

**THE CORNWALL  
PUBLIC INQUIRY**



**L'ENQUÊTE PUBLIQUE  
SUR CORNWALL**

**Public Hearing**

**Audience publique**

**Commissioner**

The Honourable Justice /  
L'honorable juge  
G. Normand Glaude

**Commissaire**

**VOLUME 144**

**Held at :**

Hearings Room  
709 Cotton Mill Street  
Cornwall, Ontario  
K6H 7K7

Tuesday, October 2, 2007

**Tenue à:**

Salle des audiences  
709, rue de la Fabrique  
Cornwall, Ontario  
K6H 7K7

Mardi, le 2 octobre 2007

**Appearances/Comparutions**

Ms. Julie Gauthier	Registrar
Mr. Pierre R. Dumais	Commission Counsel
Ms. Maya Hamou	
Ms. Janie Larocque	
Mr. Ian Stauffer	
Mr. Mark Crane	Cornwall Police Service Board
Ms. Reena Lalji	
Ms. Suzanne Costom	Ontario Provincial Police
Ms. Diane Lahaie	
Mr. David Rose	Ontario Ministry of Community and Correctional Services and Adult Community Corrections
M <sup>e</sup> Claude Rouleau	
Ms. Judie Im	Attorney General for Ontario
Mr. Peter Chisholm	The Children's Aid Society of the United Counties
Mr. Steven Canto	Citizens for Community Renewal
Mr. Dallas Lee	Victims Group
Mr. David Sherriff-Scott	Diocese of Alexandria-Cornwall and Bishop Eugene LaRocque
M <sup>e</sup> Danielle Robitaille	Mr. Jacques Leduc
Ms. Nadya Tymochenko	Upper Canada Districk
Mr. Ian Paul	Mr. Carson Chisholm

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<b>NO.</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>PAGE NO</b>
P-674	(118854) Letter from Eug R. LaRocque and Denis Vaillancourt to whom it may concern re Gilles Deslauriers dated 03 Apr. 86	2

1 --- Upon commencing at 9:40 a.m. /

2 L'audience débute à 9h40

3 **THE REGISTRAR:** This hearing of the Cornwall  
4 Public Inquiry is now in session; the Honourable Mr.  
5 Justice Normand Glaude, Commissioner, presiding.

6 Please be seated. Veuillez vous asseoir.

7 **LE COMMISSAIRE:** Merci. Bonjour, Me Dumais.  
8 Père Thibault, ça va bien ce matin?

9 **PÈRE THIBAUT:** Bonjour. Oui, pas pire.

10 **FATHER CLAUDE THIBAUT:** Resumed/Sous le même serment

11 --- **EXAMINATION IN-CHIEF BY/INTERROGATOIRE EN-CHEF PAR MR.**  
12 **DUMAIS:** (Cont'd/Suite)

13 **MR. DUMAIS:** Mr. Commissioner, if I can  
14 start firstly, at the end of the day yesterday I was trying  
15 to file a document which required some edits. I had  
16 indicated that I would simply file it at the institutional  
17 response level.

18 Our staff worked overnight on applying the  
19 edits to the document and since I had addressed the  
20 document yesterday, or I alluded to it, perhaps we should  
21 make it an exhibit.

22 So it's document 118854.

23 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Thank you. Exhibit P-674  
24 will be the letter dated -- well, it's on the Diocese of  
25 Alexandria-Cornwall letterhead signed by Eugène LaRocque le

1 3 avril 1986.

2 --- EXHIBIT NO./PIÈCE No. P-674:

3 (118854) Letter from Eugène R. LaRocque  
4 and Denis Vaillancourt - To whom it may  
5 concern - Re: Gilles Deslauriers -  
6 Dated 03 Apr. 1986

7 MR. DUMAIS: So Father Thibault, I have no  
8 questions for you on this -- on the document. I simply  
9 applied the edits and I make reference to it yesterday.

10 FATHER THIBAUT: Okay.

11 MR. DUMAIS: All right. I do have a few  
12 areas that I want to touch on with you this morning, the  
13 first one being you spoke yesterday about your involvement  
14 with Father Deslauriers in different activities, about the  
15 fact that he was a chaplain at your high school, the fact  
16 that he was involved in R3. You spoke as well about the  
17 fact that he did some counselling sessions with you which  
18 eventually lead to sexual abuse.

19 We did not discuss, however, where this  
20 abuse would have occurred. So did any of this abuse occur  
21 at the high school itself?

22 FATHER THIBAUT: No, not the sexual abuse  
23 per se. The grooming, the getting to know him, yes, but  
24 the sexual abuse as such always happened at Saint Jean  
25 Bosco rectory.

1                   **MR. DUMAIS:** All right. And that's where he  
2 was a priest, is that correct?

3                   **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yeah, he was in residence.  
4 He was full-time chaplain at La Citadelle and he was living  
5 at Saint Jean Bosco, helping out mostly with weekend  
6 ministry.

7                   **MR. DUMAIS:** All right. And he was residing  
8 there? There is a house there?

