

COMMISSION ROYALE SUR  
LES PEUPLES AUTOCHTONES

ROYAL COMMISSION ON  
ABORIGINAL PEOPLES

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"for the record..."

**STENOTRAN**

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Royal Commission on  
Aboriginal Peoples

1 Makkovik, Labrador

2 ---Upon commencing on June 15, 1992, 9:30 a.m.

3 **MR. NEIL ANDERSEN,**

4 **FACILITATOR:** Good morning, ladies and gentlemen, we will  
5 now begin our hearing. We will have an opening prayer  
6 by the students of John Christianly Heart Memorial School  
7 in both English and Inuktitut. [Opening Prayer] We will  
8 have our opening remarks by the Co-chair, Mr. René  
9 Dussault.

10 **CO-CHAIR MR. RENE**

11 **DUSSAULT:** Welcome everybody. I would like first to start  
12 introducing the commissioners that are with me today.  
13 From the right, Madame Viola Robinson, who is one of the  
14 seven members of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal  
15 Peoples. Madame Robinson is from Nova Scotia and she is  
16 a Micmac from the Province of Nova Scotia. At my left,  
17 Mary Sillett. I don't think I have to introduce her much  
18 in this area of the country. Mary is, of course, an Inuk  
19 originally from Hopedale.

20 We have also Ruth Flowers,  
21 who is from this community and acting as Commissioner of  
22 the Day for this day of hearing with us. The idea of having

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1 a Commission of the Day is to make sure that we understand  
2 fully what is said to us, that we got the color, the flavor  
3 of the community. And also we will exchange during the  
4 day. We will debrief at the end of the day. So we are  
5 very happy and lucky to have Ruth with us and most welcome.

6 I would like very briefly  
7 to say how happy we are to have this first public meeting  
8 in Labrador here in Makkovik. We started the public phase  
9 of our hearings and consultations in Winnipeg just after  
10 Easter, around the 20th of April. The Royal Commission  
11 was appointed by the Canadian government in late August  
12 of 1991, so eight months, nine months ago, to look at all  
13 the issues involving, concerning aboriginal peoples across  
14 the country, concerning the Inuits, concerning the Innu,  
15 concerning Indians living on reserves, status Indians,  
16 non-status, living in larger cities, the Metis. There  
17 have been in the past some task force or commission or  
18 committee looking at the situation of aboriginal people  
19 in this country. Our mandate is different. Our terms  
20 of reference are different than anything that was given  
21 to a Commission before because most of the time various  
22 groups are given narrow terms of reference and have to

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1 look either on justice or education or health or other  
2 policy issues. We were given a very broad mandate. It  
3 deals with almost everything, from the various social  
4 policies and justice, health, education, child care,  
5 social services, and the realities and problems associated  
6 with those policies, the level of suicide, child abuse,  
7 the situation of women, family violence. We also have  
8 to look at the economy and economic issues. I think  
9 everybody recognizes that if the young people in this  
10 country and young aboriginal, in particular, are to be  
11 given a future, the economy is key. It goes together with  
12 the training. It's one thing to have the training. It's  
13 the first thing, but what is needed are jobs also, not  
14 only in the public sectors, in the field of health or  
15 education or social services, but also in the economy.

16 We have to look at the  
17 question of self-government, the land claims, the process  
18 for the land claims, both specific land claims and  
19 outstanding land claims. We were not appointed to negotiate  
20 each situation. We are there to look at the overall  
21 process and to see how it could be improved and speeded  
22 up.

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1                                   The role of the Commission  
2 is trying to make the links between those various issues,  
3 economy and social policy issues. The question of self-  
4 government and areas like justice, education and health.  
5     So what is different from other groups is we have to draw  
6 the big picture and to try to come with solutions that  
7 could work. And these solutions, of course, will come  
8 from research, but also will come from meetings like the  
9 one we're going to have the whole day, from listening to  
10 people who are living the life conditions, who are coping  
11 with the problems, with the realities on the day-to-day  
12 basis. That's the reason we've put so much emphasis to  
13 visit more communities than any other commissions have  
14 done in the past. We plan to visit over 100 communities  
15 in the coming year or fifteen months, plus the major cities  
16 south. We want to hear both from aboriginal peoples and  
17 non-aboriginal peoples because what we are working on is  
18 a new relationship and a new partnership between all people  
19 living in Canada and this country and in particular  
20 non-aboriginal and aboriginal peoples. And this means  
21 a better understanding of each other, and that's why public  
22 education is very important. There are many stereotypes

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1 around, ideas that non-aboriginal people have about  
2 aboriginal peoples and vice versa. There is a lot of  
3 understanding and a better grasp of what is involved in  
4 the situation, the reality, that has to be understood by  
5 the larger public. If we want, at the end, not only to  
6 feel that we have the right solution to propose to the  
7 various governments in this country, in particular, the  
8 federal government, but if we want also to have a fair  
9 chance of getting them implemented. And I think everybody  
10 in this country feels it's time for action, something has  
11 to be done and soon. If we want to really have a future  
12 together and hope for the younger generation, it is  
13 important to have those things done, and to have our  
14 proposals implemented, it is important that the public  
15 follow what is going on and get an education throughout  
16 the process of the Royal Commission. That's why we are  
17 always very happy to have the media with us because it  
18 perpetrates what is happening in a room like this one,  
19 what will happen today. And it is very important that  
20 these views and the talks that will be exchanged here will  
21 be noted outside the community.

22 We would like you to speak

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1 your mind. This is an informal process. It's an easy  
2 going process. We would like you to be at as much as ease  
3 as possible to tell us what you want to tell us. It's  
4 an opportunity, it's a good opportunity and I hope that  
5 at the end of this process, you're going to find yourself  
6 in the report of the Commission and find some of the ideas  
7 that you put forward. We know that there are many problems  
8 around, but also we would like to hear your thoughts as  
9 to what should be done to help and to make life better  
10 in a community like this one. We know that there is some  
11 healing to take place. There has been a lot of frustration  
12 in the past, but we have also to look to the future in  
13 a positive way and try to develop a partnership.

14 So that's basically the  
15 spirit of the Commission. We are seven commissioners,  
16 as I've mentioned earlier. Four of them are aboriginal  
17 commissioners, are from aboriginal peoples. I am  
18 co-chairing the commission with Georges Erasmus, who was  
19 the previous leader of the Assembly of First Nations.  
20 I am a judge with the Court of Appeal in Quebec for the  
21 Province of Quebec. I would like to mention that the other  
22 non-aboriginal commissioners are Bertha Wilson, who just



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1 retired from the Supreme Court of Canada. She was a very  
2 well known and respected judge with the Supreme Court of  
3 Canada for nearly a decade, and Allan Blakeney, who was  
4 former premier of Saskatchewan. There is also Paul  
5 Chartrand who is a Metis from Manitoba. As we want to  
6 visit many communities, we split the commission into two  
7 or three panels. While we are here today in Makkovik,  
8 others are in other parts of the country doing exactly  
9 what we do, hearings. Next week will be the closing week  
10 of this first round in Edmonton, where we're going to have  
11 a discussion on the situation of aboriginal peoples living  
12 in major cities. And we will be in Toronto for hearing  
13 the national organizations later, at the end of the week.

14

15 This summer we're going to  
16 publish a document on what we've heard during this first  
17 round of hearings, so you're going to have feedback, and  
18 we're going to raise some of the major questions that are  
19 flowing from our hearings. And we plan to come back to  
20 Labrador, not necessarily to this community but to other  
21 communities. And you will have an opportunity to exchange  
22 additional thoughts with us. You could do it in writing

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1 to us. We have 800 lines. You could contact us in Ottawa,  
2 but also we will come back to Labrador and you will know  
3 where and when we will be there. So again, thank you very  
4 much for coming and participating in this day of hearing.

5 And I would like now to ask my fellow commissioners to  
6 say a few words before we ask the first presenters to come  
7 and speak to us. Madame Robinson?

8

**COMMISSIONER VIOLA**

9 **ROBINSON:** Thank you, Judge Dussault, I welcome the  
10 opportunity to be here today to hear what the people in  
11 your community has to say, what you want the government  
12 of Canada, what you want to see changed that will make  
13 things improved, your lifestyle and your future. And I  
14 guess we're here as well, one of the mandates is to improve  
15 the relations between aboriginal people and non-aboriginal  
16 people in Canada so that we can live together and go along  
17 and have a better understanding of each other's issues.

18 However, I'm not going to say too much because I'm really  
19 interested, I'm more or less here to listen to hear what  
20 you have to say. So, thank you.

21

**CO-CHAIR MR. RENE**

22 **DUSSAULT:** Mary Sillett?

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1 **COMMISSIONER MARY SILLETT:**

2 Thank you very much, Mr. Dussault. Before I begin, I  
3 would like to extend my thanks to the community of Makkovik  
4 for inviting the Commission to meet with you during our  
5 first phase of the public hearings. I would also like  
6 to recognize the contribution that will be made by our  
7 translators and interpreters during our days of hearings.

8 I would like to thank Sam Andersen, Rita Andersen and  
9 Harriet Lyle for allowing us to all understand and  
10 communicate with each other. I would like to thank Ruth  
11 Flowers for accepting to be the Commissioner of the Day,  
12 and also Neil Andersen for accepting the facilitator  
13 position.

14 Before I begin my comments,  
15 I would like to introduce our commission staff. I'm very  
16 proud to say that out of all the Royal Commissions in the  
17 history of this country, our commission is committed to  
18 having a majority of aboriginal people. When I say  
19 "aboriginal people," I'm not only talking about Inuit,  
20 I'm talking about status Indians, non-status Indians,  
21 Metis, and as well, other aboriginal groups that define  
22 themselves differently. We have at the commission close

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1 to 75 staff. And at least three-quarters of that are  
2 aboriginal people. On our commission, we have seven  
3 commissioners. Four of us are aboriginal. The others  
4 are non-aboriginal. Today, from the commission, we have  
5 with us Nora Jarrett. She was originally Nora Terriak.  
6 She's from Hopedale, Labrador. She works in public  
7 participation. We have Violet Ford who is from this  
8 community. She works also in the research section of the  
9 Royal Commission. We have many Labradorians on staff  
10 compared to the number of people we have there. We have  
11 Francis Able who works as one of the coordinators in the  
12 research section. We have Michael Lazore who is a Mohawk  
13 from Akwesasne Reserve and we have Roger Farley who also  
14 works with the Commission in the Secretariat section.

15 I would like to thank the  
16 Labrador Inuit Association for the information they gave  
17 us before we started our public hearings. They said "If  
18 you go anywhere in northern Labrador, you should go to  
19 Makkovik first of all and then you should go to... I know  
20 you're coming, but you should come to Makkovik." And they  
21 gave advice on the locations of places we should go to.  
22 They said before we go to the communities, we should

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1 respect the language of the people. We should always ensure  
2 that there's Inuktitut and other translation. We should  
3 also ensure that there's local community coordinators that  
4 we hire in the communities so that our hearings can be  
5 successful. We've tried at all times to respect that.

6 I think, you know, as Mr.  
7 Dussault said, one of the things that we hope to do is  
8 we hope to do public education. We want to hear the views  
9 of all Canadians on how aboriginal issues can best be  
10 addressed. With this in mind, over the next, I guess,  
11 year, we'll plan to visit more than 100 communities across  
12 Canada. And that's more than any other previous Royal  
13 Commission. We plan to visit large cities in the south.  
14 We plan to visit Indian reserves, Metis settlements and  
15 Inuit communities. We plan to not only go across this  
16 country once, but several times, and when people can't  
17 come to us, we've gone to them. We've gone to the  
18 penitentiaries to hear the concerns of aboriginal peoples  
19 there. I think, especially in urban centers, it's a very  
20 tragic situation. It's just that aboriginal peoples make  
21 up most of the population in the prisons. Like one fellow  
22 we met, he said "The life of an Indian in a city is this."

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1 He said "First you live on the streets, you live in the  
2 jail, and you live in the graveyards." And I think what  
3 he said really hit me because I think it's necessary for  
4 us to recognize that aboriginal peoples aren't equal to  
5 the rest of Canada in most senses in this country. And  
6 I think it's necessary for us to change that. The Royal  
7 Commission is about that The Royal Commission is here  
8 to, hopefully, make changes that will let us live equally  
9 in Canada.

10 I just want to say before  
11 I close my remarks that I want to assure people that we  
12 will be coming to Labrador again. We've been asked in  
13 northern Labrador to go to at least Davis Inlet and Nain.  
14 Those decisions haven't been made yet, but as soon as  
15 they are made, we will be hearing from you. And I thank  
16 you very much for coming here and making your  
17 presentations.

18 **MR. NEIL ANDERSEN,**  
19 **FACILITATOR:** Thank you, Commissioners. We will now have  
20 our welcoming remarks by our Commissioner of the Day, Ruth  
21 Flowers.

22 **MS. RUTH FLOWERS,**

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1 **COMMISSIONER OF THE DAY:** First of all I would like to  
2 welcome the Commissioners here today on behalf of the  
3 community. I think first when we started hearing about  
4 this commission, some statements you heard was "Not another  
5 Commission. We're being studied to death." And I think  
6 that's not something to be taken lightly because there's  
7 times when we feel that way. This seems to be different.

8 We see a lot of aboriginal people and hopefully some good  
9 is going to come out of this or more than we've been having.

10 I'd like to thank the  
11 people from other communities who are here, thank ILA for  
12 getting people in. I know we have a really long day ahead  
13 of us and it's really important that the people can get  
14 their presentations across. This is what it's all about;  
15 it's for us to get our presentations across. So I'd just  
16 like to wish everybody a good day.

17 **CO-CHAIR MR. RENE**

18 **DUSSAULT:** Thank you very much.

19 **MR. NEIL ANDERSEN,**

20 **FACILITATOR:** I guess we'll begin our statements or  
21 comments, whatever, from the community. We'll begin with  
22 the mayor, Marjorie Andersen.

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1                                   **MAYOR MARJORIE ANDERSEN,**  
2 **MAYOR OF MAKKOVIK:** As mayor of Makkovik, I would like  
3 to extend a warm welcome to everyone here, Commissioners,  
4 staff, out of town guests. I hope you take this  
5 opportunity while you're in our community to walk around,  
6 talk to our people, visit our shops, and just get a better  
7 idea of how we live here. I'd just like to make one comment  
8 before I start my presentation that I'm a bit sorry to  
9 see that Okalakatiget aren't here filming this. This is  
10 the first time, to my knowledge, that we're having a Royal  
11 Commission on Aboriginal People, and Okalakatiget is the  
12 aboriginal people and I think that they should have been  
13 here to get it on film.

14                                   When we were talking about  
15 the Royal Commission coming to Makkovik, I was wondering  
16 what I could make my presentation on as mayor and bring  
17 the concern from the community council. And I couldn't  
18 find one particular subject to talk on, so I just did a  
19 whole lot in one and I think they all kind of snowballed  
20 anyway.

21                                   Our main concern here  
22 starts off with the lack of funding for our communities.



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1 The federal government allocates funding for five  
2 aboriginal communities, which is the native peoples  
3 agreement. This is given to the province and the province  
4 has to administer the money. They take the majority of  
5 it for administration. They allocate some to the other  
6 government departments and they give what's left to the  
7 five aboriginal communities here on the north coast. They  
8 also tell us how to spend the money that they give to us.

9 The government has a veto on how all monies are spent,  
10 which leaves me, as leader of this aboriginal community,  
11 powerless. It's not a very good feeling to be powerless,  
12 but once again, we are left powerless.

13 Our community right now  
14 cannot develop any further because of the water and sewer  
15 system here in the community. We don't have the monies  
16 to upgrade or put in new lines. We can't develop any new  
17 land because the water system can only go so far. Water  
18 can't be pumped up over the hill which we're planning on  
19 developing the land. People are wanting to build more  
20 homes, residences, businesses. And once again I am left  
21 powerless.

22 Our roads are awful. We

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1 don't have any funding to upgrade our roads. We get \$600  
2 a year for road upgrading. And every year they wash out,  
3 so we're just washing away our money.

4                   The fishery, I don't know  
5 what to say about the fishery. We have a multi-million  
6 dollar plant here, state of the art, and no fish, nothing  
7 to process, no employment for my people. I won't elaborate  
8 on the fishery because there is someone else coming and  
9 giving a presentation on that. However what I would like  
10 to say is that there is talk that the cod fishery is going  
11 to be closing down just north of Makkovik right on down  
12 to the northeast of Newfoundland. Where does that leave  
13 us--aboriginal people? Powerless once again. The  
14 government has to find ways, if the cod fishery is going  
15 to be closed down, to process other groundfish, other  
16 species.

17                   Another topic I'd like to  
18 speak on is the RCMP. For the past two years, we're  
19 fighting to get an RCMP station here. I think for the  
20 past two years, we've been trying to get a meeting with  
21 the RCMP and we can't even get them to come up from Hopedale  
22 for a meeting. And last October we had a murder committed

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1 here. And it just so happened on that particular day that  
2 the court circuit was going on here and there was an RCMP  
3 here. What would have happened, I shudder to think about  
4 it, if there was no RCMP here? If the weather was down?  
5 Once again, we're left powerless. We don't have any say.  
6 We can't do nothing. It's not a very good feeling to  
7 be left powerless. I won't elaborate on the RCMP because  
8 the crime prevention is also doing a presentation on that.

9  
10 Housing is another concern  
11 that our council has. It's hard to get housing, although  
12 I think we are one of the communities on the coast that's  
13 not a real, real big problem as opposed to the other  
14 communities, but it is a concern of ours.

15 All these things go back  
16 to the same thing, we don't have any funding. We don't  
17 have any land development. We can't develop new lands.  
18 Our water system now is shut off completely in this  
19 southern part of our community. Every year we have to  
20 shut the water off because it keeps freezing and the lines  
21 keep breaking and we're spending thousands and thousands  
22 of dollars and we can't get any more money to put a new

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1 line in, which I forgot to mention, by the way, that we  
2 do have a bathroom in this community hall. We have to  
3 use the honey bucket because we don't have the money to  
4 put the water and sewer into the hall yet. So this is  
5 what it's like to live on the coast.

6 I think it's our concerns  
7 here as the council. And I'd like to wish everybody luck  
8 in their presentations today. It's good to see that people  
9 are coming out and finally speaking out. Thank you.

10 **CO-CHAIR MR. RENE**

11 **DUSSAULT:** Thank you very much for your presentation.

12 **MR. NEIL ANDERSEN,**

13 **FACILITATOR:** Thank you, Mayor Andersen. We will now  
14 continue with a presentation from Snowden Parsons, who  
15 will be discussing education.

16 **MR. SNOWDEN PARSONS,**

17 **INDIVIDUAL, EDUCATION:** Madame Commissioner,  
18 Commissioners, ladies and gentlemen. My name is Snowden  
19 Parsons. Most of you here from Makkovik know me. I'm the  
20 manager of the local government store that's run by the  
21 Department of Development. Approximately four years ago,  
22 my wife and I came from the island portion of our province

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1 to work in northern Labrador. Almost immediately as we  
2 arrived, we fell in love with the coastal communities.  
3 When we got transferred to Makkovik, it was sort of like  
4 coming home because the girl I'm married to, her father  
5 being part owner of the schooner called "The Prince  
6 Andrew." Of course, everybody here knew Tom Windsor and  
7 was waiting for Tom's daughter to come and live in Makkovik.

8

9  
10 When I came here, I looked  
11 around at many things and I thought about many things that  
12 was happening with the peoples of Labrador, the  
13 shortcomings that they have to live with, the things that  
14 the mayor talked about that are lacking in these northern  
15 communities. The one thing that stuck in my mind the most  
16 was the lack of training or career development after high  
17 school. I have met many young men and women who are willing  
18 to undertake some self improvement programs and make a  
19 few sacrifices to obtain a career that will enable them  
20 to become the developers and leaders of tomorrow. But  
21 there is always one big obstacle, the lack of formal  
22 education. When I grew up on the island portion of  
Newfoundland, it was every young man and woman's dream

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1 to finish high school, get enough money to go to Toronto  
2 and to work in some factory up there, after a year, buy  
3 a nice convertible and drive back down to Newfoundland  
4 and show off their accomplishments. Today there is no  
5 work in Toronto. Our young Labradorians will never be  
6 able to find work in the big factories, so we must make  
7 certain that they are prepared to meet the challenge of  
8 tomorrow's competitions.

9  
10 Last week, while doing some  
11 work in Hopedale for a businessman there, I talked to a  
12 young girl from Postville who was also attending some  
13 meetings of the Labrador people in Hopedale. I found out  
14 that she was presently studying at the University of  
15 Newfoundland, Memorial University. And she was studying  
16 under the program, native education. I asked her why she  
17 chose that one as a career. She told me that she had  
18 applied for acceptance at the University of British  
19 Columbia for another course of study, but was not accepted.

20 The reason she wasn't accepted was because she did not  
21 study, or should I say, she wasn't able to study chemistry  
22 at her high school in Postville. It's very sad when a  
door is closed in somebody's face because they have not

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1 got the prerequisites required to enter our colleges and  
2 universities across Canada.

3 The importance of  
4 stretching the mind and learning to think in ever changing  
5 ways has never been greater. Education is a process with  
6 no end. However, we find in coastal Labrador especially  
7 that approximately 85 percent of our people have never  
8 finished high school, or even if they've finished, they  
9 have not gone on further to develop a career.

10 We, on the coast of  
11 Labrador, must not continue to expect young men and women  
12 to leave their culture and throw aside family traditions  
13 to live in the big centers of our country. I strongly  
14 believe that the pressures of leaving culture and family  
15 has been the holdback for many career-minded Labradorians.

16 I believe the time has come when we must establish a center  
17 to press for workforce education and quality education.

18 We must make education reform a top priority. We must  
19 break down the barrier that the lack of transportation  
20 brings. And we must look at bringing career-related courses  
21 to the coastal communities of Labrador.

22 Last week, I just finished

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1 teaching an adult education course. I had seven students  
2 that will receive a certificate. Some of those students  
3 did not finish high school, however, I found them to be  
4 very intelligent and very brilliant young people, young  
5 men and women. I believe that if more of those courses  
6 were offered in coastal community Labrador, we will be  
7 prepared for the future. There will be people trying to  
8 take on other jobs that will have to be thought about and  
9 brought about due to the lack of our fishery right now.

10

11 I hope that this Commission  
12 today will have some input, some positive results in  
13 bringing post-secondary education to coastal Labrador.  
14 Thank you.

15

**CO-CHAIR MR. RENE**

16 **DUSSAULT:** Thank you very much for your presentation.  
17 Just before you leave, education is certainly and probably  
18 one of the hottest issues that this Commission has to look  
19 upon because it's the same across the country. The  
20 demographic situation is such that there are many young  
21 people and there will be more in the future from aboriginal  
22 communities, and we know that funding and other major



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1 aspects have to be looked upon, but we also realize that  
2 to get young people to reach a decision sometimes to go  
3 outside the community to get the training and to come back  
4 to have the jobs either in the health professions or become  
5 teachers or in the economy, technical and administrative  
6 jobs, there is a lot of things that have to be done together.

7 And we are really looking for solutions, even if they  
8 are small solutions, day-to-day solutions that would help  
9 the young people to get the training. And we feel that  
10 the fear of losing their tradition, losing their own  
11 identity when they go into the mainstream society to get  
12 that training is certainly one of the barriers. But again,  
13 if people like you could continue to think about what should  
14 be done, even if they are small items, we are really looking  
15 forward to it. Again, as I mentioned earlier, we are  
16 trying to have a dialogue with the community, and we would  
17 like, if you have additional views to share with us, that  
18 you would not hesitate to communicate, either in writing  
19 or on the phone. We're really looking forward to pursuing  
20 that discussion. Thank you very much.

21 **MR. NEIL ANDERSEN,**

22 **FACILITATOR:** Thank you, Mr. Parsons. We will now continue

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1 with an individual presentation from Gary Mitchell, who  
2 will be discussing self government and the economy.

3 **MR. GARY MITCHELL,**  
4 **INDIVIDUAL, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** Good morning, Royal  
5 Commissioners and ladies and gentlemen. My name is Gary  
6 Mitchell. I'm a resident of Makkovik and Makkovik's my  
7 home. I'm presently employed by Fisheries and Oceans  
8 Canada. I'm a past mayor of the community, past president  
9 of community councils of Labrador and I've been involved  
10 with the Inuit community on national issues as a field  
11 worker for two years. Because of time restraints, I'm  
12 not speaking on self government. I've been away from that  
13 for a while, so I'm going to speak on something that I'm  
14 more familiar with, economic development.

15 And a big part of the  
16 economic development is the fishery. And I know that there  
17 are other people that are speaking today on the fishery.

