

Participant Consultations Session

Commissioners / Commissaires

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

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

Dr. Kim Stanton

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Best Western Truro - Glengarry
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Truro, Nova Scotia
B2N 4Z6

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II Appearances / Comparutions

Mr. Scott McLeod	Brother of Sean McLeod
Ms. Charlynn McLeod	Spouse of Scott McLeod
Mr. Darrin Murphy	Brother of Bernie Murphy
Ms. Michelle Murphy	Spouse of Darrin Murphy
Mr. Leon Joudrey	Portapique Community Resident
Ms. Mallory Colpitts	Portapique Community Resident
Mr. Garrett Moore	Spouse of Mallory Colpitts (observer)
Ms. Sandra McCulloch	Participants' counsel
Mr. Jamie VanWart	Commission counsel
Ms. Emily Hill	Commission counsel

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Truro, Nova Scotia

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--- Upon commencing on Saturday, September 17, 2022 at 9:30 a.m.

MR. JAMIE VanWART: Well, good morning, everyone, and thank you for coming today, and welcome to our Commission's Participants' consultation session with individuals and families.

I'll just give a little bit of an introduction to today, and talk about how things are going to flow, then after that, go around and give you an opportunity to introduce yourselves.

My name is -- and I think I've met you all -- some of you, just this morning -- but my name is Jamie VanWart, and along with Emily Hill, we'll be facilitating today's session.

The first thing I want to say is the machine that's sitting on the table in the centre is a recorder, so our session is being recorded. The recording will then be transcribed and that transcription will be part of the hearing, so it will be on the public record and it will form part of the Mass Casualty Commission hearings.

This session is in what we call Phase 3 of the hearings. So in Phase 3 is a time where we've continued to take what we've learned from the first two phases, Phases 1 and 2, and shift our focus to looking forward to the future and how best to make a difference in the future.

So we have -- we're very glad that you're here today, and you people being who were most directly affected by the events of April 18 and 19, and this is an opportunity to hear from you about how to make communities safer and respond better to mass casualty events if they were to happen again in the future.

How we've structured our conversation today -- and I think you've seen an outline -- is we'll have three questions that we'll pose and we'll go around in a circle and give everybody an opportunity to provide input.

And again, I guess I would emphasize the focus really is on this third phase and looking at recommendations and ideas about how to make communities

1 safer and better in the future.

2 So we'll go around the table. And I just would ask that people try to
3 keep their responses to about five minutes or less, and that way it will give everyone an
4 opportunity to speak, I think, equitably, in the time that we have.

5 I would say also that, you know, being in a group and talking about
6 a common theme, some of you, you know, there's no pressure to say anything original.
7 Sometimes you'll hear what somebody else says and you'll agree with what they say
8 and may not have anything to add to it, and just say that, because that's actually very
9 helpful. I mean, throughout the whole hearings, we've been trying to look for common
10 themes and places where people agree on ideas and thoughts. So it's important to
11 share that and don't feel pressured to say anything original.

12 Also, don't feel pressured to say anything at all. If you don't have
13 any interest in commenting on one of the questions, please don't. That's fine as well.

14 If during the session today you want to walk away and take a break
15 and come back, that's fine too. I might just acknowledge, for the record, that you've left
16 for a little bit, but that's fine.

17 We will be taking a break after we've gone through our second
18 round of questions.

19 I guess I would say as well that after each round, either Emily and I
20 might have some follow-up questions, or the Commissioners may have some follow-up
21 comments, and it might turn into a bit more of a conversation, and that would be helpful
22 as well. But just be respectful to others that are speaking and we'll do our best not to try
23 and interrupt each other and listen to what everyone has to say today.

24 So with that as being an introduction, unless anybody has any
25 questions about how today is going to look, perhaps we could just go around and start
26 with you, Leon, and maybe just introduce yourself and if you felt like it, maybe just give
27 a brief comment of why you decided to participate in today's session.

28 **MR. LEON JOUDREY:** I'm Leon Joudrey. I live right in

1 Portapique, and I decided to participate in today's events as I felt things weren't handled
2 correctly as far as getting people out of the neighbourhood and that sort of thing. So
3 that's why I came today.

4 **MS. MALLORY COLPITTS:** I am Mallory Colpitts. I'm a former
5 resident of Portapique. I reside in HRM now.

6 I decided to attend today to hopefully provide even one piece of
7 necessary feedback. You know, we are a very small group of those most impacted, so
8 hopefully I can contribute to a meaningful discussion.

9 **MR. DARRIN MURPHY:** I'm Darrin Murphy. My brother lived just
10 up the road from her. He died in December and I'm here to carry on his legacy. And
11 that's my wife.

12 **MS. MICHELLE MURPHY:** Michelle Murphy, spouse, brother-in-
13 law and sister-in-law to Bernie.

14 **MS. CHARLYNN McLEOD:** I'm Charlynn McLeod, spouse to Scott
15 McLeod. I'm here for support, and we've been -- had long conversations on things of
16 these topics and things like that, and sister-in-law to victim Sean McLeod.

17 **MR. SCOTT McLEOD:** And I'm Scott McLeod, brother of Sean
18 McLeod. I've been attending for quite some time, invested a lot of time in this, trying to
19 work with what I can, because I mean, everybody's experienced a whole lot of different
20 things and have seen and talked to a lot of different people. So there's a lot of areas
21 that people have information on, and I have no problem digging into it with them and
22 trying to help out and look at different avenues for different things, not just based on
23 what happened at my brother's place, but really taking a look at a lot of things that
24 others have experienced and talked to a lot of people.

25 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** Well, thank you for those introductions.

26 And before I pass it on to Emily to lead the first round, I just wanted
27 to mention one other thing that I should have said, is with regards to speaking today, it
28 is being recorded, so try to speak with a bit of volume, if you can.

1 Before we started, we were just talking about back to school.
2 Maybe a good analogy would be pretend you're in school doing a bit of a class
3 presentation and speaking to a class.

4 But -- so if you can, just speak with a bit of volume so to ensure that
5 the transcription is able to be done.

6 **COMMISSIONER KIM STANTON:** And maybe just for the record,
7 can we say who else is in the room?

8 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** Thank you. Yeah, but I will say that the
9 Commissioners are present as well, and I don't know if you wanted to introduce?

10 **COMMISSIONER KIM STANTON:** Yes. And counsel, Sandra
11 McCulloch is here, and there's also a guest.

12 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** Yes, thank you.

13 So ---

14 **COMMISSIONER LEANNE FITCH:** Sorry, Jamie, if I could just
15 ask if everybody could speak up. I have hearing loss in my left ear and with the noise
16 and stuff, it's difficult to hear without the big speakers in front of us, so thank you. I
17 apologize.

18 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** Yeah. And thank you, Commissioner
19 Stanton.

20 So thank you so much. Sandra McCulloch is present today, and as
21 well as your spouse, Garrett Moore, is present as well. Right now he's not sitting at the
22 table, but certainly is welcome to join if he wants to. But I think he's comfortable --- he
23 indicated he's comfortable where he is for now -- yeah.

24 **MALLORY COLPITTS:** He's pretty comfortable over there.

25 (laughter)

26 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** Right. Thank you so much for being here.
27 So thank you, Commissioner Stanton.

28 **MS. EMILY HILL:** So I think we'll just get started into our

1 conversation. It's a nice small group today, so I think that you will have the chance to
2 hear from each other and hopefully build on what -- you know, what you hear and what
3 you agree with or you know, don't agree with as people share their thoughts.

4 As Jamie said, you know, our hope is that in this phase and with
5 our conversation today, we're really focused on the hard task the Commissioners have
6 of making recommendations, meaningful recommendations to help improve community
7 safety.

8 So that kind of thinking about the future as much as what -- as
9 much as our work is rooted in, of course, what happened and the experiences people
10 have had, you know, trying to always be casting our mind to what might change and
11 what we might do differently.

12 So the first question that we heard back from you and from others
13 we -- who we talked to about this session that people wanted to talk about was about
14 public communication during an emergency and about how, you know, we share news
15 about when something like this is happening.

16 So the question we've asked you to comment on is thinking about
17 the future, how can we ensure that community members receive the information that
18 they need in order to stay safe during an emergency? What ideas do you have about
19 the role of the public and public education in making these systems effective?

20 So I don't know if you want to start, Leon?

21 **MR. LEON JOUDREY:** I know that it all starts with the Public Alert.
22 Everybody keeps going, you know, about that a Public Alert should have been issued.
23 But my biggest thing is they should have canvassed the neighbourhood, because my
24 phone was off and none of us knew what was going on. And yeah, I would have liked
25 seeing them going door-to door and got us out of the community. Yeah.

26 **MS. MALLORY COLPITTS:** And it's piggybacking off of Leon
27 because I agree with what he's saying. You know, a Public Alert is great, but it still is
28 via electronic devices, so in the event that someone doesn't have access to electronic

1 device or their phone's off, TVs are off, things of that nature, especially given the times
2 of the incident, you know, early in the morning, late at night, most people are going to
3 have their phones off, or the majority, I would think, of the population.

4 So door to door canvassing would have been -- I think, made a
5 notable difference, especially in such a small demographic.

6 And I can appreciate that in future -- hopefully, this never happens -
7 - but if there is a future incident, that certain populations will have a much bigger scan to
8 go through, but in this particular case, it was a small area, a subdivision, if you will. And
9 I mean it would have been a great way to collect further information and knowing which
10 residents were full time, which residents were not full time. So I definitely agree with
11 Leon.

12 **MR. DARRIN MURPHY:** They already said it.

13 **MS. EMILY HILL:** Okay. Jamie said that might happen.

14 **MS. MICHELLE MURPHY:** I would say that canvassing was the
15 biggest thing that would have affected Bernie's experience that night. I did have
16 something else I was going to just add to that, but it wasn't overly important because of
17 mainly what you guys are saying.

18 **MS. MALLORY COLPITTS:** And we were very close to -- Bernie
19 and I.

20 **MS. MICHELLE MURPHY:** Yeah.

21 **MS. MALLORY COLPITTS:** Exceptionally close to Leon's.

22 **MS. MICHELLE MURPHY:** Exactly. Yeah.

23 And maybe just add to the fact of the -- of the community, that it's --
24 how it was laid out, how small or how --

25 **MR. DARRIN MURPHY:** It's not a big subdivision.

26 **MS. MICHELLE MURPHY:** Yes. Yeah.

27 **MR. DARRIN MURPHY:** Small place, but you got spurs ---

28 **MS. MICHELLE MURPHY:** But it's ---

1 **MR. DARRIN MURPHY:** --- all over.

2 **MS. MICHELLE MURPHY:** Yeah. It's kind of like, somewhat
3 isolated, you know, I mean, how it's laid out. Not -- it's not isolated, but ---

4 **MR. DARRIN MURPHY:** It is, but is isn't.

5 **MS. MICHELLE MURPHY:** Yeah, it's not ---

6 **MR. DARRIN MURPHY:** It's all ---

7 **MS. MICHELLE MURPHY:** Not like a modern subdivision or
8 anything like that.

9 **MR. DARRIN MURPHY:** It's like where we're at. We have a
10 driveway. That's all you can see from our -- the road. Nobody knows we're there, right?
11 So ---

12 **MS. MICHELLE MURPHY:** So yes, I just think the canvassing was
13 the huge thing and I think it would have made a huge difference for Bernie.

14 **MR. DARRIN MURPHY:** For everybody.

15 **COMMISSIONER STANTON:** When did he become aware of what
16 was happening? When did he become aware?

17 **MR. DARRIN MURPHY:** About 9:30 in the morning.

18 **COMMISSIONER STANTON:** On the Sunday.

19 **MR. LEON JOUDREY:** Next morning. I got up around quarter to
20 4:00, and went for a drive because I got a couple texts for the fires and stuff. The
21 SWAT turned me around twice, never told me what was going on. So they could have
22 took us out of there.

23 **MS. MICHELLE MURPHY:** Yeah, Bernie found out through texts
24 and outside people. Like, I don't think he had any contact with the police until later on
25 that Sunday afternoon, I believe ---

26 **MR. LEON JOUDREY:** No, he didn't. He was just getting ready to
27 take his dog for a walk.

28 **MS. MICHELLE MURPHY:** Yeah.

1 **MR. SCOTT McLEOD:** So I don't live down in the community. I'm
2 only ever -- I took, just a few weeks ago when we actually went for a drive down, in
3 through, I actually stopped in for Ryan Farrington to check on the shed and stuff for the
4 Gulenchyn family, and that's the first time I've been down through really any of the
5 roads in there.

6 I mean, it looks larger, but it's not that big of an area.

7 Now, from my brother's place -- I've been a strong advocate of the
8 Alert system right from the get-go. I would -- it's a fast way to do a mass pushout for
9 information. But like you say, not everybody's got electronic devices or not everybody's
10 around something. I know myself, I've never thought, you know, about the canvassing
11 of the area, especially with everything I've heard so far. I mean, with three officers
12 initially responding to the area that didn't know the area, but you know, definitely, as
13 many platforms, I think, that you can use. Like, Twitter was used. Well, I've got Twitter
14 on my phone, but I mean, I don't have the RCMP as somebody I follow, so I'm not ---

15 **MS. CHARLYNN McLEOD:** You didn't have it then.

16 **MR. SCOTT McLEOD:** No, so I'm not going to -- I'm not going to
17 get anything off of Twitter. And if you're not sitting on Facebook or again, following the
18 same groups, so I mean, at least with the Alert system where it's a mass pushout and
19 it's over a multitude of devices, there's a higher probability of people actually getting that
20 Alert. So definitely, a big step, and I mean, following up, absolutely, well, it's a -- to -- if
21 they can get people out, the less people in the general area, the easier it is to contain
22 and deal with whatever's going on.

23 **MS. MALLORY COLPITTS:** Until we can get further information.

24 **MS. CHARLYNN McLEOD:** Exactly.

25 **MS. MALLORY COLPITTS:** We may have different information
26 now, but back then, we didn't.

27 So in such a small demographic where there was large casualties,
28 we don't have enough information, in my opinion, to keep residents there. I think they're

1 -- until more information is gathered to know about motives and things of that nature, it's
2 not worth the risk that even offering evacuation or not offering evacuation for the couple
3 of residents that were left. There was more deceased than were alive at that point.