9                   **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

10                  **MR. DUMAIS:** And I take it he had an office  
11 as well?

12                  **FATHER THIBAUT:** I'm not sure if he had an  
13 office but it was a little room where the priests would  
14 meet people - I guess when people would come to arrange for  
15 funerals, weddings, things like that. So it's a meeting  
16 room, small room.

17                  **MR. DUMAIS:** All right. And was there any  
18 staff working there?

19                  **FATHER THIBAUT:** In that room?

20                  **MR. DUMAIS:** Yes, or ---

21                  **FATHER THIBAUT:** No, the secretary had her  
22 office. The pastor at the time probably had an office  
23 elsewhere in the house. I'm not aware, but there was  
24 nobody else around and it was usually in the evening and  
25 there was nobody in any kind of proximity to that room.

1                   **MR. DUMAIS:** All right. So in any of these  
2 instances of abuse you would not have seen anyone there  
3 other than Father Deslauriers. Is that fair?

4                   **FATHER THIBAUT:** No, I was terrified of  
5 having somebody come in but no, not to my knowledge and I -  
6 - well, I'm convinced there wasn't because there were  
7 windows to that office and I would have seen anybody else  
8 around.

9                   **MR. DUMAIS:** All right. Now, we spoke  
10 yesterday as well about Jacques Leduc and the fact that you  
11 went and obtained legal advice from him after the Cornwall  
12 Police Services officers met you and you spoke as well  
13 about your participation the preliminary inquiry and the  
14 fact that you testified.

15                   Was Jacques Leduc present during the  
16 preliminary inquiry?

17                   **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes, he was, at least the  
18 day I testified. I think he stayed more than that. As a  
19 matter of fact, I mentioned yesterday that I was advised  
20 only after my testimony that there had been a publication  
21 ban imposed and I don't know if I mentioned it yesterday  
22 but Jacques Leduc is the one who advised me on the way out,  
23 "By the way, don't worry. There has been a publication ban  
24 imposed".

25                   **MR. DUMAIS:** All right. And ---



1                   **FATHER THIBAUT:** Or a ban on publication I  
2                   guess. Publication ban is what we do with the ---

3                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** For weddings.

4                   **FATHER THIBAUT:** For weddings, sorry.

5                                   **( LAUGHTER/RIRES )**

6                   **MR. DUMAIS:** And Father Thibault, do you  
7                   recall whether or not Mr. Leduc was in the hearing room  
8                   itself or where the evidence was being heard or was he  
9                   outside with the victims?

10                   **FATHER THIBAUT:** Who?

11                   **MR. DUMAIS:** Mr. Leduc.

12                   **FATHER THIBAUT:** I don't remember.

13                   **MR. DUMAIS:** All right. And this discussion  
14                   with respect to the publication ban, he told you about this  
15                   after you were done testifying?

16                   **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

17                   **MR. DUMAIS:** All right. And outside of the  
18                   body of the courtroom?

19                   **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

20                   **MR. DUMAIS:** All right. And any other  
21                   discussion during the prelim with Mr. Leduc?

22                   **FATHER THIBAUT:** With him, not that I  
23                   recall.

24                   **MR. DUMAIS:** All right. Now, I did -- we  
25                   did go through some of the transcripts of the ad hoc

1 committee as well yesterday and I just want to take you to  
2 another passage, and Madam Clerk, it's document number  
3 738435; so Exhibit 72.

4 (SHORT PAUSE/COURTE PAUSE)

5 MR. DUMAIS: So Father, it would be Bates  
6 page 6167215, about three quarters into the document  
7 itself.

8 FATHER THIBAULT: Okay. That document  
9 starts with 716?

10 THE COMMISSIONER: Seven one six ---

11 FATHER THIBAULT: You said 616?

12 MR. DUMAIS: The first page of the document  
13 is 7167071.

14 FATHER THIBAULT: Right, okay.

15 MR. DUMAIS: And the page I want you to turn  
16 to is 7167215.

17 FATHER THIBAULT: Okay, getting there.

18 (SHORT PAUSE/COURTE PAUSE)

19 FATHER THIBAULT: Okay, got it.

20 MR. DUMAIS: All right. So we spoke  
21 yesterday about your meeting on February 7<sup>th</sup> with Madame  
22 Brisson and what was said about your meeting with the  
23 bishop back in, I believe, 1983 and she was asked the  
24 question at the ad hoc committee while giving her evidence  
25 and I just -- I'm going to read to you the question that

1 was put to her and her answer, and then I'm going to ask  
2 you something afterwards.

3 **FATHER THIBAULT:** Okay.

4 **MR. DUMAIS:** And again, it's in French. So  
5 the question comes from Jacques Leduc:

6 "Est-ce que vous avez aucune  
7 information qui pourrait indiquer que  
8 les personnes que vous connaissez  
9 connaissaient les prédispositions du  
10 Père Deslauriers, qui connaissaient  
11 cette façon d'agir et qu'il aurait pu  
12 être averti avant janvier?"