18 I wasn't aware that there would be, but I'm sure that  
19 the concerns that we have at the fishery are genuine and  
20 it will show coming from the people that speak on it today.

21 It's a very widespread concern.

22 Anyway, to get on with my

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1 brief, it's, as I said, economic development. Economic  
2 development has become a major concern in this area of  
3 northern Labrador, anticipated prosperity just doesn't  
4 exist. And there is a lot of uncertainty in the air.  
5 Our backbone industry, the fishery, has dropped off so  
6 fast, so quickly, we are left wondering where to turn to  
7 for answers and solutions. We are a strong, persevering  
8 people, but we are also human and like to have three meals  
9 a day and like to have gas for our boats and stone mills  
10 and to continue our way of life that our forefathers had  
11 by hunting and fishing in the same areas, same places.  
12 We still use the same land to harvest berries, hunt for  
13 whatever the season has to offer and fish for whatever  
14 is left that is available to catch. As I said, we use  
15 the same lands to live on, camp on while we're hunting  
16 and trapping. We pass along stories to our children about  
17 what life was like for us and what we had to do to make  
18 ends meet, and often there were times when ends didn't  
19 meet. These are all factors of creating economic  
20 development. As meagre as it was, it was a way of life  
21 that was rich in value, culture and tradition. However,  
22 we must look past our romanticized past and begin planning

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1 for a new era with new types of industry. We must also  
2 look beyond the band-aid solutions of government make-work  
3 projects. We must seriously look at development that will  
4 give us work and employment, staying in line with our  
5 resources from which we can build on.

6 Last winter I was involved  
7 in a university course entitled "Business 2000." One of  
8 my projects was to write up a report. I chose the topic  
9 "Alternatives to Supplement the Current Inshore Fishery  
10 in Labrador." I did my research based on questionnaires  
11 distributed through the community and getting feedback  
12 and responses from people. And based on those answers,  
13 plus my own personal experiences and observations, I put  
14 together this report and I will pick some things out of  
15 this report.

16 I have selected parts of  
17 this report to make comments, as I said, to give you an  
18 idea of the alternatives that local people share common  
19 ground on. As a means for improving our standard of living  
20 whereby aboriginal people would be more responsible for  
21 their affairs and less dependent as wards of the  
22 federal-provincial government.

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1                   The downturn in the inshore  
2 fishery has affected the economy in northern Labrador and  
3 the people are very concerned about it. My findings showed  
4 that the problems is with the lack of fish resources and  
5 they are blamed on draggers that are fishing offshore.

6 Inadequate boats and equipment are also big factors that  
7 limit fishermen from moving off into deeper water to catch  
8 fish and therefore limiting their catches and earnings.

9 This, in turn, also affects all fish plant workers who  
10 depend on fishermen's landings to create work for them.

11 Suggestions have been made to expand the fishery and  
12 research other species that could be harvested and  
13 processed in northern Labrador. We have facilities in  
14 the area that have lots of room for processing, but may  
15 need some changing in equipment set-up.

16                   People are looking to other  
17 types of employment to supplement their low earnings.

18 Jobs are very few and do not last long, and so people are  
19 getting more determined to create other types of

20 development projects in their communities. All potential  
21 development projects, the small business ventures,

22 mentioned in this report are realistic. With proper steps

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1 taken by government and interested individuals or groups,  
2 new programs suggested in this report can be implemented.

3 This report is realistic and is not an imaginary vision.

4 People living in this area  
5 which covers the area of Cape Harrison to Cape Chidley  
6 have always relied on the fishery for their livelihood.

7 I think that's a well known fact. All fish caught in  
8 this area is processed at five plants in the five  
9 communities that are in this area. Nain and Makkovik have  
10 the larger plants, while the communities of Hopedale,  
11 Postville and Davis Inlet have smaller feeder plants.  
12 During the fishing season, fishermen go from Nain as far  
13 north as Hebron and further and go as far south as Cape  
14 Harrison, fifty miles south of Makkovik. This span of  
15 about 400 miles makes it very difficult for processors  
16 and fishermen to get their fish to the plants to gain a  
17 price that is respectable. The high expenses of  
18 transporting fish and the lack of fish is discouraging  
19 to some fishermen. A lot of them have to resort to other  
20 means of employment, if it is available. There are very  
21 few jobs, as I mentioned, and numbers fluctuate from year  
22 to year. There's never been any long-term development

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1 or work projects on the coast, but we feel that it's about  
2 time that something be put in place to remedy the chronic  
3 situation. It seems that we can't emphasize this enough,  
4 that development is needed very badly here.

5   Research carried out on  
6 this situation clearly indicates that problems do exist  
7 in the area. Questionnaires showed that people have very  
8 similar views on contributing factors to the problems of  
9 the economy. One major problem is declining fish stocks,  
10 as I mentioned, and this is blamed on the overfishing of  
11 draggers offshore on the Hamilton Banks during the winter  
12 spawning season.

13   With the high expense of  
14 buying long liners, plus the present policy that the  
15 federal government has, putting a freeze on the licensing  
16 of new vessels, fishermen have been placed in a bind.  
17 Without large vessels to fish with and inadequate equipment  
18 on their small boats, their fishing abilities to harvest  
19 resources are very limited.

20   To get a clearer  
21 understanding of what resources are in the area, an  
22 assessment has to be made of what species are now utilized

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1 and what species show potential. Salmon and char are the  
2 main species of northern Labrador that are harvested and  
3 processed during the summer months. These species are  
4 all that keeps the plants operating during July and August.

5 But declining salmon and char catches over the years have  
6 put us in a real bind. The downturn in the fishery has  
7 many people wondering about what other species could be  
8 developed and how it could be harvested. Many people feel  
9 that more research should be carried out on cod stocks,  
10 crab, scallop, inshore shrimp and capelin. It is believed  
11 that if these types of fisheries showed potential for  
12 development, they would greatly benefit the economy.

13 Besides the fishery, other  
14 employment opportunities are few. The few seasonal or  
15 part-time jobs that become available are quickly filled  
16 by people who are in need of work. Canada Works projects  
17 are for people who may need a few weeks' work or need  
18 sufficient insured weeks for employment insurance  
19 benefits. Responses from the research carried out  
20 indicated that Canada Manpower projects are inadequate  
21 for providing a solid economic base. It's felt that Canada  
22 Manpower projects are not creative enough and the wages





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1 put these into place and to cooperate on issues.

2 Spinoffs from tourisms  
3 like tourism ventures may get local people more involved  
4 in things like crafts, fish projects, accommodations and  
5 food outlets.

6 Another type of  
7 development that people have been interested in is the  
8 woods operation. Forestry is a resource that could be  
9 developed and implemented. It need not be a large scale  
10 logging operation, but an operation that would cut logs  
11 and create jobs to utilize the wood sawing and planing  
12 the lumber, building prefabricated homes, home repair  
13 programs, building small rowboats, [comoniks?] and a  
14 variety of items that are used in this area.

15 Suggested projects for  
16 small business include take-outs, prepared food outlets,  
17 bakeries, hairdressing, outboard motor sales and services,  
18 canning operations, sealskin tanning, small engine  
19 servicing, small built sails, garages and daycare centres.

20 These are all things that should be looked at  
21 realistically to see what could be put in place to benefit  
22 our economy.

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1 Training is also needed for  
2 our people to become more acquainted and experienced in  
3 working in occupational jobs. This is one thing we're  
4 lacking right now is occupational jobs, I should mention.

5 The training needs that people are interested in our  
6 fields, like painting and plastering, electrical and  
7 mechanical and refrigeration, carpentry, computer and  
8 cooking. Managerial and financial positions have also  
9 been suggested as training needs.

10 I'll just move into  
11 recommendations. I'm skipping parts of this because it's  
12 almost a repetition of what I've said. Recommendations  
13 from my report in regard to the fishery is closer monitoring  
14 of fish catches should be implemented to have direct  
15 insight into the economy and assessment of fish stocks.

16 New programs have to be put in place to assist fishermen  
17 who want to diversify to other types of fishery, such as  
18 subsidies for bigger boats and more equipment, access to  
19 new licensing and training to harvest other resources.  
20 We must explore new markets for best possible fish prices  
21 and under utilized species. We must research potential  
22 secondary processing operations that may be a viable

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1 business, to make the most of the resources that we are  
2 harvesting. Suggested development projects such tourism,  
3 forestry and forest products should be encouraged, and  
4 initiatives pursued by government to have it developed.  
5 More field work by agencies like ACOA and Enterprise  
6 Newfoundland and other development associations should  
7 be carried out to assist small business ventures and at  
8 the same time, these agencies should familiarize  
9 themselves with the area and its needs economically.  
10 Training programs should be organized in consultation with  
11 local people so as to create the proper job-training needs  
12 that can be utilized. Self help skills such as carpentry,  
13 engine repair, plumbing, painting, plastering, cooking  
14 should have training made available in the communities.  
15 Too many times people have to go out for two weeks or  
16 three weeks. I think this is unnecessary. I think  
17 community colleges should come into the communities to  
18 train people on courses that may be a month or two month  
19 courses. All government departments should publicize  
20 their programs to stimulate social and economic benefits.  
21 Municipal government or community councils must keep  
22 lobbying for support in areas where they need to be

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1 strengthened to stabilize the economy.

2                               In closing, I would like  
3 to make a reference to the last Royal Commission who did  
4 a report on employment and unemployment in 1985. From  
5 this report there were 242 recommendations made. Under  
6 a section entitled "Labrador and Native People," there  
7 were 12 recommendations under this section and out of these  
8 twelve, only eight were related to native communities on  
9 the north coast. Eight recommendations out of 288 was  
10 an insult to this area with the greatest number of problems.

11 I sincerely hope that this Royal Commission will give  
12 a genuine in-depth assessment of the chronic situation  
13 in which unemployment and lack of jobs, which instigates  
14 social, health and economic problems.

15                               I appreciate the work and  
16 efforts that the LIA, the Labrador Inuit Association has  
17 achieved in its negotiations with government. Funding  
18 agreements for health programs, drug and alcohol abuse  
19 programs, post-secondary education have been most welcome  
20 and have made life easier for those who have had to go  
21 without it in the past.

22                               Until we reach a land claim

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1 problems and not enough action has come as a result of  
2 these reports and recommendations.

3 We must take a strong  
4 stand, be aggressive and continue to lobby and convince  
5 government that we need more autonomy to take more control  
6 of our programs and to play a larger role in implementing  
7 economic development on the coast. We must strengthen  
8 our institutions and prove that we are very capable of  
9 managing our own affairs in a way that is acceptable to  
10 the people in this area. We stand on the threshold of  
11 handling and developing our own resources and prove that  
12 we have the will and capability to do it.

13 Thank you very much for  
14 giving me the opportunity to speak to you here today.

15 **CO-CHAIR MR. RENE**

16 **DUSSAULT:** Thank you very much for presenting a very  
17 comprehensive brief on economic development. I would like  
18 to know, will this brief be available to us in a written  
19 form?

20 **MR. GARY MITCHELL:** I can  
21 make the whole report available to you.

22 **CO-CHAIR MR. RENE**

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1 **DUSSAULT:** It's a report that was already, has been  
2 prepared?

3 **MR. GARY MITCHELL:** I  
4 prepared the report a university course I was doing last  
5 winter by teleconference. And, as I mentioned earlier,  
6 the topic was "Alternatives to Supplement the Current  
7 Inshore Fishery in Northern Labrador." And the contents  
8 of the report are based on feedback I got from the  
9 community, so it's a comprehensive report, not too thick,  
10 but it's the feeling of the community.

11 **CO-CHAIR MR. RENE**  
12 **DUSSAULT:** So we would be very interested if you could  
13 forward us with a copy of the report.

14 **MR. GARY MITCHELL:**  
15 There's a graph in back that shows the decline in the  
16 fishery, in fish plant production, because where I work  
17 at Fisheries and Oceans, I am involved in fish plant  
18 production and we keep studies on just how much production  
19 is done on the north coast. So there's also a graph in  
20 here that shows the decline in the production of the fish  
21 stocks, or not the fish stocks, but the production at the  
22 fish plants.



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1 CO-CHAIR MR. RENE

2 DUSSAULT: So if you have a spare copy during the day,  
3 Roger Farley, sitting at this table--

4 MR. GARY MITCHEL: O.K.  
5 what I can do is give you this copy and some time I can  
6 get a copy back after you take a photocopy of it, o.k.?

7 CO-CHAIR MR. RENE

8 DUSSAULT: Just an additional information, the 1985  
9 commission you talk about, was it a provincial commission?  
10 A commission set up by the provincial government? Do  
11 you have the name of the report? When you talk about twelve  
12 recommendations or eight recommendations.

13 MR. GARY MITCHELL: It's  
14 a report about employment and unemployment, a Royal  
15 Commission report.

16 CO-CHAIR MR. RENE

17 DUSSAULT: Employment and unemployment for the whole  
18 province?

19 MR. GARY MITCHELL: And  
20 from what I understand, based on this report is the  
21 provincial government has an Economic Recovery Commission.

22 I think some of the objectives of the Economic Recovery

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1 Commission is relative of trying to implement some of these  
2 recommendations that came from the Royal Commission back  
3 in '85. Although it's seven years ago, I imagine not a  
4 lot of the recommendations have been implemented.

5 **CO-CHAIR MR. RENE**

6 **DUSSAULT:** That was my question. Out of the eight  
7 recommendations dealing with the situation on the coast  
8 for aboriginal peoples, were some implemented?

9 **MR. GARY MITCHELL:** I

10 think if you did a study and went over the same  
11 recommendations, you'll find that those eight  
12 recommendations that I've seen in the report could be still  
13 presented.

14 **CO-CHAIR MR. RENE**

15 **DUSSAULT:** Would still be accurate?

16 **MR. GARY MITCHELL:** Could  
17 be still presented and they've never been fully--the  
18 results haven't come back to satisfy us.

19 **CO-CHAIR MR. RENE**

20 **DUSSAULT:** Are there other questions?

21 **COMMISSIONER MARY SILLETT:**

22 Gary, I just have one quick question. LIDC, I guess,

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1 is that, you know, what do they do in terms of encouraging  
2 the creation of business on the north Labrador coast?

3 **MR. GARY MITCHELL:** Yes,  
4 just one thing that I forgot to put in my brief here, that  
5 the Labrador Inuit Development Corporation is involved  
6 in some development projects like the commercial caribou  
7 hunt and some fish processing, small scale, and I  
8 understand now they're getting into rock quarry. Mainly,  
9 it has been just in the Nain area. And I think other areas  
10 of the coast have not been involved in development of those  
11 projects except on some commercial caribou hunting. The  
12 main area has been in Nain area. The main work has been  
13 in Nain area. And I think people are interested in trying  
14 to get the LIDC to move into other communities to help  
15 develop some projects.

16 **MR. NEIL ANDERSEN,**  
17 **FACILITATOR:** Thank you, Mr. Mitchell. We will now  
18 continue with an individual presentation from Mary Ford  
19 regarding adoption.

20 **MARY FORD, INDIVIDUAL,**  
21 **ADOPTION:** Good morning, Commissioners and welcome to  
22 Makkovik. Before the Department of Social Services

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1 stepped into the lives of the people of northern Labrador,  
2 social issues were dealt with by themselves through the  
3 structure of the elders and other respected people within  
4 the particular communities. For example, on customary  
5 adoption, this occurred on a regular basis and was part  
6 of the northern Labrador culture and tradition. The  
7 method usually was that a family would take it into their  
8 home and care for a child who needed parents. They would  
9 become a family member and would be taken care of by the  
10 family until they were old enough to go out on their own.

11 This is the way things were done. This was our system.

12 It worked. It was accepted by everybody.

13 Since the Department of  
14 Social Services moved in, things have changed  
15 dramatically. They have brought in another system of  
16 doing things, not our way. They have a formal process  
17 for us to go by if we wish to adopt a child. It is a process  
18 which we are not familiar with and which we have no choice  
19 but to go along with. Now we have to go along with large  
20 amounts of administrative procedures before an adoption  
21 becomes formalized.

22 I will give you an example

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1 of how the Department of Social Services has created many  
2 problems with local families. In February of 1971, we  
3 applied for adoption. That's before there was a social  
4 worker on the coast. We never heard from anyone all  
5 through the winter up until the following summer when we  
6 decided to apply again. We were then told that the first  
7 application had been lost due to a turnover of social  
8 services and there was no file of the first application.

9 When we applied in August, we had to wait another six  
10 months before our application was approved. There were  
11 medicals to be done, home visits to be made by social  
12 services and loads of questions to be answered, plus  
13 references from a variety of people. Finally we got our  
14 precious son. All the waiting was worth it. We still  
15 had to wait another six months for everything to be  
16 finalized before we could say he was our own. Two years  
17 later we applied for another child, but we didn't have  
18 to wait as long, only six months.

19 Another woman told me that  
20 she had a baby in her home when he was three days old,  
21 but it took three years and one month to get the adoption  
22 finalized. First she was told that the files were lost

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1 when social services moved from Makkovik to Hopedale.  
2 Then she was told that there were home visits to be made,  
3 which were never done. When the judge called her and told  
4 her everything was finalized, he told her that it would  
5 take at least three months before vital statistics gets  
6 the name change in their files.

7                                   One couple applied for  
8 adoption in 1981 but did not get their baby until 1988,  
9 seven years' waiting. Their files were lost as well when  
10 social services moved. There was an inquiry into it, but  
11 in the end they had to get their medicals done again. After  
12 that it was only a matter of time before they had their  
13 baby. Their adoption was finalized in the fall of 1989.

14                                   This is how one part of our  
15 way of life has changed unnecessarily and it has created  
16 much undue stress for those affected by it. It is time  
17 that this was corrected. Will the Royal Commission on  
18 Aboriginal Peoples please look into this in more detail.

19 We do not have the resources to do it, but you, as a  
20 Commission on Aboriginal People, have the resources and  
21 the mandate to deal with such issues.

22                                   On behalf of all the

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1 families in northern Labrador who have experienced such  
2 as what I have just told you, we are asking that you look  
3 into this further and that the necessary corrections be  
4 included as part of your recommendations to government.

5 We have nowhere else to turn to without the Commissioners'  
6 help. Thank you.

7

**CO-CHAIR MR. RENE**

8 **DUSSAULT:** Thank you very much. I just would like to ask  
9 you are you hoping that it could be possible to return  
10 to the customary adoptions or is your claim saying that  
11 the present system is too cumbersome and takes a long time  
12 and it's involved with many delays. Is it more a question  
13 of delays or a more fundamental question that is involved?

14

**MARY FORD:** The system we  
15 have now, it seems to be going through too many hands,  
16 like, everybody is passing it to the next guy and it's  
17 taking years. I'd like to see it go back to the customary  
18 adoption.

19

**CO-CHAIR MR. RENE**

20 **DUSSAULT:** Is it because of the delay mainly that you would  
21 like to see it back to the customary adoptions or are there  
22 more fundamental--is it an administrative question or are

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1 there some fundamental principles involved?

2 **MARY FORD:** It's just  
3 taking too long, I mean, for you to adopt a baby, it's  
4 taking years, up to seven years.

5 **CO-CHAIR MR. RENE**

6 **DUSSAULT:** Thank you very much.

7 **MR. NEIL ANDERSEN,**

8 **FACILITATOR:** Thank you, Ms. Ford. We will now continue  
9 with our recreation director, John Andersen. O.K. He's  
10 not here. I guess we can continue with William Andersen,  
11 Senior, for the Fishermen's Committee

12 **MR. WILLIAM ANDERSEN, SR.,**

13 **FISHERMEN'S COMMITTEE:** Good day to the Commission and  
14 welcome to Makkovik. Fish again. I think that if you  
15 look around this community, you can see what the main  
16 economy has been down through the years. It's a fishing  
17 community and I'd like to say here that when I speak on  
18 the fishery, I feel that I'm speaking for the communities  
19 from Rigolet to Nain because through the Inuit Association  
20 I've been involved in that over the past couple of years,  
21 with Fishery and Wildlife. For the past 50 years, I've  
22 been involved with the fishery and still am, in a small



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1 way, in regard to catches, but in a big way in regard of  
2 trying to speak on behalf of the people. Many times I've  
3 been sent out from Makkovik as spokesman and carried a  
4 strong message over the past 15 to 20 years with trying  
5 to tell both the provincial and federal government that  
6 there's too much fish being taken. Our fishing spawning  
7 grounds is raped during winter. Fish can't survive. And  
8 all what have been said by the older fishermen and younger  
9 fishermen during the past years have been accepted while  
10 they're at the table and then put aside and shelved.  
11 Nobody listens. The same story that was told fifteen years  
12 ago came to light by the people that they believed in  
13 January. The scientists finally gave in and said there's  
14 no codfish left, not enough for breeding stock. We've  
15 got to do something about it. This should have been looked  
16 at a long time ago, but we won't dwell too much on the  
17 past.

18 The future we must look at.

19 But before we go to the future, I'd like to give you a  
20 few figures and you can take this as almost an average  
21 for the communities from Rigolet to Nain. This is the  
22 torbut landings from Makkovik over the past years. In

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1 1982 335,229 pounds and this is taken from Torngat, so  
2 when the Department of Fisheries had it there in 1983 and  
3 '84, we don't have a record, only a total which I'll give  
4 you when we come to the end of this. In 1985, 303,570  
5 pounds. In 1986, 113,553 pounds, 1987, 767,813 pounds,  
6 1988, 400,695 pounds, '89 362,869 pounds, 1990, 361,584  
7 pounds. And now comes the sad story, 1991, 99,132 pounds.

8 It went down as fast as that. We could see it coming  
9 because there was too many big draggers off the coast all  
10 the winter and until government realizes that the winter  
11 fishery must be closed, nothing will change.

12 Now I told you I had a  
13 message from 1984. Cod and turbot in 1984 that was sold  
14 to the Russian boat and Portuguese along with our plant  
15 was a little over four million pounds in 1984. And last  
16 year in 1991, 99,000 pounds of turbot and I think about  
17 20 pounds of cod was brought in here.

18 So much for the past. The  
19 things we see that must be looked at, and I hope the  
20 Commission will accept my presentation on what I see in  
21 the future. Our federal minister has said that he will  
22 put a moratorium on the cod stocks in 2-J, 3-K, and 3-L.

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1 2-J comes right across our doorstep. If you go off here,  
2 the line slants a little bit more to the southeast, so  
3 that when we get out off the south islands where our fish,  
4 turbot and cod were brought from during the good years,  
5 is in 2-H. Now if there is cod coming back into that area  
6 over the next few years, if Mr. Crosbie puts the moratorium  
7 on 2-J to the south of us and 3-K and 3 K-L, then the boats  
8 from Newfoundland or wherever will want to come into 2-H  
9 because it's not closed there. If there's any way that  
10 we can all work together as organizations, associations  
11 and whatever, if we can urge the government to give the  
12 aboriginal people the rights to that fish in 2-G and 2-H,  
13 we're the closest people to that stock, and looking at  
14 it from an aboriginal point, I think we've got something  
15 that must be pressed for. But we've got to really come  
16 together, everybody, and work at the one thing to put  
17 pressure on to have something put in place for that, or  
18 there will be nothing for our young people in the future.  
19 And this is what concerns me, is that they've come in  
20 and took right from our doorstep. There was plenty of  
21 fish, always plenty of fish for these communities, these  
22 northern communities to survive on. And it was the only

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1 real economy for all of us in northern Labrador. We have  
2 our few jobs in every place where peoples takes the running  
3 of the community, operate with hydro, operate with the  
4 air strip, for Newfoundland telephone, if you like, and  
5 the council and a few other jobs around that each community  
6 must have. Other than that, there's nothing in these  
7 communities for people to make a living on. And I think  
8 that now that what I mentioned in the past is the future  
9 we must look at and if there's any way in making government  
10 realize how important it is, I don't think people see how  
11 drastic this thing is, this lack of fish, the desperate  
12 situation we're in now with the fishery. If it was taken  
13 more seriously by the federal government and provincial  
14 government, I think they would do something about it,  
15 because who wants to live on government money on little  
16 programs like they put out last fall where a person could  
17 get ten stamps and then have to live on less than \$200  
18 a month down to almost \$100 a month in some cases, I think.  
19 How can people survive? You've got hydro bills to pay,  
20 telephone bills to pay, heat bills to pay, and your children  
21 to look after. And even for a single person, it's not  
22 enough to have a healthy life. And we must do something

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1 from now on. We must push harder, and we ask you people  
2 to take this matter very seriously. People don't want  
3 to live on government funds. We're independent people,  
4 if we had a chance to earn something. And the only thing  
5 that I can see is the fishery, unless you look at the woods.