4 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** One of the -- we had a session yesterday,
5 and a similar theme was raised about during the night, people turn their phones off and
6 we had a bit of a discussion about different ways in which to notify people during the
7 late hours, and similar to what you have raised today.

8 One of the other questions that was raised yesterday -- and I'd just
9 maybe would raise it again today -- was there's a tension in alerting between alerting
10 people as soon as possible versus waiting til you have more perhaps complete and
11 accurate information, so the tension being, do you wait until you know for certain what
12 you're sharing with the public is correct, or do you side on sharing with the public
13 information as soon as you hear it, even though you may need to correct it or you may -
14 - are at risk of sharing incorrect information?

15 I don't know if anybody has any comment on that?

16 **MS. MALLORY COLPITTS:** On oversharing versus under sharing,
17 just so that I can understand?

18 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** Yeah. Yeah, just so the time -- so this
19 tension between do you wait until you know for certain that the information your sharing
20 with the public is accurate, or is it better just to share with the public as soon as you
21 know some information, understanding that there's a risk that you could be sharing
22 incorrect information or have to correct it later?

23 **MS. MALLORY COLPITTS:** I mean, I think sharing some is more
24 productive than sharing nothing, and even at that point, just simply to say that there's
25 been a serious incident in an area without describing what the serious incident is, is
26 enough to alert -- it's almost like sharing without sharing explicit details. I mean, that's
27 not really -- it is a serious incident. I guess the wording would really depend, and just
28 labelling it an incident, to me, isn't enough to raise awareness.

1 **MS. MICHELLE MURPHY:** Could maybe ---

2 **MS. MALLORY COLPITTS:** That's my opinion.

3 **MS. MICHELLE MURPHY:** Somewhat, instructions, shelter in
4 place or be on the lookout, be cautious, or some kind of thing where people would get a
5 heads up. Yeah, maybe.

6 **MS. CHARLYNN McLEOD:** Things like that, like, you were saying,
7 like, your phone is off, but the more platforms information is shared on, the better
8 chance of someone who knows you and knows your routine of shutting off your phone,
9 then they're going to the best that they can to contact you, and you're going to go and
10 try to contact your neighbour, that sort of thing that you know, doesn't have Twitter or
11 doesn't have -- not everybody, especially the older population, they don't all have
12 tablets and things like that, but at least letting it go on more than one thing that's not just
13 the Twitter sort of thing would have gotten the information out just even like you said,
14 just shelter in place, just a warning to at least ---

15 **MS. MALLORY COLPITTS:** Yes. Yeah, because I can personally
16 say that that morning, there was an unknown male, you know, in approximately his
17 fifties, that I'm assuming, did not receive the Twitter alerts, and was just out canvassing
18 the beach casually.

19 **MS. CHARLYNN McLEOD:** M'hm.

20 **MS. MALLORY COLPITTS:** Well, that of course, for a resident that
21 just -- that knows of everything that just happened is extremely alarming and concerning
22 to see that, where as far as I'm concerned, that individual likely didn't know anything
23 that happened.

24 **MR. LEON JOUDREY:** He didn't, and that was Ron.

25 **MS. MALLORY COLPITTS:** Yeah. So ---

26 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** Sorry, I didn't hear you.

27 **MR. LEON JOUDREY:** That was Ron McGraw and he didn't know
28 anything was going on. They told him just to get out of there. It was a hot zone and he

1 seen a lot, driving out the road, dead bodies, so that affected him greatly. And that's
2 what I mean. They could have put him in the van and took him out of there, but that's
3 what happened to him.

4 **MS. MALLORY COLPITTS:** Yeah. So if the information had been
5 relayed more quickly or door-to-door canvassing, it would have avoided just common
6 pedestrians walking around and creating, like, terror, really, because we -- at that point,
7 a person wasn't apprehended and here you have an older man in his fifties, roughly
8 meeting somewhat of a description, walking around. That's -- you know, it's quite
9 concerning when you're in that situation. And it's because you just -- you didn't know.

10 So it's -- yeah, if door-to-door canvassing had happened, a situation
11 like that would have been avoided, which instilled more panic in that moment. Yeah,
12 you can't rely specifically on the electronics.

13 **MS. EMILY HILL:** One thing I heard -- one of the challenges or
14 one of the factors that I hear people sort of talking about is the fact that how do we
15 make sure that those who are responding know what they need to know about a
16 community? So the sort of description that you've given us, you know, that it's spread
17 out and that, you know, you're not necessarily sure down this road, are there two
18 houses or are there five houses? And you know, your comment about some people are
19 seasonal, so there might be five houses, but we don't -- you know, some people might
20 know that for many months of the year, there's nobody there, but if I showed up in that
21 community, I might not know that.

22 So I'm wondering if you have any ideas about how to make sure
23 that those who are responsible for sharing information for alerting and for doing door-to-
24 door canvasses know about the community that they're walking into or that they're
25 working in so that they can not, you know, be it waste time going down roads where
26 there is nobody, but that they don't miss roads where there might be people. They have
27 a sense of are there likely to be 10 residents here or 50 residents here?

28 **MS. MALLORY COLPITTS:** M'hm.

1 **MS. EMILY HILL:** I don't know if anyone has any ideas or thoughts
2 about that sort of challenge.

3 **MS. MALLORY COLPITTS:** I think that goes with door-to-door
4 canvassing. You know, that's just, in my respectful opinion, that's Policing 101, that's
5 basic investigative skills, trying to understand your environment, because there really --
6 there's really no one specific method that seems practical in all of Canada to implement
7 all the specifics on every subdivision that's out there. So just to ask the questions on
8 the few remaining survivors that made it through the night could have told you
9 everything, could have told you about the Blueberry Field Road, you know? I could
10 have explained, you know, well, Bernie's a full-time resident. He's my neighbour beside
11 me.

12 I could have told you the Tucks were primary residents.
13 So that just goes with the canvassing and investigative skills that
14 respectfully, just did not happen.

15 **MS. EMILY HILL:** So you're saying that the door-to-door is not just
16 about the ---

17 **MS. MALLORY COLPITTS:** It's fact gathering.

18 **MS. EMILY HILL:** --- person giving information, saying, "I don't
19 want to give you information about this until --- "

20 **MS. MALLORY COLPITTS:** It's -- there's duality of fact gathering,
21 because I could have provided a lot of valuable information, as well as alerting.

22 **MS. EMILY HILL:** Right, and the information exchange could
23 happen going door to door.

24 **MS. MALLORY COLPITTS:** Yes. Like, so there's not just -- not
25 one purpose to it.

26 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** Now, I think I asked -- and sorry if
27 you've already said this, and I'm not sure, in our information, but when did you first learn
28 about the events?

1 **MS. MALLORY COLPITTS:** Early hours of the morning from a
2 neighbour who survived, Bjorn, through contacting one another. I don't have Twitter. I
3 didn't receive anything like that. It was the neighbourhood looking out for each other.

4 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** So it was like, after midnight, before
5 6:00 a.m., or after 6:00 a.m.?

6 **MS. MALLORY COLPITTS:** I think it was in and around 6:00 or
7 7:00 a.m. that I learned, like, the true details, what had happened, knowing at that point
8 that a variety of members from the neighbourhood are deceased. Yeah.

9 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** And Leon, I understand that you were
10 out at like, 4:00 a.m. in the morning to -- because you were alerted about the fires?

11 **MR. LEON JOUDREY:** I got a couple of texts that there was fires
12 and shooting and that. And I fell asleep, so I got up and went for a drive. I could smell
13 smoke, and I came across Gabriel's house first that was burnt with the SWAT there.
14 They told me to turn around and go to the entrance. Well, I left my house open with two
15 dogs, that's the first place I was going back to, and that's when I noticed Frank and
16 Dawn's house burned, so I made a quick trip around the neighbourhood looking for
17 more fires. Didn't see any. Went back to my house.

18 And then about 6 o'clock is when Lisa showed up knocking at the
19 door. And I still didn't know what was going on. They came and took her and left me,
20 so I didn't know what was going on til I got to Great Village.

21 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** Thank you. Sorry to interrupt there.

22 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** I guess I just -- maybe one more question
23 for Charlynn and Scott. I mean, your perspective is a bit different than the idea of door-
24 to-door canvassing. So did you have anything else, recommendations about how to
25 best share an Alert with Nova Scotians at large?

26 **MR. SCOTT McLEOD:** Well, with -- I know there's been
27 advancements since the incident with the Alert Ready system. And I mean, there's --
28 they're using more capabilities at this time. But when you said about sharing

1 information and you know, how much to -- when to put it out.

2 If -- you know, once you've got a confirmed situation where, you
3 know, first officers on the scene have confirmed that we have, you know, we've come
4 across a number of deceased or fires, if they -- like you mentioned, not giving the
5 details, but to alert the people that we have a serious incident, just to shelter in place,
6 further details will be given as to -- you know, on an updated Alert.

7 And that would at least -- you would get a good portion of people
8 with that Alert. They would know, and it would hopefully keep people inside and secure,
9 away from whatever threat or risk is actually there, so without giving too many details,
10 but it also opens the area up for the responding officers to move through with less worry
11 about running into an innocent and having to confront and deal with them versus
12 anybody they run into, you know, all right, if this is our person. There's less -- there's
13 more chance of hitting the person that you're looking for when there's -- dealing with all
14 the different people that are coming out. Like, fires are a huge draw. I don't know how
15 many times you get a building on fire and everybody in town seems to show up and
16 stand and watch the red lights flash.

17 But you know, obviously, you got to go to a certain point, wait to a
18 certain point to confirm information to a degree, because you know, to just -- you can't
19 just fire up an alert and say, "Something's going on."

20 But when you confirm you've got a serious incident, you know, if
21 you put that initial Alert out telling people that there's an incident in the area, just shelter
22 in place, further information to follow, same way you would if it was a flood zone or
23 anything like that, like, you can -- you put the next alert out as you gather more of the
24 information, details, and either you're sending out the cancellation of the Alert, or you're
25 upgrading the Alert.

26 But just at that point, like, yeah, it's a hard call to say when, but if
27 you can -- if you've got officers or firefighters or whomever is first on scene that can
28 confirm you've got a situation that warrants public warning, move to the initial warning,

1 and you know, you can upgrade it or at that point, if they get it under control at this point
2 early on, you can cancel it, saying that it's been contained.

3 **MS. CHARLYNN McLEOD:** Like, if the initial Alert has gone out
4 and then an update a little bit later on that the perpetrator still hasn't been apprehended,
5 unknown if he's still within the area, and then just kind of like, have the Alert go out to,
6 like, the full -- not just that area, but as wide a scope as you can, and then that way
7 there more people are notified and they're -- it's all like a snowball effect. One people
8 hears it, they're going to start calling people and telling and texting and things like that.

9 Like, that's how -- that would have been the only reason -- way that
10 Sean and Alanna would have known, is from word of mouth and things like that.

11 So they had no warning. They -- they were thinking, oh,
12 Portapique, it's this far away. They're never going to come. But chances are, they
13 didn't even know about it to start with, so like -- but other family members in that area,
14 and they would have been able to start calling and sharing information, and things like
15 that. So I think it's important to update as soon as you get another piece of information.

16 Like, here -- especially in the beginning, like, for some reason, they
17 were saying he was still within the area. It's like, well, they didn't know. They had no
18 idea. So if you're not 100 percent sure that he's still within this small quarantined area,
19 start spreading the word out and go further, like, open up your whatever you call it,
20 whatever you say it, you know, and then, like, just start spreading the information further
21 out. Open your scope. That's how it's got to be done.

22 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** Well, I thank you so much for that. And I
23 think maybe I'll move on to our next topic and start in a similar format. We'll go around
24 the table first and I will frame the question for everyone.

25 So our second question is about supporting individuals, families,
26 first responders, and communities after a mass casualty.

27 So what kinds of supports do individuals, families, first and
28 secondary responders, and communities affected by a mass casualty need? What

1 roles should communities and government play in designing and developing these
2 supports? What role can individuals play? And do you have any additional suggestions
3 for ensuring the immediate and long-term needs of those affected by a mass casualty
4 are met?

5 And I'll turn to you, Leon. This isn't -- I'm not -- don't feel obliged to
6 answer each question. I'm just trying to frame it -- the discussion a little bit, but -- and I'll
7 turn it to you.

8 **MR. LEON JOUDREY:** Okay. And it affects you. It still affects me
9 to this day. I went through what I went through, so dealing with hospitals and everything
10 else, so it's been a long two and a half years, but as far as recommendations, I don't
11 know.

12 **MS. EMILY HILL:** Is there something you can think of that would
13 have helped either you or the people around you with that harmed healing?

14 **MR. LEON JOUDREY:** Yeah, after it was over, I moved out of the
15 house. I didn't really have a spot to live; that was a little rough. I just bought -- I had
16 two dogs, so I needed somewhere to go.

17 But yeah, there was lots of mental health support out there for
18 meetings with psychiatrists or mental health doctors, but living conditions were rough
19 there for a couple of years.

20 **MS. EMILY HILL:** It's hard to get help when you're ---

21 **MR. LEON JOUDREY:** Yeah.

22 **MS. EMILY HILL:** --- worried about a roof over your head.

23 **MR. LEON JOUDREY:** Yeah.

24 **MS. MALLORY COLPITTS:** I have a lot on this one.

25 I will piggyback off relocation services. And as Leon identified, as
26 one of the survivors of the mass casualty, I think it's fair to say, despite the -- I do not
27 have a psychology background; however, healing or attempting to heal in a place that
28 contributed to a sickness is not easy. Everyone handles a situation like this differently,

1 and I respect both opinions, staying versus not staying. It's different for everyone.

2 Like Leon, I also felt that it was best for my mental health to
3 consider relocation, which, housing, I also struggled with, especially in a crisis with
4 housing and pandemic. The worst timing in Nova Scotia right now for a residential -- I
5 struggled to sell my home. I received no assistance from Red Cross despite asking for
6 help. I later read through the Foundational Documents, and in an email exchange from
7 Red Cross and the RCMP, the Red Cross appeared to be asking for advice on how we
8 create a criteria for assistance.

9 Now, it doesn't appear that anyone who lived met that criteria. It
10 appeared, from what I'm reading through these emails, that the assistance from Red
11 Cross were meant for the families of the deceased, and it cut off there.

12 So for the ones that have to live through that tragedy, relocation
13 assistance of any sort paramount in mental health assistance for those trying to get out
14 of that environment.

