

Small Group Session

Séance en petit groupe

Commissioners / Commissaires

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

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

Dr. Kim Stanton

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II Appearances / Comparutions

Ms. Amelia Goulet-Butler	Daughter of Gina Goulet
Mr. David Butler	Husband to Amelia Goulet-Butler
Ms. Jane Lenehan	Counsel for family of Gina Goulet
Mr. Leo Artalejo	Facilitator
Ms. Maureen Wheller	Commission Community Liaison Director

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--- Upon commencing on Tuesday, August 30, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.

MR. LEO ARTALEJO: Okay. So as I mentioned, I'm starting the recording device so we can make a public recording of this. This will be transcribed into English and French, and will be posted as part of a public document that will be potentially referenced back to in the final report. It won't be part of the final report, but it will be a source document.

Thank you for being here. As we spoke about before, the purpose of these sessions is to really help the Commission learn from your experiences as family members, and we know that you have a unique perspective because you lived through this in a way that no-one else has. And so today's session is really to hear from you and to learn from you so that we can help, as a Commission make the kind of recommendations that will help Canadian families in the future.

So that's the intention. As you know, we've framed up this conversation around three questions, which I've shared with you in advance, as well as the Commissioners.

My role is to help facilitate the conversation so I'll keep track of time and things if we get sort of lost down a particular topic, I may try to kind of bring us back or I may ask some general questions to help deepen the Commission's understanding.

But the topics that we're hoping to cover in this conversation, just to restate them; your experience as family members, both in the immediate aftermath and in the days and weeks following the mass casualty; what it was like trying to access information as a family member; what were the supports and services that were helpful to you during the mass casualty; and then what was missing, so that we can make sure that families in the future have the support they need to deal with these kinds of events.

So when you speak, you'll be listened to respectfully; you won't be interrupted by me or the Commissioners. We may have some follow-up questions or, you know -- but this is really your time and it's really our job to kind of listen to you.

1 I would say that I think we'll be best served if you can avoid blame
2 or speculation and just really stay with what your experience was. We're happy to hear
3 your thoughts on the kind of issues that would frame up the sort of recommendations.

4 And then if we -- before we leave each round of questions, I'll be
5 sure to check in with you and see if you need a break, do you want to take a pause or
6 something like that, just so we can kind of make sure that everyone's fine.

7 We also have mental health support on site, so Mary is here if that
8 would be helpful to you.

9 If you need a break, we're also happy to leave the room and give
10 you the room with Jane; you can have some refreshments, and this is -- and we'll stop
11 the recording. But this is your space for this time.

12 So that's kind of how we'd like to go. Is there anything -- does that
13 sound okay with you? Okay, great.

14 So the first question -- and we wanted to spend about 15 minutes
15 on each question, but it's completely up to you; you can share as much or as little as
16 you wish -- was what do you want to tell us about your experience seeking information
17 and getting support during and immediately after the mass casualty?

18 Whichever one of you wants to start, would be great.

19 **MS. AMELIA GOULET-BUTLER:** Do you want to?

20 **MR. DAVID BUTLER:** Yeah.

21 **MS. AMELIA GOULET-BUTLER:** I don't really know where to
22 start, but I would say if I was to go, like, chronologically, maybe just to kind of make it
23 easier to stay on track, I know that immediately following everything, it was really
24 difficult to get information about, like, just my Mum's property in general as one thing,
25 and trying to navigate, like, what we were kind of supposed to do in the days after and
26 having, like, that line of communication.

27 So for example, we found out that there was nobody at her house
28 anymore, like, kind of looking after it or kind of watching it, until we went to go to the city

1 to get Ginger, my Mum's Shepherd, the day after, I think it was, on Monday, and we just
2 happened to drive by the property because we were wondering, like, what was going on
3 with it, and there was nobody there when we passed by.

4 So David had remembered that there was somebody stationed at
5 the EHS station in Milford, so we had drove there and came in contact with an officer
6 there, and we actually, like, got him to call and see if the crime scene was closed; is it
7 open, are we responsible for it now? So that was kind of, like, really hard to figure out.
8 Like, we were really having to search for information when, you know, having gone
9 through what we did, it probably should have been readily available to us or given to us
10 a lot sooner.

11 **MR. DAVID BUTLER:** And, I mean, it wasn't that our information
12 was withheld from anybody.

13 **MS. AMELIA GOULET-BUTLER:** Yeah.

14 **MR. DAVID BUTLER:** We shared our phone number on multiple
15 occasions, on probably four or five times in the course of 26, 28 hours, like, to various
16 levels of members. So to have to track somebody down was tough.

17 My immediate thought, like, when we drove by the home that
18 afternoon after getting Ginger was, "Oh, somebody just ran down the road for a coffee,
19 or something like that." There was just a lapse in time that we happened to be going
20 past, but where everything was still so fresh, it was a matter of, you know, like, I should
21 pursue this a little bit and just going in my mind, I knew that the EHS base was a home
22 base at that point so -- and buddy's name was Turcotte.

23 **MS. AMELIA GOULET-BUTLER:** Yes.

24 **MR. DAVID BUTLER:** And I remember, like, driver's to driver's
25 window-, we both had our windows down. He was just like, "One sec," put his window
26 up. He put his window down, he said, "No, it's yours." And then it was just a matter of,
27 like, we know the contents that are in there and we know, you know, we might have
28 some nosy neighbours kicking around, like, it was a matter of, like, going to the

1 hardware store in Shubie and getting some things to deter the honest person, you
2 know?

3 **MS. AMELIA GOULET-BUTLER:** And, like, again, the fact if the
4 house had have been secured, then that even would have been a little bit different, but
5 it wasn't. Like, the door was -- the glass was broken, and the door was like literally, like,
6 left open so anybody could have just strolled in and done whatever they wanted. Yeah,
7 so even that kind of level of care where it wasn't, like, you know, the door wasn't, like,
8 locked up or boarded up or anything, it literally was just kind of like left as it was, so...

9 **MR. DAVID BUTLER:** And we -- to that point, later on -- like,
10 immediately it was like, "Oh my goodness, this crime scene's still open. Okay, now it's
11 still dirty but it's our responsibility." And then weeks after, after we found the chunk of
12 lead in the vanity, it was like, that's when it kind of painted the picture for me that, like,
13 you know, somebody really could have just strolled in here and really tainted the ---

14 **MS. AMELIA GOULET-BUTLER:** Yeah.

15 **MR. DAVID BUTLER:** --- the area, if we hadn't come across it and
16 secured it ourselves.

17 **MS. AMELIA GOULET-BUTLER:** And even, I guess, backtracking
18 a little bit before that, I believe -- yeah, it was like we had left the hospital because we
19 were at the hospital in Truro after, like, we had been at my Mum's property, like, kind of
20 like right when we had landed there, everything that had happened. So once we had
21 got to the Truro hospital, there was a woman there who was -- she was quite helpful to
22 us. She was, I think, like a mental health kind of lead or something that -- in that kind of
23 a position, ---

24 **COMMISSIONER STANTON:** That was Lisa?