6 There could be a small operation there, but not enough  
7 for all of the people that have been involved in bringing  
8 in the fish and all the plant workers. Makkovik was, back  
9 in the eighties, the early eighties, and up until '88,  
10 able to bring people in from Goose Bay and Rigolet, a few  
11 from Rigolet, some from Postville and some from Hopedale  
12 to work in the fish plant here. We even had people from  
13 Cartwright. And look at today, there hasn't been enough  
14 fish to give any more than half the people who work here.

15

16 There's one other thing I'd  
17 like to mention if I've got a bit of time, and that is  
18 important too. You've got LIDC and Torngat Fisheries  
19 operating here in northern Labrador. Torngat Fisheries  
20 operates from Rigolet to Hopedale and the provincial  
21 fisheries operates mostly in Nain, but LIDC has a shrimp  
22 license and they also had a small quota for turbot last

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1 year. And what I've learned is now that the fish don't  
2 come to the land any more, they're looking for a quota  
3 from the federal government for torbut, and they want to  
4 bring fish in to at least give work in the fish plants.  
5 And to get a boat to bring it in, it's so far off now  
6 that we don't have the boats to be able to go out and spend  
7 nights out there. It's too far away, so they've got to  
8 try to get a boat to bring it in. If they charter a Canadian  
9 boat, they're only allowed to sell a small portion of that  
10 fish in our province to be processed. It must be sold  
11 overseas. And they'll get you there because if you sell  
12 in the province of Newfoundland and Labrador, you can't  
13 get enough for your fish to operate on by bringing fish  
14 in from offshore. If you charter a foreign boat, then  
15 they must sell just about all of their catch in this  
16 province, which makes it worse still. There's only a  
17 little that can be carried over there. If something could  
18 be done to change these policies, I don't think it's a  
19 regulation, really. I think it's a policy. If something  
20 could be done to change that so that if you can get a cheaper  
21 boat to bring fish in to our fish plants in northern  
22 Labrador and what these plants can handle to be able to

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1 let the boat go across and sell it over there where you  
2 get much higher prices, then there's a possibility that  
3 the operators could survive, keep out of the hole, and  
4 they would be doing a marvelous thing by bringing fish  
5 in to give employment to our people.

6 So with that I thank you  
7 for coming here and thank you for listening to me and I  
8 hope that the message is taken and well taken and that  
9 something in the future can be done about it. Thank you  
10 very much.

11 **CO-CHAIR MR. RENE**

12 **DUSSAULT:** Thank you very much for presenting us with your  
13 thoughts on a very difficult situation. Of course, we  
14 are well aware that the fishery industry is at the crossroad  
15 of very difficult times. You've put your message very  
16 clearly as far as the future is concerned, to the  
17 Commission, and we hope that we will be able to be of some  
18 help. Thank you very much.

19 **MR. NEIL ANDERSEN,**

20 **FACILITATOR:** Thank you, Mr. Andersen. As we are running  
21 a bit ahead of schedule, may I suggest that we take a ten  
22 or fifteen minute break. I believe a few people would

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1 like to get some coffee and stretch their legs or whatever.

2 I'm not sure if our recreation director is here yet or  
3 not, so maybe if we take a ten or fifteen minute break.

4 ---Hearing is recessed at 1150 hours

5 ---Upon resuming at 1213 hours

6 **MR. NEIL ANDERSEN,**

7 **FACILITATOR:** I just have a couple of announcements before  
8 we carry on. The local take-out, the Grub Box, will be  
9 open between 12:00 and 1:00 or open at 12:00 until--and  
10 it's just down the road. When we leave for lunch and on  
11 our breaks and everything, if you would please leave your  
12 headsets on your chair, that way they won't be lost or  
13 hopefully won't be broken or anything. And I would just  
14 like to remind everyone and anyone giving a presentation  
15 if you could especially when you have a written  
16 presentation, if you could please slow it down a bit for  
17 the translators. They're having a bit of a hard time.  
18 People seem to be speeding. So I guess without further  
19 ado, we'll turn to John Andersen, our recreation director.

20 **MR. JOHN ANDERSEN,**

21 **RECREATION DIRECTOR:** Good morning. My presentation  
22 today will be on recreation and recreation facilities



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1 within northern Labrador. I'll be relating to Makkovik  
2 as just one place, but, really, the concern is right along  
3 the whole Labrador coast.

4   The main problem in  
5 northern Labrador is the lack of facilities for recreation.

6     What we do have in Makkovik has been mostly put there  
7 through the initiative of the people of Makkovik. We have  
8 a small rink that was built through partially a winter  
9 works program and partially quite a bit of volunteer work.

10    It is well used from January to April or as long as the  
11 natural ice lasts. However, our rink is small. Once our  
12 players progress to a certain speed, hockey cannot be  
13 played on our rink due to the body contacts. And we have  
14 to take the body contact out. And not a lot of our younger  
15 people are interested in sports without body contact.

16   Another problem for  
17 facility is the ice surface, trying to keep the ice surface  
18 good. A lot of the times it has to be filled in with slush  
19 and carry water in buckets. Usually the level of the dam  
20 goes down in the wintertime and that creates a problem  
21 where we cannot use the hydrant to flood the rink.

22   The community hall, that

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1 building you're in now was a community effort as well.  
2 A loan was obtained to cover the cost of the material and  
3 some of the labour. The rest was put there by the  
4 community, volunteer work. This problem is right along  
5 the coast, funding for facilities. And I'd like to stress  
6 really strongly that funding should be made available to  
7 the smaller communities. The big excuse that government  
8 has is that you only have a few people, so that doesn't  
9 create enough sports for big facilities.

10                                   This summer construction  
11 will begin on a new school in Makkovik, where we're getting  
12 a gymnasium on that school now. At first when we were  
13 getting our new school we were all quite happy until we  
14 found out that we were getting a small room on the school  
15 instead of a gymnasium. The local school committee, the  
16 school staff, council and recreation committee felt this  
17 was not acceptable. Just because we are a small community  
18 should not restrict our recreation space. We felt that  
19 a volleyball team or a basketball team in Makkovik or  
20 anywhere along the coast would have the same number of  
21 players as a team in St. John's or Vancouver. The game  
22 would require the same size court as the one in the bigger

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1 communities. In order for our school to offer quality  
2 physical education programs, a full-sized gymnasium was  
3 needed.

4 I wish at this point to take  
5 a quote from a brief of the Royal Commission on Education  
6 in Newfoundland and Labrador in 1991. And it reads: "It  
7 is the right of children, teachers and communities to be  
8 able to utilize affordable facilities and equipment.  
9 Equal opportunity for maximum education benefits should  
10 be the right of all people in the province irregardless  
11 of location, religion or economic background." A  
12 full-sized gymnasium would benefit the whole community  
13 because after school recreation programs could be run  
14 there. So from there we began writing letters to the  
15 government requesting that a full-sized gym be built with  
16 our school. We also met with government. We met with ACOA.  
17 Two years and piles of letters later, government decided  
18 on a new plan. New schools in the communities that need  
19 a large gymnasium and didn't have the population,  
20 government came up with a program for cost-shared 75/25  
21 percent. Makkovik's share for our gymnasium is \$46,000.  
22 This is quite a large sum of money for a community of

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1 369 people to raise.

2 Government likes for a  
3 community to share facilities; however, in northern  
4 Labrador, distance makes this impossible. In  
5 Newfoundland, for instance, you could live in a small  
6 community, you could take your team and fifteen minutes  
7 later you could be in a a gymnasium, a swimming pool, a  
8 bowling alley, whatever you desire. Weather is a factor  
9 for skidoo travel. We do travel to Nain, to Hopedale and  
10 Postville for different sports. And Nain and the other  
11 communities travel here. But the weather prevents us at  
12 times, the bad going. And it's really too costly to go  
13 by air.

14 We have heard it said that  
15 the people of northern Labrador get their recreation from  
16 chasing caribou. It is true that our way of making a living  
17 often keeps us physically fit, but once the work is done,  
18 we look forward to a game of broomball or some other sport.

19 What I'm trying to stress here is that we need recreation  
20 in northern Labrador. We have a small rink and we are  
21 rated second in Newfoundland broomball, both our men's  
22 and ladies' teams. And that is for a showing, we only

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1 leave behind five or six players when we take our team.  
2 And that makes up the rest of our league. So it does  
3 show that we make use of the recreation facility that we  
4 have. And that goes for right along the coast.

5 The younger generation is  
6 not much into hunting and wooding in their spare time.  
7 If they are just walking around town with nothing to do,  
8 the idleness often turns to mischief and vandalism for  
9 the sake of amusement. Recreation keeps adolescents off  
10 the streets and into some supervised activities where they  
11 are learning skills, developing themselves and having fun.

12

13 If we want our quality of  
14 life to improve, recreation has to play an important part  
15 in coastal Labrador. The number of offences by young  
16 offenders is fast increasing. It's largely because they  
17 have nothing to do. If young people tune out or drop out  
18 of school, they still have to have a big interest in sports  
19 and it really shows. We can reach these young people  
20 through coaches or recreation program directors. They  
21 come in. Even though they're not in school, they still  
22 come back and play with the other kids that are in school

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1 and it keeps them in contact with the school and with the  
2 other kids.

3 In order to provide  
4 alternatives for young people, we need the recreation  
5 facilities, and along with the recreation facilities, we  
6 need trained, paid personnel to run the facilities, to  
7 offer quality programs. The days of everybody  
8 volunteering is long gone by. At one point recreation  
9 was all run by volunteers. Volunteers would set it up,  
10 would raise the money and would run the programs. We need  
11 more people paid to plan for the young people to give them  
12 something constructive to do besides out on the streets  
13 at night. Funding from government, when government looks  
14 for money somewhere, I find that the first place that they  
15 look is recreation. We can take some money from our  
16 recreation. We can put it into something else, water and  
17 sewer. And I'm not saying that water and sewer is not  
18 more important than recreation. But I think recreation  
19 is looked at as just something that the kids do.  
20 Recreation is for every person that wants to get into  
21 something. A lot of people don't want to stand out in  
22 the cold. If we had a gymnasium, they would not have to

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1 do that. Our kids, they love to travel, and I find that  
2 traveling, they meet new people, they see new things, and  
3 not only playing the games, this is all a big learning  
4 experience for our kids. The bottom line for facilities  
5 and for recreation in northern Labrador is funding. And  
6 we can talk around in circles and it all comes back to  
7 the same thing. In order to run programs and provide  
8 recreation for kids and adults in northern Labrador, we  
9 need facilities. We need funding. And we talked to  
10 government, we write letters to different levels of  
11 government, and what we get back is that you're up in  
12 northern Labrador, you don't have the populations. We  
13 cannot provide it. After you get it, you may not be able  
14 to run it. But I can tell you that in Makkovik, we have  
15 sent men's and ladies' broomball teams out to the island  
16 to play broomball the same year and that cost ran up to  
17 \$6,000 and that was raised here in the community. I think  
18 if we had a facility that we would be able to run it.  
19 And trying to get that through to government is very, very  
20 hard. We have been trying for years and have come up empty  
21 each time. We're told the same thing each time.

22 I think in ending up, I

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1 would just like to say that I hope that this Commission  
2 takes back something to government that we can see. I  
3 know that I hear tell of what a Royal Commission is, and  
4 I've seen books and papers piled so high, but really, there  
5 has not been a lot done on a lot of those Royal Commissions.

6 So I'm hoping on behalf of our young people, natives and  
7 settlers alike in northern Labrador that we hear something  
8 back. And the next time that we go to government down  
9 the years after this Commission has reported back that  
10 they have something that says yes, they do need the funding,  
11 and yes, it should be provided. Thank you very much.

12 **CO-CHAIR MR. RENE**

13 **DUSSAULT:** Thank you very much for your presentation.  
14 Of course, I think everybody in this room will share the  
15 view that recreation is very important for young people.

16 The question is, as you mentioned, a question of money  
17 and the number of people to support the facilities. And  
18 I can't tell you this morning that we will be able to succeed  
19 in getting this thing done. What I can tell you is that  
20 we totally share the point of view that a lot of emphasis  
21 has to be put on recreation facilities for young people.

22 Having said that, we are aware that there are practical



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1 problems, depending on the situation.

2 I just would like to ask  
3 you, when you started your presentation, you mentioned  
4 that you had put this request in '81 to another Commission,  
5 I think? Am I right?

6 **MR. JOHN ANDERSEN:** No, I  
7 did read out a thing from--

8 **CO-CHAIR MR. RENE**

9 **DUSSAULT:** From a brief to--

10 **MR. JOHN ANDERSEN:** From  
11 a brief from the education, the one for the educational  
12 program, the Royal Commission for Education in  
13 Newfoundland in 1991.

14 **CO-CHAIR MR. RENE**

15 **DUSSAULT:** And it was a brief presented to this Commission?

16 **MR. JOHN ANDERSEN:** No,  
17 the report of the Commission. It was just one statement  
18 that was put right on the end of the Royal Commission and  
19 I thought that it would fit in with this.

20 **CO-CHAIR MR. RENE**

21 **DUSSAULT:** You wouldn't have, by any chance, the number  
22 of the page where this statement is--

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1                                   **MR. JOHN ANDERSEN:** I  
2 don't have it right here, but I have it at home. I can  
3 get it for you.

4                                   **CO-CHAIR MR. RENE**  
5 **DUSSAULT:** You could? Because we're going to have a look  
6 at it, and if you could give us the information.

7                                   **MR. JOHN ANDERSEN:** O.K.  
8 I will.

9                                   **CO-CHAIR MR. RENE**  
10 **DUSSAULT:** Thank you.

11                                   **MR. NEIL ANDERSEN,**  
12 **FACILITATOR:** I guess we'll now break for lunch. It's  
13 just about twelve o'clock and we'll resume again at 1:00  
14 p.m.

15 Hearing recessed at 12:30

16 Hearing resumed at 01:13.

17                                   **MR. NEIL ANDERSEN,**  
18 **FACILITATOR:** We'd like to get underway again, so if you'd  
19 please take your seats. Our next speaker is Toby Andersen  
20 with the Labrador Inuit Association with regards to--he's  
21 the land claims negotiator for the Labrador Inuit  
22 Association and that's what he will be discussing.

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1 **MR. TOBY ANDERSEN,**

2 **LABRADOR INUIT ASSOCIATION:** Good afternoon,

3 Commissioners, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen. On

4 behalf of the Labrador Inuit Association, I would like

5 to welcome the Commission to Labrador Inuit homeland.

6 We've been waiting a long time.

7 I'm the chief negotiator

8 for the Labrador Inuit land claim that's under active

9 negotiation. I've been involved in the land claim

10 negotiation office since 1984 when the Labrador Inuit

11 Association negotiated subsistence rights in the Province

12 of Quebec with the signatories to the James Bay agreement.

13

14 I think that the president

15 of LIA, about a little less than a month ago in St. John's

16 tabled with the commission a very extensive and detailed

17 submission dealing with the Labrador Inuit claim. So I

18 don't feel where it's necessary for me to get into that

19 aspect of the negotiations.

20 What I'd like to be able

21 to do is to give the Commission some of my own views, first

22 of all, on the negotiation itself, the process. As of



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1 negotiations. In other words, the list of subjects to  
2 be negotiated, the process that would be followed or the  
3 procedures for the negotiation. But most important, a  
4 time frame. All our claims in Canada had gone one for  
5 20 years and unsettled. So the most important part of  
6 the framework agreement, everybody says is the target date.  
7 And the Labrador Inuit framework agreement was signed  
8 on November 30, 1990 with a target date of four years.  
9 We've been negotiating for eighteen months and now we're  
10 suspended. In eighteen months, we have negotiated one  
11 subject, one sub agreement. And the only reason we have  
12 agreement on that subject is because it won't cost either  
13 government anything. It eligibility of enrollment, who  
14 can be a beneficiary to a Labrador Inuit land claim  
15 agreement. Eighteen months. We have 25 more subjects  
16 to negotiate. We've been on one, clarifying one subject,  
17 wildlife, for sixteen months. And we're working on a  
18 target date, an agreement that's been signed by the Premier  
19 of the Province and the Minister responsible, Tom Siddon,  
20 working on a four-year target date for an agreement in  
21 principle. In eighteen months we've got one subject.  
22 Twenty-five more to go. So it's not the framework



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1 aboriginal society that has their land claim negotiation  
2 suspended because the province and the federal governments  
3 can't agree on who's going to pay for the cost of  
4 settlement, even at the early stages in the negotiation.

5 I think that, if I could,  
6 I'd like to try to set out a kind of, what I would term  
7 as a base or a base line from which stems the testimony  
8 that you're going to hear here today. There's been an  
9 awful injustice done in this part of Canada, northern  
10 Labrador, an injustice to an aboriginal society, the  
11 Labrador Inuit. And that injustice has been done, I lay  
12 most of the blame on the federal government, the government  
13 of Canada, because under the Constitution Act, 91.24 of  
14 the Constitution Act, 1867, Section 35 of the Constitution  
15 Act, 1982, Canada has the responsibility for aboriginal  
16 peoples. Canada, the government of Canada has a fiduciary  
17 obligation, duty, or responsibility for aboriginal  
18 peoples. And a lot of what you hear from all the people  
19 today and in future hearings comes from the neglect of  
20 the government of Canada to live up to their  
21 responsibilities under the Constitution.

22 When we went to Quebec in

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1 1984 to negotiate Labrador Inuit rights in Quebec, we were  
2 told by the government of Canada that you have no rights.

3 Your rights have been extinguished, Labrador Inuit. They  
4 were extinguished when the James Bay agreement was signed.

5 Who extinguished Labrador Inuit rights? The government  
6 of Canada blamed the government of Quebec. And the  
7 government of Quebec blamed the aboriginal signatories  
8 to the James Bay and the north eastern Quebec agreements.

9 The aboriginal people, the aboriginal signatories blamed  
10 the government of Canada. Who has jurisdiction and who  
11 had the power to extinguish Labrador Inuit rights under  
12 the Constitution? The government of Canada. They've  
13 denied that. So we negotiate an agreement in principle  
14 in Quebec and there are no land rights. All that we  
15 negotiated and asked for was the right to subsistence,  
16 hunting, trapping and fishing in the Province of Quebec  
17 because that was all that we were told that we could  
18 negotiate, nothing more. You get nothing more. The land  
19 claim, the Inuit in Quebec has been settled. If you were  
20 part of that claim, your rights have been extinguished.

21 You have to fit into the James Bay and northern Quebec  
22 and north eastern Quebec agreement. So we negotiated an



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1 agreement in principle and it hasn't been signed because  
2 the Inuit of Quebec are looking for reciprocity. And  
3 they're not going to sign our agreement in principle for  
4 subsistent rights until they see what they're going to  
5 get in terms of comprehensive land rights and resource  
6 rights in Labrador. So we're in a terrible position.

7                   The government of Canada,  
8 under the Constitution, had the authority to put in place  
9 policies and regulations that would affect and apply to  
10 Labrador Inuit. The government failed to do that, the  
11 government of Canada. Instead, they passed on the  
12 jurisdiction to the Province of Newfoundland under  
13 confederation, so that Labrador Inuit now live under the  
14 policies of a provincial government, a provincial  
15 government that has a policy that treats every single  
16 resident of the province equally. They don't distinguish  
17 between any ethnic or cultural group. And Canada has done  
18 nothing about that.

19                   I would like to touch base  
20 on, very briefly, because other people talk about and are  
21 still going to talk about some of these issues, but I think  
22 from more of an aboriginal right point of view, when we

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1 talk about the fishery, Canada's overall policy with  
2 respect to fisheries and fishery development is that those  
3 closest to the resource should get first benefits. Well,  
4 we are closest to the resource. The Labrador Inuit  
5 Development Corporation and Torngat Fish Producers  
6 Cooperative have been fighting and fighting and fighting  
7 with not only Canadian but foreign companies for quotas.  
8 And we can't get them. You heard this morning about a  
9 state of the art multi-million dollar plant here in  
10 Makkovik with a service center. I can guarantee you that  
11 that would not have been here if it had not been for the  
12 glut in the fishery here in the Makkovik area in the early  
13 1980s. But in 1981-'82, there were eleven million pounds  
14 of fish taken out of this area right here. Two million  
15 of those eleven million pounds of fish were landed here  
16 in Makkovik, the majority of it by Makkovik residents.  
17 Now that was all that the facility that was here could  
18 handle. The government of Newfoundland, under pressure  
19 from the fishermen's union, the Fishermen's Food and Allied  
20 Workers' Union in Newfoundland, sent in foreign vessels  
21 over the side and nine million pounds of fish went out  
22 of here that were not processed anywhere in Canada but



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1 water because the ice are into the bays and the boats,  
2 Ottawa extends the unemployment insurance benefits to  
3 those fishermen because they can't fish because of ice  
4 conditions. Our fishermen then get it. Now isn't that  
5 discrimination?

6 There are many more  
7 examples, but we don't have time to go into them today.

8 I could go into a gear replacement program that the only  
9 time our fishermen knew it was in existence was the year  
10 that it went out of existence because the program was so  
11 badly abused not only by fishermen on the island but by  
12 the merchants. And then there's the great concern to the  
13 Labradorians which is the Arctic char aquaculture that's  
14 happening now on the island section of the province. And  
15 it's called Arctic char. But it's not Arctic char. The  
16 only place you're going to find Arctic char in this province  
17 is in northern Labrador. It's unique. It's local. And  
18 what farming char on the other section of the province  
19 does is that it kills the market for our fishermen here  
20 because our fishermen can only fish nets. And net marks,  
21 of course, gives us a second grade quality product. So  
22 those kinds of issues, we've been dealing with the

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1 government as well and not having success.

2                                 With respect to tourism and  
3 outfitters, whether it's hunting or fish camp operators,  
4 we tabled our land claim with the federal government in  
5 1977. And ever since that claim has been accepted by the  
6 federal and then the provincial governments, nothing has  
7 changed. Outfitters are allowed to operate in the  
8 Labrador Inuit claim area and in 1991 the provincial  
9 government extended the lease time from five years to fifty  
10 years. So while you sit at the table and negotiate the  
11 land claim settlement with Labrador Inuit, government with  
12 the other hand is handing out land grants, fifty year land  
13 grants, to third parties.

14                                 With respect to wild life  
15 and wildlife regulations and subsistence hunting of  
16 wildlife, we've had a terrible, terrible problem ever since  
17 Confederation. Government imposed regulations that apply  
18 to the urban areas of the province the same as the remote  
19 areas of the province. In other words, a person who walks  
20 down the street in St. John's, Newfoundland falls into  
21 the same and abides by the same wildlife regulation as  
22 the person who hunts for food on land in May. There's

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1 not only Inuit but aboriginal Indian Metis as well, in  
2 Canada. They've set precedents for land claim  
3 negotiations. And the Labrador Inuit are the smallest  
4 Inuit society in Canada, and they're the last without a  
5 land claim settlement. We are the only Inuit in Canada  
6 who do not have a land claim settlement. And look at how  
7 we are treated. We fail to understand why we're being  
8 treated the way we are. We fail to understand why the  
9 government of Canada is not living up to their  
10 responsibilities under the Constitution and we fail to  
11 understand why nothing is being done by anybody. I mean,  
12 you are not the first people that we have come to with  
13 these problems and looking for help. See, the only way,  
14 as Mr. Mitchell said this morning, the only way that a  
15 lot of these problems that is coming before you today and  
16 that is going to come before you in the future from northern  
17 Labrador are going to be solved is through the settlement  
18 of the land claim. But the negotiating that we have done  
19 so far, if we put it--if you want to use that as a ratio,  
20 even though we have four years for the target date for  
21 the agreement in principle, the ratio that we have  
22 developed so far in our negotiation, we're looking at ten

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1 years for an agreement in principle. And maybe twelve,  
2 thirteen, for a final agreement, no difference than before  
3 the policy was changed based on the Cooligan Task Force  
4 recommendations.

5 And although, as I said  
6 before, great things are happening with respect to self  
7 government and land claim negotiations, from a more, I  
8 suppose, global point of view or Canadian point of view,  
9 nothing has happened here. We're tucked away in a very  
10 remote area and it's people like you, a Commission like  
11 you that hopefully can bring that out into the Canadian  
12 public and expose the federal government or at least make  
13 strong recommendations to the federal government for  
14 change.

15 We would certainly hope  
16 that your Commission would make, on our behalf, some strong  
17 recommendations to government with respect to the Labrador  
18 Inuit claim, the way the federal government has failed  
19 the Labrador Inuit society and, as Mr. Mitchell said this  
20 morning, some recommendation as to what we do in the  
21 meantime. If we have to sit at the negotiating table for  
22 another ten years to finalize the Labrador Inuit land





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1 will speak as the day progresses. So I would just leave  
2 it at that and thank you for your time.

