. I don't know what went on. It just, I was confused."

- It has come to light through the MCC, that Heather O'Brien was alive approximately 7 hours and left for dead. **How can we believe that our loved ones weren't suffering?**
- **Are we to believe the RCMP who allowed Heather to suffer? And then subsequently denied doing so?**

COMM0058799

INVESTIGATIONS – SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT

On May 11, 2022, the write emailed Mr. Howard requesting an update.

- No response was received.

Summary

- Since March 8, 2022, the Mass Casualty Commission Investigations team has made several attempts to contact FITBIT and its parent company to seek out information related to the concerns raised by Participants counsel. As of the date of this supplementary report no further contact has been received by FITBIT or Google and no information relating to the Commission; s lines of inquiry has been received.

According to Janice Grey, (on page 5 of COMM0059587 interview with the MCC) Jon Robin was the liaison for the H Strong/Issues Management team after Gray was.

Pg 66. Gray says that Jon Robin was the head of the IMT and that his role in this inquiry was being responsible for preparing documents and reports that would be given to the MCC. He also decides what he shares with them in addition to reporting back to CNIP (contract and indigenous policing) in Ottawa and Deputy Commissioner Brian Brennon CNIP at the RCMP.

Mike Butcher was the RCMP disclosure analyst, who handled disclosure and John Robin, who was head of H Strong IMT, as well as overseeing disclosure to the RCMP, internal HOIT Investigation, the external ESDC labor investigation and to the MCC. In Tim Mills MCC testimony, he says in referring to the appointment of these 2 husbands of NS senior officers:

“that’s not incompetence putting them on the issues management team. You can’t be that stupid, that’s cover up, that’s corruption, there’s no two ways about it”

This is addition to his MCC statement:

“that’s not even stupid, that just corrupt. And I’m not talking money corruption, I’m talking power corruption. I’ve seen it, two sets of standards you know. We’ll investigate the general duty members, or you know, the rank and file: you’re not touching an officer, commissioned officer, we’re protected.”

MCC council quickly moved on from Mills statement in both circumstances without inquiring any further.

- **Why hasn’t chief superintendent Gray, Robin, Mike Butcher, newly appointed Commanding Officer of PEI RCMP Superintendent Derek Santasusso, Superintendent Costa Dimopoulos, been called to give testimony before the MCC?**
- **What exactly was H Strong 2/IMT? What was their purpose?**
- **And most importantly, did their role disclosure liaison, hinder, or interfere with the MCC mandate?**

Justice Cromwell has written many letters regarding the DOJ not being forthcoming with documents.

- **How much more information are they not sharing with us?**
- **Why is the DOJ hiding so much from the families and the Canadian public?**

On March 17, 2021, the MCC and DOJ entered a Clawback agreement.

- **What are the details of that agreement?**

- **Why isn't this agreement public?**
- **How does this impact the MCC and their work?**
- **Does this seem like transparency?**

Chief Superintendent Leather says that the DOJ told him to be reactive instead of pro-active when talking about certain information.

- **Is this standard practice?**
- **How many other witnesses were told this?**
- **How much information are we not given because of this?**

There is no doubt that Heidi Stevenson was a real hero and the kind of person who should be a police officer. However, the RCMP had a parade in her honor on Monday April 20th while my family was still lying dead in their home.

- **Does this seem highly inappropriate to anyone else?**

Given that Cpl. Mills, Cpl. Sutton, Sgt Bernard, and others have been highly critical of middle and upper management and the promotional system.

Cpl. Sutton in his MCC statement went as far to say:

“...even some of the supervisors as far as I'm concerned, and there's a lot of incompetence when it comes to that. Like I ... you can have a rank of Sergeant, but realistically, yeah, that's great, you passed your exams, and you wrote a pristine competency, and you got this job, but your actions on the ground are just totally incompetent, less than a ... less than a cadet, really. And that's ... that's just a part of our promotion system that's kind of ... kind of lost here. A lot of times you're not promoted on your ... your work ethic and your ... your safety. You can write about it, but it shows on the ground you know, what kind of a police officer you are. So, that's ... that's kind of frustrating when you see people in these ranks that I wouldn't, me personally, wouldn't trust a goldfish with, to be honest. And it's ... it's scary because yeah, we're ... we're the ones that are supposed to be protecting the public, and yeah, a lot of times you're just shaking your head as to, "I can't believe you even carry a side arm." Like, it's ... it's ridiculous.”

- **Why has Sutton not been called to testify about this?**
- **Why has Bernard not been called to testify before the MCC?**

Before this happened, I loved the RCMP and all police. When I saw them on the street, I took my daughter to meet them and told her they were the real superheroes. She would sit in their cars, and they would let her play with the

lights and sirens. They loved that I taught her to respect them and not fear them. Now I am terrified when I see any police officer and my 9-year-old thinks they're going to kill her. When she sees them, she cries. I did not teach her that, the RCMP did.