15 You know, I found myself in a very difficult position that once I
16 finally did sell my home and was in the process of trying to purchase another one, sales
17 fell through and inspections and issues, so I also went through a period where I had
18 finally sold my house, which for me was 100 percent the right decision, and now I'm in
19 this transition period where I don't have a place to live, you know.

20 And I had to -- without getting into too much detail -- temporarily
21 residing in one of the deceased's homes, but somehow I didn't meet a criteria for Red
22 Cross assistance, for any temporary relocation moving assistance, anything, which I
23 would have not expected to do otherwise if it wasn't for this incident, you know? But for
24 me, it just was too much tragedy in the area and it just wasn't the same any more.

25 Apart from relocation and housing support and assistance, we're
26 very few, a very few small demographic in that rural area, you know? We're not talking
27 about a broad scale of survivors in a subdivision. We're talking about a handful.

28 Regular check ins from Victim Services would be another

1 recommendation. I don't hear from them at all. In fact, the last time I made contact and
2 asked a question about a treatment option, they told me they would get back to me and
3 never did. So I think it would be beneficial for as long as there's a mass casualty going
4 on, because that is a, respectfully, triggering event; I think we can agree with that. So
5 for as long as these wounds are left open and we deal with this, I think it would be
6 exceptionally beneficial for routine check ins from Victim Services, because sometimes
7 statuses can change along the way, and when someone's struggling, that's not the most
8 -- you know, expecting people to reach out when they're struggling isn't always feasible
9 or practical. So a couple month check in can even be, you know, "Can I help you in any
10 way? How is your current therapist?" Anything, really.

11 So yes, I've noticed a big -- in terms -- I can only speak for myself in
12 the most impacted category. I don't know what the families have -- what kind of
13 services they've received, but for the ones that, you know, survived that night, little to no
14 help, unfortunately, in support services. I mean, I'm -- I'm also, I find, in a very unique
15 situation.

16 And this -- it falls within the realm of this, I will say, but we all know
17 that this has now taken over two years. It's hard to really predict timelines. Extensions
18 happen. I get that. But some sort of respect for the process from one's employer in a
19 unique situation like this -- I am a federal government employee, and I am fighting to
20 keep my job, because this isn't seen as a reasonable process to take time off work.
21 Sorry, that was more than five minutes.

22 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** Well, thank you so much, Mallory. I'll turn
23 it over to you, Darrin.

24 **MR. DARRIN MURPHY:** I talked to my brother about two months
25 after this happened, and it screwed his head up big time. And he told me that he was
26 told that it would take up to nine months to get to Mental Health. And when I seen him, I
27 didn't recognize him. He did not -- he was not the same person we knew.

28 And he started talking, and we were at a gas station, and I didn't

1 know who he was. I was about to tell him off, and when he got over close to me and I
2 recognized him, like, his voice changed, everything. And when he told me it was going
3 to take nine months to get -- to see somebody to help him, right, and now a year and a
4 half later, he's dead. That's all I can say.

5 **MS. MICHELLE MURPHY:** I agree with everything that's been
6 said. I don't know if I could add anything to that, other than how much it affected Bernie,
7 and I think the stress and everything contributed to his, to his death.

8 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** Thank you. These are -- this is a really
9 difficult question to answer, so thank you so much, everyone, for sharing.

10 **MS. CHARLYNN McLEOD:** I know that with the in-laws in Truro,
11 they didn't receive a lot of information at all, they had a lot of difficulty with -- we call him
12 Skippy.

13 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** Sorry, with?

14 **MS. CHARLYNN McLEOD:** Skippy, Skipper Bent. Yeah, we had
15 a lot of issues with -- I know that's not anything ... getting information. That was very
16 difficult on the family, not getting a lot of information directly.

17 And we did try to find a psychologist for my father-in-law, because

18 **C1 - Personal Information** He's back and forth all the time.

19 And a lot of depression runs in that family, and that sort of thing,
20 and they were not able to find -- he would have had to go all the way down to Halifax for
21 psychology treatment or anything like that, so that was difficult because where it is all
22 small communities, there was no one available. No one would take new patients. They
23 had I don't know how many people were calling for him. So he ended up not getting any
24 counselling at all, part with being stubbornness, part with not wanting to drive to Halifax.

25 Scott and Sean and his mom, my mother-in-law was diagnosed
26 with **C1 - Personal Information** which affected the family on a whole
27 different level. So like, Scott -- Scott's been lucky to get a really good psychologist that
28 deals -- she works specifically with first responders, so which ties in with his workplace,

1 so that's been a godsend, that he's gotten Margaret, so if I can say that without saying
2 too much.

3 My son started seeing a psychologist. My then 10-year-old, one
4 night, I went downstairs to tuck her into bed and here was a piece of cardboard written
5 on there with a little note. It had like, two sentences a couple of checkmarks, yes or no.

6 "Dear Uncle Sean, I miss you so much. Do you remember me?"

7 And like, how do you answer? How do you talk to a child like that?
8 Like, I'm not in a position. I can't check yes or no for her, like, for him, thinking, like, she
9 lost her godfather. So it's been a very difficult time.

10 I know we all had coverage for psychologists if we wanted to. I
11 haven't gone yet, but I probably should, just because of the ongoing trauma and things
12 like that, because it doesn't go away. You live it every day. There's not one day that we
13 don't talk about this in the past two and a half years, whether it's direct or indirect or
14 pictures sitting out. Like, you can't put the pictures of your family members and your
15 friends away. You can't do that.

16 I'm going to lose my train of thought here.

17 But no, just things like that, like, there was no offer from Red Cross
18 for support. Maybe we're just -- he's a sibling, he's not a child, so maybe that's different.
19 I don't know. We didn't hear about anything else.

20 So as far as that goes, like, we don't know anything about any of
21 that payout. Could they have helped with travel expenses for Scott's mother going back
22 and forth to Halifax for specialists and different things like that? His father's also got
23 **C1 - Personal Information** things like that. Like, there's a lot of extra transportation.

24 She passed December last year. They had to sell the home. Right
25 now, he's in the middle of -- one hospital, Moncton, says he's **C1 - Personal Information**

26 **C1 - Personal Information**

27 **C1 - Personal Information**

28 **C1 - Personal Information** He's okay to live on his

1 own."

2 So right now we're in the middle there. **C1 - Personal Information**

3 **C1 - Personal Information** So we're actually picking him up today
4 to bring him back home with us.

5 So it's not -- there's the trauma of that night, of not knowing, of
6 getting a phone call from Sean's daughter saying, "My father's house is on sale -- or on
7 sale -- on fire. Do you -- have you heard from him?"

8 Like, going like that, calling Scott, where he was at work and trying
9 to get information.

10 So from that very first moment, you don't stop living this, and it's
11 hard. So I don't know, as far as support, like, for you guys, it was -- you could have
12 used that support to get out of the neighbourhood, to help you, even with temporary
13 shelter --

14 **MS. MALLORY COLPITTS:** That's an understatement.

15 **MS. CHARLYNN McLEOD:** -- or something, just to get you out.
16 Like, you shouldn't have had to go and stay in somebody else's home, especially
17 somebody that had passed away, somebody you knew. That's ridiculous.

18 **MS. MALLORY COLPITTS:** And died on the property.

19 **MS. CHARLYNN McLEOD:** Yeah. I mean, that's ---

20 **MS. MALLORY COLPITTS:** And I know that.

21 **MS. CHARLYNN McLEOD:** That's -- I -- that's unfathomable.

22 Like, I can't -- I have no words for that. Like, how ---

23 **MR. LEON JOUDREY:** I never got a call from Victim Services or
24 anybody.

25 **MS. CHARLYNN McLEOD:** You never got a call from?

26 **MR. LEON JOUDREY:** No.

27 **MS. CHARLYNN McLEOD:** No. It's just like, those that their family
28 members -- well, even at that, like, we've been in contact with family -- with Victim

1 Services and -- but Scott is very vocal and he talks a lot, so that keeps us in contact
2 with maybe more people than a lot of others.

3 But there's the people who didn't -- it's hard -- like, you guys know a
4 lot of people who passed away, but not someone like, in your own household or
5 whatever, so it's basically, "Oh, well, you're not as important because you're still there,
6 you still have your house, you're still alive, but these people --" it's like, there's some
7 people involved in this that have been made to feel like they don't matter or they're not
8 as important as other people, where they're suffering just as much as the people who
9 lost a loved one. They lost their friends who are like, colleagues, colleagues, family.

10 Like, my close friends, they're my family, so it's not just physical
11 blood, it's, you lose someone else, like, it ---

12 **MS. EMILY HILL:** But it ---

13 **MS. CHARLYNN McLEOD:** --- extends. Like, it's not ---

14 **MS. EMILY HILL:** Sorry, I didn't mean to cut you off.

15 **MS. CHARLYNN McLEOD:** No, no. I'm good. I'm just rambling
16 now, so ---

17 **MS. EMILY HILL:** Yeah, I was just going to say, I think one of the
18 things I'm hearing, of course, is just the profound impact on so many people. You were
19 geographically close, you know, emotionally close, and then, you know, rippling out, of
20 course, you know, your children, just that profound impact. So I just want to say I'm
21 hearing that loud and clear and understand that, and about the lines that get drawn
22 about who was impacted, who was less impacted, who qualifies, who doesn't qualify,
23 the ---

24 **MS. MALLORY COLPITTS:** Or the apparent shortages on mental
25 health workers, right? Like does, does Victim Services not have a list of providers that
26 have immediate access? I don't know enough about them.

27 **MS. CHARLYNN McLEOD:** They did give a list, but everyone was
28 maxed out.

1 **MR. SCOTT McLEOD:** Yeah.

2 **MR. LEON JOUDREY:** They want to set you up with ---

3 **MS. MALLORY COLPITTS:** --- so ---

4 **MR. LEON JOUDREY:** --- a navigator first, make an appointment
5 with a navigator to put me in the right direction. I was in no state of mind to deal with all
6 that.

7 **MS. MALLORY COLPITTS:** Right. So if their list is full, would that
8 not be a reasonable recommendation, is to ensure that your list isn't impractical?
9 And if it's not practical, like, issue a call out, because I'm sure there's professions in
10 Nova Scotia that would provide their name, and even if it's a virtual session, it's better
11 than no assistance. Sorry.

12 **MR. LEON JOUDREY:** When you're shaking every day and
13 somebody tells you it'll be three weeks, doesn't help you much.

14 **MS. MALLORY COLPITTS:** Yeah, because it seems a little
15 unreasonable when the person whom is suffering has to go on this hunt ---

16 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** Yeah.

17 **MS. MALLORY COLPITTS:** --- to call, to be told no repeatedly.
18 That in itself sounds damaging because here you are now asking for help, and it's,
19 "Sorry, we're full." You go to them, "Sorry, we're full." It's -- you're let down. You're
20 going ---

21 **MR. LEON JOUDREY:** It's like calling 9-1-1 and getting a
22 recording.

23 **MS. MALLORY COLPITTS:** Yeah, you will stop, so is that not
24 then, like, at what point is it -- you're able to get Victim Services to take the initiative and
25 find someone that, "Here's three names. They are accepting patients. The first fit may
26 not be the fit for you, and that's normal, but perhaps the second or third therapist is."

27 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** Well, why don't -- maybe I'll suggest we
28 hear from Scott, and then it might be good after we hear from you, Scott, then that might

1 be a good time to take a break, but we'll complete our circle.

2 **MR. SCOTT McLEOD:** So I know with services for mental health,
3 when we started looking for somebody for my young fellow, I mean, we made a lot of
4 phone calls, and Victim Services provided me with a couple of lists. But what they have
5 is a list of providers that will take payment through them, and it's just a list.

6 So -- and it tells you the community they're in, so you know, Truro
7 or New Glasgow. And it works out right across the province, so I mean, they have
8 contacts throughout the entire province, but again, it comes around to you start calling
9 and you're not necessarily going to find somebody close to you at all that's taking on
10 any new patients, clients, whichever way it works for them.

11 And I mean, if you're living in HRM and the only person on that list
12 that you've actually managed to get a possibility of an appointment with, you could be
13 dealing with a Zoom because they may be in Sydney. So I mean, obviously, you're not
14 going to be driving for six hours to do a one-hour session with somebody.

15 So but that's -- that was part of the issue, was just trying to find
16 people that were taking on patients.

17 With us living in New Brunswick, we had a whole separate
18 challenge, because we're dealing with New Brunswick providers there, and Nova
19 Scotia's Victim Services and such.

20 Now, they did help out to get help. I worked with Mary and her
21 group from here as well for stuff, and they've been -- that part of it's been really good.
22 But again, it's not easy to find anybody.

23 We -- I've even -- we've even got a friend of ours who was on the --
24 what's the place she was working with, Carol?

25 **MS. CHARLYNN McLEOD:** Oh.

26 **MR. SCOTT McLEOD:** A friend of ours is a psychologist, and she
27 was with a specific group that could actually help you find places. Now, she's in a
28 different practice now, but I mean, she couldn't take us on, just because it's the personal

1 relationship. It's not the way she wants to work.

2 But even her, like, she gave us a few names of people that she
3 thought might be taking somebody. But I mean, it was a rough, rough battle to try to
4 find anything. And I mean, we had the -- even for coverage, like, I mean, a lot of people
5 that they might not have cost coverage or anything like that.

6 Now, with the coverage coming from Victim Services and such, and
7 the Commission here, it's -- you know, there's money there, and I mean, we've got
8 coverage through work, and it's still -- it's still ---

9 **MS. CHARLYNN McLEOD:** I think it was like, 85. You needed to
10 find providers that would take the \$85 that the Province would cover per session.

11 **MR. SCOTT McLEOD:** Yeah.

12 **MS. CHARLYNN McLEOD:** That's a difficult thing to find right
13 there. So we're lucky that for our son, like, we've got coverage through both
14 workplaces. Well, we work at the same place, but through both plans that we can cover
15 that on our own. So -- but not everybody has access to that.

16 So if you can't find anyone that will take that \$85 per session, which
17 for psychologists, they're -- especially this far out now, they'll take it for a little while.
18 They're not going to keep doing that forever. So it's -- after a little while, like, that's --
19 there's nothing left there for people who can't financially do it, especially if they're not
20 getting help from Red Cross.