3 **CO-CHAIR MR. RENE**

4 **DUSSAULT:** Thank you very much for sharing your concerns  
5 on this land claim discussion that has been going on for  
6 a few years. If my understanding is correct, the  
7 negotiations were suspended at the end of May mainly  
8 because of a disagreement between the two governments as  
9 to the sharing of the cost of the negotiation. You've  
10 talked a lot about the fact that the government of Canada  
11 has failed to fulfill its fiduciary relationships, but  
12 I tried to understand technically what's going on and I  
13 would like to--if my understanding is correct, the  
14 provincial government is saying "Well, we do not have to  
15 pay for--to share the cost of these negotiations because--"  
16 What exactly is the position of the provincial  
17 governments, as far as you know, on these negotiations,  
18 because I would like to hear you talking a bit about the  
19 role of the provincial government in this.

20 **MR. TOBY ANDERSEN:** The  
21 provincial government's position is that they should not  
22 have to pay a cash component for the settlement of the

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1 claim. That should be a responsibility of the federal  
2 government, the reason being that Newfoundland, I suppose,  
3 is a have-not province. They don't have the money, but  
4 they have the resources, so they're prepared to offer land  
5 and resources and to pay their fair share of implementation  
6 costs. Now we don't know what that means. And I guess  
7 we won't know what that means until we reach an agreement  
8 in principle because we don't know what kind of management  
9 regimes for various resources might be put in place. And  
10 we did not have a real problem with that position other  
11 than the fact that it remains quite clear to Premier Wells  
12 that we think Newfoundland, yes, should pay some of the  
13 cost. I mean, Labrador Inuit, in the settlement of this  
14 claim are going to be offering and giving to government  
15 lands as well. We have set out a land claim area, but  
16 in the final analysis and at the end of the day, we won't  
17 get that whole area. We have to give up some of that area  
18 to make way for development. And there will be, we hope,  
19 set aside areas known as Labrador Inuit lands which are  
20 smaller areas within the land claim area itself. So where  
21 the province offers lands and resources, we offer that  
22 as well. Labrador Inuit offer that as well in the

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1 settlement. So, yes, we do believe that Newfoundland  
2 should offer or pay part of the cost of the settlement.

3 But I guess in line with what Premier Wells has been  
4 saying, we believe that those responsibilities and  
5 cost-sharing arrangements can be quite easily determined  
6 at an agreement in principle stage, especially if you have  
7 a four-year agreement in principle targeted, if you can  
8 meet that target date in four years.

9 **CO-CHAIR MR. RENE**

10 **DUSSAULT:** Because when you mentioned the lack of will,  
11 fiscal will, you're talking about both governments?

12 **MR. TOBY ANDERSEN:** Oh,  
13 yes, both governments.

14 **CO-CHAIR MR. RENE**

15 **DUSSAULT:** Well, when we were in St. John's, Newfoundland,  
16 we had an opportunity to--our first discussion on this.

17 And of course, as I mentioned then, it is coming into  
18 the terms of reference of this Commission to look at the  
19 process generally for land claims across the country.  
20 On the other hand, we are not given a mandate to study  
21 each specific land claim and to mediate between governments  
22 who enter into some difficulty between each other and so

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1 forth. But we are certainly willing to learn from the  
2 experience that you've been through in order to recommend  
3 some process that might be efficient and also ways to solve  
4 the situation when there are stumbling blocks coming on  
5 the road. So I think the most that could be said this  
6 afternoon is certainly, what I'm saying is that we're  
7 looking at specifics, but with a view of trying to learn  
8 about the proposals that might be more general, and avoid  
9 things like that repeating. Having said that, I'm well  
10 aware that it doesn't settle your main immediate concern  
11 with this land claim settlement. So that's why we're  
12 interested to hear from you about facts and ideas as to  
13 how these things could be avoided into the future. I know  
14 it's one thing to say "Well, the political will is not  
15 there." But why? Because of money? Because of the  
16 trade-off on lands is not acceptable? So if you could  
17 give us--I understand that it might be difficult to go  
18 much further this afternoon, but we are certainly anxious  
19 to receive additional information as we proceed in our  
20 hearings. And as you know, we're coming back, we will  
21 come back probably in Nain in the second phase of our  
22 hearings and at that time, if we could benefit from your

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1 views in terms of helping to see what should be avoided  
2 at least, what sort of pitfalls and what should be avoided  
3 in the future. Well, we need your advice as to how to  
4 build our proposals in order to be helpful.

5 **MR. TOBY ANDERSEN:** I  
6 think that it's probably--well, I can't say that you should  
7 overstate, but I guess it's a pretty broad statement to  
8 say that the political will is not there. To a certain  
9 extent, I suppose there is political will, just due to  
10 the fact that the claim has been accepted and that we are  
11 negotiating. But I think the problem from where I sit,  
12 the problem that I see is that we have a new process with  
13 the new federal land claims policy. And the process sets  
14 out a framework agreement and everybody says it's fine.  
15 It will speed up the process. We have a target date.  
16 We're working towards that target date, but nothing else  
17 has changed within the government bureaucracy, federal  
18 and provincial, and more provincial in this case than  
19 federal, because the provincial government has the most  
20 jurisdiction in our case. So what happens is that the  
21 chief negotiator for the province is not an independent  
22 negotiator. He's a bureaucrat. He has his own job and

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1 now he can't make recommendations to the decision-makers.  
2 He's got to go through the normal bureaucratic procedure  
3 and beat down 25 doors before he gets to one person who  
4 says "Yeah, o.k. it's fine, but take it the next step up  
5 the ladder." So we end up with, like I said, sixteen months  
6 on wildlife and we've gotten nowhere. We're still way  
7 down the ladder in the bureaucratic system within the  
8 provincial government. So somehow the whole system has  
9 to change. I think that maybe government leaders have  
10 to say or to be able to have the chief negotiator that  
11 can go out, take a good look at the Labrador Inuit  
12 proposals, take them on their merits, bring forward the  
13 provincial or the federal positions. And you combine that  
14 on a tripartite basis and say, well, given the three  
15 positions, I think this is the way to go. This is probably  
16 the best recommendation. If something is acceptable at  
17 the table, I can take it to the decision-makers. But  
18 that's not happening. That can't happen. You're bogged  
19 down with the bureaucratic system. That's where the  
20 problem is. Policies change but nothing else has changed.

21 **COMMISSIONER VIOLA**

22 **ROBINSON:** I just want to ask a couple of questions. I

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1 wasn't in St. John's when they got the detailed report.

2 But your agreement that was signed November 30, 1990,  
3 that was signed with the federal government by themselves  
4 or was it a tripartite agreement?

5 **MR. TOBY ANDERSEN:**

6 Tripartite.

7 **COMMISSIONER VIOLA**

8 **ROBINSON:** So the province signed it too?

9 **MR. TOBY ANDERSEN:** Yes,  
10 the premier signed it. But the federal cabinet condition  
11 on which that framework agreement was signed was that there  
12 would be a bilateral MOU within eighteen months of the  
13 beginning of negotiations. And eighteen months, well,  
14 their mandate expired the 30th of May. Newfoundland and  
15 Canada have been having discussions on this bilateral MOU  
16 since 1981 and they are no closer to agreement now than  
17 they were in 1982.

18 **COMMISSIONER VIOLA**

19 **ROBINSON:** The sub agreement that was signed then was  
20 signed too by both governments?

21 **MR. TOBY ANDERSEN:** Yes.

22 **COMMISSIONER VIOLA**



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1 **ROBINSON:** That was just for subsistence?

2 **MR. TOBY ANDERSEN:** Yes.

3 **COMMISSIONER VIOLA**

4 **ROBINSON:** But since they've done that, they're still  
5 arresting your people for--that's what you said, for  
6 hunting? That sub agreement would be for subsistence you  
7 said for hunting?

8 **MR. TOBY ANDERSEN:** That  
9 was in the Province of Quebec. Our people have--

10 **COMMISSIONER VIOLA**

11 **ROBINSON:** Oh, another one.

12 **MR. TOBY ANDERSEN:** Yes,  
13 our people are being charged for subsistence hunting in  
14 breaking regulations by the provincial government,  
15 Newfoundland-Labrador. So it's our own provincial  
16 government who are charging our people for subsistence  
17 hunting, because subsistence hunting is not within the  
18 provincial legislation or regulation. There have only  
19 ever been two pieces of legislation in this province that  
20 refers specifically to aboriginal people, o.k.? One, now  
21 they've both been abolished since, but after  
22 Confederation, the first one said you can't sell liquor

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1 to natives. And the second one said you can't bring your  
2 native husky dogs from Labrador to the island. That's the  
3 only legislation that referred to aboriginal people in  
4 this province.

5 **COMMISSIONER VIOLA**

6 **ROBINSON:** But your agreement was with Quebec government?

7 **MR. TOBY ANDERSEN:** That's  
8 right.

9 **COMMISSIONER VIOLA**

10 **ROBINSON:** But you can hunt in Quebec?

11 **MR. TOBY ANDERSEN:** Yes,  
12 yes, we can.

13 **COMMISSIONER VIOLA**

14 **ROBINSON:** Is that part of the James Bay agreement?

15 **MR. TOBY ANDERSEN:** Yes,  
16 it is.

17 **COMMISSIONER VIOLA**

18 **ROBINSON:** You tabled your claim, did you say in 1977?

19 **MR. TOBY ANDERSEN:** Yes.

20 **COMMISSIONER VIOLA**

21 **ROBINSON:** With the federal government?

22 **MR. TOBY ANDERSEN:** Yes.

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1 It was accepted in '77. We tabled it in 1975.

2 **COMMISSIONER VIOLA**

3 **ROBINSON:** '75. It was accepted by the federal  
4 government?

5 **MR. TOBY ANDERSEN:** Yes.

6 **COMMISSIONER VIOLA**

7 **ROBINSON:** Alone?

8 **MR. TOBY ANDERSEN:** Yes.

9 And provincial government in 1984-'85.

10 **COMMISSIONER VIOLA**

11 **ROBINSON:** Nothing happened between '77 and '85?

12 **MR. TOBY ANDERSEN:** No.

13 **COMMISSIONER VIOLA**

14 **ROBINSON:** Even though your claim was accepted by the  
15 federal government?

16 **MR. TOBY ANDERSEN:**

17 Newfoundland didn't even have a land claims policy in place  
18 until the Cooligan Task Force.

19 **COMMISSIONER VIOLA**

20 **ROBINSON:** Right. The Cooligan Task Force though was a  
21 federal policy?

22 **MR. TOBY ANDERSEN:** That's

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1 right, that's right, yes.

2 **COMMISSIONER VIOLA**

3 **ROBINSON:** And Newfoundland shouldn't have had anything  
4 in there in the first place.

5 **MR. TOBY ANDERSEN:** Yeah,  
6 they jumped on the bandwagon and put their own policy in  
7 place.

8 **COMMISSIONER VIOLA**

9 **ROBINSON:** These land grants to third parties, would those  
10 grants be given within the area that you want to negotiate?

11 **MR. TOBY ANDERSEN:** Yes.

12 **COMMISSIONER VIOLA**

13 **ROBINSON:** It is?

14 **MR. TOBY ANDERSEN:** Yeah.

15 **COMMISSIONER VIOLA**

16 **ROBINSON:** Well, I don't know, but it seems strange that  
17 when something is under negotiation and they can be giving  
18 it out again, you know what I mean, through land grants.

19 **MR. TOBY ANDERSEN:** As  
20 part of our framework agreement, we had asked both the  
21 federal and the provincial governments if they would put  
22 in place what we termed as "interim protection measures,"

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1 so that the level of development that you have in the  
2 Labrador Inuit claim area, in this case, in northern  
3 Labrador, the level of development that you have right  
4 now, in 1990, when we began our negotiations, December,  
5 1990, freeze development at that level, because it's only  
6 four years. We're working on a four-year target date.  
7 It was not acceptable. They wouldn't have anything to  
8 do with it. They said we can't do that to third parties  
9 or the general public.

10

**COMMISSIONER VIOLA**

11 **ROBINSON:** Well, thank you, I just wanted to get those  
12 clarified.

13

**COMMISSIONER MARY SILLETT:**

14 Thank you very much, Toby. Because of our serious time  
15 constraints, I'll limit my comments and questions to two  
16 issues which I think should be made on the public record.

17 The other questions I can deal with between yourself and  
18 myself at another time. Just one thing, before I address  
19 you, I'd like to welcome Garfield Warren again. Forever  
20 I'm too, you are, who's running for election, you or me?

21 But welcome to our hearings again. Thank you very much  
22 for being here.

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1                   But going back to Toby, I  
2 just want to say for the public record, are you aware of  
3 the communication that transpired between the Labrador  
4 Inuit Association and the Royal Commission on Aboriginal  
5 Peoples about the misunderstanding with respect to the  
6 point made in St. John's on the LIA land claims  
7 negotiations?

8                   **MR. TOBY ANDERSEN:** Yes.

9                   **COMMISSIONER MARY SILLETT:**  
10 Do you understand the Royal Commission's point of view?

11                   **MR. TOBY ANDERSEN:** I  
12 guess to a certain extent. My understanding of the terms  
13 of reference of the Royal Commission was that the Royal  
14 Commission was to deal with all aspects of the land claims  
15 negotiation process or anything that deals with the  
16 aboriginal claim, I suppose, to aboriginal rights.

17                   **COMMISSIONER MARY SILLETT:**  
18 Well, the mandate of the Royal Commission is extremely  
19 broad, but on the point with respect to the land claims,  
20 you're very, very correct in your assessment, but I just  
21 want to make it clear that I think that to re-interpret,  
22 very bluntly, what was said was that, "You know, we have

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1 a problem here. The feds and the provinces have problems.  
2 They can't come to any agreement on cost-sharing. Could  
3 you help us out on that?" We said well, you know when  
4 it comes to two parties like that having problems, maybe  
5 it's not our business to tell either the feds or the  
6 province to get your act together, but it is our business,  
7 for example, to look at the whole land claims issue in  
8 a very broad kind of way. And I think, you know, I want  
9 to be very clear for the public record that the Royal  
10 Commission meant no insult. There was just an  
11 interpretation on the terms of reference.

12 My second point is that,  
13 and we can't stress it enough, is I think that the points  
14 that you raised are very, very, very serious and I think  
15 that you can have our assurance that we share a lot of  
16 the same viewpoints, not you and I personally, but the  
17 commissioners and the Labrador-Inuit Association. And I  
18 think that what we're hoping to hear from the Labrador  
19 Inuit Association when we go to Nain are some solutions  
20 to the problems that face us because I think that is  
21 probably one of the more difficult parts of our job. I  
22 think it's easier to state the difficulties in a very

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1 general way, but we will need help, especially from people  
2 who have been experiencing the problems, have been in the  
3 business for a lot longer than us, to outline what some  
4 of the solutions are. And so I'm looking forward to LIA  
5 doing that. We have funding available and I hope you use  
6 that to be able to draft some fo the recommendations when  
7 we come back to you again, but thank you very much.

8 **MR. TOBY ANDERSEN:** I  
9 certainly appreciate that, and I think that as I said  
10 earlier, we don't know where else to go. We know that,  
11 as I've said, and I hate to have to say it again, but the  
12 option of court action is out there for Labrador Inuit,  
13 but the federal government, you know, does have the  
14 fiduciary responsibilities for aboriginal people. We  
15 have hope that the Commission would, through us putting  
16 some facts to you and hopefully looking at some way of--some  
17 way, I suppose, to interfere and try somehow to speed up  
18 the process. But we will certainly work with you and  
19 continue to put any more facts or evidence or solutions  
20 or recommendations for resolution before you. Thank you.  
21 We thank you for your time.

22 **MR. NEIL ANDERSEN,**



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1 **FACILITATOR:** Thank you, Mr. Andersen. Before we get onto  
2 our next speaker, I would just like to remind everyone  
3 to please talk slowly and into the mic as much as possible.  
4 We do have translators here for anyone, translating into  
5 Inuktitut.

6 Our next speaker is Ruth  
7 Flowers with the Makkovik Women's Group.

8 **MS. RUTH FLOWERS, MAKKOVIK**

9 **WOMEN'S GROUP:** Thank you. The Women's Group is concerned  
10 about a lot of things and some of the more important things,  
11 we feel, are the following: (1) we've been trying off  
12 and on, some five years, to get daycare. It seems daycare  
13 is only a dream to us in this part of Canada, something  
14 that we dream about. And I think largely because we have  
15 no funding available to do anything. In the past we've  
16 had maybe a social worker or somebody with some formal  
17 training come and talk to us for a couple of hours in the  
18 evening to explain daycare to us. And it's very  
19 discouraging when you, even to make a phone call, you have  
20 to watch your pennies because we don't have any funding.  
21 And I think until we can get some funding to work with,  
22 I don't think we're going to get anywhere with it. And

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1 it's something that's needed because just more and more  
2 people going into the workforce, not as much as we'd like  
3 to see, but more and more. So therefore, we really, before  
4 we can go anywhere, it's fine to have people come talk  
5 to us, but then when the load is put on us, we don't have  
6 the money, the means to go ahead with it, and we just go  
7 into a brick wall.

8   The fishery is another  
9 great concern to the women. We all know the fishery is  
10 failing and we have to look at other possibilities, job  
11 creations for Labrador north. And I think Labrador has  
12 a lot to offer in tourism, crafts and again, we have to  
13 look for alternate funding. It's funds that we have to  
14 have to start coordinating these types of things because  
15 not only fishermen are affected when the fishery is  
16 failing. If the fishermen and the fisherwomen are not  
17 out there, the plant workers are not working. The  
18 babysitters are not going to work, and it's just a spinoff.  
19 The list goes on. And we are concerned about it. And  
20 as Toby mentioned, our fishermen have no income from the  
21 15th of May until--because they're supposed to be fishing.  
22 And as you can see firsthand, up to yesterday, the 14th

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1 of June, we had skidoos on the sea ice. So I think it's  
2 time we start telling Ottawa what we want, the federal  
3 people in Ottawa what we want and what we want to see.  
4 And it's time to say "Thank you but you don't tell us what  
5 to do any more."

6 We also support a local  
7 crime committee, crime prevention committee who is trying  
8 to get an RCMP for the community. The mayor mentioned  
9 this morning that for two years we've been looking to get  
10 an RCMP here. We've been told that Makkovik doesn't  
11 warrant an officer. We don't have enough crime. That's  
12 good and that makes us proud, but on the other hand, we  
13 all know here that vandalism is on the rise. And on the  
14 other hand, when something do go wrong, it's usually the  
15 mayor or someone else from the council who has to go and  
16 deal with something if there's not an RCMP around. And  
17 that can become very frightening and I've had that  
18 experience myself, being the mayor for the past two years.

19 So we support the community council, the crime prevention  
20 committee in getting a full-time officer here.

21 Another concern that we  
22 have is when a person is charged, in this day and age,

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1 people should not have to wait 18 months to two years before  
2 their trial comes up, before they can go to court. And  
3 that's what happens, eighteen months, a year, is not at  
4 all uncommon for someone to wait to have their case heard.

5 The lawyers come in along with the court circuit and they  
6 see the people for five or ten minutes before they go into  
7 the courtroom and it has to be very scary when you don't  
8 know your--it's the first time you're seeing your lawyer.

9 You don't fully understand, maybe, the language and you're  
10 rushed on into a courtroom. We feel that the lawyers or  
11 defence, whoever they are, should come a day or two before  
12 to spend more time with the people who are being charged.

13 And those are some of our  
14 major concerns. And I think we would like to suggest that  
15 because we have to start looking at alternate jobs, because  
16 we want to get on with our lives, we want to get ahead,  
17 bearing in mind that we're not going to get ahead from  
18 the fishery, that there should be jobs in each community,  
19 that there should be funding made available for a person  
20 just to educate groups, to sort of help find what federal  
21 programs are available in means of funding. It's just  
22 so hard and so frustrating when you don't have any funding

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1 to do it, when you don't know where to turn. I think  
2 something maybe like the CEIC has someone to look after  
3 Rigolet, Postville, Makkovik. Another one looks after  
4 Hopedale, Davis Inlet and Nain. Just to be able to go  
5 around and be able to help people who are looking for  
6 grants, looking for money for various things. I think  
7 something like that is going to have to happen.

8 **CO-CHAIR MR. RENE**

9 **DUSSAULT:** Thank you very much for your presentation.  
10 I would like just to ask a question related to one of the  
11 topic that was discussed this morning, education. I  
12 understand that as a women's group your interest is the  
13 current interest of women and also of the whole of the  
14 community, but do you have some relationship with, for  
15 example, the young girls that are at the high school at  
16 the moment and some of them are going to graduate. And  
17 we've discussed the difficulty of getting a post-secondary  
18 education for various reasons, reasons that pertain to  
19 programs available, but also pertain to the view that the  
20 young people have of their future. So I'd like to know  
21 if a group like yours is trying to make something toward  
22 helping the young people, and particularly young women,

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1 to further their education?

2 **MS. RUTH FLOWERS:** I'm  
3 sure, maybe not so directly as a point of from the Women's  
4 Group, but members of the Women's Group, I know many of  
5 us are very concerned about our young people and do speak  
6 to them from time to time in ways of encouraging them.

7 **CO-CHAIR MR. RENE**

8 **DUSSAULT:** Individually.

9 **MS. RUTH FLOWERS:**  
10 Individually, more or less. Maybe we should be looking  
11 at it more as a group. But we are concerned about our  
12 young people. We often tell them they're the ones who  
13 are going to be the leaders.

14 **CO-CHAIR MR. RENE**

15 **DUSSAULT:** Because as I've mentioned this morning, we're  
16 looking for solutions or action coming from the community  
17 itself also to help to develop a pattern in the future  
18 that will give greater access to jobs because everything  
19 is related. So that was basically the concern I have  
20 because I know there are probably some young girls who  
21 will be graduating from Grade 12 this year. There are  
22 five or six students altogether. Because, again, we're

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1 really trying to see how we could trigger and help the  
2 young people to go further with their education. And we  
3 understand that there is a cultural side of things because  
4 to move outside the community might be frightening and  
5 there might be some support needed, but again, I wanted  
6 to expand on this with you.

7 **COMMISSIONER VIOLA**

8 **ROBINSON:** Where does this community go to get  
9 information? Like, say, for CEIC, for unemployment  
10 insurance or for programs from CEIC. Where is the nearest  
11 office? Which office do you deal with?

12 **MS. RUTH FLOWERS:** You  
13 deal with the Goose Bay office or there is an Outreach  
14 person, as I mentioned, who looks after so many  
15 communities. But that's only on a part-time basis, and  
16 any calls to her office is at your own expense. She visits  
17 maybe every three months or so, but other than that, it's  
18 at your own expense to either Goose Bay office or the--

19 **COMMISSIONER VIOLA**

20 **ROBINSON:** Who represents you on Pathways, for instance?

21 **MS. RUTH FLOWERS:** On  
22 Pathways.





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1 I am a member of the Canadian Environmental Fisheries  
2 Conservation Panel that was put together March 31 in St.  
3 John's. To date, not knocking anybody, but I don't know  
4 if we're organized or not, other than what I have tried  
5 to do.

6 I have made a presentation  
7 before to a Royal Commission. And this time I intend to  
8 take a different approach. The last time I told one of  
9 the members that the only thing that hasn't changed in  
10 Labrador since he was here was the climate.

11 Across Canada last week  
12 newspapers were telling us about the promises that Brian  
13 Mulroney made at that summit in Rio. He said he would  
14 be willing to forgive the \$145,000,000 that is owed to  
15 us if Brazil would assure us that they are going to do  
16 something about the rain forests in Brazil. He also  
17 promised them there would be \$20,000,000 for forest  
18 management, ladies and gentlemen. And on top of that,  
19 he promised another \$50,000,000, \$50,000,000 frigging  
20 bucks for the ten Latin American countries,  
21 underdeveloped. So I would say by the time all these are  
22 in, somebody could come and bail out a country that is

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1 so deeply in debt. A lot of money. So the inshore fishery  
2 people of this province shouldn't have too much to worry  
3 about when we consider how much money our federal  
4 government have got to throw around. I am not against  
5 helping needy people, but for the love of God, look after  
6 our own first. Whoever they are, wherever they're to,  
7 they needs to pay their light bill, they needs to pay their  
8 phone bill. They needs a lot of things, and everything  
9 is going up except their income.

10   If we're looking for monies  
11 to set up business in Labrador, we go to ACOA. If I got  
12 \$100,000, ladies and gentlemen, they will loan me \$100,000.