25 **MS. AMELIA GOULET-BUTLER:** --- named Lisa.

26 **COMMISSIONER STANTON:** Yeah.

27 **MS. AMELIA GOULET-BUTLER:** Yeah. And she was wonderful,
28 and she really did her best. She, like, took us aside in a room that was, like, nice and

1 comfortable and she offered to help us with, like, anything we needed to do. She sat
2 there while I had to, like, make calls to my family members and tell them what had
3 happened and, like, try and just, like, figure everything out.

4 And yeah, I mean, at that point, we didn't know, like, where the
5 dogs were at and we didn't really have -- I think there was one officer that was at the
6 hospital that she was trying to stay in contact with, like -- and that was kind of her way to
7 try and funnel some information to the families, because we weren't the only ones that
8 were there. But they really didn't have, like, much information that they kind of even -- I
9 don't think they probably at that point even knew much that they could pass along to us.

10 **MR. DAVID BUTLER:** Yeah, the presence of police at the hospital
11 was essentially non-existent to us ---

12 **MS. AMELIA GOULET-BUTLER:** Yeah.

13 **MR. DAVID BUTLER:** --- at that level.

14 **MS. AMELIA GOULET-BUTLER:** We were ---

15 **MR. DAVID BUTLER:** We didn't have any face time ; we didn't
16 have, you know, any sort of reassurance. You could -- I think you could kind of tell as
17 the afternoon was going along because at that point, we didn't know how many victims
18 there were.

19 **MS. AMELIA GOULET-BUTLER:** M'hm.

20 **MR. DAVID BUTLER:** You could hear mumblings or seven or
21 eight, eight or nine, nine or ten, and then all of a sudden it was like, "This is much bigger
22 that what we kind of originally heard from the initial reports." Right? So. Because
23 every time Lisa would come by -- and she had an assistant or somebody that she was
24 working alongside, I'm not going to say that she was more worked up as she would
25 come back, but you could tell that she knew a little more than she did when she left the
26 last time when she seen us, right? And that was -- that was tough to watch that unfold.

27 **MS. AMELIA GOULET-BUTLER:** But she was really helpful.

28 **MR. DAVID BUTLER:** Yeah.

1 **MS. AMELIA GOULET-BUTLER:** But, yeah, after we left there, we
2 pretty much -- like, we went home, and we didn't have contact with anybody. I had
3 gotten in contact with my Mum's neighbour, who I knew that she was pretty close with,
4 and we -- yeah, once we were in the hospital -- I'm trying to piece it together -- like,
5 okay, how are we going to find the dogs? We have no idea where they're at, and I've
6 said this a million times, -but they're like my Mum's, ,roommates, and she loved them
7 so much and it was really important that we made sure that we found them.

8 So she had gone down to the -- like, to my Mum's house because
9 she just lives real close by, and there was somebody there that had Ellie, which is her
10 chihuahua, and, like, Ashley thankfully, took her and just -- because I think they were
11 going to maybe go through the SPCA or something, just to kind of hold her and, like,
12 take care of her. So Ashley was able to take her, and then they also told her that
13 Ginger had been shot and they -- I think this was an officer, maybe, that told her, or the
14 person that was with the SPCA, possibly; I can't quite remember, but they had given her
15 the information that Ginger was shot but alive, and that she was in Dartmouth. And that
16 was all that they told her, so she passed that information along to me, so then I was left
17 -- like, I basically found that out and I just kind of started Googling, like, trying to find vet
18 clinics.

19 So I found the emergency one which is open 24 hours so I just
20 kind of called there kind of thinking that was going to be where she was, and that's
21 where she was. So we had to go, again, searching for that, like, on our own; there
22 wasn't really someone to kind of connect the dots for us.

23 **MR. DAVID BUTLER:** When I -- so when I went to get Ellie that
24 evening, I drove back over to Gina's home, just to say, like, "Hey guys, like, thanks for
25 this dog, but where's the other dog?" Like, just some sort of reassurance. I gave my
26 number twice at that meeting. And it was very similar to, like, a scene out of a movie,
27 like you had your forensics trucks all kind of parked around and the guys walking
28 around in the white suits and stuff. Stuff I'd never been exposed to before. That was --

1 that was tough but necessary, I felt, at that point. Like, to try to find them and have that
2 reassurance that the dogs were good and ---

3 **MS. AMELIA GOULET-BUTLER:** We were just trying to find any --
4 like, again, just handing our phone numbers out to anybody with hopes that someone is
5 going to contact us with something.

6 **MR. DAVID BUTLER:** Yeah.

7 **MS. AMELIA GOULET-BUTLER:** Like, some sort of information
8 about what was going on because we were -- again, yeah, after that, we're back home.
9 The next day, we got a call from the vet clinic where Ginger was, and that was kind of
10 when we made that trek down and found the house left unattended.

11 **MR. DAVID BUTLER:** So that was shortly after 11:00, and that
12 was when the first reporter got your phone number.

13 **MS. AMELIA GOULET-BUTLER:** Yeah.

14 **MR. DAVID BUTLER:** That was like -- that was a pretty tense
15 moment.

16 **MS. AMELIA GOULET-BUTLER:** Yeah. Yeah, and I know that's
17 nothing that's kind of in your guys' control so much at all but that was super
18 overwhelming as well, just like constantly having people call and message. I don't even
19 know how they got my phone number, anyway. That's ---

20 **MR. DAVID BUTLER:** I just remember driving to the city and just
21 having to deal with that. And I said to Amelia, I was like, "I can make that go away.
22 Like you just have to tell me." And I think you did it four or five times.

23 **MS. AMELIA GOULET-BUTLER:** Yeah, I don't ---

24 **MR. DAVID BUTLER:** And the same -- and the same story
25 consistently to whoever called you and then it was, (*inaudible-1.12.31) just so you had
26 the right image out in the public as fast as you could.

27 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** And just to be clear, that was on Monday?

28 **MS. AMELIA GOULET-BUTLER:** That was the Monday.

1 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** At 11:00 a.m.?

2 **MS. AMELIA GOULET-BUTLER:** And yeah we -- so, yeah, at that
3 point we hadn't gotten any information from anybody within, like, the RCMP. We had no
4 information about, like, my Mum. We ---

5 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** So to be clear, you were contacted by the
6 media, and even though you'd given your phone number out four or five times to four or
7 different members, you still had, at that point, not heard from the RCMP?