21 That's something that the Red Cross could have helped out with for
22 people, so -- because they are -- these people are directly affected, whether they got
23 shot or not. The people at the firehall, they got shot at. They're traumatized. They're
24 going to live with that for life, but they're not -- I don't think any -- never even heard of
25 any of them getting help from Red Cross or anything like that, so ---

26 **MR. SCOTT McLEOD:** Well, they got -- they did manage both the
27 firefighters ---

28 **MS. CHARLYNN McLEOD:** Did they get both get psychologists?

1 **MR. SCOTT McLEOD:** --- do have, either psychologists, social
2 workers that they do a regular Zoom ---

3 **MS. CHARLYNN McLEOD:** Yeah, but I think this is what they had
4 to fight with, because they had to fight ---

5 **MR. SCOTT McLEOD:** Well, they ---

6 **MS. CHARLYNN McLEOD:** --- for that.

7 **MR. SCOTT McLEOD:** They fought for it, but ---

8 **MS. MALLORY COLPITTS:** So I think a very clear area we've all
9 sort of determined is ---

10 **MS. CHARLYNN McLEOD:** Yeah.

11 **MS. MALLORY COLPITTS:** --- the criteria eligibility for Red Cross
12 assistance.

13 **MS. CHARLYNN McLEOD:** Exactly.

14 **MS. MALLORY COLPITTS:** And I understand that they reached
15 out to Victim Services, and RCMP and at that time, did what they could to try and
16 attempt a criteria, but perhaps that should a Commission recommendations.

17 **MR. SCOTT McLEOD:** Yeah.

18 **MS. CHARLYNN McLEOD:** You know? And there has to be some
19 sort of cut off. I get that, but if we're looking at the direct community where everything
20 stemmed from, and that is not yet determined as a criteria, I think that has to be revised
21 or revisited in some way.

22 **MS. CHARLYNN McLEOD:** No, especially where, when you read
23 the Red Cross mandate and all that kind of stuff, it does ---

24 **MS. MALLORY COLPITTS:** It says families – I know, it says
25 families –

26 **MS. CHARLYNN McLEOD:** Families and communities.

27 **MS. MALLORY COLPITTS:** So in what way?

28 **MS. CHARLYNN McLEOD:** Yeah, so in what way, because --

1 **MS. MALLORY COLPITTS:** Because, because I mean, millions
2 upon millions was collected, so how was it used?

3 **MS. CHARLYNN McLEOD:** Yeah. No idea.

4 **MS. MICHELLE MURPHY:** Yeah.

5 (Multiple speakers)

6 **MS. MALLORY COLPITTS:** Six point five million dollars (\$6.5
7 million).

8 **MS. CHARLYNN McLEOD:** Yeah, and I know that they were
9 saying in their report, like, money was allotted to organizations and things like that.
10 Well, what organizations were they allotted to that are going to deal with the direct
11 victims?

12 **MS. MALLORY COLPITTS:** When I asked for a basic assistance,
13 even with helping with a moving truck, you know, lump sums of money I didn't expect to
14 spend or prepared. It's, "Sorry, you know, Ms. Colpitts. There's -- we wish we could
15 help everyone but there's just no funds for that."

16 **MS. CHARLYNN McLEOD:** Yeah.

17 **MR. DARRIN MURPHY:** You gotta be kidding.

18 **MS. MALLORY COLPITTS:** Like, I packed my house up alone
19 with one family member, an entire house, and rented a truck. Like --

20 **MS. CHARLYNN McLEOD:** No, like, his father -- we've moved his
21 father six times, so that's from our pockets, moving him six times because of not
22 knowing where to go and his mental health and all of that kind of stuff, so that's -- we
23 paid for that, so -- so while we ---

24 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** Sorry, I missed that, Michelle.

25 **MS. MICHELLE MURPHY:** Six point five million.

26 **MS. MALLORY COLPITTS:** It was a lot. There was a lot of money
27 collected. And I don't --

28 **MS. MICHELLE MURPHY:** So is there any accountability from the

1 Red Cross what that money's spent on?

2 **MS. CHARLYNN McLEOD:** Not out in the open. They ---

3 **MS. MALLORY COLPITTS:** No.

4 **MS. CHARLYNN McLEOD:** They wouldn't say who got what.

5 **MS. MALLORY COLPITTS:** They wouldn't tell me how the
6 dividends went.

7 **MS. EMILY HILL:** I think just from this conversation, I mean, your
8 comments with regard to recommendations about criteria.

9 **MS. MALLORY COLPITTS:** Yes.

10 **MS. EMILY HILL:** And I'm also hearing your recommendation
11 about sort of reporting back and accountability in terms of understanding the funds.

12 So I just wanted to note that, and I wonder if it would be a good
13 time for a break? I don't want -- I see maybe, Michelle, you're trying to offer one last
14 comment, so I don't want to cut you off, but maybe we'll just end there?

15 **MS. MICHELLE MURPHY:** Okay.

16 **MS. EMILY HILL:** No, no. You go ahead, and then we'll finish.

17 **MS. MICHELLE MURPHY:** Well, I think when people are donating
18 to Red Cross for a cause, they'd like to know it's going to that cause.

19 **MS. MALLORY COLPITTS:** Right. So you're going to list families
20 and survivors?

21 **MS. MICHELLE MURPHY:** Yeah. Like you don't need to --

22 **MS. MALLORY COLPITTS:** People donated intending to help that
23 demographic.

24 **MS. MICHELLE MURPHY:** Exactly. Exactly. Exactly.

25 (Multiple speakers).

26 **MS. MALLORY COLPITTS:** I agree. I think it's reasonable.

27 **MS. MICHELLE MURPHY:** And you don't need detail that Mallory
28 Colpitts got this, this, this.

1 **MS. MALLORY COLPITTS:** No. No, no, no.

2 **MS. MICHELLE MURPHY:** It's just that that -- if it's 6.5 million that
3 it's going to ---

4 **DARRIN MURPHY:** Where it's intended to go.

5 **MS. MICHELLE MURPHY:** --- the victims.

6 **MS. MALLORY COLPITTS:** It was a lot. Yeah. I don't have the
7 exact amount but it was substantial.

8 (Multiple speakers)

9 **MS. MICHELLE MURPHY:** The mass casualty. You know, going
10 to the mass casualty victims.

11 **MS. CHARLYNN McLEOD:** Like, us ourselves, we didn't -- we
12 don't expect anything, so that's not -- Could his parents have used help when she was
13 going back and forth for her C1 - Personal Information treatments and things like that and finding out she's
14 C1 - Personal Information and doing all of this other stuff and back and forth for tests? That
15 definitely could have helped them at that point, but they don't need it right now, I guess,
16 so ---

17 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** Well, thank you, everyone. I think we'll
18 take a break now. Thank you so much.

19 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** Thank you.

20 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** And ---

21 **MS. EMILY HILL:** Ten (10) minutes.

22 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** Ten (10) minutes, which I'm going to
23 actually say it's going to be more like 15 because whenever we say 10 minutes, it never
24 is 10 minutes. I'll pause the recorder.

25 --- Upon recessing

26 --- Upon resuming

27 **MS. EMILY HILL:** I think we're ready to get started, if Jamie
28 confirms that we're ---

1 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** Yeah, I see numbers moving and
2 changing on the recorder, so ---

3 **MS. EMILY HILL:** Okay.

4 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** --- my assessment is we are being
5 transcribed or recorded.

6 **MS. EMILY HILL:** So thank you all so much for everything that
7 you've shared so far. I think the suggestions and ideas you have for recommendations
8 are really helpful, very practical, and -- but it's helpful for us to also hear them, as they
9 come out of your experiences. So thank you for what you've shared so far.

10 For the next round, this is really -- this will be sort of our last part of
11 this conversation, and so we wanted to invite you to first of all, pick up on any ideas that
12 you've heard so far and that you want to comment further on, but also the other topics
13 that we had initially suggested we might want to hear from you about, comment on
14 those.

15 So we heard back that people had ideas for improvements or
16 changes in the areas of firearms, police paraphernalia, and changes to policing, and
17 also ideas about implementation. How do we make this change happen? How do we
18 ensure that recommendations get picked up and completed?

19 So don't feel like you need to comment on all of those things, but if
20 there's one of those topics that you would like to share your thoughts on, we would be
21 interested in hearing them.

22 So I'll start with you.

23 **MR. LEON JOUDREY:** I'm pretty much covered, I think. I'll let
24 Mallory go.

25 **MS. MALLORY COLPITTS:** I guess for the -- under the notion of,
26 you know, if there's anything I forgot that I wanted to touch base on on one of the topics
27 already there was, naturally, you know, go use the bathroom think about something
28 else.

1 Anyways, I think the sub-category was canvassing something. I
2 can't recall exactly what you titled it, but I would be curious, as a member of the public,
3 to know what -- with respect to the RCMP and how they are managing other rural
4 communities, even as far as isolation in like, Nunavut, like, just -- like, known to the
5 isolated areas, how they are managing their mapping systems, because that's going to
6 operate and look much different than, you know, in, say the Town of Bible Hill. That's
7 not considered rural, but that is an RCMP jurisdiction.

8 So an audit, I think, would be really beneficial on how other isolated
9 areas are being managed. Maybe they -- maybe that should be, like, a national
10 implementation of managing them the same, perhaps, say, in the own vehicles has a
11 different mapping system, because, you know, we now know that there are different
12 side roads that may not be known.

13 So yeah, I'm curious how it's being managed in other places and if
14 that's something we can replicate across the board for the entire nation, not just
15 Portapique, but for all the isolated areas that are being -- some sort of consultation on
16 the other isolated areas, if we can -- it's clearly working for them somehow in these
17 other isolated areas, so what are they doing different that we aren't in Nova Scotia for
18 our very rural, sort of off the map subdivisions?

19 So yeah. That's just back on that.

20 **EMILY HILL:** Sure, yeah.

21 **MS. MALLORY COLPITTS:** Sorry, I didn't think of it at the time,
22 but ---

23 **MS. EMILY HILL:** No, that's fine. It sounds like you're talking
24 about best practices or best technology that's used elsewhere that works.

25 **MS. MALLORY COLPITTS:** Yes, because I do understand that
26 there's some level of mapping system in the vehicles which is more than likely
27 extremely accurate for towns, not necessarily extremely rural and isolated.

28 So what are the other areas of Canada, like, how are they

1 managing that, that we maybe should be looking at copying, because on some level, it's
2 working for them. Because I would imagine in areas such as Nunavut that's extremely
3 isolated, they have all kinds of side streets and it's not -- something is obviously working
4 for them and maybe that's a best practice, sort of consultation, advice from them, what
5 are you doing for your isolated areas, that, you know, perhaps there does need to be
6 even binders in vehicles of -- you know, if you are assigned to that area of Parrsboro
7 and on, a different map or something like that.

8 **MR. LEON JOUDREY:** To my knowledge, they didn't have Google
9 Earth on their phones either; that would have been beneficial. They could have zoomed
10 right in and seen everything.

11 **MALLORY COLPITTS:** Yeah, so some access to that.

12 **MS. EMILY HILL:** Some good ideas around mapping.

13 **MALLORY COLPITTS:** Yeah, and then --

14 **MS. EMILY HILL:** Other topics.

15 **MS. MALLORY COLPITTS:** Yes, so then the other topics, I think
16 you said, like, police paraphernalia. Do you mind repeating?

17 **MS. EMILY HILL:** Yeah. And again, this is just what we heard
18 back when we asked people, "What would you like to talk about?" Firearms, police
19 paraphernalia, and changes to policing. And then the fourth question was just about
20 implementation and how to make this work. So if you could just wrap that up for us?
21 (laughter)

22 **MS. MALLORY COLPITTS:** Yeah. That's what -- I mean, firearms
23 is a pretty heavy topic. Lately, the media discussed, you know, a lot of imposed new
24 legislation.

25 In this particular situation, my understanding is, you know, that this
26 was not from a legal gun owner, this was to do with importation from the U.S. So I
27 would -- it sounds like there really needs to be some higher standards from CBSA and
28 the border crossings, because that will continue to happen, regardless. This wasn't --

1 so I am a legal gun owner, especially after an incident like this. I sleep better at night,
2 and that's just the honest truth.

3 I follow laws with it, I am safe with it. To propose, you know, taking
4 that away from me, especially after something like this, thinking that that's going to
5 solve some problems, I can only speak personally, I will lose sleep at night, because I
6 have a means to protect myself, which I never thought I would have to do, but you
7 better believe that morning, I had to load a firearm.

8 So yes, and that was a commonality from some of the survivors. I
9 don't want to speak for other people, but just in some conversations, so my thoughts on
10 that, for this, if we're looking solely at this situation, had nothing to do with legal firearm
11 owners, and it had everything to do with importation. It will be detrimental if, you know,
12 my licensed firearm is potentially removed from me, and the means that if -- I hope it
13 never has to happen again, but you know, I just know personally I will need help
14 working through that if that was ever mandated, because that's -- it's -- I sleep better,
15 unfortunately.

16 That's just my thought on the firearm regulation, and it's not
17 necessarily a matter of, in my humble opinion, the ones that are currently abiding by the
18 law for that. This was a matter of, you know, the U.S. importation and smuggling. And I
19 think that that black market will just increase. It's not -- they're still going to find a way
20 and I just -- I don't think, respectfully, that's really the answer, is to tighten up on those
21 laws.

22 Paraphernalia, I think it -- there should be laws and legislation in
23 place that it is illegal to possess for just common civilian. Perhaps if -- you know, I do
24 understand that there can be a lot of sentimental attachment when that's been your
25 profession your entire career, and perhaps, you know, keeping an old uniform that was
26 yours your entire career is perhaps -- could be viewed upon differently, but should it
27 potentially be in the hands of others, knowing it could be used in the wrong way; it's a
28 threat risk assessment, and maybe it is greater to not allow any sort of extension

1 beyond retired employees. Sorry, that was a lot. I think that was most of the topics.

2 **MS. EMILY HILL:** Thanks. Anything that you wanted to share on
3 any of those topics or what you've heard so far?

4 **MR. DARRIN MURPHY:** I agree with her with being armed. I don't
5 have a PAL. She's got to find out right now, going after it in the spring. I live in a rural
6 area, even more rural than Portapique. I live on a dirt road, no internet, nothing. And
7 do you think I'm going to wait for the RCMP to drive an hour to come protect me? No.
8 Because as they said, down there in Halifax, there's four officers on the road in the
9 majority of Colchester County, right? There's more than that in Halifax County, and
10 they're both about the same size, right? Nobody's going to protect me except for me,
11 right?