Because of my brain injury, I struggle reading the documents that are available and have read very few of them. I am blessed to have a very dear friend and a group of people who have been here with me since the beginning. They spend hours a day reading and comparing documents and using their little grey cells to help me understand what's going on. Some people have called us conspiracy theorists, but if there weren't so many gaping holes, inconsistencies, and conflicts of interest in this story we wouldn't have to speculate about what really happened.

Like Cst. Wiley rightly pointed out the other day the transcripts are so disjointed and barely comprehensible that he hardly recognized his own statement. Statements from many important witnesses aren't available at all.

After more than two years and millions of dollars there are still so many holes in this story and countless unanswered questions.

- **How can you make recommendations if you don't know what happened?**
- **More importantly, how can family members begin to heal if we don't really know what happened to our loved ones?**

There is so much information hidden behind black ink and red tape that the job cannot be done. As far as I can tell, this commission has failed in its mission to find out what happened.

- **Where is all the dash-cam video with audio?**
- **Why hasn't the dash-cam video been disclosed?**
- **Why hasn't all the GPS data been disclosed?**
- **During the MCC we have been told that unmarked cars don't have GPS. If this is so, why does Sgt. Bernard's unmarked baby blue taurus have GPS?**
- **Where is Brown and Melanson's GPS?**
- **Why hasn't ever single phone, personal and/or company, been run through CELLEBRITE and this information being disclosed whether they be RCMP member, witnesses, or victims? THE FULL ANALYSYS**

If an independent commission exists, like a royal commission, where there

appears to be less government interference, that's what we need. If the behavior of the RCMP during this ordeal is what we can expect if we face another crisis like this, we should think about replacing them with local police. Chief MacNeil is the kind of guy we can put our trust in. He's accountable and very connected with his community. The model he follows would serve Nova Scotia much better than what we have with the RCMP. Chief MacNeil was able to implement all the recommendations in his Truro police department that the RCMP couldn't.

The MCC MUST not make recommendations that the RCMP will continue to fail to abide by over many tragedies and many years. They fail to read these. And continue to thumb their nose as many good RCMP and dead bodies lie in their wake. **THE MCC MUST EXERCISE MANDATES – NOT RECOMMENDATIONS.**

Within days of this tragedy the government tried to use the horrific crime to help them push the gun ban they had wanted for years. The perpetrator had no legally obtained guns. Criminals, by definition, don't care about the law so a gun ban is only going to make law abiding citizens more vulnerable to violent criminals. There are numerous lessons that have come from this loss of life and one of them is that the police don't always show up when you need them especially in rural areas. So, we must be able to protect ourselves. If Aaron had a gun that night, Jolene, and Emily knew how to use it this tragedy wouldn't have made it past their house. While this "lone gunman" was murdering Aaron, one of the girls could have gotten their gun and at least saved their own lives.

Let's remember why we're here. 23 people were murdered, and their families want to know what happened. Since the beginning the families have asked for all 23 victims to be recognized but the government, media and the MCC all insist on saying 22. If you really cared about what the families want, you'd say 23.

In my opinion, the MCC has been derailed by various special interest groups and though they have very valid concerns. I struggle to see the remotest connection to the events that took the lives our loved ones. We have all patiently waited and listened to see when and how this process would provide us with answers. We are still waiting, and time has run out.
Thank you, God bless, the 23.

Blueberry Field exit

*Jesse Brine and Emily Macleod, EHS

COMM0058894; supplementary report states that both Brine and Macleod, witnessed an RCMP car passing them as they were responding to Portapique, just east of Great Village. Using GPS of M086, COMM0058883, it can be determined that they passed an unknown cruiser between the time of,

10:31 – 10:35pm April 18th. This cruiser was travelling in the opposite direction, away from Portapique.

*Cpl. DION SUTTON, RCMP (retired)

On the bottom of page 18 and the top of page 19 of Dion Sutton's MCC interview COMM0043471, the following interaction is noted:

Dion SUTTON "I did ... at the time, I did pass one police vehicle passing me, and one of the members did wave, but I didn't pay no attention to it because I was unaware that the suspect was in a police vehicle. Looking back, like, I don't even know if that would have been him or if he was still ... if he was out of the area already, I don't know, but yeah, I still think about that. Like if I had the know, I probably would have took more notice to a police car if it went past me. But again, at the same time the call sign, I wouldn't pay attention to the call sign on the vehicle. If it's ... you know, if it's a fairly new car, it looks pretty much like ours. I mean, I don't read what numbers on it, so yeah, I don't know, but I know as I was driving, he wasn't going with lights on, so I didn't know if this was a member just being relieved or he was going back to the command centre, I don't know, but."