8 **MS. AMELIA GOULET-BUTLER:** No. Kind of, I guess, following
9 -- as that kind of followed through, then we were left to secure the house. And then I
10 knew -- I knew that I needed to go into the house because my Mum having having had,
11 like, brain cancer and that kind of stuff, she had all of her affairs in order and basically
12 she had always said to me, like, "If anything ever happens, you..." -- like, I knew exactly
13 where to go to get all of the information that I needed in her house. So then it was just
14 trying to navigate to kind of get to that point where we could go in the house to get that.

15 So, yeah, I guess we ended up -- I ended up reaching out to a
16 woman who was like my Mum's kind of -- I wanna say kind of like finance lady, but she
17 really was a good friend of my Mum and helped her with a lot of her affairs and stuff too.
18 So I had contacted her because I didn't really know what to do. And thankfully she just,
19 like, kind of stepped up and she's like, "Okay, what's the next step? You need to get
20 the house cleaned." So she helped me find a company that came out and arranged to
21 get the house clean. That way we could go in and get all the things that we needed.

22 And kind of while all that was kind of happening, we had also made
23 arrangements to meet with a funeral director at Ettinger's in Shubie. So Al was there,
24 and he was a huge help to us as well, and he actually connected, like, a ton of the dots
25 for us too we didn't really have the information on yet. So when we met with him we,
26 you know, figured out where my Mum's body was. Like, he had already kind of made
27 those connections, and ---

28 **MR. DAVID BUTLER:** Yeah, that was a tough -- that was a really

1 tough time because -- yeah, we were in day two, it was Tuesday afternoon, I think, at
2 this point when we actually sat with AI?

3 **MS. AMELIA GOULET-BUTLER:** Yeah, I think it was Tuesday
4 afternoon.

5 **MR. DAVID BUTLER:** Yeah. So it was, like, we don't know where
6 the body is, we don't know where she was taken; we don't know the state. Like, it was
7 -- that was tough, that part.

8 **MS. AMELIA GOULET-BUTLER:** M'hm.

9 **MR. DAVID BUTLER:** But, yeah, he was super helpful. And who
10 he was talking to behind the scenes, we don't really know if he was talking to other
11 funeral directors, if he was talking to higher levels of RCMP. We - I don't think we ever
12 did figure that out.

13 **MS. AMELIA GOULET-BUTLER:** I think that he -- I believe they
14 were the same funeral home that helped with another one of the victim's families as
15 well, so I think that maybe, like, knowing that my Mum was in the community, they
16 maybe had assumed that we were going to go there and just kind of already got some
17 of the information that they needed, like, as soon as we had been in contact with them,
18 maybe even? So, yeah, I think he was already, like, doing a lot of that work, right from
19 the get-go, like, as soon as we reached out to them. So that was a huge help because,
20 yeah, I really don't know how we would have navigated any of that if they weren't there
21 to put that together for us.

22 **MR. DAVID BUTLER:** I can't recall when we were actually first
23 contacted by Wayne. Was it Tuesday midday?

24 **MS. AMELIA GOULET-BUTLER:** I can't remember when the --
25 when he called.

26 **MR. DAVID BUTLER:** Yeah, because he was trying to gear up for
27 us to talk to the investigators.

28 **COMMISSIONER STANTON:** And Wayne is Cst. -Bent

1 **MR. DAVID BUTLER:** Correct.

2 **MS. AMELIA GOULET-BUTLER:** And then ---

3 **MR. DAVID BUTLER:** And that would have been -- because we
4 met with him 7 o'clock Tuesday evening.

5 **MS. AMELIA GOULET-BUTLER:** M'hm.

6 **MR. DAVID BUTLER:** Which I still I thought was Wednesday.
7 Like, my timelines at that point were muddy. I think that was the first time we actually
8 heard from him.

9 **MS. AMELIA GOULET-BUTLER:** M'hm.

10 **MR. DAVID BUTLER:** But the way he introduced himself was like,
11 "I'm your guy." So there was a bit of confidence that was developed there at that point
12 and there was -- as time went on, he's the (*inaudible-1.17.05) guy, and that was tough.

13 **MS. AMELIA GOULET-BUTLER:** Yeah. It wasn't -- it wasn't clear
14 from the first phone call that he was the liaison for all of the families. So initially I kind of
15 thought that he was, like, maybe just like Dave said, just for us. Like, and then when -- I
16 guess, immediately, when something of that magnitude happens, I maybe assumed that
17 because of how, like, largescale everything was, that, yeah, it would just kind of be
18 assumed that there's one officer per family, kind of thing, to try and keep details straight
19 and to, you know, stay on top of everything. But, yeah, then we just kind of figured out
20 over time that he was a contact for other people as well.

21 And, like, again, not knocking him because I think that he had all
22 the good in his heart but like really was just overwhelmed with trying to keep all of the
23 families, like, kind of straight and to stay, like, in contact with everyone. And we kind of
24 -- we didn't really have a ton of communication with him. Like, I didn't -- I wasn't
25 constantly, like, calling him or anything. I'm more the kind of person that, okay, if
26 someone has information they're going to share with me, then I'm just kind of wait for
27 them to share it. Like, I'm not going to call and call and call and bother them, which I
28 guess in hindsight, like, I kind of wish maybe that I had have poked and prodded a little

1 bit more because it wasn't -- you know, he would call and check in sort of thing and just
2 give me, like, little updates but really it wasn't ---

3 **MR. DAVID BUTLER:** One of the most frustrating parts at that
4 point -- because, I mean, everybody had their own little rumour mills going and
5 associations and not associated, and you would get a call at 12:30 on a Tuesday
6 afternoon, let's say, "You guys should watch the news tonight. There's some details
7 that's going to come out. Can't tell you what's in there but at 12 -- you know, five hours
8 from now, you'll find out as the rest of your province and the country finds out."

9 And I remember having, you know, just beers in the garage with the
10 boys and just saying, "Like, does this seem odd?" Like, is this -- am I reading into this
11 too much that we're, you know, not that we're any better or should be you know, put on
12 a pedestal compared to the rest of anybody else, but I feel like we have the right to
13 know a little bit something before.

14 **MS. AMELIA GOULET-BUTLER:** I think the initial one we -- I can't
15 remember when the first press release was, but we were driving and listening to it on
16 the radio, and that was one of those things where they had contacted us and said,
17 "Yeah, if you want information," like Dave said, "then tune in," kind of thing, and we're
18 literally finding out at the same time as everybody else. And that was all that we had,
19 like ---

20 **MR. DAVID BUTLER:** Yeah.

21 **MS. AMELIA GOULET-BUTLER:** Yeah.

22 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** Who contacted you at that point?

23 **MR. DAVID BUTLER:** That would be Wayne, I believe.

24 **MS. AMELIA GOULET-BUTLER:** I believe so, yeah.

25 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** To give you that. So you heard from
26 Wayne, from Cst. Bent around noon ---

27 **MR. DAVID BUTLER:** Yeah.

28 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** --- advising you that there was going to be

1 ---

2 **MR. DAVID BUTLER:** Yeah.