12 I got a baseball bat and a machete. The machete's in the front seat
13 of my truck. I carry it with me. I know I'm rambling.

14 But you know, I think we should all be able to have legal firearms
15 as long as you're licensed, as long as you're capable, right? Twelve years old, and I
16 was next door shooting .22s when I was a kid, and that was Friday afternoons, you
17 know? You got to have education, right?

18 The ones that are saying that we should teach this firearm safety in
19 school, I agree with. But then we got people in the cities trying to tell us country folk
20 how to live our lives, right, which I don't agree with either.

21 **MS. MALLORY COLPITTS:** Yeah.

22 **MR. DARRIN MURPHY:** Right? The -- having the ex-cop car and
23 uniforms, unless there's a reason for it, it shouldn't be. Used to be when HRM got rid of
24 the cop cars, they'd spray painted the doors right over. Like, peel the labels off and
25 spray paint them so they couldn't be put back on, you know? I don't notice that any
26 more, stuff like that, but that's my two cents' worth.

27 **MS. EMILY HILL:** Thanks. Michelle, did you have anything to
28 add?

1 **MS. MICHELLE MURPHY:** I don't think so.

2 **MR. DARRIN MURPHY:** See if I made enough damage. (laughter)

3 **MS. MICHELLE MURPHY:** One thing, and I don't know if it's totally
4 accurate, but I got the impression that there's been chronic understaffing at the RCMP.
5 Is that accurate?

6 **MR. DARRIN MURPHY:** Yes.

7 **MS. MICHELLE MURPHY:** Like, they don't have their level that
8 they're getting paid to have?

9 **MR. DARRIN MURPHY:** Funding for.

10 **MICHELLE MURPHY:** Funding for? So I think there should be
11 some accountability that they fully staff the positions they're getting -- the counties
12 paying them for, because that's something I haven't heard. I've heard a lot about more
13 resources, but maybe use the ones, like, more money if you're not even putting the
14 positions up to whatever isn't going to help.

15 **MR. DARRIN MURPHY:** Yeah. We get our tax bill every year and
16 it says, "RCMP charge."

17 **MS. MICHELLE MURPHY:** So, yeah. I think more accountability
18 from the RCMP to staff at the level they're getting -- their contract is for.

19 **MS. CHARLYNN McLEOD:** Yeah. I think I understand what you're
20 saying. Like, if your, if the county's paying for 10 RCMP members, then, and four of
21 them are out on sick leave, well, they should be replacing those four so that there's
22 always 10 on the road. That should be their accountability for that and replace them,
23 because obviously -- is that what you ---

24 **MS. MICHELLE MURPHY:** That's -- yeah, yeah.

25 **MS. CHARLYNN McLEOD:** Yeah. Like, you're paying for this
26 amount of service and you're only getting half of it, so you're not getting what you've --
27 you should be. Yeah.

28 **MR. DARRIN MURPHY:** Yeah, you drive -- like, we drove by the

1 RCMP detachment, there was three vehicles sitting in the yard there this morning. I bet
2 you if we drove by Bible Hill, there's probably 10 or 12, right? I know that not
3 everybody's on their work. I mean, I know we got a few in there for extras, for
4 breakdowns, et cetera, but you know, we're paying for a service. The municipality is
5 charging me for -- the taxpayers a service and paying it to -- supposedly, paying it to the
6 federal government to police us, but we're not getting the bang for the buck. When you
7 go buy a dozen donuts, they don't give you 11, right?

8 **MS. EMILY HILL:** Sometimes you get 13. (laughter)

9 **MR. DARRIN MURPHY:** You try to get 13, the baker's dozen
10 (laughter).

11 **MS. EMILY HILL:** Yeah, yeah. Okay, thanks.

12 **MS. MICHELLE MURPHY:** Yeah. I don't think there's anything
13 else that I want to bring up, that I already agree with what was said.

14 **MS. CHARLYNN McLEOD:** (*inaudible 01:17:56) if I did.

15 **MR. SCOTT McLEOD:** So no, we've met yesterday, and I mean,
16 there's some discussions that we had and talks I brought up, and like, I know we've
17 talked -- there's been a lot of discussion on uniforms. Now, I know where I work as an
18 officer at the prison, you hear a lot of guys, when they get to that retirement point, they
19 go out and have themselves a burn party, all the work uniforms that they have are out in
20 the firepit in the back yard.

21 You know, I can see definitely keeping, like, a dress uniform.

22 **MS. CHARLYNN McLEOD:** Yeah.

23 **MR. SCOTT McLEOD:** --- you know, because you're going to be
24 dealing with different events involving, you know, passing members and such forth, so
25 you know ---

26 **MS. CHARLYNN McLEOD:** Well, you got married in yours.

27 **MR. SCOTT McLEOD:** Yeah, I got married in mine. But I mean,
28 things like that, I mean, there's -- a dress uniform's one thing because it's not something

1 that you're going to see an officer ---

2 **MS. CHARLYNN McLEOD:** Yeah.

3 **MR. SCOTT McLEOD:** --- normally wearing ---

4 **MS. CHARLYNN McLEOD:** Yeah.

5 **MR. SCOTT McLEOD:** --- the same as the RCMP red serge. You
6 don't see them wearing that unless it's for a formal event of some sort.

7 So uniforms, I mean, I -- like, I've destroyed quite a number of them
8 so far over the years.

9 **MS. CHARLYNN McLEOD:** Yeah.

10 **MR. SCOTT McLEOD:** But you know, yeah, I can see
11 accountability for, you know ---

12 **MS. CHARLYNN McLEOD:** Yeah.

13 **MR. SCOTT McLEOD:** --- if I ordered 10 uniforms, then at least
14 the shirts anyways, which have the indicators on them, you know, your shoulder
15 markings, all right, so there's 10 shirts, well, time to retire, here's your 10 shirts back, or
16 on what -- just an accountability on it to that level.

17 I know with us there's no -- I go online, I'm allotted a certain number
18 of points to shop with every year, and if I need a couple of shirts, I order a couple of
19 shirts or if I need pants, you know -- so there's no real tracking for it.

20 I'm not 100 percent sure how the RCMP work with that, if they --
21 they're required to turn them in or if they just -- every year, they're entitled to four more
22 shirts or -- I'm not 100 percent sure.

23 But as far as -- one of the big things I brought up the other day
24 about having -- looking at an entity of some sort or a body that at the end of this whole
25 Commission would be the group that RCMP and government wouldn't be part thereof,
26 but they would be the ones who -- whoever was involved with the recommendations
27 would be reporting back to, based on completion of the recommendations or follow ups
28 on them, and where they're at. That way, you've got an independent group that can

1 report back to the public. You don't have somebody thinking, well, it's just a politician
2 telling us this, or it's just somebody in the RCMP reading a little script or something.
3 You've got a group that's actually able to follow up and you know, be able to pass
4 information along.

5 **MS. CHARLYNN McLEOD:** Keep them accountable?

6 **MR. SCOTT McLEOD:** Yeah.

7 **MS. EMILY HILL:** M'hm.

8 **MR. SCOTT McLEOD:** So I mean, they can work at doing stuff
9 with recommendations, making sure that all right, if this is key, why isn't this being
10 done? Or if it's something that, all right, it's got to get done, but we can wait a short bit
11 on this so we can get these other things done and actually work it in the sense of
12 making the priorities and getting it done.

13 That was a big thing I had been thinking about and passed along
14 the other day.

15 And the other thing was Liaison Officers for the RCMP. So I mean,
16 they tended to be a primary contact for after the event was done itself and everything
17 else was moving forward. And I know there was all kinds of talk on the resource, taking
18 resources from the frontline.

19 My suggestion that I put forth was that they look at the Special
20 Constable programs that they've run over the years and a Special Constable, so
21 basically a sworn civilian that could work within the parameters, but they're also
22 someone who's got more flexibility to work with -- like, in your guys' case, knowing
23 who's directly impacted and who's -- you know, you said about moving it out and you
24 know, you're going to have -- you're always going to have that core.

25 So you in the Portapique area, I mean, obviously, you look at that
26 community as a whole. And yourselves being part of that community, where do you
27 stand in this whole thing, like, how affected, more -- you know, and moving out from
28 there, like, obviously, you've got your direct impacted -- but you guys were as direct

1 impacted in that situation as the families were for -- that lost people. I mean, you sit in
2 the middle of -- might as well say a war zone and you know, for you guys not to have
3 Victim Services with you and stuff, it's not -- because from my experience with Victim
4 Services, they were great with me.

5 But I mean, if we can have that point of -- I guess the best way to
6 put it is triaging the people involved, the victims and survivors, you know, there -- yes,
7 there's a point where at a certain point out here, you know, you got to shut it down
8 because I mean, you could -- but the number of people that were touched by this is just
9 astronomical.

10 And -- but the people that were directly touched by this is a much
11 smaller group, and with something like that, I think you could -- you know, you're not
12 pulling -- you're not worried about pulling officers from the frontlines because that -- you
13 know, now you're talking about bringing them in here, so now the public's losing that
14 level of security on the street.

15 It's an officer, it's essentially any other officer, but they're not a
16 frontline officer that's responding, so they can actually work within the privacies of the
17 investigation, but at the same time, they can put their focus directly to who's involved in
18 getting information out in a better manner to the families in the aftermath of an event of
19 any magnitude, whether it's a single homicide or a mass casualty.

20 I mean, at least then you've got someone who's got a skillset,
21 trained and built into them to know that when I go into this neighbourhood, it's not just,
22 you know, all right, so this house here was affected, check with the neighbours, and
23 keep going. I mean, you move into a small community and everybody knows
24 everybody.

25 And you know, Portapique is a prime example. I mean, like you
26 said, there's seasonal people. You know who's seasonally, you know who's year-round
27 residents. But at least with a person like that, you've got that contact to -- and
28 somebody that's got a knowledge of how it should work, not just saying, "All right. I'm

1 assigning you to this task and away you go."

2 I mean, you've got someone who's got a background in it and you
3 know, they can work with other options and stuff with -- you know, to help within the
4 Force.

5 But that being a liaison spot, they can deal with the public and not
6 just a communications officer who goes on the news to read a statement and be done
7 with it. They're -- you know, they're going to be people that you can sit and actually talk
8 to.

9 **MS. CHARLYNN McLEOD:** You know, there should be
10 specialized training for that, for someone who's going to be Liaison Officer, and should
11 be steps outlined, like, things that they have to -- just like, a list of priorities and people
12 that they need to contact with -- and I'm losing my train of thought -- but it's just more
13 training, with like, an actual list of tasks and people that they need to reach out to and
14 information that they should be providing and things like that. So ---

15 **MS. EMILY HILL:** Yeah.

16 **MS. CHARLYNN McLEOD:** But it's the training, I don't -- they had
17 no one trained to do anything like this whatsoever. It didn't matter on the scope of the
18 event, like, whether it's a small -- something that happens. Like, three, four streets from
19 our house, there was a 17-year-old shot just a few days ago. So it's like, obviously,
20 somebody's going to have to be a liaison to their family, and I'm sure that person
21 doesn't have any training. So it's just ---

22 **MR. SCOTT McLEOD:** You put a person in that position, like,
23 myself, since this has all happened, I actually -- I had gone back to work and life went
24 on, but in the process, I've actually been trained and joined our critical incident stress
25 management team.

26 And I mean, even something -- I mean, it's not a big formal -- you
27 know, you sit down, it was two days on a Zoom, Zoom training, and just so that at least
28 people have an idea of when they're dealing with victims of an incident of any sort, like,

1 things to watch for and how to approach them without, you know, maybe hurt -- you
2 know, sounding insensitive or, you know, I go to work. I work in a prison. I mean, I see
3 a lot of stuff that on a day-to-day basis, it's every day, this is my normal day. You tell
4 someone what your normal day is and they look at you like you're crazy, because I
5 mean, it's not normal to most people.

6 So I mean, to be able to -- for me, to generally talk to someone like
7 that, I mean, you don't think about certain facts impacting people in a different way,
8 because it's what you're accustomed to.

9 But you know, being -- having some training in, you know, critical
10 incident stress management, I know there's a multitude of small programs like that that
11 would definitely be beneficial. Like, I mean, you're not going to build a psychologist out
12 of them, but I mean, at least they've got a skillset to -- when I sit down with you and start
13 asking questions or answering questions, I've at least got a base knowledge of how to
14 work with you without hurting you in any way or reducing how I hurt you, and finding --
15 trying to help you find options.

16 I mean, even if that has to be your contact through Victim Services,
17 you know, it's a person that would be available that would -- like, call an EAP program at
18 work. You call someone. They're not the ones that are going to help you, but you tell
19 them what's wrong and you know, they're the ones that can find -- that point the
20 resources out.

21 So I mean, that would be a beneficial thing for any officer that
22 would be doing a liaison with families, because they're -- and there's such a broad
23 spectrum of things that they'd be dealing with people on, I mean, everything from the
24 death of a family member, be it to a homicide or a motor vehicle accident or, you know,
25 home invasions. I mean, that in itself traumatizes people because I mean, there's your
26 place of safety and it's been attacked.

27 So I mean, to have a bit of knowledge and background in just how
28 to approach and work with people without having everything else you've done in the

1 background, I'm sure.

2 You've seen your share of stuff over the years, and you know, you
3 tend to forget that it's not normal for people.

4 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** Thank you so much for those very
5 articulate thoughts and of a recommendation.

6 One of the things I just wanted to circle back to -- and thank you all
7 so much for your contribution in this round -- but ---

8 **MS. MALLORY COLPITTS:** I'm hoping also to add more at the
9 end. I'm listening.

10 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** Okay, great.

11 So one of the questions I had was with regards to rural policing and
12 feeling safe in rural communities, and one of the things that was -- I think you made a
13 great point about it's not just rural Nova Scotia, rural communities is something that is
14 common throughout Canada. One of the suggestions that was put forward was, you
15 know, making sure that's there's enough police officers available to police rural
16 communities.

17 But are there any other ideas that you have? I mean, I don't know
18 if having two more officers on duty in Colchester, if you would notice that being in a rural
19 community. Are there any other ideas about recommendations about how to make
20 people who live in rural communities feel safe or feel that they're receiving police
21 services?