13     When once I have spent my \$100,000, all the receipts and  
14 invoices and everything is in, all the deadlines are met,  
15 then they will sit down in their own good time and will  
16 turn around and give me and they'll look for every loophole  
17 and excuse that there is so that monies will not be paid  
18 out. People in Labrador, coastal Labrador, does not have  
19 that kind of money, ladies and gentlemen. Sure, you know,  
20 there's things we can do, but what the government has to  
21 do is change the rules of ACOA or put something in place  
22 that is going to help these men and women. What we have

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1 to do is do things, put something in place whereby it will  
2 generate revenue and they don't have to pay back the money  
3 within six months or a year because if that \$145,000,000  
4 alone was spread around the province with the inshore  
5 fisherpeople, I think it would go quite a distance in  
6 helping solve our problems.

7                                   Manpower has a training  
8 program. You know, we can get in, we can do different  
9 things, but you cannot hire relatives and you have to pay.  
10 If you're a private business, you have to come up with  
11 40 percent of their training program. When they sees their  
12 time, they will then come back with their 60 percent, not  
13 a bad deal if you've got money. But if you've got that  
14 kind of money to set up a business, who is going to want  
15 to go--you know, if I had \$100,000, I don't think I'd bother  
16 to go to the government. It's the worse thing I ever did  
17 in my life. It's nothing but a drawback because somebody  
18 has got to keep pushing paper to make sure that his or  
19 her job is secured for tomorrow and the next day and the  
20 next day afterwards. So somewhere along the way, somebody  
21 decided to set up Pathways which is going to help the  
22 aboriginal. And that, ladies and gentlemen, is nothing

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1 more than a group of men and women that they lay the blame  
2 on for anything that ever might be done. Excuse me if  
3 I'm talking too fast for the interpreter. I'm getting  
4 kind of hot under the color here.

5                                 We have to give these men  
6 and women responsibility, ladies and gentlemen. I  
7 hope--it's going to take time for this to go to where it  
8 should go. In the meantime, our people are going to have  
9 to eat. They're going to have to pay for parts for their  
10 skidoos, light bills and the whole bit. What are they  
11 going to do in the meantime? So what we have to do, let's  
12 kick Manpower out of Goose Bay. We don't need them. We  
13 don't need Manpower in Goose Bay. For what? Pathways  
14 can issue the U.I. checks. We can find people in this  
15 community, in every single community on the Labrador coast  
16 who can do just that, make out pay checks. What we've  
17 got to have, we have to have something in place whereby  
18 we will generate monies. I'm going to repeat myself a  
19 hundred times unless my youngest son cuts me off and that's  
20 it.

21                                 So anyhow we had two young  
22 people who applied to Manpower for helicopter training.

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1     There is no such monies. We did it in the past but we're  
2     not doing it no more because there's no money. And by  
3     the Lord God, Manpower sent in two people from the island.  
4     Universal Helicopters is the only outfit that has a  
5     training base in the province. They're sitting there in  
6     Goose Bay. They brings in two people from the island and  
7     our people don't have a chance because you are from f--ing  
8     Labrador, that's why. Take everything out. The place  
9     to be raped. Look what they got up there. We'll do it.

10

11                                     You know, and then you hear  
12     people saying "When I left school I couldn't read and write.

13     I went and I did it on my own." If we had to sit down  
14     today and look back, as a young person in Makkovik today,  
15     where would we go? What would we have for us, in Canada,  
16     for that matter? But we do not have an opportunity. When  
17     do we get it? Are we going to sit by forever and let our  
18     children be walked on? I don't think so. It's fine to  
19     have a good education. I think it's wonderful. I wish  
20     I had it because if I did, I would give a better presentation  
21     than I'm giving right now. It might not do any good, but  
22     my knowledge is from 61 years in this community. Out in

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1 the fishing boat, up in the brooks setting your traps with  
2 your relatives, dragging around in the slush and the snow,  
3 not easy going with the chain saw and the skidoo and  
4 everything else, but really slaving. But it costs twice  
5 as much to get to our trap lines today.

6 And then we've got the  
7 animal rights. We've got Greenpeace. Everybody is down  
8 on us because we are taking these lovely animals.

9 I think what we've got to  
10 do is make sure that our people is not--that they are given  
11 a fair chance, that's all they needs. Maybe these young  
12 fellows can't be helicopter pilots. So what? Give them  
13 a chance. It costs \$37,000. Where are we going to find  
14 that kind of money? Manpower says that they did not fund  
15 them two people from the island. Universal said they does.

16  
17 I don't think I'll get  
18 through all my page. Somebody will cut me off, I guess,  
19 but what we have to do, I repeat again, is to get something  
20 in place. The Labrador Inuit Association, pardon me,  
21 LIDC, the Labrador Inuit Development Corporation, has,  
22 for a number of years, been trying to get things in place.

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1 And what we need or what we don't need is government  
2 interference. And that's just what LIDC gets, every which  
3 way they turns, is government interference. What we need  
4 to be able to do is to get our char fishery on the go.  
5 What they're doing up there right now is there is a program  
6 in place, an experimental program. They are taking the  
7 eggs from our char on the Fraser River, if I'm correct,  
8 and somewhere on the mainland they're experimenting. Do  
9 that give us a chance? Do that give Labrador Inuit  
10 Association, Inuit Development Corporation a chance to  
11 get the char fishery off the ground? They're doomed before  
12 they start. They're playing the almighty price of five  
13 cents an egg when they should be paying twenty-five cents  
14 an egg, and I would say a lot, lot more than that. Because  
15 there again, it's nothing but a giveaway. Everything is  
16 being given away or taken. You don't have no choice.  
17 You haven't got a choice. The electricity is going out.  
18 Iron ore is going out. The revenues that went from Labrador  
19 since that started. I can remember when there was nothing  
20 there but sticks. Low level flying. The revenues are  
21 going into DND or whoever for the use of that base. And  
22 we're scraping and looking around for make-work projects

StenoTran

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1 to put our people back to work? What we have to do is  
2 get this organization off the ground. They comes under  
3 the same regulations as I do because LIDC is a private  
4 enterprise. So if they go to ACOA or to  
5 Newfoundland-Labrador Enterprise, which is one and the  
6 same, they have to put up their monies before they'll get  
7 any returns. And yet the state of the fishery is unreal.  
8 There's nothing. What we have to do in that respect is  
9 to ban all dragging. All dragging has to be stopped.  
10 What we do then, this middle distance fleet, before we  
11 send that to the junk yard is put them out there to clean  
12 up the nets, the cod nets, the gill nets, that have been  
13 lost or left intentionally because of a government program  
14 years ago that if you lost your gear, it would be replaced.  
15 If they use them to clean the bottom up out there, then  
16 we ban all gill nets, we ban all Japanese cod traps, we  
17 go back to the old way of fishing where you used the jigger,  
18 the cod trap and the trawl. It's not the inshore  
19 fishermen, ladies and gentlemen, that have overfished and  
20 certainly not the part-time fishermen. What we have here  
21 is modern technology and nobody cares because you put out  
22 your dragnet and when once the size of the fish goes down,

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1 when you hauls your net in, there's nothing into them.  
2 So what we do is we turn around and we put a liner in.  
3 And then we catch a bit smaller. We've got down to now  
4 where a couple of weeks ago they were selling them in  
5 Scotland under nine inches, what we call rounders. The  
6 fish that we have salted on the boat for the winter years  
7 ago, that's what they're getting. Now how can we expect  
8 for that to spawn? Red fish lives to be the ripe old age  
9 of 75. We cannot afford to overfish species like that.  
10 Our shrimp draggers, all that is kicked overboard. This  
11 by-catch. We have to save our by-catch. So what we do,  
12 we save the inshore fishery by not closing down the inshore  
13 fishery. How many years since the man in Nain made a living  
14 from the cod fishery? How many years since he made a living  
15 in Hopedale from the cod fishery? Postville? A couple  
16 of years ago, here, and in Rigolet, the same thing. And  
17 you go the length of this coast and around the island as  
18 well. It's because of the dragger. Nobody cares about  
19 the inshore fishermen.

20 When Goose Bay lost the  
21 chance to have the NATO base, politicians were going right,  
22 left and center. Bill Romkey went over to Turkey. Who

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1 went to bat for the Labrador fishermen, the inshore  
2 fishermen? Nobody. Nobody cared. Why should they care?  
3 It's only a couple of fellows with an open boat with a  
4 45 or 50 horsepower motor on the back end of her. We don't  
5 care about the environment or what's happening. Since  
6 I've been on this panel, especially the last few days,  
7 last week, I received phone calls from the island and from  
8 elsewhere. "Ted, it's been a long time since we've been  
9 talking to you. You're on the right track. You didn't  
10 go to Rio. We respect your decision." I said "I do not  
11 move with the wind. This is where and how we show where  
12 it's blowing." I go by my gut feeling regardless who tells  
13 me what I should do or I shouldn't do. And that's the only  
14 way.

15 Newfoundland and Labrador  
16 Enterprise or Enterprise Newfoundland, whatever they call  
17 it, they are the same as ACOA. It's useless to go to them  
18 because they'll set up a business on this side of the road  
19 and they'll walk over to that side and they set up the  
20 same one. It's not only happening in Labrador, it's  
21 happening right throughout the province. How can we?  
22 We have to work together. If Ted Andersen is going to

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1 be into a business, he has to create something whereby  
2 the little corner store or whatever you want to call it  
3 is going to benefit. If I do well, they do well. If they  
4 do well, I do well. It's not that I've got to have  
5 everything myself. I got to run it all. I've got to be  
6 the little God in Makkovik. No way.

7 I guess I could go on and  
8 on, but the thing that really, really inspired me, I guess,  
9 is the way to put it is the 45 letters that I received  
10 from that school in Cartwright. Here is the men and women  
11 of tomorrow. They're looking at an education. They hope  
12 to do well and I wish them well. But if they want to stay  
13 in Labrador, I see nothing for them. How can there be  
14 when every obstacle is thrown in people's way to get ahead?

15 We're not looking for handouts because every cent that  
16 comes our way should be taxed on the power going to Quebec.

17 I'd love to be Prime Minister of Newfoundland or Canada  
18 for one day. Just give me time to get from the  
19 Confederation Building to Churchill Falls and pull that  
20 switch. And I'd do it in midwinter and let them know what  
21 it's like when you've got to try and support your family.

22 You see people around you. I can tell you right now,

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1 I can count on one hand, if the fishery is not brought  
2 back and nothing is put in place, I can count on one hand  
3 the people that's going to be working in Makkovik and you're  
4 not looking at one right now. I will be on Social  
5 Assistance. I'm not ashamed to say it because it is no  
6 fault of ours. But what they have to do is forget their  
7 payments six months to a year from now. What we go to  
8 do is put something in place and there's no better than  
9 the people in the area to know what's needed. We know what  
10 we want. Give our young fellows a chance and our young  
11 women, not to forget them, of course. They know what they  
12 want.

13 I don't know if I said more  
14 or less than what I wrote here. It really doesn't matter.

15 It's just that it is frustrating when you know you feel  
16 helpless. Somebody said "You must feel good when you  
17 received them letters." I said "I guess so, but I also  
18 feel helpless."

19 **CO-CHAIR MR. RENE**

20 **DUSSAULT:** Thank you very much. I think you conveyed very  
21 well your feelings and also the frustration that you've  
22 been through during those years. What is important is

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1 in your message, I think, is the fact that you're  
2 forward-looking. If I understand the thrust of your  
3 message as far as economic development is concerned, it  
4 has to do with the way the programs are built where money  
5 has to be available at the outset to have a chance to do  
6 something, and the chance is not there first. This has  
7 to do with the way the various government programs work  
8 at the moment. And we're certainly going to have a look  
9 at it, because we know too well the link that is between  
10 education and economic development and the cultural  
11 aspects. They're all linked together. And in fact we share  
12 your concerns and we hope that we will be able to come  
13 with proposals that will go to the route, and not only  
14 on a piecemeal basis because we feel that the solutions  
15 have to get good policies instead of bad policies. There  
16 is a frame of mind that will have to be changed and your  
17 contribution is certainly helpful for your community and  
18 for us also.

19 We hope that we will not  
20 disappoint you at the end of our work, but what is more  
21 important is that government will act upon our  
22 recommendations and that's why it is important that your

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1 message come across and that when I talked this morning  
2 about the public education process, because people live  
3 their life and very often do not realize what's happening  
4 besides them. And it's one of the problems in this  
5 country, aboriginal peoples, and in particular with  
6 Labrador. So I don't have much else to say at this point,  
7 but we are going to come back to Labrador and give some  
8 thinking about it and I hope we'll have an opportunity  
9 to exchange again.

10 **MR. TED ANDERSEN:** I say  
11 again, we are not looking for handouts.

12 **CO-CHAIR MR. RENE**

13 **DUSSAULT:** No, I understand that.

14 **MR. TED ANDERSEN:** We are  
15 not looking for something for nothing, but see, programs  
16 that is set up for other areas, and see, it's our lifestyle  
17 that is different. Our culture is different. And if that  
18 could be looked at, then maybe our people can go to work.

19 **CO-CHAIR MR. RENE**

20 **DUSSAULT:** Thank you very much.

21 **COMMISSIONER MARY SILLETT:**

22 Thanks a lot, Ted.

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1 **MR. NEIL ANDERSEN,**

2 **FACILITATOR:** Thank you, Mr. Andersen. Our next speaker  
3 is one of our out-of-town guests Aba Kojak from Nain and  
4 he will be discussing resettlement. I would recommend  
5 that everyone get a headset for translation. Mr. Kojak  
6 will be doing his presentation in Inuktitut.

7 **MR. ABA KOJAK (NAIN)**

8 **RESETTLEMENT:** \* [INUKTITUT - NO TRANSLATION AVAILABLE  
9 2:45 - 2:51 p.m.]

10 **CO-CHAIR MR. RENE**

11 **DUSSAULT:** Thank you. I would just to like to know a bit  
12 more about the context of the relocation. I understand,  
13 you made a comparison when you mentioned that some have  
14 been compensated up to \$50,000. You were talking about  
15 people coming from where? I'm not clear, with whom you  
16 compared when you mentioned that some individuals got  
17 \$50,000 as compensation, it was not the same resettlement  
18 that was involved in Nain? I'm not clear about the  
19 context.

20 **MR. ABA KOJAK:**

21 **\*\*Inuktitut** [no translation available]

22 **CO-CHAIR MR. RENE**

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1 **DUSSAULT:** Thank you very much.

2 **MR. NEIL ANDERSEN,**

3 **FACILITATOR:** Thank you, Mr. Kojak. Our next presenter  
4 will be Gary Baikie.

5 **MR. GARY BAIKIE, (NAIN)**

6 I think there's been a mistake. You'll notice that on  
7 the agenda that I'm down for language and culture. Also  
8 Rita Andersen is down for language and culture and we  
9 planned on presenting together and we still plan on  
10 presenting together. And so what we're going to do is  
11 present together this evening in her time slot.

12 **CO-CHAIR MR. RENE**

13 **DUSSAULT:** So we can move to the next speaker.

14 **MR. NEIL ANDERSEN,**

15 **FACILITATOR:** Our next presenter is Tim McNeill.

16 **MR. TIM MCNEILL, EDUCATION**

17 **(REGIONAL):** My name is Tim McNeill and I work with the  
18 Labrador Inuit Association. I have a tendency sometimes  
19 when I'm speaking to start speaking very fast, and I would  
20 appreciate it if someone would give me some signals when  
21 that starts happening.

22 One of the reasons that I



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1 talk fast is because I believe that life is very short  
2 and I want to get the most out of it.

3 **COMMISSIONER MARY SILLETT:**

4 You're the same way as I am.

5 **MR. TIM MCNEILL:** I'm  
6 going to talk just generally on some points on the topic  
7 of education, but before I did, I wanted to say a few things  
8 on some of my feelings on Royal Commissions. I've appeared  
9 a number of times before Royal Commissions and I understand  
10 the process that government is going through when they  
11 put Royal Commissions in place. Before other Royal  
12 Commissions I've spent time preparing so that my  
13 presentation was understandable and made sense. I was  
14 always taught also as a child that when you go before a  
15 large group of people you try and dress properly and behave  
16 properly, however, because I've had the experience of  
17 standing before Royal Commissions and not always seeing  
18 the results coming afterwards that over the years I've  
19 tended to be a bit pessimistic. I've, to a certain extent,  
20 lost some faith. So when I picked out my shirt today that  
21 I would put on for coming before the Royal Commission,  
22 I very intentionally picked the one with the big hole in

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1 the pocket. If I can see more results from this Commission  
2 than I have from others, the next time I appear before  
3 a Royal Commission, I'll wear a shirt without a hole in  
4 it.

5 I'd like to say something  
6 first on secondary education. I would then move on to  
7 some points on poor secondary education and just then some  
8 general comments on education.

9 The Inuit of Labrador are  
10 in a particular situation because history has put them  
11 there. When Newfoundland joined Confederation, the  
12 responsibility, which, I guess, before that lay in really  
13 no one's hands but our own, was passed to the province.  
14 Because we are a provincial responsibility to a certain  
15 extent, we also have to trust to the provincial government  
16 to deliver some of our education services. And that puts  
17 us in a particular situation which is different than some  
18 of the other aboriginal groups across Canada, actually  
19 most of them. Money for the education going into other  
20 aboriginal groups in many cases would be flowing directly  
21 from the federal government to the band or aboriginal  
22 group.

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1                   In our case, the dollars  
2 flow from the federal government to the provincial  
3 Department of Education. From there the money flows into  
4 the school board. And we have no say over how that  
5 educational money is spent. We have a committee in place  
6 on which people from the communities as well as the school  
7 board sits, but really we do not have any control. And  
8 even though I guess I could sit here for all day and I  
9 could pick at little things about teacher housing, I could  
10 talk about language in the school, I could talk about the  
11 curriculum, I could talk about teacher training, I can  
12 talk about all those things, and we can make efforts to  
13 work on them. But the bottom line is that we'd be doing  
14 a lot of work picking at a lot of small thing without really  
15 having control. The bottom line is that we need control  
16 in order for us to put in place an educational system that  
17 will not only meet the needs of the aboriginal people of  
18 Labrador so that we can meet our own training needs, but  
19 that we can also prepare our children for the future.  
20 We have to have control of education.

21                   Curriculum in this  
22 province is, I guess, really not much different than



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1 If there's a decision to hire a new social worker through  
2 Social Services, they don't have any housing problems.  
3 And I think it is time for the Department of Education  
4 to have a serious look at teacher housing.

5 The language of  
6 instruction in the school, there has been some progress  
7 made in that area, particularly in Nain where we have a  
8 first language instruction program from kindergarten to  
9 three. But again, one of the barriers is the fact that  
10 we don't have enough native teachers trained so that we  
11 can expand on those programs.

12 And it was mentioned this  
13 morning, the Royal Commission on Education that I just  
14 thought I would bring this book with me. And this is  
15 exactly the summary here and the full report here. And  
16 you can see it's a very, very fat book. One would think  
17 that it would have a lot of good things in it. We had  
18 people coming from all the communities into Nain in March  
19 of last year to make submissions to this book. We took  
20 people from different communities into Nain in March of  
21 last year to appear before the Royal Commission on  
22 Education and we put in a lot of good recommendations for

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1 how we thought we could control our education and how we  
2 needed to control it and why we needed to control it.  
3 It's interesting to note that in here they have 211  
4 recommendations. But if you look closely at the  
5 recommendations to see which of them apply directly to  
6 us and were our recommendations, you will find five, five  
7 only. That's why I get upset and I get depressed when I  
8 have to appear before Royal Commissions.

9                                   Teacher training, as I've  
10 mentioned already is a problem. It's mentioned in here,  
11 and actually, if I could just read you the section. If  
12 you just read the recommendation, it doesn't really give  
13 you the impact, however, if you read some of the material  
14 that's written leading up to the recommendation, it says:  
15 "If there are worthwhile characteristics in native  
16 teacher education programs, and if, as submissions argue,  
17 there is merit to having qualified native teachers in the  
18 classrooms in native communities, then greater attention  
19 must be given to the education of natives who aspire to  
20 be teachers." Even though we told them and we made it  
21 very clear and we argued, I thought, very well, that we  
22 needed more native teachers, they're saying "If it's

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1 worthwhile."

2   The money, again, that's  
3 being spent on teacher education in Labrador is flowing  
4 through the Canada and Newfoundland Inuit agreement and  
5 again we have no control. We sit at the back of the room  
6 and we listen as they discuss how the money is going to  
7 be spent. We see no audited statement of how the  
8 university or how the Department of Education spends that  
9 money on teacher training. We see no audit whatsoever.

10 I have no idea how they spend the money.

11   If I can just move on to  
12 post-secondary education. As you may be aware, the  
13 Department of Indian and Northern Affairs introduced a  
14 new policy in April of '89 and what was happening with  
15 the program was that the number of aboriginal people who  
16 were coming forward looking for an education was increasing  
17 very, very rapidly, so the Department of Indian and  
18 Northern Affairs decided that they would put a ceiling  
19 on it. And by putting a ceiling on, it means that at some  
20 point in time you eventually have to turn students away.

21 The question I have to ask though is that really what  
22 is the federal obligation when it comes to post-secondary





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1 into fields that we cannot fund them because it's a federal  
2 program, federal regulations, and we have to follow them.  
3 Another area I'd just like  
4 to touch on is the area of occupational skills. There  
5 was a program at one point in time that would allow an  
6 association such as ours to have access to occupational  
7 skills training dollars. So if we wanted to fund a student  
8 into, say, a beauty culture course or a welding course  
9 or whatever, we could do that. But it was very  
10 short-lived. By the time we had access to the program,  
11 the government was on the edge then of getting rid of the  
12 program. As far as I can find now, the money is now being  
13 directed through CEIC and through Pathways. The office  
14 in Happy Valley, (the air conditioning is working well  
15 here). The office in Happy Valley through the Pathways  
16 programs accesses approximately \$830,000 and that is money  
17 that could be used for occupational skills training. And  
18 even though it's under the heading of Pathways, it's CEIC  
19 based dollars, so we have no control over how that money  
20 is spent. So we do not make the decisions as to whether  
21 that \$830,000 that's supposedly for aboriginal people is  
22 used to put people into welding or beauty culture or word



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1 only now being realized. And we're going to have a very  
2 difficult time unless we can get some support from  
3 government to get programs in place so we can make our  
4 language stronger.

5 In closing then, the  
6 solutions are really very easy. All that we ask is that  
7 we be treated like human beings, that we be given a little  
8 bit of respect, that we have our abilities respected.  
9 We have brains and we have determination and we can do  
10 anything as anyone else can. It's just that there's a  
11 lot of people out there, a lot of Canadians who don't think  
12 that we can. We've proven time and time again that given  
13 the opportunity, we can perform as well as any other  
14 Canadian. I think with the land claims process, if we  
15 can get it moving again, eventually self government, I  
16 think that's where our opportunity lies. That's all I  
17 have to say, thank you.

18 **CO-CHAIR MR. RENE**

19 **DUSSAULT:** Thank you very much for providing us with a fairly  
20 comprehensive view of the present situation on education.

21 I have a couple of questions. The first one is this:  
22 I understand that there are students that would like to

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1 become teachers, to do some post secondary training and  
2 can't do it because money is not available. I'm talking  
3 about native persons, native students. Am I right in  
4 thinking that, because this morning we discussed also the  
5 concern that has been expressed about getting young people  
6 to have post-secondary education and training. So coming  
7 back to my question, as far as training teachers for  
8 aboriginal communities from native teachers, is the  
9 problem more a problem of money than a problem of  
10 availability of young people to go and get the training?

11 Where do they have to go to get the training here? Do  
12 they have to go to St. John's?

13 **MR. MCNEIL:** If I can just  
14 say something that will respond to that, ordinarily if  
15 a person is coming from high school from one of our  
16 communities and they're interested in becoming a teacher,  
17 as long as they're willing to travel to St. John's, or  
18 travel to some major university, there's very little  
19 difficulty with money. We have, under our program, we can  
20 fund them to do that. The difficulty, however, is we still  
21 have some difficulty getting people from the coastal  
22 communities into those universities, not only the

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1 difficulty of getting them accepted, but also the  
2 difficulty of convincing the student that it's a good idea  
3 to train. The teacher education program in Labrador, what  
4 they have tried to do is to train the teacher in Labrador,  
5 so instead of the student going to the university, the  
6 university comes to the student. Now that program has  
7 been running for about ten years. We have a number of  
8 students who have progressed through the program to the  
9 diploma level, which is the 20 credit diploma, however  
10 the funding for that program is limited. Through the  
11 Native Peoples Agreement, it's approximately \$130,000 a  
12 year. And again, we don't have control of those dollars.  
13 That's decided by the university.

14 **CO-CHAIR MR. RENE**

15 **DUSSAULT:** But the dollars that are put into the teacher  
16 education program, that is performed in Labrador?

17 **MR. MCNEILL:** Uh-huh.