Christopher LUSSOW [01:04:22] So, that was past Great Village?

Dion SUTTON [01:04:26] Yeah, yeah.

Using Dion Sutton's GPS records COMM0015785, it can be determined that he passed a marked cruiser heading eastbound, away from Portapique, between 11:24 and 11:30pm April 18th. Further inquiry into Cpl Sutton's sighting was not followed up on. This too, needs to be investigated and throws the MCC's blueberry field exit of the perpetrator at 10:48pm into serious doubt. Dion Sutton indicated in COMM0043471 that there was more than one member in the passing cruiser "one of the members did wave"

These are three eyewitness accounts of an unknown cruiser that dispute the MCC narrative, thereby bringing into question the entire timeline as other sightings are dependant on the exit of the perpetrator at 10:48pm

It is interesting to note that the MCC expanded a search for eastbound RCMP vehicles until only 11:00pm on April 19th: COMM0058894. Dion Sutton sighting would have been after this time.

- **Why did the MCC not extend their search past 11:00pm on April 19th?**
- **How, if cars aren't logging via MWS, do we know if these cars that are either Sutton or Brine and McLeod saw were in fact real RCMP cruisers?**

*Dean Dillman, resident of five houses

Dean Dillman was parked at the SW corner of Brown Loop from 10:42 – 10:58. This can be determined using his phone records. He stated after he

parked, got out of his vehicle, opened an app on his iPhone, got a bearing on where Leon Joudrey's house was and then called him. He made this call at 10:42 according to COMM0056356.

According to point 177 in COMM0050893 at 10:58, Dean Dillman left Brown Loop when his mother Autumn Doucette phoned him to ask him to return to Five Houses as she was concerned when she saw a flashlight. In that 16-minute time frame, he states he did not see any vehicles driving on the Blueberry field road.

Arguably Dean Dillman arrived sometime prior to 10:42 as his actions after he first arriving would have taken some time before he placed his call. Even if we are to use an arrival time of 10:42, this would leave between one minute 48 seconds and two minutes and 47 seconds for the perpetrator to have travelled an estimated distance of 2.495 Km from the place of his last believed victim, Corrie Ellison to the top of Number 2 Highway via the blueberry field road. The theorized time of Corrie's murder is based on his last screenshot which was taken at 10:40:12. Using basic physics, the perpetrator would have travelled at an average speed of 54 km/h to 83 km/h. In COMM0050889, an assessment of roads was conducted. The findings state that a prudent driver would not exceed 45 km/h on the blueberry field road.

On the morning of April 19 between 10am and 12pm, Sgt. Allan Carroll observed "Oh, there's a barrier up." There was a chain ... a chain barrier, a chain or

wire across the top, and there was some type of marking thing to identify the chain was there. That was in place when I was there in the morning, would have been sometime between 10 and 11 :30, 10 and 12. So, that chain was definitely in place and if that's the egress point that Wortman used, I'm saying he would have had to stop, take the chain out, take ... take the ... take the wire chain off, drive ... drive the car through and re ... put the chain back in place, put it back up. Otherwise, the height would have cleaned the light bar or anything off the roof of a car."

- Sgt. Carroll echoed this in his MCC testimony pages 94-95 that was taken May 25, 2022. He stated the following:

S/SGT. ALLAN CARROLL: But over to the east side, I remember driving down there. That was heading towards the blueberry field, where the egress was. And driving down there, I see basically -- I believe it was a chain, I think it was a chain barrier or a wire barrier **across the top of a couple fence** posts with – providing access to the blueberry field.

MR. ROGER BURRILL: Okay. And are you able to estimate or give us some sense of what time that would have been when you made that observation?

S/SGT. ALLAN CARROLL: Between 10:00 and 12:00. I believe I probably left Portapique Beach area -- Portapique Beach Road area around 12:00. So yeah, between 10:00 and 12:00 is when I drove down.

The statement of a barrier being up is purely illogical if we are to believe the narrative. Does the MCC wish people to believe with a window of 108 seconds to 167 seconds, the perpetrator who is being heavily pursued in the dark, put

their car into park, got out, took a rope/chain barrier down drove through, put their car into park again, got out, **put the chain/rope back up** and got in car and drove the remainder of the blueberry field road?

Combining Dean Dillman's actions when he arrived at the top of blueberry field road **and** the replacement of the chain/rope, this narrative becomes virtually impossible.