22 **MS. MALLORY COLPITTS:** My comment is somewhat in that
23 realm, of a curiosity, because something I can keep hearing or echoing back is short
24 staff, or shortages of staff and need of overtime that kind of is being brought up
25 frequently.

26 And I don't know what the, you know, minimum number, operational
27 number was that night. I know the jurisdictions had a recommended number of staff
28 that night.

1 **MR. DARRIN MURPHY:** I think it was six, wasn't it?

2 **MS. MICHELLE MURPHY:** Yeah.

3 **MS. MALLORY COLPITTS:** And it should have been? Do we
4 know that? Do we know what it should have been?

5 **MR. DARRIN MURPHY(?):** It was six.

6 **MR. LEON JOUDREY(?):** It was supposed to be six.

7 **MS. MICHELLE MURPHY:** But they only had four.

8 **MS. MALLORY COLPITTS:** Okay. So that's two bodies short. So
9 I guess as a citizen, I'm curious to know, within the pay structure of the RCMP and
10 upper management, and it seems that it's not unknown that there are bonuses and
11 year-end bonuses, I would like to know what criteria is met in order for upper
12 management to receive any bonuses, and if that is somewhat related to being under
13 budget for overtime costs, because that, to -- that's a concern for me. If there's a
14 financial incentive to be under budget and that's related to staffing and overtime, I just
15 see it as an ethical dilemma. And I'm not saying that that -- you know, we should be
16 privy to all that, but in terms of some questions or a larger group review, if there's --
17 perhaps that shouldn't be allowed.

18 **MR. DARRIN MURPHY:** But that would be the same thing as tape
19 recordings -- they don't exist.

20 **MS. MALLORY COLPITTS:** I know. But if there are upper areas
21 of management that receive potentially some bonuses of some kind -- and I have myself
22 looked into some articles online that have acknowledged this existence -- if any of that
23 is related to staffing -- and I just -- I think it's a risk. I just -- I believe that it's a risk, that if
24 anyone receives a financial incentive to be under overtime budgets, maybe we will be
25 less likely to be faced at scenarios such as four on when we should have six.

26 **MR. JAMIE VanWART:** Would you have any comments, Darrin? I
27 mean, it sounds like you are the most rural of the ---

28 **MR. DARRIN MURPHY:** Oh, I have friends who are cops. I grew

1 up with people. And in all my years of having dealings with them, I feel that the RCMP -
2 - and I haven't had too much to do with town cops -- but I feel that they're very military-
3 ized compared to what I remember from younger days, right? They're -- when they
4 come out of the academy, they're basically robots, right? They have no feelings.
5 They're, you know, like, how do I put it? They got questions to ask, right, and when --
6 it's a job for them. They get paid that job to do this, and they're trained to act a certain
7 way.

8 And it's the same thing as when a cop gets transferred from here to
9 here, they're only here for four years, so they can't learn all the back roads, right? If
10 you're coming from Surrey, BC -- where I've never been to Surrey, but I hear they have
11 a big gang problem out there -- then you're stuck in Bible Hill Detachment, right, and
12 they still come with that attitude, that -- because you go up and talk to Leon about
13 something, right? Soon as the cops -- as soon as somebody sees -- this is just an
14 example -- soon as they see that cop car leaving his yard, they always ---

15 **MS. MICHELLE MURPHY:** (whispering) "What did Leon do?"
16 (laughter)

17 **MR. DARRIN MURPHY:** --- "What did Leon tell them?" Is "Joe
18 Blow doing this," you know, like, stuff like that.

19 But if you -- there used to be a place on the 289 which is between
20 Brookfield and New Glasgow that a cop lived out in the middle of the country. And
21 everybody used to slow down when they come to his house, and they'd look in the yard
22 to see if there was a cruiser there, and if there was no cruiser, you drove the rest of the
23 way slow. If the cruiser was gone, hammer down. You're back to the same speed,
24 right?

25 Like, little things like that, you don't see it like you used to, right?
26 They're living in Truro or they're living in Bible Hill. They're not living out in the
27 communities that they police, and if they are, they're gone in three years or four years.
28 They're not getting to know the people, right? They're not getting to know the back

1 roads.

2 There's roads out there that the GPS in my vehicle isn't -- aren't
3 even on the GPS, so how do they know where they're going when they're going down,
4 right?

5 So if they, instead of four years, let them spend eight years, or if
6 they like it there, almost let them retire there, right? But that gets back to the thing that
7 you don't want the people that grew up in that area, because he'll let you off but he'll
8 charge him, so to speak, right, and I'm not any cop.

9 **MS. MICHELLE MURPHY:** But that doesn't seem to happen with
10 say, Truro Police.

11 **MR. DARRIN MURPHY:** Yeah, the Truro Police, like ---

12 **MS. MICHELLE MURPHY:** Like, I don't know how far they recruit,
13 but they're not -- I'm sure their people recruiting into municipal forces are more from the
14 municipal forces ---

15 **MR. DARRIN MURPHY:** From that area.

16 **MS. MICHELLE MURPHY:** --- area, I would assume. I don't have
17 statistics on that, but yeah.

18 **MR. DARRIN MURPHY:** I mean, there's good cops and there's
19 bad caps out there, right? Some have attitude and some don't.

20 **MS. MICHELLE MURPHY:** I think one thing that struck me was
21 they didn't seem to, for that night, they didn't seem to accept the information that they
22 were getting and use it ---

23 **MR. DARRIN MURPHY:** Yeah.

24 **MS. MICHELLE MURPHY:** --- like, from the community. They
25 could have reached out a lot more with the canvassing and got more information, but
26 even the bits of information they got from, like, Andrew MacDonald, who, like, they
27 didn't seem to trust it because the community there, whatever, to ---

28 **MR. DARRIN MURPHY:** To act on it.

1 **MS. MICHELLE MURPHY:** --- trust the information they were
2 getting from the community.

3 **MR. DARRIN MURPHY:** Andrew told them right away it was
4 Gabriel.

5 **MS. MICHELLE MURPHY:** Right, right. So yeah. That's ---

6 **MR. LEON JOUDREY(?):** And when the kids phoned 9-1-1.

7 **MS. MICHELLE MURPHY:** Yeah. Yeah.

8 **MR. DARRIN MURPHY:** They said ---

9 **MS. MICHELLE MURPHY:** So yeah, there seemed to be a
10 breakdown in communication, or they weren't trusting what they were being told, or
11 something. I don't know, not being in their heads or anything but there was -- they
12 seemed to have a lot of information fairly early on that didn't seem to be acted on, in my
13 opinion, you know? Would you agree? Yeah?

14 **MR. DARRIN MURPHY:** Yeah.

15 **MS. MICHELLE MURPHY:** So --

16 **MS. EMILY HILL:** I mean, it sounds -- I mean, I feel like we've
17 come a little bit full circle, to my point that, you know, that you made at the very
18 beginning about sort of the what I think you called, framed as sort of a bit of a missed
19 opportunity for information exchange, that information that could have been shared with
20 community members that would have helped people be safe, and information that could
21 come from community members to police to help them do their job better.

22 And I think you're talking about the same thing, which is how do we
23 improve that? And it's not any one magic fix, that one thing is going to fix all of that, but
24 that it relates to both technology, but also the sort of opportunities to do door to door,
25 but also knowledge of police, of their own communities, communities that they're
26 working in, that they haven't just haven't sort of stepped off a plane from somewhere
27 else.

28 So there's a lot of different aspects to this. And then -- and then

1 trusting community members to know their communities and know things like who's in
2 the community, where are there roads, you know, all that sort of information. It sounds
3 like there's a couple of themes that -- in all these questions I'm hearing.

4 **MR. SCOTT McLEOD:** Yeah, and to follow up along here, I'd just
5 say they're -- so with officers being -- you know, I think if an officer wants to look at
6 transferring from point to point, I mean, that's an individual thing. But you're right; if
7 you've got an officer who instead of, you know, four years, he's being redeployed. It
8 comes around to that old school community policing. People -- and you know a lot of
9 the local people, especially if it is ones you're dealing with on a regular basis, if there's
10 somebody's name that pops up.

11 Like, just my young fella, he's worked in law enforcement for about
12 a year and he can tell you almost every homeless person in the City of Moncton
13 because, you know, they deal with them on a regular basis so you start knowing these
14 people. And, you know, you're not necessarily going know everybody out in the country
15 but if you start -- if you've got people that at longer term in an area, they have that
16 opportunity to build that ---

17 **MR. DARRIN MURPHY:** Trust.

18 **MR. SCOTT McLEOD:** --- community relation because they know
19 the communities; they've been to the communities; they spend time in the communities.
20 So yeah, a longer, you know -- don't look at forcing anybody to move. I mean, if you've
21 got an officer that wants to experience the North and different communities throughout
22 their career, I mean that's great on them. But if you've got members that, you know,
23 would like to settle down, sit still, learn their community, it -- you know, just little bits of
24 information on knowing certain people.

25 I know I've talked to different members of HRP over the years and
26 where I work in the prison, you know, "Oh, yeah, we know this one," and, "We know this
27 one," and, you know, they know all these regular people so I mean it -- whether they're
28 knowing all the community, but at least they've got a good knowledge of who's in the

1 community. And when they see the people that are of interest that -- you know, they
2 see who's with them and they learn these things and, you know -- so you see different
3 traits in different areas and, you know, you have the opportunity when you're dealing
4 with -- when you have a situation you'd want to deal with the public. You know, you
5 know the area you're in and you know the people, you know, so there's just -- just
6 having that real base knowledge of the community.

7 And I mean you're going to be seeing the same local people go to
8 buy groceries at the grocery store. You see them -- you know, every Thursday you go
9 for groceries; well, you're seeing the same people that are regulars on the Thursday
10 night shopping trip, or -- you know, so you start -- you know, you're going to meet
11 people so it -- just having that community involvement can make a big difference for
12 people and, you know, like trust the information that you have or -- or living in the area
13 long enough to go out and, you know, you know somebody in the Portapique area so
14 you've got a general idea of the neighbourhood, you know, 'cause the province is huge,
15 a lot of tourists, back roads.

16 But I mean, you know, until two years ago -- or until a few weeks
17 ago, I've been up and down that road through the Five Islands and Parrsboro hundreds
18 of times, but I've never had reason to go up the Portapique Beach Road. I didn't realize
19 how many homes were out there. I didn't realize it was a whole subdivision. I thought it
20 was one road that drove straight up to the beach in there and there was a few places in
21 there, but it's ---

22 **MS. CHARLYNN McLEOD:** It's just ...your grandparents had a
23 cottage at Five Houses, right?

24 **MR. SCOTT McLEOD:** Yeah, so right across the water from where
25 Wortman's place was where people were talking about seeing the fires from and then
26 people could see flashlights over there, my grandparents had a cottage there for years
27 and my family still has cottages over there. So I mean, you know, I at least -- you know,
28 the next road up you go into, I knew those roads but had no reason ever to go into

1 Portapique Beach Road, so I mean -- right, it's just to have that vested interest in your
2 local community. And I like that about the municipal forces because that's where
3 they're at. Like, you know, the -- you know who they are and you start meeting these
4 officers at different things and then, you know, you run into them while they're buying
5 groceries and say, "Hello. How you doing?" and, you know, just that community
6 connection.

7 **MS. EMILY HILL:** I think we've covered all of the questions that we
8 had intended to but I just wanted to check if anyone had anything else they haven't had
9 a chance to say yet or something you wanted to respond to?

10 **MS. MALLORY COLPITTS:** Are there any questions that we may
11 have missed because I know there are times where there were lumps of questions ---

12 **MS. EMILY HILL:** Yeah.

13 **MS. MALLORY COLPITTS:** --- and it's hard to remember them all.
14 So did we leave any of them behind?

15 **MS. EMILY HILL:** No, I think we've touched on all the themes and
16 ideas that we had wanted to talk about.

17 I don't know, Jamie, if there's anything that you want ---

18 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** I agree.

19 **MS. EMILY HILL:** Yeah.

20 **MS. CHARLYNN McLEOD:** I just had one thing. For the -- just it's
21 way off topic from today, but this trauma-informed stuff, can you please traumatize us?
22 Like, give us -- it's more trauma and more stress and more weight on the families'
23 shoulder by not knowing things because you can't traumatize any of these people
24 anymore. Just please traumatize us. Or try. Like, surprise us. Do it. Just please just
25 release -- like, I know reading and stuff, it's like the main reason that we all wanted this
26 was to find out what happened, where, and like find out reasons why, and things like
27 that. But to us, listening to a lot of these sessions, it's like it's gotten really off topic.

28 And I know maybe to you guys it hasn't but, like, there's some of

1 these days that I don't understand why some of these people are talking and why
2 there's roundtables with certain people and stuff because what we wanted out of this
3 was to find out why our loved ones were killed, or why they were targeted, and things
4 like that. We're not getting any of those answers. That's what we want. Like, there's --
5 I know there's certain -- it's like other peoples have -- other groups have latched onto
6 this just to get their five minutes or to try to get funding and things like that while they're
7 using this as a platform to get their things out.

8 **MR. DARRIN MURPHY:** They're pushing their narrative.

9 **MS. CHARLYNN McLEOD:** Pushing their -- like, maybe there was
10 a gay person that was killed or something but LGBTQ, why -- what did they have to do
11 with my brother-in-law getting killed, or with these people being traumatized and not
12 being able to leave their homes and stuff like that. And it's not -- not to say that in a
13 mean way. Like, there's other topics that -- like, I'm just using that as an example, but
14 why was it part of all this? Like, it has nothing to do with what I personally need to know
15 and get out of this. That was the whole point of fighting to get this whole Inquiry.

16 So I don't understand. And I'm just using -- like I said, I'm just
17 using that as an example because it's the first thing that popped up. We have gay
18 family members and friends. But it didn't have anything to do with him going on a
19 rampage and hurting everyone and causing all of this. Like, there's a lot of stuff that it's
20 just it's snowballed into something that's out of control and out of the whole -- I don't
21 even know how to say it. Like it's just -- it's gotten out of control to the point where
22 we're afraid that we've lost sight of what this was really meant to be about, learning
23 what happened and why, because it's just -- it's expanded too much.