18 **CO-CHAIR MR. RENE**

19 **DUSSAULT:** If we come back to the first aspect, because  
20 looking at the coming decade, there are a number of young  
21 people that will come out of the secondary school, and  
22 what is your association and in particular your branch

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1 concern with education is what do you feel should be done  
2 to help the young people to accept going outside the  
3 communities to get their training, because you've  
4 mentioned, well, there's no problem of money then. And  
5 I understand that we have to work on both aspects, but  
6 you certainly have given thought to that aspect. How could  
7 young people be convinced to go out and get their training  
8 and come back and take these positions within the  
9 communities as native teachers?

10 **MR. MCNEILL:** I have to  
11 make sure that you have a clear understanding that, if  
12 now if it's programs that is two years or longer in  
13 duration, in most cases we can fund them. If it's shorter  
14 than that, then there's really nothing we can do. We have  
15 to send them to CEIC or Pathways or Canadian Futures or  
16 whatever. A lot of students would prefer to do the  
17 training within their own communities. And that's  
18 something that's been tried and it's being done and it  
19 seems to be working very well. But it's also slower  
20 because quite often you have to do it using a modular  
21 approach and that usually quite often takes a longer time.  
22



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1 you feel, because when we think about self government and  
2 we think about education and the links between the two,  
3 what do you feel could be done? Because I understand at  
4 this point that the federal government is taking the  
5 decisions, and maybe I should start that way. Is there  
6 any consultation within an association like yours from  
7 the part of the federal government on the programs, where  
8 the money should go? Is there something that is built  
9 into the process?

10 **MR. MCNEILL:** I'm not  
11 quite sure if I understand.

12 **CO-CHAIR MR. RENE**

13 **DUSSAULT:** Well, you mention many times that, well, the  
14 money was redirected to Pathways, for example, instead  
15 of occupational skills. And that you were not consulted.  
16 And I just want to understand what kind of a relationship  
17 does the federal government, making those decisions, have  
18 with an organization like yours in terms of planning?  
19 Do you have an output in those decisions or are they all  
20 made from the department in Ottawa?

21 **MR. MCNEILL:** I would say  
22 that most of them would be made without our consultation.



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1 Quite often they would consult with the national  
2 aboriginal groups, for example, with ITC. ITC was a part  
3 of the discussions on Pathways. However, we're a long  
4 way from ITC in Ottawa and they have a large area to cover.

5 **CO-CHAIR MR. RENE**

6 **DUSSAULT:** So is the problem a problem--why is ITC allowing  
7 you to be consulted or consulting with you before giving  
8 advice to the government?

9 **MR. MCNEILL:** I think the  
10 difficulty is that regardless of what ITC consultation's  
11 is or what the recommendation to government is, you will  
12 have difficulties in all regions, in all regions of  
13 northern Canada with all Inuit groups, and one of the  
14 difficulties is that they still don't have local control.

15 We would like to have the control take from CEIC and put  
16 in our hands. And one of the difficulties is they still  
17 don't have local control. We would like to have the  
18 control taken from CEIC and put in our hands. And then  
19 we'll have the problem solved, whereas regardless of what  
20 ITC's recommendations are, EIC will still have it set up  
21 within the EIC structure. What we're saying is that that's  
22 not the structure that will work. The structure that will

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1 work is one whereby we have control. For example, if we  
2 were to act as a coordinating group where we would decide  
3 as a coordinating group, if we had that status, we would  
4 then make the decision as to where the funding for direct  
5 purchase of seats would be made. We would make those  
6 decisions. And that's the kind of direct control that  
7 we need.

8 **CO-CHAIR MR. RENE**

9 **DUSSAULT:** And has that request been put to the federal  
10 government many times or--

11 **MR. MCNEILL:** It has,  
12 yeah, and we've actually had applications go in to  
13 government and a the response back is that Pathways is  
14 now the process we've set up for you and they are very  
15 wary on making decisions in that area because of the new  
16 labour force development boards coming on stream. And  
17 they're not quite sure how that will be interacting with  
18 Pathways.

19 **COMMISSIONER MARY SILLETT:**

20 If I may just have a clarification at this point. You  
21 know, with Pathways, the intent of that program was to  
22 give the decision-making power to the local community.

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1 In the case of Newfoundland and Labrador and in the case  
2 of Labrador specifically, how is that working?

3 **MR. MCNEILL:** Mary, I am  
4 not a full member on the board. I act only as alternate  
5 on the local Pathways management board. And I think I would  
6 probably be the wrong person to ask because, of all the  
7 board members, I'm probably the one that has the most  
8 problems with the Pathways process. Looking back at the  
9 original documents and the intentions of Pathways, what's  
10 happening with Pathways is not what was originally  
11 intended.

12 **COMMISSIONER MARY SILLETT:**  
13 I think it's better in some areas than others. I know,  
14 for example, in the Northwest Territories, they do have  
15 actually local people on a certain board making decisions  
16 that where training dollars will go.

17 **MR. MCNEILL:** I will say  
18 that it's better than it was, but I don't always like  
19 better, I would prefer best.

20 **COMMISSIONER MARY SILLETT:**  
21 I'm not finished but you know, I'm always the last. I  
22 got waited until last because I'm the youngest and I'm

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1 tired of it. I'm tired and I'm going to ask questions.  
2 To be very brief, o.k. because there's a lot of people  
3 to speak. But Timmy, just two questions basically. One  
4 of them is looking at Labrador historically. There was  
5 a time when all the people from the coast used to have  
6 to go to Northwest River to finish high school. That  
7 wasn't, you know, that changed. High schools were in the  
8 communities and, you know, that was supposed to keep  
9 children in school until they finished Grade 12. And  
10 then, you know, I understand that there is a lot more people  
11 going to university these days than there was when we went  
12 to university. That's why all the money that you have  
13 for education sometimes is gone. I was just wondering,  
14 from your point of view, have you seen any changes, for  
15 example, is it better that there is high schools now on  
16 the coast? Are kids finishing high school? Is there more  
17 kids going to university? Are there a lot of kids going  
18 to university? You know, that kind of thing. That's my  
19 first question.

20 **MR. MCNEILL:** Mary,  
21 there's a lot more students going to university now and  
22 to colleges than when we were going. I think we were a

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1 pretty rare species at the time in the early seventies  
2 when we started university. There is a lot more students  
3 going now and I think you can see some improvements in  
4 the students' education because they're being education  
5 in their own home community. It's not only in terms of  
6 the education but because now, in the community, they have  
7 the support of their families. In the situation where  
8 Mary is referring to, we would leave in September and we  
9 would be away until Christmas. We would come home for  
10 a short period at Christmas and we would be away again  
11 until June. And during that period we were basically in  
12 orphanages. We were in the orphanage. And you know, with  
13 very little, we had no parental support, strict rules,  
14 and very similar to the federal school system.

15 **COMMISSIONER MARY SILLETT:**

16 I guess you're saying then that there's a lot more kids  
17 finishing high school because the high schools are offered  
18 in the communities now than there would be, for example,  
19 when they were going to the dorm?

20 **MR. MCNEILL:** Yeah, I  
21 think the attitude of a lot of the students that had to  
22 go away from home was that when they left to get high school,

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1 that was their time away from home. And when they were  
2 finished high school, they come home, whereas now they  
3 can complete Grade 12 and going away from home for two  
4 or three years doesn't bother some of them too much. We  
5 still have difficulties getting them out into the centers.  
6 Again, you have to realize that we've only been  
7 administering the program for five years, so it takes a  
8 while for us to change the program where we can to make  
9 it fit our needs or to fit the students needs. When we  
10 were starting to administer this program, there was just  
11 between fifteen and twenty students, and the program, by  
12 the way, was under the Canada and Newfoundland Inuit  
13 agreement. And the budget was about \$150,000 and there  
14 was between fifteen and twenty students. And now we have  
15 up to as high as 180 students and we have a budget of 1.6  
16 million, so obviously we have been doing something right.  
17 We have been doing something better than the government  
18 can do it, more effectively than they've been able to do  
19 it. But it takes us time. It was only last year that  
20 we accessed funding to put a counsellor in place at the  
21 university. That was never available before. It was only  
22 last year that we accessed funding to have a counsellor

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1 travelling into the communities. That was never available  
2 before. So it takes time to get things in place.

3 **COMMISSIONER MARY SILLETT:**

4 The other thing is that you said that you kept on repeating  
5 that you need control of education. I think that, you know,  
6 many people share that point of view. When we were in  
7 Wasanepe\* like Mr. Dussault said, we heard from the James  
8 Bay Cree school board and I was really surprised to hear  
9 about the kinds of problems that they were having, even  
10 though they had some control. I'm just wondering, have  
11 you ever looked at educational or training modules that  
12 you would like to see implemented in Labrador that would  
13 give you the kind of control that you're talking about?

14 Have you ever thought about those kinds of--you know,  
15 what it would look like if you could have it.

16 **MR. MCNEILL:** First, I  
17 guess I should make clear, Mary, that when we do control,  
18 we're not saying that there's immediately going to be big  
19 changes. Regardless of who is running the education  
20 system in Labrador or in northern Labrador, we're going  
21 to have problems. The problem is the Canadian problem.  
22 Thirty-five percent of students in Canada are not

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1 completing high school. Thirty-five percent of  
2 first-year students in universities across Canada are  
3 failing, so the problem we have in Labrador is not only  
4 a Labrador problem, it's a Canadian problem.

5                   There are other areas,  
6 however, that we think that we can better prepare these  
7 people, not only academically, but also socially and  
8 culturally, for their journey through life. Sometimes  
9 it's not how well you know your world geography or how  
10 well you know your world history that will get you through  
11 life and will make you successful. It's how much self  
12 esteem you have, how much confidence you have in yourself.  
13 And that is an area where we think we can work on our  
14 students.

15                   But we have looked at other  
16 models across Canada and not all of them are really very  
17 much different than what we have now. There are slight  
18 differences, but you know, when the time came, if we were  
19 given the control, we would certainly put in what we thought  
20 was the best.

21                   **CO-CHAIR MR. RENE**

22 **DUSSAULT:** Any other questions?



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1 **COMMISSIONER MARY SILLETT:**

2 No.

3 **CO-CHAIR MR. RENE**

4 **DUSSAULT:** Thank you very much for your presentation.  
5 I think we're going to break for coffee for ten to fifteen  
6 minutes and then we'll resume afterwards. Thank you.

7 ---Hearing is recessed at 1532

8 ---Upon resuming at 1550

9 **MR. NEIL ANDERSEN,**

10 **FACILITATOR:** I believe we're about ready to start again.

11 I would just like to remind everybody, we are running  
12 a bit behind schedule and if you could keep your comments  
13 within your fifteen-minute time limit, please. Our next  
14 presenter is Pastor Stanley Reid with the Crime Prevention  
15 Committee.

16 **CO-CHAIR MR. RENE**

17 **DUSSAULT:** Good afternoon.

18 **PASTOR STANLEY REID, CRIME**

19 **PREVENTION COMMITTEE:** Thank you. I'd like to thank you  
20 for the opportunity of making this presentation this  
21 afternoon. Mr. Chairman, Committee members, Commission  
22 members, all that are present, I would like to make a

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1 presentation on behalf of the Makkovik Crime Prevention  
2 Committee, of which I'm a member, and also a committee  
3 representative for the Community Council, of which I'm  
4 also a councillor. I feel a little awkward in making this  
5 presentation today as I am not a member of any aboriginal  
6 group, unless you consider being a Newfie one. And that  
7 has been a thing in the past. I'm an ordained minister  
8 for the Pentecostal Assemblies of Newfoundland and  
9 Labrador, and in my capacity, I have ministered to the  
10 peoples of Labrador for six years. I am also the  
11 precipitator for the north coast which involves the  
12 communities of Postville, Makkovik, Hopedale and Nain.  
13 We have pastors in these churches, but I am the overseer.

14

15 My concern for this  
16 community and for the communities along the coast is the  
17 lack of policing by the RCMP. We find this to be very  
18 unacceptable. Having lived in this community for the past  
19 three years, I see a great need for policing. There is  
20 an excessive amount of vandalism which occurs in the  
21 community that is never dealt with and the folk involved  
22 know that it's not going to be dealt with because when

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1 wanted to make this very brief presentation to you today  
2 to notify you of that. Thank you.

3 **CO-CHAIR MR. RENE**

4 **DUSSAULT:** I would like just to ask a question as to what  
5 is in place most of the time when the RCMP is not visiting  
6 to keep public order? Is there a structure within the  
7 community or?

8 **PASTOR REID:** No, not  
9 really. All we have is some members of the church who  
10 try to deal with situations as they--particularly the hotel  
11 service, for that is basically what the situation is in  
12 the town. And it's been as high as three months, in my  
13 three years in the community, it's been as high as three  
14 months in between visits of the RCMP into this community  
15 with absolutely no policing in the interim period.

16 **CO-CHAIR MR. RENE**

17 **DUSSAULT:** And what is the rate of offences in this  
18 community? For example, you've mentioned, of course, this  
19 was a major event, the murder, but what is the situation?

20 **PASTOR REID:** Makkovik is  
21 one of the quieter, if I can use that term, communities  
22 along the coast, but still we find that the events of

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1 vandalism have been steadily on the increase, and getting  
2 a little more serious all the time. Petty crimes, as the  
3 term is used. Major offences are very, very minimal, but  
4 yet we find that when there is the presence of the RCMP  
5 within the community, that everything quietens down even  
6 tremendously more than when they are not present.

7 **MR. NEIL ANDERSEN,**

8 **FACILITATOR:** Thank you, Pastor Reid. Our next  
9 presentation is Henry Bloomfield, Rigolet, with regards  
10 to the Native Peoples Agreement.

11 **MR. HENRY BROOMFIELD,**

12 **(RIGOLET) NATIVE PEOPLES AGREEMENT:** My name is Henry  
13 Broomfield. I'm the mayor of Rigolet. We're the southern  
14 most community in northern Labrador.

15 And I'm going to give a  
16 brief overview on the Native Peoples Agreement funding  
17 agreement. There's a funding arrangement for the Inuit  
18 of Labrador. Through this arrangement, the federal  
19 government is supposedly exercising their fiduciary  
20 responsibility to the Inuit of Labrador. The problems  
21 that are associated with this arrangement are  
22 insurmountable. The current plan expires in 1994. The

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1 monies made available are insufficient to operate the  
2 communities. The money is distributed in such a way that  
3 the councils are operating each quarter on bank overdrafts.

4 This is very expensive. This current year, for some  
5 unexplainable reason, the communities were able to get  
6 60 percent of the funds in the first quarter. The  
7 council--I forgot to tell you that I speak fast too. The  
8 councils are usually in a deficit situation by year's end.

9 This is because administration dollars have to be taken  
10 for such things as unforeseen repairs to equipment, roads,  
11 rising hydro and heating costs, et cetera, et cetera.

12 If there ever is an increase, there are provincial  
13 government departments waiting with well-planned  
14 proposals for the increases that they never knew were  
15 coming. Councils are forced to bargain with and against  
16 each other and the respective governments. The situation  
17 is very frustrating and demeaning. We are told that the  
18 decisions are made by the councils, yet the provincial  
19 government co-chair has veto power. He alone can and do  
20 overturn decisions that councils make.

21 The so-called management  
22 committee of the Inuit Peoples Agreement meets four times



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1 a year to review financial statements and budgets.  
2 Minutes for these meetings are improperly kept and in some  
3 cases persons who are supposed to be present at the meeting  
4 have not been notified. We have never seen a financial  
5 statement or budget for the government-owned stores, even  
6 though the statements are requested. We are told that  
7 the particular department does not have to provide the  
8 statement because the province gets in ten percent of the  
9 funds. Usually when it's time to bargain, the councils  
10 do not have the information on the amount of money available  
11 until the meeting. The province says they are in the same  
12 boat, and when they say how much the province share will  
13 be, it's exactly ten percent of all available funds. We  
14 are being taken for a ride on this agreement. It should  
15 be scrapped and the Inuit of Labrador should have access  
16 to an alternative funding arrangements that other Inuit  
17 of Canada enjoy.

18 This report will  
19 concentrate on deficiencies in the funding agreement as  
20 they pertain to Rigolet, but we would like to point out  
21 that the situation in all the Inuit communities is similar  
22 and in some cases, some communities are worse off than



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1 the summer. This is very bad for the spread of germs and  
2 disease.

3 I have appendix 1 and 2 if  
4 anybody wants to see it.

5 We used to deliver water  
6 from a deep-drilled artisan well, but over this past  
7 winter, we found out that fluoride levels at the well  
8 fluctuated and at times the fluoride level was three or  
9 four times the recommended level for consumption, so we  
10 had to close the well. Now water is delivered from our  
11 local pump supply. This water is very dirty, especially  
12 this time of the year. There are many benefits of having  
13 a good water and sewer system, including health risks would  
14 be lowered, the quality of water would be improved. There  
15 would be more opportunity for residents to enter into  
16 business ventures. The community council would save  
17 money. The number of dumps in our community would be less.  
18 Food costs would be lowered. These are some of the  
19 benefits we could and should be enjoying. Having no water  
20 and sewer system is degrading and holds communities back.  
21 The government has invested millions of dollars in  
22 Rigolet. We also feel that we need water and sewer and

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1 and we all still have only 18 homes on the system.

2 We also feel that we need  
3 to mention the engineering costs for the system. The fees  
4 are exorbitant. The communities have tried to have  
5 inquiries set up regarding these fees, but we are told  
6 that the fees are standard.

7 I'll move on to council  
8 needs. Council chambers. The Rigolet Community Council  
9 building is depleted. Its exterior walls are made from  
10 substandard material and are rotting. There's no vapour  
11 barrier or house wrap. It's covered by an old substance  
12 called [donna conna?] That's covered with clapboard.  
13 The building was built in the early 1970s and the concrete  
14 foundation is cracked from the ground shifting during the  
15 mild and cold spells in the winter months. The interior  
16 has three small office spaces, the council chambers and  
17 is in the recreation area. The washroom facilities are  
18 next to the council chambers and is very public. Oftentime  
19 the employees are embarrassed and usually go home and use  
20 the washroom in privacy. The washroom has no sink, no noise  
21 barrier. The council made attempts this past fall to  
22 upgrade our building and in doing so only found more rot

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1 people from attending such things as Family Night? These  
2 alcohol-free events are helping our people and council  
3 feels that the more people that attend these functions,  
4 the better off our community will be. To help some of  
5 these problems we face, we are now proposing an extension  
6 to the community hall and building a new council complex  
7 for the community council and LIAC and LIDAT. The  
8 fisheries have offices located in the same building.

9 I'll move on to dumps. The  
10 Rigolet dump site is deplorable. It needs to be fenced.

11 We also need equipment capable of burying our garbage.

12 The access road to our dump site is not accessible in  
13 the fall and spring. There is a steep hill that needs  
14 to be climbed to get to our dumping area. We also have  
15 a number of old dump sites that residents used to use prior  
16 to the designated dumping area.

17 Equipment, throughout this  
18 presentation, the word equipment was mentioned in the parts  
19 about water and sewer, dumps, road, et cetera. All the  
20 councils on the coast are in desperate need of bigger and  
21 better heavy equipment to maintain services.

22 In Rigolet, we need a



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1 Again, council has done some repairs to the hall but ran  
2 out of money before the repairs could be completed.

3 On the roads and equipment,  
4 the roads in Rigolet are in desperate shape. There are  
5 potholes and every spring there are floods that wash away  
6 the gravel surface. The potholes are filled up but as  
7 soon as it rains, the sand is washed away and we are faced  
8 with the holes again. This is a never ending struggle.  
9 The council equipment is too small to handle the workload.

10 At the present time our dump truck has all its spring  
11 broken. Our backhoe is too small. It is meant for farmers,  
12 not for the job we need done. At the present time the  
13 backhoe has its stabilizing brakes broken. We replaced  
14 the bucket and teeth. If our backhoe has to go to clean  
15 off the dump, it always has a flat tire. With our water  
16 and sewer system, the backhoe cannot reach down deep enough  
17 to reach main lines and in the winter it would be impossible  
18 to dig up the frozen water main. With more and more people  
19 looking for to improve their property and install septic  
20 systems, there is more pressure on council to have  
21 equipment suitable for this.

22 The council needs an

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1 gymnasium and such a thing as a ballpark and swimming pool.

2 As a matter of fact, people are now trying to swim on  
3 our local reservoir. We have a recreation director who  
4 has a very good program in place, but when the facilities  
5 are not there, the functions that can happen are very  
6 limited. It is quite evident how our communities suffer  
7 when you look at the showing of Rigolet in such things  
8 as the Labrador Winter Games and regional sports meets.

9 Having more recreational facilities would help in our  
10 fight to combat alcohol and drug abuse, as in Rigolet,  
11 the biggest aversion to alcohol is sports.

12 I would like to close on  
13 this point. I wish to thank you for the opportunity to  
14 address these concerns. In closing, I would like again  
15 to stress that these problems are not all the problems  
16 these communities face, but different situations. But  
17 our concerns regarding the Native Peoples Agreement are  
18 the same concerns.

19 One point I want also to  
20 stress is that this funding agreement is deficient in a  
21 lot of areas. It does not provide sufficient dollars for  
22 the operation of our communities. It provides dollars

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1 to another government, the province, to run our affairs.  
2 We want to see the Inuit of Labrador get a fair and just  
3 arrangement that lets us make decisions about our future.

4 **CO-CHAIR MR. RENE**

5 **DUSSAULT:** Thank you very much. I understand that you have  
6 a written brief?

7 **MR. BROOMFIELD:** Yeah.

8 **CO-CHAIR MR. RENE**

9 **DUSSAULT:** Was this prepared for the commission or for  
10 another purpose before?

11 **MR. BROOMFIELD:** We can  
12 make it available to the Commission. We're heading out  
13 to a meeting in St. John's later on this month and we're  
14 going to present the same thing to them.

15 **CO-CHAIR MR. RENE**

16 **DUSSAULT:** So if you could forward us with a copy now or  
17 later in our office because it's a fairly detailed brief.

18 **MR. BROOMFIELD:** O.K.

19 **CO-CHAIR MR. RENE**

20 **DUSSAULT:** Just a question, how many people are living  
21 in Rigolet?

22 **MR. BROOMFIELD:** We have

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1 somewhere about 377.

2 **CO-CHAIR MR. RENE**

3 **DUSSAULT:** So it's about the same size as this community?

4 **MR. BROOMFIELD:** Yeah.

5 **CO-CHAIR MR. RENE**

6 **DUSSAULT:** Thank you very much.

7 **MR. NEIL ANDERSEN,**

8 **FACILITATOR:** Thank you, Mr. Bloomfield. Our next  
9 presenter is Paulus Maggo of Nain. He is one of the Nain  
10 elders.

11 **MR. PAULUS MAGGO, (NAIN)**

12 **ELDERS:** \* Inuktitut [INUKTITUT - NO TRANSLATION AVAILABLE  
13 4:17-4:28 P.M.]

14 **CO-CHAIR MR. RENE**

15 **DUSSAULT:** Thank you very much for sharing your experience  
16 with us. You raise a very difficult issue, and we hope  
17 that at the end of these hearings, we will have some  
18 solutions for trying to make the situation better. We  
19 feel that the problem is larger, more global. Thank you  
20 very much again.

21 **MR. NEIL ANDERSEN,**

22 **FACILITATOR:** Thank you Mr. Maggo. Our next presentation

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1 is from Andrew Boase from Hopedale. I was told that Andrew  
2 is going to spill what little brains he has left.

3 **MR. ANDREW BOASE,**  
4 **(HOPEDALE) RCMP:** Thank you for giving me a chance to  
5 speak. I haven't had time to make a presentation, so I'm  
6 going to say everything just off the top of my head. Over  
7 the past few years I've had a lot of complaints from the  
8 people about the RCMP. Like, they're sort of getting on  
9 their backs and making them, like, they don't know who  
10 to go to or who to turn to, and I'd like to know if there  
11 would be any chances, like, of finding somebody to talk  
12 to, like, get somebody to talk to about the problems that  
13 they're having with the RCMP. Like they continuously  
14 harass them. And it's really hard to, like, say anything  
15 to them, like, because I don't know what to say and I don't  
16 know who to tell them to go to because if you try to go  
17 to the RCMP, they'll only just, like, put it to one side.

18 It's really hard for me to say anything to them because  
19 I don't know who to tell them to go to, and, like, if we  
20 had somebody to talk to, I suppose we could go somewhere  
21 and, like, talk to other people about it, and like, get  
22 the things off their chest, like, what they want them to

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1 hear. I'm really all choked up because it's the first  
2 meeting I've been to and I just don't know what to say  
3 except thank you for giving me this chance to speak about  
4 what people told me to say, like, they want somebody to  
5 talk to. So like I say, it's hard for me. It's the first  
6 conference I've been to.