*Mallory Colpitts, resident of Portapique, former Regional Halifax Police

When asked if she drove down Blueberry field road COMM0061175 page 6: "I didn't because it wasn't well-kept enough. Could I have? I could have risked it. It didn't make sense for me to, especially where I drove like a Mini Cooper. So, that's like a low-profile vehicle that just logically ... If I had a truck, I probably wouldn't care and would use it, but it just didn't make sense to risk being stuck there." then I wouldn't be surprised if they would use it for that, especially if there's a truck or an SUV. But like, a smaller sports vehicle, it wouldn't be advisable, you'd probably get stuck, I would imagine. So, I think some people may have used it on occasion, but I personally-

Nichole ELIZABETH [00:14:06] And it sounds like if you saw somebody using it in that way, it wouldn't raise any alarms?

Mallory COLPITTS [00:14:13] No, it wouldn't, it wouldn't at all. And in fact, sometimes if you would GPS my residence, you were instructed to go down that road. GPS would bring you there. So, I had one friend in particular, I remember asking me like, "Are you sure I'm in the right place? Like I'm down this ketchy, strange ... doesn't even look like a road." I'm like, "Oh, I know where it brought you ," and it was that road. So, sometimes GPS would actually suggest you go down it.

Nichole ELIZABETH [00:14:46] Hopefully they weren't driving a low-profile sports vehicle.

Mallory COLPITTS [00:14:48] They were in a ... no, they were in a truck. So, it was like ... it was fine, of course, but that particular individual was in a truck. But it shocked me that that's the method that it recommended.

In COMM0003522, line 688 – 693, Mallory Colpitts states she believes that Peter and Kelly (Deborah) Thibeault have cameras on their property. In COMM0003520 RCMP task ID 86, page 1 equally states the same.

- **Was any camera footage ever collected from the Thibeaults?**

- **If so, where is it?**

This would show the exit of the perpetrator via the blueberry field road which is directly in front of the Thibeaults, the barrier between Cobequid Court and the blueberry field road, potentially the perpetrator and possibly actions he may have committed on the western end of Cobequid Court at the Tucks or Bonds

Colpitts submitted her own camera footage, which shows all angles of her house, which is 500m from the Blueberry field road.

Possibly, both Thibeault and Colpitts video surveillance could show any police involvement with Cobequid, that may clear up a lot of unanswered questions. Debra (Kelly) Thibeault, expresses that the Blueberry field road was “fantastic” pg 31 COMM0051438, “much better than Orchard beach road” MCC testimony March 30, 2022 Colpitts on the other hand claims the road is not well-kept and wouldn't risk driving on road. These two statements are very conflicting.

Thibeault said, the post and “rope” was broken upon her return home, implying the perpetrator drove through the rope. She also stated, the military had set up with trucks in the field next door and pointed this out to the RCMP.

- Did anyone, the MCC or RCMP, inquire as to whether the military may have broken the post and rope?

*Judge Alain Begin

In COMM0015906, Judge Alain Begin MCC interview, also conveniently released post conclusion of the MCC, he states repeatedly that he does not believe this was a gender-based violence:

“**Christopher LUSSOW** [00:08:23] And then following on ... because some of the ... the different things we were looking at, so, the Commission, they look at all aspects of it. We're not just, you know, investigating the police response, they're looking at the whole sector, intimate partner violence, gender-based violence, post event support and that. Was there any further effect on ... on yourself or any of your employees, like any of your staff that you're aware of?

Alain BEGIN [00:08:59] **I don't think it was gender based, I really don't.**

This guy ... I spoke to Wortman over the phone, right, when I dealt ... when I was dealing with that lawsuit. The guy was crazy. You know, he just thought he knew more than lawyers and everything else. So, I personally, I don't think. You know, it could offend some people to say that, but **I don't think it was gender based.** This guy was just crazy. He was killing everyone, right. Andrew MacDonald is not a woman, right. One of the first he went after. **I don't think it was gender based.** Everyone was stressed out at work, obviously; everyone was ... everyone you spoke to was stressed out. You hear about, you know, police ... are you going to pull over if a police car comes? No, go, keep driving until you're ... you're in a crowded space. And I thought the same thing for a while. I'm thinking ... you know, I ... And me in my job, I deal with them all the time. And I'm ... Pretty good relationship with the RCMP around here, right. So, it just ... it ... it sort of throws you off a bit. But I don't think it was gender

based at all. But no, it ... you get nervous for a bit. I'll tell you, for the next you know, month or two, even though you know he's dead, you sort of look twice when you're walking to the mailbox and stuff, which is strange. And the only other time I ever did that was when I did the Hell's Angel murder trial. I did a hanger on, right, it wasn't the main guy, but his hanger on for a double murder. And started getting nervous going to your mailbox, you start . . . during the trial. But it wasn't quite that, but it was walk ... you know, you just get more nervous and-

How can family members be expected to make final submissions when we still have in excess of 60 thousand documents still outstanding. I asked for an extension until they were all disclosed but was denied. The Commissioners were granted an extension for their final report until March.

Tara Long
Aaron Tucks sister.