24 Like, I don't know if I'm saying that right or -- and I know that's a lot
25 of comments from everybody. Like, it's not -- it's losing the focus on -- and I
26 understand, like, the topics on the policing and things like that because that's a big
27 affect on this. Like, they just announced Moncton is getting 24 -- 25 more RCMP
28 members. Thank goodness because crime is out of control in Moncton. Like, the

1 policing situation, things like that, and the amount of members, that needs to look into,
2 the chain of command, who's in charge of certain -- we need to know when, if
3 something like this should ever happen again, heaven forbid, that there's a structured
4 chain of command that they know in the area who's going to take control, and things like
5 that.

6 But yeah, just -- overall, just traumatize us, please. Just spit it out
7 because here we are hoping -- we're watching, and we're listening, and we're hoping to
8 get this little, tiny bit of information and it's not coming.

9 **COMMISSIONER STANTON:** What's the information you're
10 looking for ---

11 **MS. CHARLYNN McLEOD:** Well, just ---

12 **COMMISSIONER STANTON:** --- that you don't feel you're getting?

13 **MS. CHARLYNN McLEOD:** Well, we want to know why -- why he
14 went to -- for us, personally, why did he go to Hunter Road? So did he have, like -- why
15 did Scott get a phone call from someone saying -- just letting him know that -- saying
16 he's some type of detective and asking Scott if he knows about anything buried on
17 Sean's property because a neighbour called and told him to go dig at this certain place
18 on the property, "Dig four feet down and you'll get -- you'll find a bunch of stuff."

19 He never got a call back. We don't know if that was a legit call.
20 Was that a call from ---

21 **MR. SCOTT McLEOD:** That was Martin and Associates ---

22 **MS. CHARLYNN McLEOD:** Was it?

23 **MR. SCOTT McLEOD:** --- when we were -- when they were doing
24 their investigation for the, um, Patterson Law and stuff.

25 **MS. CHARLYNN McLEOD:** Stuff like that, like, we never heard
26 anything back like that. Like, did they find something? Did they -- was it relevant to --
27 like, did Wortman know that that was a place where he could go? Sean had how many
28 acres that he could ---

1 **COMMISSIONER STANTON:** Was that something that you shared
2 with our investigators?

3 **MS. CHARLYNN McLEOD:** Many people, never heard anything
4 back.

5 **MS. MALLORY COLPITTS:** That makes me wonder. I mean kind
6 of on that -- I don't truly really believe that any investigative questions should actually
7 happen on a telephone because you can't identify yourself.

8 **MS. CHARLYNN McLEOD:** No, exactly.

9 **MS. MALLORY COLPITTS:** And maybe that -- there's a -- it's
10 possible that that was someone just trying to find information. Until someone identifies
11 themselves and shows identification, which can't happen in telecommunications ---

12 **MR. SCOTT McLEOD:** Well, he had been to my parent's house.

13 **MS. MALLORY COLPITTS:** Okay, so you visually ---

14 **MR. SCOTT McLEOD:** I had visual -- I have met him.

15 **MS. MALLORY COLPITTS:** Yeah.

16 **MR. SCOTT McLEOD:** And then he reached out at one point
17 asking ---

18 **MS. MALLORY COLPITTS:** Yeah ---

19 **MR. SCOTT McLEOD:** And ---

20 **MS. MALLORY COLPITTS:** Because we all dealt with media.

21 **MR. SCOTT McLEOD:** But then we never heard anything else.

22 **MS. MALLORY COLPITTS:** Yeah, yeah, I had media -- like, I think
23 all of us dealt with the media trying to pry on things which then makes you wonder
24 what's authentic and what isn't. So ---

25 **MS. CHARLYNN McLEOD:** Like, we never heard anything back
26 and it's like, "Okay, well, did they actually -- did someone actually really call them to go
27 look and dig down? Did Wortman go and hide something on the property because he
28 knew it was easy access at some point?"

1 **COMMISSIONER STANTON:** If it was one of our investigators,
2 they would have identified themselves with Mass Casualty Commission ---

3 **MS. CHARLYNN McLEOD:** M'hm, yeah.

4 **COMMISSIONER STANTON:** --- business card and ---

5 **MS. CHARLYNN McLEOD:** Yeah.

6 **COMMISSIONER STANTON:** --- it wouldn't have been a phone
7 call.

8 **MR. SCOTT McLEOD:** No, it was Martin and Associates.

9 **COMMISSIONER STANTON:** Okay, which is part of your law
10 firm's ---

11 **MR. SCOTT McLEOD:** Patterson's, not us, no.

12 **MS. CHARLYNN McLEOD:** Well, not us. So we didn't get -- I
13 don't know if you guys ever heard anything back on that.

14 **UNKNOWN FEMALE:** indiscernible

15 **MS. CHARLYNN McLEOD:** No, no, I know, but ---

16 **COMMISSIONER STANTON:** So it's a different investigation.

17 **MS. CHARLYNN McLEOD:** Yeah.

18 **COMMISSIONER STANTON:** So ---

19 **MR. SCOTT McLEOD:** So ---

20 **COMMISSIONER STANTON:** -- from -- I'm afraid that's not
21 something that ---

22 **MS. CHARLYNN McLEOD:** No, but you were ---

23 **COMMISSIONER STANTON:** --- that we would ---

24 **MS. CHARLYNN McLEOD:** --- asking what kind of information.

25 Like, just, if you guys find anything out for any reasoning that they went there or why he
26 went to certain houses and not the others, like, are we going to be told about that or is
27 that going to be all blacked out and hidden and -- do you know what I mean?

28 **COMMISSIONER STANTON:** Okay, so -- I mean can we take a

1 step back just for a moment because what we -- so the way that set things up ---

2 **MS. CHARLYNN McLEOD:** Yeah.

3 **COMMISSIONER STANTON:** --- is three phases, right? First
4 phase, "What happened?" And so all of those Foundational Documents with 3300
5 source materials is what we could determined ---

6 **MS. CHARLYNN McLEOD:** M'hm.

7 **COMMISSIONER STANTON:** --- about what happened. We can't
8 know what was in his mind.

9 **MS. CHARLYNN McLEOD:** No, no, I know that.

10 **COMMISSIONER STANTON:** We can't know that. And so we've
11 done our very best to -- through the investigative techniques that we do have, with
12 what's available from the record, to find out as much as we can. There's some things
13 we're never going to be able to know. But if we know it, we share it. We are -- we've
14 done that the whole way through. Excuse me. And so that's been taken as far as we
15 can take it up until the end of next week, right? We're still getting documents in; we
16 wish we'd got them sooner. We're working our way through them and our people, as
17 soon they could with COVID, tried to get out into the field, go to the sites, try to find what
18 they could. And we hired great people to do the best they could and they've all worked
19 their guts out. They really have.

20 **MS. CHARLYNN McLEOD:** M'hm. Well, I understand that but it's
21 just in the end in the report are we going to get specific details or is it just going to be
22 recommendations?

23 **COMMISSIONER STANTON:** No, no, so the report is going to
24 give our findings, so it'll -- we're going to -- the reason we needed some extra time ---

25 **MS. CHARLYNN McLEOD:** M'hm.

26 **COMMISSIONER STANTON:** --- is we have a mountain of
27 material ---

28 **MS. CHARLYNN McLEOD:** Oh, yeah, yeah, I know that.

1 **COMMISSIONER STANTON:** --- that we have to analyze and
2 review. And we're going to go through all of that and provide our findings, what we can
3 tell of what happened. And we'll disclose whatever we've got.

4 And then, the second phase of our work -- because our -- our
5 mandate asked us a lot of stuff. And I don't know if you've taken a look through it but
6 the topic areas are extremely hard. And absolutely, your family and the other families
7 had a particular interest in the "what?". But the mandate that we got asked us to look at
8 causes, context, circumstances and then a whole list of stuff that we have to then look
9 through as well.

10 And so it's -- the "why" and the "how" ---

11 **MS. CHARLYNN McLEOD:** M'hm.

12 **COMMISSIONER STANTON:** --- goes back to root causes.

13 **MS. CHARLYNN McLEOD:** M'hm.

14 **COMMISSIONER STANTON:** How did some of this stuff come up
15 in the first place? Why would there be a person who would do these things? And how,
16 in this kind of setting, would that have happened? And what about the structure of the
17 policing ---

18 **MS. CHARLYNN McLEOD:** M'hm.

19 **COMMISSIONER STANTON:** I mean any number of things there.
20 And I can only imagine how frustrating it would be to -- when really what you want to
21 know is the stuff that you've just mentioned ---

22 **MS. CHARLYNN McLEOD:** M'hm.

23 **COMMISSIONER STANTON:** --- to have to hear all of this other
24 stuff, but we're required to do it because this is what our mandate has set out. And it's
25 our job and so that's ---

26 **MS. CHARLYNN McLEOD:** No, I know, but ---

27 **COMMISSIONER STANTON:** So we're tackling it as best we can.
28 So here we are in the recommendations part ---

1 **MS. CHARLYNN McLEOD:** M'hm.

2 **COMMISSIONER STANTON:** --- and again, you know, for us, it's
3 so important to come back to the families ---

4 **MS. CHARLYNN McLEOD:** M'hm.

5 **COMMISSIONER STANTON:** --- and to hear from all of you again.
6 We started with you and we're finishing with you. And then this next week, of course,
7 we'll hear from all of the Participants.

8 **MS. CHARLYNN McLEOD:** M'hm.

9 **COMMISSIONER STANTON:** And, you know, yeah, people have
10 agenda, sure, but our job was to listen to all of the people that applied, the organizations
11 that applied. And if they had demonstrated that they had -- there's a test, substantial
12 and direct interest in parts of the mandate, then we were obliged to say, "Okay, you've
13 demonstrated that. Here you go."

14 So we have 61 Participants, so that means we need to be able to
15 listen to why they've said that they have an interest in the mandate, and that means that
16 we've had to, you know, pay attention to a range of things. And sometimes it will
17 absolutely not feel like it has anything to do with what you're interested in but, from our
18 perspective, we're trying to answer the whole mandate.

19 So it's -- I can only imagine how frustrating. All I can tell you is that
20 we broke it down as best we could given the scope of it ---

21 **MS. CHARLYNN McLEOD:** M'hm.

22 **COMMISSIONER STANTON:** --- and given the range of topics,
23 and given what we've been asked to do. So I hope that helps explain a bit. I realize it's
24 probably not satisfactory, but I just wanted to try to explain a bit how it is that we've, you
25 know, got to where we are.

26 **MS. CHARLYNN McLEOD:** Yeah. It's just I can't comprehend
27 how it got from an Inquiry that the families fought for to find out things about this
28 particular thing to being this big thing.

1 **COMMISSIONER STANTON:** Yeah.

2 **MS. CHARLYNN McLEOD:** So ---

3 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** Maybe I could help there. It's --
4 it seems to me there's a fundamental misunderstanding that the Inquiry is exclusively
5 about what happened. And the Orders in Council that it's from, the Federal
6 Government and from the Provincial Government, is to look at firearms, is to look at
7 intimate partner violence, is to look at how other people may be differentially impacted.
8 And it's all there. And we -- ironically, we have been criticized for starting with and
9 spending too much time on the "what happened?" So we started with what happened
10 and we -- another challenge is, this is a two-year mandate.

11 I mean, there was an inundation of documentation. There are other
12 inquiries that typically would take five years with one crime scene or one site. We've
13 got 17 sites so we had to rely on foundational documents, send our investigators out as
14 soon as COVID would allow it, and get as many -- as much information as we could,
15 and unturn every stone we could, and share everything we could. We've also had
16 people who are very upset about the fact that details about them are being released, so
17 it's always about balancing.

18 It's -- there are competing interests and we make probably five or
19 six really difficult decisions a week and good's not on the table. It's either bad or worse.
20 And I just want you to know that we're doing the very best we can. And as
21 Commissioner Stanton said, we started with the families. I can tell you honestly the
22 memories of the families and all of you who've been injured has been -- we wake up
23 with it and we go to bed with it. But that does not give us the right to ignore Orders.
24 That's what the word means, "Order in Council". Our direction is to deal with all of those
25 things and we have no right to say we're going to ignore it.

26 And I understand your frustration completely, and thanks for
27 sharing it, and thanks for your honesty, but we will have a comprehensive report and it
28 will begin with what happened, and it will be detailed.

1 **MS. CHARLYNN McLEOD:** Okay.

2 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** And it will also include the
3 causes, contexts, and circumstances.

4 **MS. CHARLYNN McLEOD:** Okay.

5 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** So if one of the causes was the
6 perpetrator's life of abuse ---

7 **MS. CHARLYNN McLEOD:** M'hm.

8 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** --- we can't ignore that.

9 **MS. CHARLYNN McLEOD:** No, no, definitely not.

10 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** And if one the -- and if one of the
11 causes -- whatever the causes might be, we have an obligation to pursue that. And so
12 we're not -- but we're not doing that at that at the expense of finding out what happened.
13 I mean that was where we started. That's where we dedicated a lot of effort. And I hear
14 you in the sense that -- I think you might have said this yesterday, Scott -- there are
15 some things we will never know.

16 **MR. SCOTT McLEOD:** No.

17 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** And that's -- nobody -- we feel
18 as badly about that, too.

19 **MS. CHARLYNN McLEOD:** Yeah.

20 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** But rest assured that we've tried
21 to unturn every stone. And we weren't able to do it through calling hundreds of
22 witnesses because you can't -- I've been a judge for a long time and you can't call 200-
23 300 witnesses in two years. It just ---

24 **MS. CHARLYNN McLEOD:** M'hm.

25 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** It's just not on. So we did the
26 best we could to reach that, again, difficult balance of making sure all three phases are
27 met and every aspect of our -- we had to go through our mandate and say, "How do we
28 cover this? How do we cover this?" So we've done the best we can, honestly, and --

1 but thank you for raising it. We appreciate your honesty.

2 Were you going to say something, Commissioner Fitch or did I ---

3 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** Well, I was.

4 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** Okay.

5 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** I just wanted -- just before I turn the
6 floor over to you, Mallory ---

7 **MS. MALLORY COLPITTS:** Thank you.

8 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** Oh, I -- I'm sorry. I didn't see
9 your hand.

10 **MS. MALLORY COLPITTS:** It's okay.