7 **CO-CHAIR MR. RENE**

8 **DUSSAULT:** Well, thank you for coming to speak to us.  
9 As you have heard, some people today mentioned that or  
10 complained about the fact that there were not sufficient  
11 RCMP officers in this community in particular. On the other  
12 hand, I understand that you're talking about the  
13 relationship that is difficult with the RCMP also. Is  
14 there a permanent RCMP officer in Hopedale?

15 **MR. BOASE:** Yes, there is,  
16 but they seem to, like, don't want to listen to them when  
17 they talk.

18 **CO-CHAIR MR. RENE**

19 **DUSSAULT:** I can't hear you. Could you speak?

20 **MR. BOASE:** They don't  
21 seem to, like, want to listen to them when they tell them  
22 about the harassment, like, some of the RCMPs are doing

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1 to them. We have permanent RCMPs there, but, like, they  
2 just don't want to listen to some of the people that have  
3 complaints about them. And they just shove everything to  
4 one side, like, what a person is complaining about. I've  
5 had quite a few people tell me that over the past five  
6 years about stuff like that. And I just don't know what  
7 to say to them.

8 **COMMISSIONER MARY SILLETT:**  
9 Andrew, thank you very much for your presentation. I'm  
10 glad to see that you've grown up. You were a little boy  
11 the last time I saw you. But I was wondering if maybe  
12 Toby, if, for example, if people do have problems, if you  
13 could help us with this one, if people have problems with  
14 police harassment, who can you write to or who can you  
15 complain to so that there will be an investigation? Is  
16 there someone in Goose Bay you've got to do that to or  
17 what?

18 **MR. TOBY ANDERSEN:** At the  
19 present time there's no real mechanism in place for any  
20 kind of grievance against RCMP, you know, what Boase is  
21 talking about. It's one of the reasons why we've tried  
22 to promote local crime prevention committees such as Pastor

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1 Reid talked about earlier so that some of these kinds of  
2 issues can be brought to the attention of the appropriate  
3 authorities as well, because not only is there a need for  
4 grievance procedures, I think that there's a need for all  
5 around communication and cooperation because what happened  
6 after Confederation when the Department of Justice took  
7 over from the customary law procedures Mr. Maggo talked  
8 about was that they came and enforced and that was it.  
9 "You're natives, you break the law, we're here to correct  
10 that and to put you in jail." And there was no real  
11 communication the way that there should have been. They  
12 say that we're also protectors, if you have a problem.  
13 And I think that's basically where the real problem started  
14 and it's just grown into a worse scenario, you know. So  
15 I think as I said earlier, by putting in place local crime  
16 prevention committees, we hope to be able to deal with  
17 those kinds of problems. Of course, the bottom line is  
18 that it all comes back to a land claim settlement and the  
19 possibility of some arrangements between Labrador Inuit  
20 and the Department of Justice for the greatest extent  
21 possible of local policing.

22

**CO-CHAIR MR. RENE**



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1 **DUSSAULT:** I think you're quite right in saying that these  
2 Prevention Crime Committees are certainly the right forum  
3 to channel those difficulties and complaints and discuss  
4 them with the RCMP to try to get a relationship that is  
5 more attuned to what is expected. Having said that, there  
6 is always the possibility of a complaint under the RCMP  
7 Act. There is a Public Complaint Commission, but this  
8 is a much more formal process. And I think we are more  
9 at the level of the relationship between policing and the  
10 community. Is there such a committee in Hopedale?

11 **MR. TOBY ANDERSEN:** Not  
12 that I know of.

13 **CO-CHAIR MR. RENE**

14 **DUSSAULT:** No?

15 **MR. TOBY ANDERSEN:** No.

16 **CO-CHAIR MR. RENE**

17 **DUSSAULT:** There is none. O.K. well, that certainly could  
18 be a good idea, in particular as there is a permanent  
19 officer of the RCMP position in Hopedale.

20 **COMMISSIONER MARY SILLETT:**

21 So do you have any views, Toby, or any suggestions as  
22 to how--like, for example, in the short term what they

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1 can do in order to get this issue resolved in Hopedale?  
2 Would you have any advice to give Andrew as to how to  
3 deal with this issue?

4 **MR. TOBY ANDERSEN:** Yeah,  
5 we're trying to promote the establishment of Crime  
6 Prevention Committees in all the communities and we're  
7 in the process of working through the LIA field worker  
8 in Hopedale to get some people interested in sitting on  
9 such a committee. She's had some problems, but the process  
10 is started now.

11 Mr. Chairman, while I'm  
12 sitting here, just a point of interest and maybe something  
13 that could be noted for the Commission. When I spoke  
14 earlier, we've been listening to people talking about the  
15 lack of facilities, the lack of funding, the lack of money  
16 for economic development and so on. And one of the things  
17 I didn't mention was the fact that the federal government  
18 in putting forward programs for aboriginal people, a lot  
19 of these programs are put forward on a per capita basis.  
20 And for the Labrador Inuit society and Labrador Inuit  
21 Association, the funding that's put forward by the federal  
22 government is done on a per capita basis based on 1,200

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1 Inuit, o.k.? Now that's an old census from the early 1970s  
2 and we've always had problems with that. We've complained  
3 about it. And in October, 1991, we initialled with the  
4 federal and provincial government our subagreement for  
5 beneficiaries to a final settlement on eligibility and  
6 enrollment and who can be a beneficiary. And that criteria  
7 makes it a fact that there are not 1,200 but about 5,000  
8 Inuit in northern Labrador. So if the federal government  
9 and the provincial government would on an interim basis,  
10 I guess, use the criteria that they have agreed to to  
11 establish the funding on a per capita basis, the funding  
12 that's being put forward now for the Labrador Inuit through  
13 federal programs would be triple what it is right now.  
14 I thought that might be a point of interest.

15 **CO-CHAIR MR. RENE**

16 **DUSSAULT:** O.K. thank you very much.

17 **MR. NEIL ANDERSEN,**

18 **FACILITATOR:** Thank you Mr. Boase and Mr. Andersen. Our  
19 next presentation is from Boas Jararuse regarding the  
20 Fisheries Loan Board.

21 **MR. BOAS JARARUSE,**

22 **(MAKKOVIK) FISHERY LOAN BOARD\*:** [INUKTITUT - NO

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1 TRANSLATION AVAILABLE 4:41 - 4:57]

2 **CO-CHAIR MR. RENE**

3 **DUSSAULT:** Thank you very much. It was a pleasure to see  
4 you in Winnipeg. It's a renewed pleasure to see you in  
5 Makkovik. As far as the Loan Board is concerned, we will  
6 see whether we could make sure that the relevant  
7 information could be sent to you.

8 **MR. JARARUSE:**

9 [INUKTITUT - NO TRANSLATION AVAILABLE 4:57 - 4:58]

10 **MR. NEIL ANDERSEN,**

11 **FACILITATOR:** Thank you, Mr. Jararuse. Our next  
12 presentation is from Charlotte Wolfrey. She's from  
13 Rigolet and she will be discussing the housing situation  
14 in Rigolet.

15 **MS. CHARLOTTE WOLFREY,**

16 **(RIGOLET) HOUSING:** First of all I would like to stress  
17 that this report is written about Rigolet because I know  
18 the housing situation in Rigolet intimately, but that the  
19 situation in regards to housing is similar in all of  
20 northern Labrador. Housing programs were first  
21 introduced in Rigolet in the early 1970s. Units were built  
22 by Newfoundland and Labrador Services Division. In the

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1 early stages, four units were built and given to residents  
2 who were in a desperate need of housing. The next  
3 programs were run by the councils and again, there were  
4 four units built and the councils recommended which  
5 residents would occupy the units. If residents of Rigolet  
6 moved, the units were again the property of the councils  
7 and were given to someone else. We had one built by a  
8 native demonstration program in the early 1980s. Then  
9 came the Torngat Housing Association. TRHA built two  
10 units in each community for the first couple of years,  
11 but with rising costs, they can only build one unit in  
12 each community now. Then there were the Sweat Equity  
13 Programs by CMHC. Rigolet residents were very receptive  
14 to these programs and we've had a total of eight units  
15 constructed since 1987. Prior to the housing programs,  
16 people built their homes from whatever lumber they could  
17 scrape together. This resulted in small and rundown  
18 houses, usually consisting of one bedroom and only a  
19 kitchen. And I might add that some people in our  
20 communities still occupy these old houses.

21 The present situation in  
22 Rigolet, there are 90 homes. Of these 40 percent are 20



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1 will have to live in their situation for another two, three,  
2 or four years. It is also worth noting that over half  
3 of Rigolet's population is under the age of 15. And as  
4 the children get older, there will be an even greater need  
5 for more housing. With the present trends of cutback in  
6 the housing programs by government, the situation will  
7 only worsen in the years to come.

8 I'm going to discuss the  
9 present housing programs. Newfoundland and Labrador  
10 Housing Corporation. In 1985 MLHC constructed two homes  
11 in Rigolet. They built them for around \$80,000 each.  
12 And in 1991 they are the only two houses that are visible  
13 in our community from Newfoundland and Labrador Housing,  
14 but we do have two rental units under construction.

15 The Newfoundland and  
16 Labrador Housing Corporation has an output in place, a  
17 native liaison program they call it. And there's a  
18 representative from each of the northern Labrador  
19 communities. This representative is supposed to be able  
20 to give out information on what programs and services are  
21 offered by the corporation. I'm the native liaison person  
22 for Rigolet. And I must say that from my point of view,

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1 this program is just a front so that Newfoundland and  
2 Labrador Housing can say that they are helping native  
3 people. I say this in all honesty. When we first went  
4 to the first meeting, one of the first things that sticks  
5 out in my mind is they asked us what we expected from this  
6 corporation and Katie Rich's reply was that she didn't  
7 want this to become another bunch of promises. And one  
8 of the things that we asked them to do was to train us  
9 and tell us what kind of programs they had so that we could  
10 go back to our communities and tell people.

11 Our next session was sort  
12 of a training session. They gave us list of rules and  
13 guidelines, but even the NLHC workers did not know the  
14 scope of the programs and the services. So as a result,  
15 when people came to me asking about some of NLHC's programs,  
16 I had to tell them that this might be available, but it  
17 has to be first approved by the government. Having said  
18 all that, I may not be NLHC's choice for a liaison for  
19 Rigolet when I get back, but I feel that things like this  
20 need to be brought out. NLHC provides housing for people  
21 for 25 percent of their gross income as a payback. Our  
22 cost of living is among the highest in Canada and people



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1 just cannot afford to pay that kind of dollars for housing.

2 We've been asking that the 25 percent be changed to net  
3 income, which would make it easier for people to take  
4 advantage of programs and services. Our request to have  
5 this looked at has fallen on deaf ears

6 We made a presentation to  
7 a conference held in 1989, the Conference on Native Housing  
8 Needs. We made a number of recommendations to help  
9 alleviate some of the housing problems in northern  
10 Labrador. Since the time of the housing conference, the  
11 housing dollars from the federal government have been cut  
12 in half, so I guess our recommendations were not heard.

13 And just to mention two of the recommendations that we  
14 made, we said that there needs to be a massive housing  
15 project to supply housing to catch up with the situation.

16 And then the programs that offer one or two houses a year  
17 might have some meaning, if you haven't got 35 or 40 people  
18 on a list, if you've caught up with it. And we said that  
19 the programs should be designed by our own people in the  
20 communities, not just the bureaucrats making programs that  
21 no one can avail of.

22 Canada Mortgage and

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1 Housing was first visible in Rigolet in 1987. They provided  
2 three families with housing through a Sweat Equity Program.

3 The response to this type of program was always looked  
4 upon favorably in Rigolet. This was always the best  
5 programs that were offered. The units that were done were  
6 done under a demonstration program. The program lasted  
7 for five years. Rigolet got a total of eight homes under  
8 this project. Allan Redway, the then Minister of Housing  
9 for the federal government visited Rigolet in 1989. The  
10 council stressed the need to Mr. Redway for more housing.

11 They took him out on a tour of Rigolet. He saw the  
12 overcrowding. He saw the poor living conditions. He  
13 listened to our concerns, the same concerns that we bring  
14 to this table. Again, I stress the fact that funding for  
15 housing has been drastically cut. And what we really need  
16 is access to more funds. WE feel that there should be  
17 more dollars put into more housing programs in northern  
18 Labrador, not less.

19 The other housing  
20 authority in our community is Torngat Regional Housing  
21 is our local regional authority. They operate on a small  
22 amount of funding from the native peoples agreement. PRHA

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1 are now working closely with Newfoundland and Labrador  
2 Housing Corporation and in Rigolet in most cases are doing  
3 what they call wrap programs for NLHC. Each community  
4 has a housing committee and a board of directors from TRHA  
5 is made up of representatives of the housing committees  
6 from each of the communities and a representative of LIA.  
7 TRHA needs a lot more funding than what they received  
8 from the native peoples funding agreement. I still think  
9 that there is room for improved communication and working  
10 agreements between NLHC and TRHA.

11 Another feeling that I have  
12 is that the Canada Housing and Mortgage Corporation has  
13 given their responsibility to the Newfoundland and  
14 Labrador Housing Corporation to operate in norther  
15 Labrador. And I think that this is a big mistake because  
16 NLHC has so many rules and regulations that apply to the  
17 south and they are so hard to convince, that their rules  
18 are redundant or that they stop people from taking  
19 advantage of their programs. They just won't believe that,  
20 that these rules are no good for Labrador. We can't tell  
21 them that. We would have been further ahead if TRHA, the  
22 Torngat Regional Housing Association, was given the



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1 I would like to know what is your interpretation of the  
2 fact that the Canadian Housing and Mortgage Corporation  
3 had standards more attune to the northern reality than  
4 the provincial Newfoundland and Labrador Housing program?

5 **MS. WOLFREY:** Well, I felt  
6 that the demonstration program that happened in Rigolet,  
7 when they came into Rigolet, they talked with the local  
8 housing authority and they hired a local person to  
9 supervise. And their program or their demonstration  
10 program on their build your own homes anyway definitely  
11 was more attune than Newfoundland and Labrador's pay 25  
12 percent of your income one is. It's more in tune to Rigolet  
13 anyway, it was.

14 **CO-CHAIR MR. RENE**

15 **DUSSAULT:** So it's more the rent that you're talking about?  
16 The rent that is required now than the kind of houses?  
17 So when you're talking about the 25 percent, it's the  
18 rent that has to be paid or the share of the house?

19 **MS. WOLFREY:** No, when--

20 **CO-CHAIR MR. RENE**

21 **DUSSAULT:** I'm not clear.

22 **MR. TOBY ANDERSEN:** Sir,

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1 my name is Toby Andersen. I'm the vice-president of the  
2 LIA and I'm also the Chairman of the Torngat Regional  
3 Housing Association Board of Directors. I believe I could  
4 perhaps help Charlotte to answer your question a little  
5 bit.

6 **CO-CHAIR MR. RENE**

7 **DUSSAULT:** Yes.

8 **MR. TONY ANDERSEN:** The

9 rural native housing program, it's supposedly designed  
10 for Inuit or rural areas of the province. Home owners  
11 pay back 25 percent of their gross income for a twenty-five  
12 year period and then they own the house. I can explain  
13 it in a way, if you make \$400 a week or \$400 a month, you  
14 pay \$100. You have \$300 left. That's not too bad.

15 However, if you're a fisherman, you're very poor and you  
16 only have \$100 a month. It's very hard then to part with  
17 \$25 because the \$75 doesn't go far. The Canada Mortgage  
18 and Housing responded by introducing the demonstration  
19 program. It's the same rural and native housing program  
20 except that instead of paying 25 percent of your income  
21 for 25 years, you build the house and that's your payment.

22 **CO-CHAIR MR. RENE**

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1 **DUSSAULT:** I see, very helpful.

2 **COMMISSIONER VIOLA**

3 **ROBINSON:** The demonstration program, is that still  
4 available?

5 **MR. ANDERSEN:** The  
6 five-year demonstration program ended in 1990. It was  
7 a demonstration and it was so successful.

8 **COMMISSIONER VIOLA**

9 **ROBINSON:** It was successful, I'm aware of all these  
10 programs, yeah.

11 **MR. ANDERSEN:** And as a  
12 matter of fact, probably in this country, it was most  
13 successful in northern Labrador.

14 **COMMISSIONER VIOLA**

15 **ROBINSON:** It was most successful in all northern  
16 communities. I was aware of that, yeah.

17 **MR. ANDERSEN:** They've now  
18 introduced that as a full time part of the rural native  
19 housing program, but the program will now be delivered  
20 by NLHC.

21 **COMMISSIONER VIOLA**

22 **ROBINSON:** The demonstration?

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1 MR. ANDERSEN: Yeah.

2 COMMISSIONER VIOLA

3 ROBINSON: It's going to be delivered by Newfoundland and  
4 Labrador?

5 MR. ANDERSEN: Yes.

6 COMMISSIONER VIOLA

7 ROBINSON: Do you have a tripartite committee?

8 MR. ANDERSEN: Yes, we do.

9 I'll be attending my first tripartite committee on  
10 Wednesday of this week.

11 COMMISSIONER VIOLA

12 ROBINSON: I see, so how many units do you normally get  
13 budgeted for your demonstration?

14 MR. ANDERSEN: It was a  
15 five-year program, five units per year; however, because  
16 of the success and other parts of the country didn't want  
17 it, we actually got more than 25 houses. Some years we  
18 even had twelve, up to twelve. And this year for the first  
19 time they're bringing the program back, there will be eight  
20 units for our five communities. Six of them are going  
21 to Hopedale and two to Makkovik.

22 COMMISSIONER VIOLA



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1 **ROBINSON:** I see, okay, thank you.

2 **MR. NEIL ANDERSEN,**

3 **FACILITATOR:** Thank you Mrs. Wolfrey and Mr. Andersen.

4 Our next presenter is Herb Manak of Postville. He will  
5 be discussing the Grenfell Regional Health Services,  
6 especially with regard to medivac experience.

7 **MR. HERB MANAK:** I'd like  
8 to give you the information in maybe two parts. One side  
9 is health, the other half talking about handicaps, which  
10 is a big concern of mine. What I'd like to speak to you  
11 about tonight is health.

12 One good word I'd like to  
13 say about health in Labrador, I didn't die. That's all.  
14 The bad side of the point is in '87 I had problems with  
15 blood clots in my legs, so I went to St. John's and had  
16 operations, a big triple bypass. And when the operation  
17 was done, I stayed in St. John's six weeks and when the  
18 operation was over, I had 150 clips in me and they wanted  
19 me out of there. I guess, you know, there were some more  
20 patients coming in. I asked them for an escort and they  
21 said, "No, if you can walk, no escort." So I could walk,  
22 but you know, in bad shape. So I went through a lot of

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1 red tape to get the escort, contacted IIA, the doctor  
2 wouldn't sign the form to get the escort. So anyhow I  
3 said well, I've got no choice. So I took Air Nova and  
4 come into Goose Bay. And when we took off at Goose Bay,  
5 we went up 20,000 feet, whatever the case may be, a blood  
6 vessel broke in my leg. So if I had had an escort at that  
7 time, I could have landed back on the tarmac and went back  
8 to the hospital. I come into Goose Bay and almost died.  
9 When I got into Goose Bay, I was in a wheelchair, I swell  
10 up so bad. Spent the night down there in Irish River. And  
11 then the next day I had to come back to Goose Bay in an  
12 ambulance, emergency. I couldn't function at all. So  
13 what they done then I stayed in Moravian from ten o'clock  
14 in the morning until two o'clock in the afternoon before  
15 they got any circulation in my body. So what they done  
16 then to me, they popped two pills under my tongue, no escort  
17 again, and head back to St. John's. They says, "When you  
18 get in St. John's, call Gulliver Cabs, they'll take you  
19 to the St. Clair Hospital." But I had transportation when  
20 I got there. But, again, I don't know what connection--who  
21 looks after transportation. So I wrote LIA regarding a  
22 board and transportation. I couldn't complain about that.

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1 But who takes care, who calls the shots for the emergency?

2 I can walk but I'm all sewed up now. I'd like to know  
3 who you go to to call these shots, you know, to get the  
4 escort. And the second time I come into St. John's, I  
5 paid my dollar. I should have been up in Nain. I got  
6 a flight to St. John's. I paid \$750 out of my own pocket  
7 for a ticket out. And I wait three months for them to  
8 respond me back, but a poor man can't do that every time.

9 It's bad, you know, I don't like it.

10 And the second time it  
11 happened to me, I had problems after twelve months after  
12 this operation I had, I fell into more problems. I had  
13 problems, I was losing strength in my legs, so I went to  
14 the nurse and told her about it. She said, "There's not  
15 much I can do about it, but I can get you out tomorrow."

16 I said, "O.K." So she checked me in on a skid flight.  
17 And when a skid flight come in, I was laying on the concrete  
18 floor in the airport. Well, they hooked up to oxygen on  
19 me and I was all frigged up with, you know, the drip and  
20 everything. I'll just get my breath. So I said to the  
21 nurse, I said, "I guess is that for me? I'm going to die"  
22 because I was troubled with my breathing all along. I

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1 said, "Why can't some passengers get off the plane and  
2 let me get on and get on in Goose Bay?" Do you know what  
3 they did? They sent that plane back to Goose Bay. They  
4 unloaded all the well people that was on the plane and  
5 two hours later, they come back and picked me up on the  
6 stretcher, you know. When you're sick like that on the  
7 coast, you know, you're fighting for your life at an  
8 isolated base, two hours mean a lot to your life. But  
9 I didn't die. It just happened I didn't die.

10 I made it in St. John's  
11 again. And then when I went to St. John's that time, I  
12 was really bad. So I had to go for another operation and  
13 I checked into the same doctor what I had the first time.

14 And he said your bypass is plugged up, he said. It's  
15 only a small operation, he said, "I'll do that tomorrow."

16 I signed my name because I know him by name. And there's  
17 another thing about health care. We don't have enough  
18 information, what doctors are going to take care of us  
19 or who is going to cut you or what they're going to do  
20 with you. They don't feed us enough information. So I  
21 was telling my man through this operation again and I woke  
22 up three months later when I come out of consciousness

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1 all the time where my leg is taken off. It's something  
2 to live with. And that's all I got to say about health.

3 But then, on the other  
4 hand, I'd like to talk a little bit about the handicapped.

5 I was like these people all in the room here today. I  
6 was fishing at one time and lived in this community. I  
7 lived in my own community and I fished and I had six kids.

8 But I'm living in a different world. I'm living in a  
9 world isolated. I'm handicapped and I've got to have a  
10 ramp wherever I'm going to get here and there and so on  
11 and so on. And I appreciate what ILA done for the--they  
12 paid \$10,000 for [lift-a-chair?] two chairs for me, lift  
13 a chair, what I need and this chair costs \$10,000. Well,  
14 I appreciate that. And from Goose Bay to the northern end,  
15 they collected money for me and they raised enough funds  
16 to get me a bike. They charged you \$200, which I couldn't  
17 afford and they give me the transportation. I appreciate  
18 all that.

19 But the thing I don't  
20 appreciate, there's no exits made in. In this community  
21 alone, we got two religions, Pentecostal has got a brand  
22 new church, no exit to it for the handicapped. Moravian's

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1 got a new church coming up but I understand from the elders,  
2 they're going to put an exit to it, that's fine. We got  
3 a place in Postville, a hotel. We've got five offices  
4 under the same roof, ILA, Health, H & R and drug abuse  
5 and all that and the hotel, Ralph's hotel and the post  
6 office. And there's no exits I can go in there and put  
7 a letter in the box. So my concern today what you needs,  
8 I recalled it today when I was thinking to myself and  
9 talking to myself sometimes I do that, that the handicapped  
10 people in Labrador is the forgotten people. The old folks  
11 are taken care of. We've got an old folks home for them  
12 and they goes out every year and they has a meeting. That's  
13 fine. And our young generation coming up, they're taken  
14 care. But myself and six more guys I know in Happy Valley  
15 like me, we got no spokesman for us to say. The law says  
16 today if you build a building and it's a public building,  
17 the law says you got to have an exit for the handicapped.  
18 But there's only one place on the coast I can visit and  
19 be comfortable and that's in Hopedale. I got exits to the  
20 store, I got exits to the hotel in Hopedale. But if we  
21 had a spokesman, if the handicapped had a spokesman in  
22 northern Labrador, we should have exits wherever a man

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1 can walk I should be able to roll a wheelchair. I was  
2 on the run since I was handicapped and there's no problem.  
3 Doors open everywhere for the wheelchair and I'm going  
4 here and I'm going there. But now when I come back to  
5 Labrador again, I'm forced again, just because nobody is  
6 taking up for the handicapped. And it should be addressed  
7 fully, I say. Because I've got a buddy of mine, he's a  
8 good friend of mine, Danny Martin, in Happy Valley. Because  
9 he lost his legs and he's got a driver's license and he's  
10 driving now, I call this discrimination. The government  
11 or the taxi company, not the taxi company, he says, it  
12 must be the government, refused him because he couldn't  
13 go taxi driving, because he couldn't lug the luggage from  
14 so and so to the car. But I travel lots since I got my  
15 legs off and the good taxi drivers, the ones that could  
16 give help, they don't lug your bag only if you give them  
17 a tip. In my travels the wife goes with me and we does  
18 that. But I call it discrimination, you know, and I think  
19 that should be took in account. Exits for the handicapped.  
20 We got a group home up in  
21 Nain and I say, it looked like to me, I've never been in  
22 it, but it looked like to me that's made for handicapped.