3 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** --- more information released at 5:00.

4 **MR. DAVID BUTLER:** "Watch the news tonight," or, you know, "2
5 o'clock tomorrow afternoon there's a press conference"; you know, "Schedule your time
6 accordingly," that type of call.

7 **MS. AMELIA GOULET-BUTLER:** Yeah. I mean, outside of that
8 too, like, we I don't know-- there was nothing official, like, even when he did contact us,
9 like there wasn't anything saying, like, yes, it was my Mum that passed. Like, nobody
10 offered -- like, I didn't -- I don't think anybody ever asked me for me to identify her, like --
11 not that I -- I don't know if that would have been good anyway but, like, just the fact that
12 there was not that -- it was never asked that you know, or nothing official was ever given
13 saying that she had been killed. It was all just, like, assumptions, I guess. And it was
14 obvious, like, based on the way that everything was unfolding that, like, we knew what
15 had happened but it's just still there was not that like, there should be some sort of
16 paperwork or protocol, I guess, where somebody approaches you and does tell you that
17 is what happened.

18 **MR. DAVID BUTLER:** Yeah. And we were 60 hours in before I
19 was interviewed by an investigator. I was the first person that went in that home after
20 the killer left. I just thought that that would have happened quicker, you know, just to
21 get their timelines straight as quick as they could, right?

22 **MS. AMELIA GOULET-BUTLER:** And I guess in hindsight too,
23 like, we didn't know at that time how many other people and how many other, like,
24 places he had been. So, like, we understand now knowing what we do that obviously
25 there was a lot of work that was being done that we didn't know about at that time, but I
26 feel like that's still not an excuse for us to have been not contacted because it should be
27 a priority to make sure that the families are looked after as well. And, like, it's almost for
28 the dignity of the person who, you know, was killed, like, that like, you know, if my Mum

1 knew that we were left for that long without knowing, like, she would have, like, just
2 been completely mortified that we didn't know that that had happened to her. Like, it's,
3 it just doesn't really seem fair.

4 (SHORT PAUSE)

5 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** It takes a lot of courage to do this, so thank
6 you; it's really helpful.

7 **MR. DAVID BUTLER:** And I mean there's a part of the grieving
8 process and going on to the next chapter too, right? A lot of this stuff we've tried to --
9 I'm not going to say forget but there's -- you know, it's been quite a number of months
10 since this happened and we're trying to move forward.

11 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** M'hm.

12 **MR. DAVID BUTLER:** That's, you know, we're pretty good with
13 details but at the same time, we're -- there's some details you don't want to remember.

14 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** Yeah.

15 **MS. AMELIA GOULET-BUTLER:** After this much time, too, it gets
16 a little bit confusing. Like, some of it does start to get a bit foggy as well. I mean, it's a
17 bit of a struggle to try and know if what you're remembering is, like, --- yeah

18 -.

19 **MR. DAVID BUTLER:** Because there was so many speculations
20 for the first, I'll call it six months after. You know, we weren't getting a lot of information
21 on what had happened. And, you know, there's some news articles that were going out
22 that might not have been from as reputable sources as you would like. And they play
23 tricks on your mind, you know, because nobody's telling you that they're not true, you
24 know, nobody's reiterating that they are true but, yeah, that was tough.

25 **MS. AMELIA GOULET-BUTLER:** Yeah, I think if -- what would
26 have been helpful definitely would have been if someone from the RCMP had been
27 more, like, forthcoming, we'll call it, and just given us some information instead of just,
28 like, saying, "Oh, tune into the news," whatever. Like, it definitely would have gave us

1 more confidence if there had have been someone who would have approached us and
2 treated us with a bit more care, and then I think we probably would have had some
3 more trust in them moving forward. But it just really seemed kind of like a battle
4 throughout the whole thing. And, you know, further down the road too, like, I started to
5 ask some questions because I hadn't had information about, you know, my Mum's
6 injuries and kind of more on that side of things because at that point, I can't even
7 remember how many months -- it had been months that had passed without knowing
8 more detail about her specifically, which, like, I respect that some people maybe don't
9 want to know those things, but I did because there was so little information that you
10 really just create a lot of stories in your head and not knowing, like, what is true and
11 what's not, so you're just making things up and trying to put the pieces together
12 because you're trying to grieve and make sense of it all.

13 So I know I had been reaching out to the medical examiner, which
14 they had kind of said, like, "Oh, I can't release information to you. You have to get that
15 through the RCMP because it's still on, like, a closed kind of file." And then when I
16 contact the RCMP about that same information, they couldn't tell me because it would
17 jeopardize their investigation. So -- which to me, again, I thought was just kind of like
18 I'm the next of kin; like, I'm my Mum's only daughter, I really think that I should have
19 known that. Like, even if there had have been something where I had to, like, swear I
20 wasn't going to tell anybody, like, just to kind of have something so that it would give me
21 some, like, peace of mind and my family peace of mind, just kind of knowing a little bit
22 more. Like, that was really hard.

23 **MR. DAVID BUTLER:** It was Jane that finally connected the dots

24 **MS. AMELIA GOULET-BUTLER:** Yeah, I think Jane ---

25 **MR. DAVID BUTLER:** Yeah, she was ---

26 **MS. AMELIA GOULET-BUTLER:** --- helped us with that.

27 **MR. DAVID BUTLER:** --- (*inaudible-1.26.59) trying to get that -

28 one for us.

1 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** Can you tell us a little more about that?

2 **MS. AMELIA GOULET-BUTLER:** So once -- I can't quite
3 remember how this ---

4 **MR. DAVID BUTLER:** I think it was once -- like, once the Inquiry
5 was announced and there was funds and we were able to secure Jane, I think that's
6 when the documents started coming in and that was, like, through the meetings that we
7 were having; you know, every second Sunday evening we would sit down and go
8 through documents together.

9 **COMMISSIONER STANTON:** And just for the transcript, that's
10 Jane Lenehan ---

11 **MR. DAVID BUTLER:** Correct.

12 **COMMISSIONER STANTON:** --- you're referring to, yeah. Thanks

13 **MR. DAVID BUTLER:** Yeah, we would go through the documents
14 and as we were going through, I think you identified some of our pain points, I'll call
15 them.

16 **MS. JANE LENEHAN:** Yeah.

17 **MR. DAVID BUTLER:** You know, and that was one that seemed to
18 come up over and over again was the examination ---

19 **MS. JANE LENEHAN::** That you didn't know how it happened,
20 yeah, yeah.

21 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** Roughly how long was it between the mass
22 casualty and when you were connected with Jane and started to do that work together?

23 **MR. DAVID BUTLER:** Fourteen (14)?

24 **MS. JANE LENEHAN:** Yeah. You had your meeting with the ME
25 in September.

26 **MR. DAVID BUTLER:** Yeah.

27 **MS. JANE LENEHAN:** So September of 2021.