11 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** And I think my fellow Commissioners
12 have explained it, I think really well, but if I could just kind of give you some concrete
13 examples from the world that I've walked in and, you know, I've been in policing for 30
14 years and when we talk about the causes, contexts, and -- I find sometimes when you
15 talk about causes, contexts, and circumstances in differentially-impacted, you lose
16 people, right, because I think that this kind of sounds like words that are in our Order in
17 Council. And when we look at, you know, one of the reasons that we're here -- primary
18 reason, not only to find out what happened but is to make a difference going forward.
19 And in order to do that, we've got to be able to make recommendations that focus on
20 things like prevention, and timely intervention, and effective response. And that's not
21 just from a policing perspective but that's from all-of-the-community perspective, right?

22 So I know we've taken a hit in social media on the amount of time
23 that we've spent, for example, on intimate partner violence, and there's been a lot of
24 criticism and concern around Lisa Banfield in the media and in social media. If we even
25 looked at the evidence that we've brought forward through our investigation, and
26 evidence that the RCMP brought forward in their investigation, one of our Foundational
27 Documents, you know -- and Commissioner MacDonald touched on this -- was the
28 perpetrator's background and the violence and dysfunction that he was exposed to and

1 experienced himself as a young child. I'm not making excuses for him, not one little bit,
2 but you cannot ignore the fact that there are ingredients that go into making somebody
3 who they become.

4 **MS. CHARLYNN McLEOD:** I had to deal with his father at the
5 probation office.

6 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** So ---

7 **MS. CHARLYNN McLEOD:** Which I -- I lost it that day. Someone
8 had to come and take over, yeah.

9 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** So when you look at where we have to
10 go with the recommendations to try and prevent something like this from happening
11 again, to identify red flags, whether it's around firearms or its around intimate partner
12 violence -- you've questioned about whether -- you know, what would LBGTQ have to
13 do with this? Everybody needs to feel comfortable in bringing their concerns forward.
14 And if you have systems in places that doesn't feel open to everybody, and if you don't
15 have institutions that are trusted, then we are going to miss opportunities to report.
16 We're going to miss opportunities to intervene. We're going to miss opportunities to
17 prevent.

18 So I don't know if that helps at all but it's really about creating
19 communities and institutions that are inclusive, that not only certain people in our
20 communities can go to for help or turn to for help. And, you know, the Foundational
21 Documents on the Violence Towards Others, we learned some really horrific things
22 about what he did to other people in communities. There's some really haunting stuff in
23 there, that people were physically attacked by him, you know, having dentures pulled
24 out, that didn't feel that they could go anywhere to report, right, that they wouldn't
25 believe -- wouldn't be believed. And so that being believed and going to trusted sources
26 for people that have been through that. Because if there's a witness out there that had
27 really, really important information that they didn't feel okay or welcome to go and report
28 to an authority, then that's a problem in our society, right.

1 So that's why, when we talk about the differentially impacted, it's
2 important to make sure that we're allowing space to hear those voices that all too often
3 haven't been heard.

4 On the gender side of things, I've been a woman in policing for --
5 well, not anymore, but for over three decades. I went into policing at a very, very young
6 age and I can't tell you over the course of 30 years how many times my voice was
7 discounted because I was the only girl in the room -- the only woman in the room and
8 my voice wasn't heard as valid. And I had valid information to share on very important
9 files, right, that eventually turned up two weeks later when somebody else's lightbulb
10 went off, right.

11 So the opportunity to give voice to everybody is really important.
12 Heidi Stevenson's voice came over the air asking for an Alert, right? We had the officer
13 that was doing perimeter check that said that there was another way out, and that just --
14 that voice never (inaudible) nobody picked it up.

15 So I don't know if those concrete examples help to understand why
16 our mandate is so broad. And I have to say, when we first got our Orders in Council
17 and I saw how broad it was, I was thinking to myself -- and I've only been more
18 convinced of it as we've gone along -- somebody was actually really paying attention to
19 a lot of the root cause issues when they drafted that Order in Council to tell us what we
20 had to look at because for me, and I'm hoping eventually for others, it will give us a
21 much richer, fuller understanding of the things we can do together going forward
22 together.

23 I don't know if that helps or not, Charlynn.

24 **MS. CHARLYNN McLEOD:** Well, it -- when it's explained like that,
25 yeah.

26 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** Yeah.

27 **MS. CHARLYNN McLEOD:** Like ---

28 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** Yeah.

1 **MS. CHARLYNN McLEOD:** I know you guys understand, as family
2 member and people affected, that we want this truth.

3 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** Yeah.

4 **MS. CHARLYNN McLEOD:** So ---

5 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** And that's totally understandable.

6 **MS. CHARLYNN McLEOD:** And I know it has to come down from
7 somewhere, but it's still ---

8 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** Yeah.

9 **MS. CHARLYNN McLEOD:** It's still frustrating because ---

10 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** If I could just -- one more thing and then
11 -- Mallory, I know you're sitting there waiting.

12 **MS. MALLORY COLPITTS:** I'm not disagreeing with (*inaudible
13 02:09:17).

14 **MS. CHARLYNN McLEOD:** Yeah, just don't forget what you were
15 going to say, because I would. (laughter)

16 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** This is -- That's why I make so many
17 notes, so I won't forget. On the trauma-informed piece, yeah, I don't know that there
18 was a really full understanding on why that was in our Terms of Reference on how to we
19 were about to go and do our business, but I think that it -- I'd be surprised if we did not
20 agree in this room in that there is no value in sharing the photographs from the crime
21 scenes and making people relive that.

22 **MR. SCOTT McLEOD:** No.

23 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** The release of the 9-1-1 tapes, I mean
24 that's just harmful to people. And it's a really delicate balance for us to try and figure
25 out and to try and do our best in doing it because what isn't harmful for one person is
26 devastating for another, right? And so we've really -- we've taken a lot of care and
27 attention.

28 But I know what you mean, like, "Give us the information." I've

1 done a lot of death notifications over the course of my career and some people, they
2 want to know every detail, and then other people, like, they're gone, and that's all we
3 want to know, and it might be six months later that they'll come back and say, "No, no,
4 no." So it's just -- it's really hard for us to hit that right balance but please know we have
5 tried really, really hard to hit the right balance on that.

6 And yeah, so that's, and that's a lot to absorb, and I'm sorry to
7 throw down so much.

8 **MS. MALLORY COLPITTS:** No.

9 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** Mallory?

10 **MS. MALLORY COLPITTS:** No, no, no. And I am glad that you
11 are looking at some of the other precursors around this, not just domestic violence. And
12 I wish I could have attended yesterday. I had some medical appointments so I couldn't
13 but, you know, our system needs some correcting. I think we can all agree on that.

14 But what I intended to touch base upon, you know, we were
15 discussing about the two years and how that just seems like an impossible task. That
16 really links, I guess, to myself and my own personal circumstance, you know, dealing
17 with this process as a Federal Government employee. And if I'm dealing with this,
18 I suspect that other first responders are, that are with the Federal Government and, you
19 know, the mandates of Treasury Board and the allowability of dismissal after two years
20 of disability. If my job is at risk, I can only imagine that other first responders who have
21 been off for a duration of two-plus years, where now they're dealing with Treasury
22 Board options letters of returning or resigning, I just -- people have gone through
23 enough trauma; the last thing they need is losing their job and not respecting this
24 process.

25 So if there's any powers that be that can potentially look at that and
26 protecting that and not using that as the rationale to dismiss people -- yeah, I just -- I
27 wanted to echo that since we're acknowledging timelines in two years and I can only
28 imagine other people are dealing with it.

1 The other comment that I had was, you know, on the notion of, I
2 think, policing, when we were talking about policing and, you know, it appears that some
3 people had some great interactions with the police; some people did not, you know.
4 What's great is, you know, when there are complaints about policing, you know, for
5 municipal, we have the *Police Act*. You can go through and lay a complaint. In the
6 RCMP, you have the *RCMP Act* for Code of Conduct.

7 What -- for uniformity reasons, there doesn't seem to be a body for
8 SiRT. So SiRT did have involvement in this. So what -- there is no Professional
9 Standards for them yet created. There's nothing to answer, like, why municipal, they
10 have an avenue. The RCMP have an avenue. The RCMP yet -- or sorry, SiRT, to my
11 knowledge, yet does not. And I just believe they all should for uniformity. And I'm
12 guessing, in other provinces -- like we have, obviously, SiRT Nova Scotia -- same thing
13 nationally. So I just wanted to include in the consideration.

14 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** Thank you.

15 **MR. LEON JOUDREY:** I still get monthly updates of the un-
16 identified officers in the yard. I made a complaint against the RCMP. When the SWAT
17 guys showed up to get Lisa Banfield, they didn't clear my house, garage, or nothing.
18 They didn't ask who I was. So I made a complaint about that, and I just get updates
19 they haven't identified them yet. That's been two and half years, a little frustrating.

20 **COMMISSIONER STANTON:** Well, oversight and accountability is
21 definitely one of the things on our radar.

22 **MS. MALLORY COLPITTS:** And I suspect if there ever is more
23 mass casualties, which we all hope that there isn't, there will be more involvement with
24 the organizations such as SiRT. So accountability is obviously important. I just think
25 that that's something we should look at.

26 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** And we had a whole day on it, of
27 course, last week just on that very topic and brought in as many experts as we could to
28 see best practices, so.

1 **MS. MALLORY COLPITTS:** M'hm.

2 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** I think I am going to have to interject and
3 have to play the very unpopular role of trying to bring this conversation to an end. I'm
4 just mindful of the time. But I just wanted to give Emily an opportunity to thank you as
5 well, but just really wanted to thank everyone for coming. And it was really striking how
6 supportive you were of each other during this conversation today, and how respectful
7 you are, and what great listeners you are as well as great contributions to our
8 discussion today. So thank you so much for coming.

9 And I know some of the topics were difficult and I thank you for
10 continuing to share even though some of these are hard things to talk about. So thank
11 you so much.

12 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** Jamie, if I could quickly just add one
13 more thing, and I meant to say this earlier, but our condolences on the loss of your
14 brother (*inaudible 02:15:52).

15 **MS. MICHELLE MURPHY:** Thank you.

16 **MR. DARRIN MURPHY:** Thank you.

17 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** Losing a sibling is very difficult.

18 Sorry, Emily.

19 **MS. EMILY HILL:** I just would echo all the thanks. I really -- I
20 learned a lot listening to all of you today and I appreciated Mallory, your observation at
21 the very beginning about, you know, about the fact that the impact of the event is there
22 but it continues and that the work of the Commission continues to impact, and in hard
23 ways. And so I can -- that's true generally, and it's true on timelines, and it's true in the
24 conversations today. So I just want to thank you all for coming and for sharing your
25 ideas. And I'll think we'll wrap but I ---

26 **MR. JAMIE VANWART:** Unless Commissioner Stanton.

27 **COMMISSIONER STANTON:** I think we all just want to -- we all
28 really want to thank you for taking the time to come and speak to us. And it's -- it takes

1 a lot of courage and a lot of care and thought to be here and we know -- we know it's a
2 difficult thing to do. And we've seen some of you come and it means a lot to us to see
3 people come and be present for your loved ones. And all of you have lost so much in
4 your loved ones but also in your trust, your sense of safety. It's a lot of loss and it
5 matters to us that you have taken the time and the energy to talk to us about it because
6 it's -- it's what we want to try to address with this work.

7 We really do want to try to bring forward a report that will help
8 answer some of the questions but also help keep all of us safer, rebuild that sense of
9 community safety that we all want to have regardless of which path we come to this
10 from. So I'm just really grateful to all of you and I'm sure my colleagues feel the same
11 way. They may want to say for themselves. Thank you.

12 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** Yeah, just I wouldn't be saying a whole
13 lot different from that of Commissioner Stanton. It takes a tremendous amount of
14 courage and heart to come and spend time with us. And, you know, like I said it earlier
15 that our first priority when we started together, the three of us, was to meet with families
16 and those most -- those most affected as early on as we could.

17 And Mallory, your point is very well taken. When I reflect back and
18 met the family members in March of 2021 and, you know, where do you -- where do you
19 draw that circle around who to first meet with? And these are all lessons that we've
20 learned along the way as well. And so I really appreciate the sharing that you've all
21 brought, and the time that you've spent with our investigators as well, and we just hope
22 that we serve you well when the final report comes out. So thank you.

23 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** I just want to echo those things.
24 It's not easy. I'm sure there are lots of things you could be doing on a Saturday morning
25 and it's greatly appreciated. One of the roundtable members last week indicated that
26 we should -- we put more humanity in our institutions, and Darrin that's what you said.
27 You know, we need a little more humanity all around. And the biggest take away for me
28 today was your very helpful observations and suggestions and ideas, but just to get to

1 know you a little bit, just to inject some humanity to -- you know, we've read about all of
2 you.

3 It's wonderful seeing Scott everyday. He always has a friendly
4 smile, and that means a lot. But we are meeting many of you for the first time, and
5 that's important for us. And I think, arguably, that's what I observed and appreciate the
6 most.

7 But Leon, you've been -- you've been through a lot and it wasn't
8 easy for you to be here today and share that, and I greatly appreciate it.

9 And the same with you, Mallory, some very important -- sorry for
10 using first names. I hope you don't mind ---

11 **MS. MALLORY COLPITTS:** No, that's okay.

12 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** --- important observations that
13 you've contributed.

14 Was Bernie an older brother or a younger brother?

15 **MR. DARRIN MURPHY:** Younger.

16 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** Younger. So you're there for
17 your kid brother, right. I mean that's humanity. That's why you're here.

18 And Michelle, the same with you. That means a lot.

19 And I'm a kid brother so, yeah.

20 And Charlynn, thank you for your honesty, and it wasn't easy for
21 you.

22 And Scott, thanks not just for today but for every day.

23 And Charlynn, thanks for sharing Scott.

24 **COMMISSIONER STANTON:** We understand you have a whole
25 list of stuff for him when this is over.

26 **MS. CHARLYNN McLEOD:** You have no idea.

27 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** Honey-do list.

28 **MR. SCOTT McLEOD:** Can we extend this a little longer?

1 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** So thank you all very much.

2 Oh, and by the way -- sorry, I forgot. And thank you Ms.

3 McCulloch.

4 --- Session concludes

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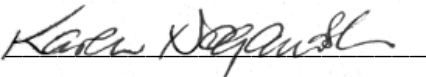
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