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1 legs taken off with a wheelchair today, a \$10,000 chair,  
2 you can do anything as good as the guy who's got legs.  
3 You should be able to go everywhere. But if he's cut off  
4 from the outside world, doors, no knobs on the doors, you  
5 can't open them. They're closed. It's no good. So I  
6 request and the same thing I done last year, they're going  
7 to spend all kinds of money to put washrooms in every  
8 airport. We got seven on the coast. And I request when  
9 it was happening in my community, went up and told buddy,  
10 "You got the contract?" He says, "Yes." I said, "Make  
11 sure for the handicapped." It never happened. So if I'm  
12 caught to an airport in northern Labrador I can't use the  
13 washrooms nowhere. And what I'd like to see is the council  
14 to get behind me and write in some government and put it  
15 in right words that it's a law and they have to do it.  
16 And I thank you tonight for listening to me. And if you  
17 can address that and do something for me and not only  
18 myself, I'm not only talking about myself. There's  
19 another girl in my community that's handicapped now. And  
20 there's six or seven I know in Goose Bay. I guess, and  
21 there's--on their own they got pretty good exits, but in  
22 Labrador, we got nothing. I see that in a year it happened

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1 to me a dozen times. I see the lady the other year, Christ,  
2 she was handicapped, Christ, she was in a wheelchair and  
3 in order to raise her with equipment for taking the  
4 handicapped people, they got room for it and elevators  
5 and all the arrangements, they refused her because she  
6 never had an escort. That's wrong. It should never be.

7

8 And the biggest problem  
9 I've got when I'm travelling, Labrador is not too bad and  
10 [Andover?] is excellent because I've gone, and is the CN  
11 boat. They've got no regard for human beings is my  
12 sentiment. Last year I was on the Northern Ranger and  
13 I got caught on the elevator. The elevator wouldn't work.

14 I got caught in it. And Buddy was thinking, he told the  
15 wife. The wife made a big fuss over it and I ring the  
16 buzzer all over the ship to get out of there. And he said,  
17 "What are you worrying about?" He said, "Your husband  
18 can't go nowhere, he got no legs." That's wrong. They  
19 shouldn't talk like that, you know. But we handicapped  
20 people is in bad shape. And my guy for the council on  
21 my behalf will support me in every community, you know,  
22 and it might help my way along. Otherwise, I'm going to

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1 have a rough time because I only lost my legs two years,  
2 but at other times I had legs like you guys, eh? So it's  
3 rough. And I think you do take the lesson from me and  
4 I hope something will be done there. Thank you.

5 **CO-CHAIR MR. RENE**

6 **DUSSAULT:** Thank you very much for your presentation and  
7 drawing our attention pretty eloquently on the problem  
8 of handicapped people in northern Labrador. Thank you.

9 **PASTOR REID:** If I can just  
10 make one comment to Herb's situation. I feel that there  
11 needs to be a lot more help in that regard. But also as  
12 I mentioned earlier, the fact that I am the overseer for  
13 northern Labrador and the Pentecostal Assemblies of  
14 Newfoundland, the Pentecostal church in Postville did put  
15 a ramp in. It's the only building in Postville, to my  
16 knowledge, that has a ramp put in that he can access to.

17 **MR. MANAK:** I know that,  
18 but I'm not talking about that. It should be every, every,  
19 every religion. The Pentecostal is my religion. I go  
20 in Postville but when I come through here--so there might  
21 be down the road, there might not be. Well, I hope somebody  
22 do something about it and I thank you for listening.

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1 **MR. NEIL ANDERSEN,**

2 **FACILITATOR:** Thank you, Mr. Manak. We will now break  
3 for one hour for supper and we will resume at 6:30.

4 ---Hearing is recessed at 17:31

5 ---Upon resuming at 18:37

6 **MR. NEIL ANDERSEN,**

7 **FACILITATOR:** Ladies and gentlemen, if I can have your  
8 attention, please, we're about ready to begin. Our next  
9 presentation is from Katie Dicker. I'm not sure if she's  
10 here yet or not. I don't think so. Is Harriet Lyall here?  
11 Shall we wait or carry on with Gary Baikie?

12 **COMMISSIONER MARY SILLETT:**

13 Whoever is next.

14 **MR. NEIL ANDERSEN,**

15 **FACILITATOR:** Gary Baikie, if you're-- Kate Mitchell is  
16 the next one. I don't think she's here either. Jim  
17 Andersen, are you ready to-- Jim Andersen with regards  
18 to the economy here in Makkovik.

19 **MR. JIM ANDERSEN,**

20 **(MAKKOVIK) ECONOMY:** Good evening. Mr. Chairman,  
21 distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, hello. My  
22 name is Jim Andersen, normally known as "Uncle Jim." About



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1 government stores became established on the north coast.

2 I worked as a store clerk for eight years and then went  
3 on my own, trucking and contracting around town. With  
4 the help of my wife who took borders and was also a midwife  
5 at that time, and had the privilege to born fifty babies  
6 in local homes, which was a drastic difference to what  
7 it is today. We had very little facilities to do anything  
8 with.

9 I'll try to make this as  
10 brief as I can. From my personal experience, I would like  
11 to tell you this evening, if you think you can make it  
12 on your own business, just forget about it. We have worked  
13 hard, purchased equipment which took every cent and much  
14 more without any government help, but that don't mean a  
15 thing. We lived in a home, the oldest by far, in the  
16 community, which we went into in 1926. In 1935 I purchased  
17 a wind charger, wired the house and enjoyed a few electric  
18 lights. I'm not ashamed to tell you here tonight when it  
19 rains, there are parts that leak very badly. I have spent  
20 a considerable amount of money to make it a more comfortable  
21 place to live in, but with no success. Only this spring,  
22 our mayor, Marjorie Andersen, said to me, "This is not

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1 how it should be. There is some way we must be able to  
2 help."

3 I have watched with great  
4 interest as aboriginal people have proceeded to gain their  
5 rightful place in this country in spite of the cutbacks  
6 of funds, fewer jobs and a future of uncertainty. Only  
7 recently I understand that freight rates with Marine  
8 Atlantic has been put up another 20 percent this summer  
9 making it still more difficult for the people whose UIC  
10 was cut off in May. I think learning and training is the  
11 key, but it goes nowhere if we don't put it into practice  
12 to achieve an objective. I personally strongly feel if  
13 our young generation don't take no pride in their culture  
14 and language, they will lose a very valuable heritage.  
15 Let me conclude that our culture is the lifeblood of our  
16 salvation. Thank you and God bless.

17 **CO-CHAIR MR. RENE**

18 **DUSSAULT:** Thank you very much for your excellent  
19 presentation. We were happy to have you. Thank you.

20 **MR. NEIL ANDERSEN,**

21 **FACILITATOR:** I'm not sure who is the next presenter.  
22 Harriet Lyall?

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1 MS. HARRIET LYALL (NAIN)

2 **GRHS: HER SON'S ACCIDENT:** Mr. Chairman, Commissioners,  
3 ladies and gentlemen. Thank you for giving me the  
4 opportunity to speak here tonight. What I'm going to speak  
5 on is more on a personal experience, not so much, like--but  
6 the reason I want to bring it out is in hopes that this  
7 might help--if anything like this ever happened again,  
8 to improve the services we get down here in Labrador.

9 Five and a half years ago,  
10 my son was involved in a very serious tragic skidoo accident  
11 which resulted in total loss of vision and some brain  
12 damage. This accident occurred about 7:30 on a Saturday  
13 evening and my brother and brother-in-law were on the phone  
14 all night trying to get something to fly into Nain to pick  
15 him up to take him out to Goose Bay. It wasn't until twelve  
16 o'clock the next day that they finally got a helicopter  
17 in, and when the chopper was on the way in, they told us  
18 that they would have room for us on the plane to go out  
19 with him, on the chopper to go out with him, but just before  
20 they landed, they said, "We'll only have room for one  
21 parent." So we had to decide then which of us was going  
22 to accompany him to Goose Bay. By the time they landed



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1 there, they didn't have any room for us. And this was  
2 on a Sunday, twelve o'clock when he went out. It wasn't  
3 until Monday morning before we finally got out of Nain  
4 and we flew on out to St. Anthony that day. And it was  
5 a very frustrating situation to be in because that morning  
6 when the doctors came in, they said it looks like Jeff  
7 may have brain damage. And if he has, we'll fly him on  
8 out to St. John's because we don't have a neurologist.  
9 We don't have a neurosurgeon in St. Anthony so they wouldn't  
10 be able to handle a big operation like that there. The  
11 next thing we knew, Dr. Fitzgerald, he's a general  
12 practitioner in St. Anthony. He called at six o'clock  
13 that evening and he said things didn't look too bad so  
14 he was doing the operation. And it wasn't until eleven  
15 o'clock again later that night when he called back and  
16 he said, "Mrs. Lyall, I'm sorry, Jeff has severe brain  
17 damage and the best we can say right now is he may, you  
18 know, the best be a vegetable." So when we got out there,  
19 we were lucky, we had a good friend, Dr. Columbus, who  
20 used to work in Nain, Kevin Columbus. He kept in contact  
21 with us, made sure we bugged the doctors and if we had  
22 been left on our own, we wouldn't have been able to do



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1 the operation costs. But it took us ten and a half months  
2 before we finally got approval from MCP for him to go ahead  
3 and have his operation. So in April, 1990, I took Jeff  
4 out to Memphis and he had the surgery and what really hurt  
5 the most then was that his doctor said, "Mrs. Lyall, I  
6 hate to say this, but if you'd been here six months earlier  
7 or a year earlier, the chances would have been 100 percent  
8 better." He said "As it is now, two or three percent chance  
9 that he might regain some vision," which he never did.  
10 And I mean, it's services like this, we should be made  
11 aware. It was only because of the doctor in Halifax we  
12 found out about this doctor in Memphis. When Jeff went  
13 to school in Halifax, he was having problems because of  
14 his brain damage. In fact, for about a year, we thought  
15 he might never be back to normal again.

16 And when he was going to  
17 school in Halifax, his doctor there called St. John's and  
18 asked for his medical records. They wouldn't let them  
19 go. They wouldn't let them go to his doctor in Halifax.  
20 They don't release their medical records to another  
21 province. And I think this would have helped a lot if  
22 they could have read through his medical records, just





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1 And it's bad enough for me. And I can go around and speak  
2 English as well as Inuktitut. I can't imagine how hard  
3 it must be for a person who doesn't speak the English  
4 language, how frustrating it must be. That's about it,  
5 I think. I could go on and on but I'll leave it at that.  
6 There's other people waiting to speak. Thanks again for  
7 giving me the opportunity to speak here tonight.

8 **CO-CHAIR MR. RENE**

9 **DUSSAULT:** Thank you very much for coming and having joined  
10 us at the table. Of course, the experience you've been  
11 through has been painful and difficult. You've mentioned  
12 that it is better now with the Labrador Health Commission.  
13 Do you feel that you would have the same problem today  
14 if the same situation would occur?

15 **MS. LYALL:** Not  
16 financially, not travelling back and forth. That was a  
17 big strain on us. Not only that, they had Dr. Maureen  
18 Baker, she worked with the Labrador Inuit Health  
19 Commission. She was an excellent help to us with advice  
20 and she kept pushing. It was her that finally got MCP  
21 on the move to get us out to Memphis. Thank you.

22 **CO-CHAIR MR. RENE**

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1 **DUSSAULT:** Thank you very much.

2 **MR. NEIL ANDERSEN,**

3 **FACILITATOR:** Thank you, Mrs. Lyall. We'll now move on  
4 to Katie Dicker with her presentation on translation and  
5 specifically the problems she has or anyone has to deal  
6 with.

7 **MS. KATIE DICKER, (NAIN)**

8 **TRANSLATION RE: PROBLEMS:** [\*INUKTITUT - NO TRANSLATION  
9 AVAILABLE 7:02 - 7:09 P.M.]

10 **CO-CHAIR MR. RENE**

11 **DUSSAULT:** Thank you very much for your presentation.  
12 You're certainly quite right in pointing out the importance  
13 of communications for a patient in his own language. And  
14 it is one of the reasons why there is a lot of pressure  
15 to have more aboriginal people speaking Inuktitut in the  
16 health professions in order to communicate with the  
17 patients. So that's certainly a real issue that we've  
18 heard about it before and we thank you for telling us from  
19 your own experience. And we hope that we will be able  
20 to come with proposals that will help young people to get  
21 into the health professions.

22 **MR. NEIL ANDERSEN,**

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1 **FACILITATOR:** Thank you, Mrs. Dicker. If Rita Andersen  
2 and Gary Baikie are ready? O.K. we'll continue with Rita  
3 and Gary. They're from Nain and they will be discussion  
4 language and the culture.

5 **MR. GARY BAIKIE:** We're  
6 with the Torngasok Cultural Center based out of Nain, just  
7 to tell you, we are the cultural arm of the Labrador Inuit  
8 Association. And I've asked Rita to join me to talk about  
9 language, so Rita Andersen, who is our head  
10 interpreter-translator at Torngasok will give you a brief  
11 account of how some of her feelings in Inuktitut.

12 **MS. RITA ANDERSEN:** [\*  
13 INUKTITUT - NO TRANSLATION AVAILABLE - 7:16 - 7:30 P.M.]

14 **MR. GARY BAIKIE:** O.K.  
15 I'll just talk briefly on the Torngasok Cultural Centre.  
16 The Torngasok Cultural Centre was formed in 1975 under  
17 the incorporation of LIA. We receive our funding from  
18 the cultural education centers program from the Department  
19 of Indian and Northern Affairs. As Rita said, we're there  
20 to serve approximately 5,000 people in the membership.  
21 Out of that 5,000, we receive just over \$100,000 which  
22 works to \$20 per person. And with that money, with that







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1 self confidence, you can see it really picked up a lot.

2 We're trying to publish  
3 some memoirs by a deceased respected elder, Titus Joshua.

4 We do some archaeological training with students, so if  
5 we find out there's some archaeologists coming into the  
6 area, then we try to look for funds for the students to  
7 work with them. And this is all done with \$20 per person.

8 We received a raise from the Department of Indian and  
9 Northern Affairs two years ago. We went from \$100,000 to  
10 \$101,000. Since then we've been after them, trying to  
11 get more money so that we could tie all of our programs  
12 together, instead of doing it a piecemeal style, a project  
13 here and a project there, sort of half assed. And they  
14 say there is no way that there will be any raise in that  
15 funding for quite some time. So we're there trying to  
16 do things at the center to try to help people out and to  
17 listen to the membership and listen to their ideas and  
18 try to put some of their ideas into programs. We just  
19 can't do it, not on \$101,000 a year. So a lot of our time  
20 is spent in researching funding sources, doing out  
21 proposals, and it's kind of disheartening to see that all  
22 this time is spent in that.



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1 I really don't know what  
2 else to say except that I think the government programs  
3 that are there for Torngasok should be more flexible.  
4 If we want to do a program, then we're tied by the guidelines  
5 set out by that policy or the funding policy in all areas,  
6 Secretary of State, in CEIC, Pathways. You've got to go  
7 by the guidelines. So we try to fit those guidelines into  
8 our programs, but if you're going to take the guidelines  
9 set out by the Secretary of State, then you're not having  
10 a true aboriginal program. And like Rita said, I think  
11 it's time that we were given the tools and the money and  
12 the flexibility to do our own programs the way we want  
13 to do it. Thank you.

14 **CO-CHAIR MR. RENE**

15 **DUSSAULT:** Thank you very much for, both of you, for a  
16 very interesting presentation. Culture and language goes  
17 together and we certainly realize how important it is.  
18 Maybe I would have a question. I understand that the  
19 sculpture center was created in 1985?

20 **MR. BAIKIE:** 1975.

21 **CO-CHAIR MR. RENE**

22 **DUSSAULT:** '75. And you now have a staff of three persons?

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1                   **MR. BAIKIE:** We actually  
2 have a staff of more than three. The others are on project  
3 money and one position is being paid by the Labrador Inuit  
4 Association, so we've got a total staff right now on payroll  
5 of six people. But three are being paid by the Torngasok  
6 Cultural Center and there's two being paid on their project  
7 money and one position being paid by the Labrador Inuit  
8 Association.

9                   **CO-CHAIR MR. RENE**  
10 **DUSSAULT:** And do you have established links with the  
11 schools, with the teaching of Inuktitut in the schools  
12 themselves? One of the problem is the lack of written  
13 material, as you know, and have you been doing work with  
14 the various schools?

15                   **MR. BAIKIE:** We offer our  
16 services and it's coming around a little with the schools.  
17 They do have a curriculum center for Labrador Inuktitut  
18 in Goose Bay, and it's pretty hard to drop into the  
19 curriculum center. It's pretty hard for the people from  
20 the curriculum center to drop into us and to look at our  
21 resource material and us to go in to look at theirs. And  
22 that is staffed by the Labrador East Integrated School

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1 Board employees. It's controlled and owned by the  
2 Labrador East Integrated School Board. So all we can do  
3 is we can say all we want and offer our advice whenever  
4 we want, but who's to say that it's going to be taken up?  
5 We don't have any control whatsoever over that curriculum  
6 center.

7 **CO-CHAIR MR. RENE**

8 **DUSSAULT:** And they haven't asked you to prepare some  
9 material or?

10 **MR. BAIKIE:** No, no.

11 **CO-CHAIR MR. RENE**

12 **DUSSAULT:** On their own part? No? In Nain, for example,  
13 is Inuktitut taught in the school, primary school?

14 **MR. BAIKIE:** From Grade  
15 one to three you've got a choice. You can go into the  
16 first language program or you can go into the all-English  
17 program. But after Grade three, then you've got certain  
18 periods in a six-day cycle. So the first language program  
19 only goes up to Grade three.

20 **CO-CHAIR MR. RENE**

21 **DUSSAULT:** And do you have a link with the elders in your  
22 work at the center? Do you work with the elders or do

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1 you have on staff or on a part-time basis or?

2 **MR. BAIKIE:** We actually  
3 did up a wish list there last year and on our wish list  
4 was two elders, but we just don't have the money to pay  
5 for the elder's salary. We try to use the advice of the  
6 elders. We try to use the elders as much as we can, but  
7 without some sort of payment for the elders, we can't just  
8 bring them in whenever we want to bring them in. And Rita  
9 would like to say something on that.

10 **MS. RITA ANDERSEN:**

11 [\*INUKTITUT - NO TRANSLATION AVAILABLE 7:40 - 7:41 P.M.]

12 **CO-CHAIR MR. RENE**

13 **DUSSAULT:** There's no questions. Thank you very much.

14 **MR. NEIL ANDERSEN,**

15 **FACILITATOR:** Thank you Mrs. Andersen and Mr. Baikie.

16 We'll now have a few comments from Garfield Warren who  
17 is the member of the House of Assembly for Torngat  
18 Mountains. And as most of you know, it encompasses Rigolet  
19 to Nain. Mr. Warren?

20 **MR. GARFIELD WARREN,**

21 **MEMBER OF HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY:** Thank you very much, Mr.

22 Chairman. First, I'm not going to make a formal



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1 presentation because, as you know, I met with your group  
2 in St. John's a while ago and you do have a record of what  
3 I said at that time. But I just wanted to say, after  
4 listening to the presentations today from the number of  
5 people, I would think that a strong message has come out,  
6 and that is that the tools are there, and that the  
7 aboriginal people are ready to use those tools, so it's  
8 up to governments to let those tools be available for the  
9 people to use. And I think that's the message that I've  
10 heard today from everybody I've heard speak and I'm sure  
11 the other people that spoke earlier. And I think as  
12 Commissioners on this particular Royal Commission, that's  
13 the message that the people in the district of Torngat  
14 Mountains want to relay, is that the tools are out there,  
15 but for some reason governments, and I use "governments"  
16 in plural, is reluctant to relinquish those tools to the  
17 people that can use them best. And on behalf of everybody  
18 in the Torngat Mountains district, it's interesting that  
19 in the next four days or Thursday, it will be 13 years  
20 that this particular district became the 52nd district  
21 of the province of Newfoundland and Labrador. And June  
22 18, 1979, it became the 52nd district. So you're here

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1 on the 13th year as being a district. And I want to welcome  
2 you to the district and I know that when you go to Nain  
3 and Davis Inlet, you will also have some fabulous  
4 presentations. Concerns will be expressed similar to  
5 what's being expressed today to you and your commissioners  
6 and I know I don't have to welcome Mary to this particular  
7 neck of the woods because Mary's been here much before  
8 I came here. But however, I want to say that the message  
9 was loud and clear today, and I really think that the  
10 message is that the tools are there. And all the people  
11 want to do is get their hands on those tools and I'm sure  
12 it will be used to the benefit of all the people in this  
13 particular part of our province. I want to thank you very  
14 much.

15 **CO-CHAIR MR. RENE**

16 **DUSSAULT:** Thank you.

17 **MR. NEIL ANDERSEN,**

18 **FACILITATOR:** Thank you, Mr. Warren. We will now have  
19 our closing remarks and a prayer. Pastor Stanley Reid  
20 is going to do the prayer in English and Paulus Maggo will  
21 be doing it in Inuktitut. After that we'll have a break  
22 and the panel will go to Norman and Jessie Broomfield's

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1 house for approximately 15 minutes and then they will tour  
2 the fish plant for another 20-25 minutes and then we will  
3 come back here at approximately 8:30 until 9:00 for some  
4 local entertainment. Gary Mitchell will be singing,  
5 playing a few tunes. I'd just like to point out that Gary  
6 released a tape earlier this spring and it's available  
7 down here at the Grub Box if anyone's interested in buying  
8 a copy. So I guess I'll turn the floor over to you for  
9 any closing remarks.

10

**CO-CHAIR MR. RENE**

11 **DUSSAULT:** Before we move to the closing prayer, I would  
12 like to thank all those who have been present in this room  
13 as observers or presenters during this day. The community  
14 of Makkovik that has enabled us to use the community hall.

15 I would like to thank--there have been many people who  
16 have worked for the success of this day. We know that  
17 the success of the day will be judged later depending on  
18 the recommendation of the commission and the success for  
19 their implementation, but I would like certainly Ruth  
20 Flowers, who sat with us as Commissioner of the Day. I  
21 would like to thank the interpreters, Rita Andersen,  
22 Harriet Lyall, Sam Andersen, the Facilitator, Neil

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1 Andersen, who has been very useful in his job. I would  
2 like to thank the Labrador Inuit Association that has  
3 chartered many individuals from Happy Valley, Hopedale,  
4 Nain, to come and make presentations. Also from Postville  
5 and Rigolet, to enable them to attend these hearings.

6 The school children this morning that made the opening  
7 prayer. I would like also to thank the staff of the Royal  
8 Commission, Mary Sillett since you used them this morning.

9 We had Angela Ford acting as community coordinator We  
10 have had with us some elders from Nain, Katie Dicker, Paulus  
11 Maggo. They have travelled a long distance to address  
12 these hearings. I would like to thank Snowden and Jean  
13 Parson for hosting the commissioners for the meals. The  
14 CBC has been with us, CBC Radio, so I would like also to  
15 thank Winston White for the coverage. It is important.  
16 And again, as I said at the outset, I think the kind of  
17 information we get from those hearings is very important.

18 We will have at the end of the day two streams of  
19 information to put into a single discourse, one stream  
20 will come from more academic research, but another one  
21 will come from what people will tell us. And they are  
22 certainly as important and they will cross-fertilize

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1 themselves and each other. And again, a Royal Commission  
2 can put only what people put into it. And I think you did  
3 your share today and we thank you very much again. We  
4 hope that we will be able to meet some of you in further  
5 hearings that we're going to have in other communities  
6 in Labrador, but for us it was really a great pleasure  
7 and a great opportunity to open our community hearings  
8 in Labrador with your community. Thank you very much for  
9 having joined us.

10 I would like now maybe to  
11 ask that the closing prayer. After the closing prayer,  
12 we're going to have some visit and as the facilitator  
13 mentioned, we're going to be back at 8:30.

14 (Closing Prayer)

15 ---Whereupon the Commission adjourned

16