28 **MR. DAVID BUTLER:** So it was a couple of months after the

1 funding would have been announced.

2 **MS. JANE LENEHAN:** Yeah.

3 **MR. LEO ARTALEOJO:** Okay.

4 **MR. DAVID BUTLER:** So, yeah, that was playing on our brains for
5 12, 14 months, right?

6 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** M'hm.

7 **MS. AMELIA GOULET-BUTLER:** Jane was also a really big help,
8 I'll say, this is kind of something that I've struggled with, too, especially with all -- like,
9 when information started flowing a little bit more, when it did, trying to be a point of
10 contact who then had to, like, disperse all that information to my family. And I found
11 that, like, extremely difficult because I wanted my family to have access to any of the
12 information that they needed, but I also know that none of them wanted to confront me,
13 maybe, and ask me because they didn't want me to become upset. Even if I told them,
14 like, 100 times, "Hey, if you want to know something, well, just ask me," then I feel like
15 they probably still didn't, or maybe they still weren't as open as they -- like, as they
16 wanted to be because they were worried about hurting me or, like, bringing something
17 up that I didn't want to talk about.

18 So once we had Jane, like, to work with our family, she really was a
19 huge help with that because it made, like, somebody who's unbiased who any one of
20 our family members can go to and ask for this information and they didn't have to worry
21 about approaching me. So, really, you know, if that had have happened a lot sooner --
22 and Jane's done a wonderful job of helping us with that. But, quite frankly, I think it
23 probably should have been somebody else's job in the first place to be that person that,
24 you know, anyone of our immediate family members could go to and ask anything, the
25 same as I could, and they would just have access to that information, instead of having
26 to go through one person. And, I guess, when I think forward a little bit about that, like,
27 maybe the fact that we had one liaison officer trying to look after multiple families
28 instead of, like, one per person, it would have maybe made a big difference if there was

1 only, like, one person looking after a couple of families and then they could have, you
2 know, greater contact with that extended family instead, that would have been, I think,
3 very helpful for me and for my family as well, and they maybe wouldn't have felt that
4 they were just kind of like left in the dark, too.

5 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** I'm really hearing there was a lot on your
6 shoulders to take care of.

7 **MS. AMELIA GOULET-BUTLER:** Yeah.

8 **MR. DAVID BUTLER:** There was, and, I mean, that's kind of who
9 we are as people as well. We want -- we want to be there to help keep the narrative
10 you know as accurate as we can. I think that showed when we started the hearings.
11 You know, we were trying to build the Foundational Documents, like, we tried to be
12 there as much as we could because there was, you know, I think if you put all the
13 families in a room and, you know, said, "Pull information out of these documents," I think
14 we were some of the most well-versed in those documents. So we wanted to help as
15 much as we could.

16 And then as time went on, and our relationship with Jane grew, we
17 can tell that she was an extension of us; like, we didn't feel -- obviously we were getting
18 burnt out, but we didn't feel that we needed to be there and the right questions were still
19 going to be asked; you know, we were still going to be represented in a way that we
20 were comfortable with. And I think that was a -- that was really nice to be part of that.

21 **MS. AMELIA GOULET-BUTLER:** And I think early on as well, we
22 were participating a lot too because it was really the first time that we were getting
23 access to a lot of information that we had been waiting for for a really long time.

24 **MR. DAVID BUTLER:** Yeah.

25 **MS. AMELIA GOULET-BUTLER:** And, I mean, we want to be a
26 part of the whole process because we do want it to be different and we want things to
27 be better and -- yeah. But we definitely, you know, we had an opportunity to finally, you
28 know, hopefully, find answers out to the things that we had been kind of -- I guess

1 things we've been wondering or to clarify things, like situations we'd been kind of
2 creating in our own heads as well. It was a long time before we had the ability to do
3 that, so...

4 **COMMISSIONER STANTON:** It took us longer to get that
5 information to you than we wanted. We wanted to get it to you sooner.

6 **MS. AMELIA GOULET-BUTLER:** Yeah.

7 **COMMISSIONER STANTON:** I'd just like you to know that we did
8 want it to come sooner.

9 **MS. AMELIA GOULET-BUTLER:** Thank you.

10 **MR. DAVID BUTLER:** But I think our point is that we didn't want to
11 have to spend the kind of money and put the types of teams in place that we have to get
12 this information. It should be smoother than that.

13 **MS. AMELIA GOULET-BUTLER:** Yeah. If -- I guess if the RCMP
14 had have been more forthcoming right from the get-go, I don't know if we would be
15 sitting here to talking to you, probably, like, right now, that might be safe to say.

16 **MR. DAVID BUTLER:** That's right.

17 **MS. AMELIA GOULET-BUTLER:** And, again, just like right from
18 the get, the confidence was diminished; just wasn't the way we would have done things
19 but...

20 **MR. DAVID BUTLER:** Yeah. We had confidence until 10:55
21 Sunday morning; the morning that it happened. Like, there's no way that man can get
22 from here to here. There'll be roadblocks, there'll be, you know, all the stuff that we
23 assumed that we're being protected with. And then the phone call came, and it was just
24 -- got it, it's just -- it was terrible.

25 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** Which phone call are you referring to?

26 **MR. DAVID BUTLER:** The one that we received from Gina at
27 10:58 that morning ---

28 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** Okay.

1 **MR. DAVID BUTLER:** --- when the perpetrator would have entered
2 her home.

3 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** Okay, yeah.

4 I think, you know, one of the follow-up questions here is, you know,
5 what supports do we need to ensure are in place for families during mass casualty
6 events in the future, and I think that you've hit on a lot of those already. I'll just reflect
7 back some of what I've heard, just as a way of kind of letting you know at least what I'm
8 taking away.

9 We have the transcript, but I'm hearing that the family liaison role
10 was something that not only wasn't clear, but there wasn't capacity to give you the
11 information that you needed or the responsiveness that you needed.

12 **MR. DAVID BUTLER:** M'hm.

13 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** And that that role was very important,
14 especially early on with regards to the crime scene, when you take back the house, the
15 logistical aspects. And then, you know, clearly there was this feeling of you had to
16 figure it all out on your own, where the dog was, what needed to be cleaned at the
17 house and those kind of things. So, clearly, families in the future need a clear protocol
18 with how they would engage with law enforcement and security forces.

19 I'm also hearing that the Medical Examiner was a piece that gave
20 you information, the Medical Examiner and the funeral director.

21 **MS. AMELIA GOULET-BUTLER:** M'hm.

22 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** But, again, it was sort of *ad hoc* and you
23 were trying to -- it was a lot of stress to figure out little bits of information from each of
24 them.

25 And then the other piece that I'm hearing is that even though it was
26 a year-plus, once you had legal counsel that was able to help you, one, sort out what it
27 was that you were looking for; but two, to serve as a contact for the rest of your family
28 so that you didn't have to carry that, that that became very helpful as well.

1 **MR. DAVID BUTLER:** M'hm.

2 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** I know I'm just hitting these at a very high
3 level, but that's sort of what I'm hearing needs to be in place for families in the future.

4 Does that reflect -- without the details, does that reflect kind of the
5 supports that you would like to see in place for families in the future?

6 **MR. DAVID BUTLER:** Yeah. I mean, I'll touch on the mental
7 health side of things, if that's okay?

8 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** M'hm.

9 **MR. DAVID BUTLER:** Through Victim Services, we received a
10 letter I'd say a couple of weeks after the incident, one was addressed to you, one was
11 addressed to me. It's saying, "Here's 2,500 bucks, and here's a list of approved
12 vendors to help deal with your situation."

13 **MS. AMELIA GOULET-BUTLER:** M'hm.

14 **MR. DAVID BUTLER:** I'm a country kid, I don't know what all
15 those letters mean behind their name. I believe we struggled for - months, and you got
16 some help a little bit quicker than I did because you went looking for it a little bit faster
17 than I did. It wasn't until the Council was assembled and Mary helped connect some
18 dots for myself. -

19 It was very cold. I would put a little bit more emphasis --
20 recommend a little more emphasis on helping narrow the selection down to a type of
21 treatment they may need or, you know, get you in front of somebody that can assess
22 you and say, "This is the type of treatment we think you may need."

23 Yeah, I wasn't super stoked about that one.

24 I appreciate it; I appreciate the ability and to have access to those
25 funds, and we're using them, and we've got -- I think we actually have extensions on
26 those funds so, I mean, that's been excellent that way. But, yeah, right after it was not a
27 -- it was not a fun process.

28 **COMMISSIONER STANTON:** I'm sorry, and was that provincial

1 Victim Services, or was that RCMP Victim Services; do you remember?

2 **MR. DAVID BUTLER:** I believe RCMP.

3 **COMMISSIONER STANTON:** Okay.

4 **MR. DAVID BUTLER:** I believe. I'd have to look at the letter, but I
5 believe it was RCMP.

6 **COMMISSIONER STANTON:** Okay. And when you say, Mary,
7 you mean Mary Pyche, the Director of Mental Health for the Commission? **MR. DAVID**
8 **BUTLER:** Correct. Yeah, we're talking ---

9 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** Then again, we're talking 18 months.

10 **MR. DAVID BUTLER:** --- 14, 16 months.

11 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** Fourteen (14), 16 months.

12 **MS. AMELIA GOULET-BUTLER:** I know, like, I think if, yeah,
13 Dave hadn't -- like, moved forward with any of it until we were actually (*inaudible-
14 1.39.08) the Commission, and my -- at first, like, when I did try to approach some of
15 those people that were on the list on my own -- like, I actually had taken the list and sent
16 it to my family doctor at the time; he's retired since and I don't have one now, but I just
17 kind of said, like, "Hey, I'm really overwhelmed with this. Can you maybe look at these
18 people, or do you recognize any of them that might be a good fit for me?" Because he'd
19 been my doctor my whole life.

20 And he gave me a couple of recommendations and I reached out to
21 them because they were on the approved list but then they weren't taking any new
22 clients. So then that was a bit of roadblock- And when you're dealing with so much
23 other stuff at the same time, it's super-defeating. Like, just -- it takes a lot to reach out
24 for help, and then when it kind of, like, comes back with that, you know, the people are
25 busy or they don't have time to take new clients, then it just kind of is like -- it feels like
26 someone's taking, like, another brick and putting it on your shoulders. It just made it
27 really tricky.

28 So yeah, when Mary, she literally just, like, set the appointment up

1 for us. So it wasn't, you know, she did all of the legwork and I think if someone had
2 have done that right from the get-go when we went looking for it, or even just offered
3 you know, instead of giving us the list with all of the people on it, to say, "If you want
4 help, then we'll make an appointment for you"; you know, even if someone had asked to
5 give, like, a couple of days of the week and times that they were available and then they
6 just did that for us, and kind of could move forward from there, then that would have
7 been a really big help. Because it would have been one less thing that we were trying
8 to figure out on our own.

9 **MR. DAVID BUTLER:** Yeah. The dots that were connected with
10 Mary, the lady that I see, she wasn't even on the list at the time.

11 **COMMISSIONER STANTON:** Okay.

12 **MR. DAVID BUTLER:** She put her through the process to get her
13 as a vendor for ---

14 **MS. AMELIA GOULET-BUTLER:** I think mine actually is the
15 same, yeah.

16 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** So I'm hearing you say that you didn't
17 receive mental health support until 14, 15 months after.

18 **MS. AMELIA GOULET-BUTLER:** I think I had gone for a few
19 sessions with one other person but I ---

20 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** That was on that list?

21 **MS. AMELIA GOULET-BUTLER:** Yeah. And I didn't really click
22 with them so much and then that, yeah, I had got put on to - Mary and I said, "Hey, I
23 don't really have the energy to try and, like, do this. Can you help me?" And then she
24 stepped up and ---

25 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** Yeah, great.

26 **MS. AMELIA GOULET-BUTLER:** Yeah. We did try to find
27 someone first. And Jane was a big advocate for that for us too.

28 **MS. JANE LENEHAN:** I think it was right after that, that - Zoom

1 meeting; we stayed on the line and spoke to Mary.

2 **MS. AMELIA GOULET-BUTLER:** M'hm.

3

4 **MS. AMELIA GOULET-BUTLER:** Yeah, we were here.

5 **MS. JANE LENEHAN:** Yeah.

6 **MR. DAVID BUTLER:** And you can tell, it was right at the point,
7 too, where the Foundational Documents were being constructed, and that's when I was,
8 like, I'm starting to move on and now we're gonna go right back into the thick of things
9 again. So that's when I was like, I should probably do something. Yeah.

10 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** Great.

11 So the work that the Commission is doing now is about finalizing
12 the recommendations that will be in the final report. We were interested in just hearing
13 from you kind of the issues -- we've heard a lot today already, mental health
14 information, all those pieces, but we wanted to kind of broaden it a little bit to just hear
15 from you what issues are most important to you as we finalize those recommendations?

16 **COMMISSIONER STANTON:** Formulate, not finalize.

17 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** Sorry.

18 **COMMISSIONER STANTON:** We're not quite at the finalized part.
19 Let us do the formulating, and then we'll do the finalizing.

20 (LAUGHTER)

21 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** Yeah. And I will say on behalf of the
22 Commissioners that we're also thinking a lot about implementation of those
23 recommendations, and we have heard from families that recommendations are one
24 piece but then actually making the changes are another piece. And so the Commission
25 is also going to make recommendations about how to implement those
26 recommendations.

27 But we just wanted to hear a little bit more broadly about what
28 issues are most important. You've already hit on a lot of them, and you've been very

1 specific, so I just wanted to create some space if there was something outside of what
2 you've already shared.

3 (SHORT PAUSE)

4 **MR. DAVID BUTLER:** I don't know how to word it. What
5 happened on those two nights, the day and night and the next day, looking back, I think,
6 is something that I'm not going to say could have been prevented, but I feel that if the
7 right people would have listened at the right times, the outcome could have been much
8 different.

9 As we go through the documents, I think we've learned that there
10 was some challenging moments that that human had endured that got him to that point,
11 and there's people like that that still exist in our society today. And if there could be a
12 way that our law enforcement and community members can try and identify those
13 people that may be troubled, that can be, for lack of a better term, saved, to help save
14 others, I think we can help our police force to prevent something like this.

15 We look to the police force now to say, "You need to protect us."
16 One, we need to protect ourselves so they can help protect us. I think that's a big thing
17 that would mean a lot.

18 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** So there's something around a
19 preventative intervention instead of a reactive.

20 **MR. DAVID BUTLER:** Yeah.

21 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** What we have today is policing is often
22 very reactive.

23 **MR. DAVID BUTLER:** Correct.

24 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** Yeah.

25 **COMMISSIONER STANTON:** It's often called red flags, so
26 identifying red flags.

27 **MR. DAVID BUTLER:** Yeah.

28 **MS. AMELIA GOULET-BUTLER:** And to our knowledge, there

1 were red flags.

2 I think just very -- like, very broadly, weighing in on kind of like
3 communication, you know, just kind of from what we've learned within the RCMP and
4 their communication with, like, other agencies and stuff as well, it just kind of seems like
5 it was a bit of a nightmare. So finding some way to make that flow better I think would
6 make a big difference and just kind of be -- to kind of take the ego out of it and to just
7 use the resources that are there and, you know, like, just we met with Jane, like, late
8 last week and when we kind of had to step back from being at the proceedings and --
9 just for our own sanity, really, at this point because it's been really challenging to try and
10 move forward, but we learned about, you know, some of the details with HRP and
11 wanting to send the ERT team to Truro, like, on the night of the 18th, I think it was. And
12 there's been a lot of information that we've kind of learned along the way and it's been
13 surprising and that was one of the things for me for sure. Like, just knowing what my
14 last conversation with my Mum was like over text, and, like, just really reassuring her
15 that there was no way that this person was going to even get relatively close to her,
16 given where he had started. And that's immediately where my mind went. And the
17 other victims, of course, too, like, people that if they had have gone to that Truro
18 threshold and maybe had have been there, how things could be -- possibly be different.

19 So, yeah, the communication part is huge. And I think even
20 knowing right from the get-go when officers were on the ground in Portapique and how
21 all of that information was flowing as well, like, it's hard to think that that maybe wouldn't
22 have made a difference if there had have been things that were just kind of getting
23 moved down the line, like, the blueberry road and, you know, the -- even thinking about
24 having the GPSs and the radios, like all those little things would really make a big
25 difference. And I think that was actually a recommendation from the Moncton
26 shootings, maybe?

27 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** M'hm.

28 **MS. AMELIA GOULET-BUTLER:** Yeah.

1 **COMMISSIONER STANTON:** Yeah.

2 **MS. AMELIA GOULET-BUTLER:** I don't know if you could also
3 implement that as well, but then again, like Leo had said, having some way that -- I
4 know you can't force anybody to do anything, but having a way to make sure that things
5 get implemented because, like the GPS and the radio, it was a recommendation once
6 already and, you know, I don't know if that alone would have changed the outcome of
7 what had happened in April but, you know, it probably should have been rectified a lot
8 sooner. Like, it had been, I don't know how many years since the Moncton shootings
9 had happened and that still wasn't something that was in place.

10 **MR. DAVID BUTLER:** (*inaudible-1.49.15) styles of
11 communication that were heavily relied on throughout was challenging to find out also.
12 Like, the ERT boys were using, like, WhatsApp or something to stay all connected. It
13 just seems very elementary for somebody that we put so high on a pedestal.

14 **MS. AMELIA GOULET-BUTLER:** I think a part of it too could be --
15 and I don't know how -- I don't know how you would go about something like this, but I
16 often think about police officers' actions and how they could have been different if they
17 had more resources that they needed or what they -- like, what they could have used to
18 be more confident in what they were doing as well. So I don't know if that is something.
19 Like, their response time, for example; if there's just, like, one person in a car or you
20 know, kind of the situation, like at the cloverleaf in Shubie, and ---

21 **MR. DAVID BUTLER:** Hilltop Campground is the one that -- you
22 know, I didn't want to go into specifics but the Hilltop one really, really does not sit well
23 with me. There's more to that story that caused that man -- how long it took him to
24 perform a U-turn, what -- you know, what did Mr. Peterson have that he lacked the
25 confidence to perform a U-turn and chase, or the -- I'm kind of going to go off on a
26 tangent here, but what are the ramifications to an officer if -- I assume the shortest
27 distance to a crime scene is the one that you would take. So if you're going to take the
28 shortest distance to a crime scene, as an officer you should know the roads that you're

1 travelling.

2 When the call came in from Wentworth, there was an officer that
3 responded from the Cobequid Pass tollbooth that took one of the longest routes
4 possible to get to that scene, heading in the direction opposite from the information that
5 she was told. What are the kickbacks from that -- law enforcement to that person?
6 Like, is there an education point that needs to happen with that officer? I don't know
7 what that looks like but there's -- to us as the general public, we don't know what -- I
8 would never question that before until being a part of something like this, you know?

9 That whole, that scene there really didn't sit well with me. I didn't
10 want to go into specifics but that's something that, as you read the documents, you get
11 more and more familiar with them, yeah. Stuff that makes you lose sleep, is what it is.

12 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** Is there anything else that you wanted to
13 talk about today that we haven't covered yet?

14 Maybe I'll ... Why don't I give you guys a break? You can just relax
15 for a second. I'll ask Jane who's your confidant, is there any ---

16 **MS. JANE LENEHAN:** You're going to let me talk (laughter)

17 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** This is really their session, but I was just
18 wanting to check in with you to say; is there something that you know that your clients --
19 really was important to them to share that they may not have covered so far, or...?

20 **MS. JANE LENEHAN:** Well, I think one of the -- to your point,
21 Dave, the pain points, was not knowing what happened in that house and not having
22 anybody to ask and just creating all these different scenarios in your head.

23 So you were offered some assistance with that by the MCC
24 investigators, Liz Montgomery and Chris Leslow (sic) , but I think that was huge and you
25 waited a long time for that.

26 **MR. DAVID BUTLER:** Yeah.

27 **MS. AMELIA GOULET-BUTLER:** M'hm.

28 **MR. DAVID BUTLER:** Yeah. No, that was -- and I mean, kind of

1 backing up a little bit, we had a meeting in the middle of the summer, shortly after -- I'd
2 say a few months after everything had happened, and with numerous members of the
3 RCMP; I can't recall their names right now, and we met at Bible Hill.

4 Some information came out of that meeting to help -- where I was
5 the first person into the home, some information came out of that meeting that was like,
6 it's a little helpful but there were still questions that remained. I think it was days or
7 weeks after the lawsuit was filed when -- against the RCMP, and then it went radio
8 silent. That's when -- that's when things really stopped. We weren't getting much
9 information and then we were getting no information at that point. I'm not surprised but,
10 again, pain point.

11 **COMMISSIONER STANTON:** Anything else that...? Take your
12 time. We can also take a little break if you wanted to?

13 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** Do you want to take a little break?

14 **MS. AMELIA GOULET-BUTLER:** Yeah, that would be good.

15 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** Okay. Let's take a five-minute break, and
16 I'll stop the recording.

17 **--- End of : 20220830 SGS Butler AUD Pt1of2.MP3**

18 **--- Start of :20220830 SGS Butler AUD Pt2of2.MP3**

19 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** Okay. Just for the record, we just took a
20 short break and now we're back with David Butler and Amelia Goulet-Butler.

21 What would you like to cover in our final time together?

22 **MS. AMELIA GOULET-BUTLER:** There were just a couple of
23 things that I wanted to bring up that I didn't, and one of them was just kind of going back
24 to, like, the funding for the like through Victim Services to find, like, some support. It did
25 have a timeline on it at first. And so it was \$2,500 and it was good for, I think, two
26 years. So like Dave had mentioned we got, like, an extension on ours now, thankfully.
27 But just kind of thinking if they had have been more strict with it, like, to get -- you know,
28 to use the funding within two years, I think maybe have a bit more leeway or to make

1 sure that there was some sort of an extension that was eligible because I think -- and
2 even, you know, seeing how some of my family members have been dealing with this,
3 like, on their own as well, you know, some people I don't think are ready to get that help
4 right away and, you know, even for us, like, we took, like, a bit before we used it, so it
5 was -- yeah, it's been really helpful that we've had an extension, I guess is what I'm
6 trying to say. Maybe just having that right from the get-go, or, like, having it a little more
7 open-ended would be, would be good.

8 And the other thing I wanted to bring up as well was a necklace of
9 my mother's. So it was, like, the one thing that I asked the RCMP for that she was
10 wearing, and when it was returned to me it was still -- like, it was an evidence bag
11 covered in blood and so I -- like, I still have it and I just haven't taken it out because it's
12 dirty -- but that's how it was given back to me. And I think it was actually brought up,
13 maybe, in some of the other, like, interviews and stuff, like during the Inquiry that people
14 spent a lot of time, like, cleaning and that sort of thing. Which, unfortunately, in my case
15 that wasn't done, so I did just want to let you know that that probably could use a little
16 bit more detail and attention as well. But something that got tucked away and ---

17 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** Thank you for sharing that..

18 **MS. AMELIA GOULET-BUTLER:** It was the one thing that I really
19 just wanted to have and, like, it's just it's really, really hard-)

20 **MR. DAVID BUTLER:** Yeah, there's not much that I can really add
21 at this point, but we do appreciate your efforts and your time that you're dedicating to
22 this because, as we said, when we started building the Foundational Documents with
23 you guys, you know, this means a lot to us, to get some answers to the questions that
24 we had.

25 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** Okay.

26 Jane, any final words?

27 **MS. JANE LENEHAN:** No, thank you.

28 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** Yeah.

1 Commissioners, any final questions or any thoughts?

2 **COMMISSIONER MacDONALD:** For me, just a huge thank you;
3 thank you for the important information you gave us and for taking the time and sharing
4 it with us tonight. But if I could use your first name, David, I'm so sorry that you and
5 Amelia had to do -- to relive things back in the fall with the Foundational Documents.
6 I'm sorry it had that effect, but I'm so glad you did, and I really appreciate it and your
7 mother would be so proud of you, both of you. So thank you.

8 **MS. AMELIA GOULET-BUTLER:** Thank you.

9 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** And of course I'm going to echo what
10 my friend said; I just -- the fact that the strength and the courage that the two of you
11 have shown, and the grace in how you have tried to navigate all of this, and with your
12 Commission Counsel -- I keep calling you Commission Counsel, I'm sorry; I don't know
13 if that's an insult or a compliment.

14 **MS. JANE LENEHAN:** That's okay.

15 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** Just I've dealt with a lot of broken
16 people over the course of my career, and I know everybody processes their stuff in their
17 own way and I've just marvelled at how the two of you have shown up and contributed
18 in such a -- and will continue to contribute, I just know, in such a positive way.

19 And, you know, you're speaking directly to my heart when you talk
20 about the importance of communities working together for the care of each other. And
21 it's -- I just want to thank you, and my continued condolences. And I'm so sorry that you
22 got your Mum's necklace back in that state. We had read that before and that, and it
23 just breaks my heart for you on so many levels.

24 So just know that everything that you're sharing with us it's not
25 falling on deaf ears at all, and we've committed to doing our very best that we can, so
26 just thank you so much for being here.

27 **COMMISSIONER STANTON:** I wanted to thank you. I think I
28 might have passed it on before but the photo that you bring of your Mum , ---

1 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** Yes.

2 **COMMISSIONER STANTON:** --- to the proceedings, I really
3 appreciate that.

4 **MS. AMELIA GOULET-BUTLER:** Yeah.

5 **COMMISSIONER STANTON:** It's a beautiful photo, and when I
6 see you sitting out there with her photo, it really grabs all of us, it really does. And it's a
7 very proud gesture, and it means a lot, so (*inaudible-1.05.31). Yeah, we really
8 appreciate you taking the time to be here tonight, and all of the time that you put into
9 this, and we will keep doing what we're doing and try and make a difference for you.

10 Thank you.

11 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** Thanks for being here. Thanks for coming.
12 Thanks for accepting the invitation ---

13 **COMMISSIONER FITCH:** Yes.

14 **MR. LEO ARTALEJO:** --- and helping us design this session. This
15 is our second one, and we have about 11 more to go, but I just hope you can see your
16 thumbprint on the design, and you guys have been a real positive influence on, for me,
17 the strength to deal with family members and deal with some of the complexities of
18 grief. And you were the first family members I ever met, and so you've also been, kind
19 of for me, you've been a guiding light for, like, "Why are we doing these sessions again,
20 and why are they important?" And so I really do appreciate your commitment, your
21 time, your energy, and most of all your courage for being here tonight. So thank you.
22 Thank you.

23 --- Statement concludes

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CERTIFICATION

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I, PATRICIA CANTLE, hereby certify the foregoing pages to be an accurate transcription of the audio recording provided to the best of my skill and ability, and I so swear.



PATRICIA CANTLE