13 Et la réponse de Madame Brisson:

14 "Bien, il y a Claude Thibault qui est  
15 venu chez nous et qui m'a dit -- ça  
16 c'était vendredi après son ordination  
17 en février. Je l'avais appelé parce  
18 que dans ces affaires-là, il y a eu du  
19 Bon Dieu, c'est épouvantable. Puis à  
20 son ordination, ça me disait il faut  
21 que tu parles à Claude Thibault. Puis  
22 j'ai laissé faire jusqu'au vendredi et  
23 le vendredi j'ai appelé chez lui. Il  
24 n'était pas revenu de Montréal. Il m'a  
25 rappelée 15 minutes après. Moi je lui

1 ai enseigné à Claude et je suis  
2 toujours restée proche de lui et je  
3 savais qu'il avait eu des grands  
4 problèmes et j'ai dit, 'Claude, quand  
5 tu as eu des difficultés, est-ce que  
6 c'était dû à une personne?' Il a dit,  
7 'Est-ce que je peux aller vous voir  
8 tout de suite là-dessus?' Ça fait  
9 qu'il arrive et il dit, 'Je pense que  
10 vous voulez m'ouvrir une porte'.  
11 Alors, on s'était assis. J'ai commencé  
12 à raconter que Benoît était séparé et  
13 je ne lui avais pas dit que cela avait  
14 été jusqu'à la manipulation sexuelle.  
15 Je lui ai pas dit ça du tout. C'est  
16 lui qui me l'a demandé. Il m'a dit  
17 'Madame Brisson, il faut que vous me  
18 disiez quelque chose, est-ce que ça été  
19 jusqu'à la sexualité?' J'ai dit 'Oui'.  
20 Il a dit 'Ah, vous savez pas comment  
21 vous me faites du bien vous'. Est-ce  
22 que je peux aller voir Denis  
23 Vaillancourt pour ça? J'ai dit 'Bien  
24 oui pauvre Claude'. Il a dit que quand  
25 ça lui était arrivé à lui, il était

1                   venu voir l'évêque, il avait juste  
2                   commencé à lui dire des choses que  
3                   Gilles faisait et quand j'ai commencé à  
4                   les dire, j'ai vu que l'évêque ne me  
5                   croyait pas. Alors j'ai pas continué.  
6                   J'ai vu que ça ne servait à rien.»

7                   **MR. DUMAIS:** So we've seen different versions  
8                   of that event Father Thibault. Is this an accurate summary  
9                   of your meeting with Madame Brisson?

10                  **FATHER THIBAUT:** Okay. First of all, it's,  
11                  as I remember, very accurate in the terms of the telephone  
12                  conversation. She didn't say much. I asked to go see  
13                  them. I went to see her and her husband. She told me  
14                  about her son's separation.

15                  I was under the impression or I'm still  
16                  under the impression that she did tell me about the sexual  
17                  abuse. Here she says that I'm the one who asked the  
18                  questions. I don't recall it that way but it's certainly  
19                  not impossible that it was that way.

20                  Okay, she relates to when I told her that  
21                  that had happened to me. I had gone to see the bishop. I  
22                  did not tell them that evening, and that I am convinced,  
23                  that I had been sexually abused. I did say that it  
24                  confirmed some doubts that I had. I mean, they probably  
25                  read between the lines there but I wasn't clear on that.

1                   When she says that I had gone to see the  
2                   bishop about things that Gilles had done, that the bishop  
3                   didn't believe me; as I mentioned yesterday, I did not tell  
4                   the bishop when I had gone to see him about the sexual  
5                   abuse but mostly about impressions that I had that he  
6                   wasn't true with me.

7                   She is not necessarily saying here that I  
8                   mentioned to him about the sexual abuse because she just  
9                   says things that Gilles had done. So that is accurate but  
10                  it could lead to believe that I told him at that time about  
11                  the sexual abuse but that's not -- that was not the case.

12                  **MR. DUMAIS:** All right.

13                  **FATHER THIBAUT:** Does that answer your  
14                  question?

15                  **MR. DUMAIS:** It does thank you. Now, we  
16                  spoke yesterday as well about the fact that at one point in  
17                  time, in the later part of 1986, that Father Deslauriers  
18                  had entered a plea of guilty to certain number of counts on  
19                  the indictment so there are separate charges on a document  
20                  that we call an indictment. And you indicated yesterday  
21                  that you did not know whether or not the pleas of guilty to  
22                  the counts he had entered, whether or not it involved you  
23                  as a victim. Is that correct?

24                  **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yeah. I mentioned that  
25                  last fall when I heard when either Benoit or his mother

1 were testifying when I heard the fact that there were only  
2 a certain number of allegations towards certain people,  
3 some of the guys that had testified that only some had been  
4 retained and that he pleaded guilty to. At that point, the  
5 thought that came into my mind was one of wondering if I  
6 was one of the four.

7 But in preparation for appearing here I did  
8 see the court documents and I did find out that I am one of  
9 the four so that he did plead guilty to the charges that I  
10 had made against him.

11 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right. Just so that we've  
12 clear, when the plea had been entered by Father Deslauriers  
13 you were not made aware of that proceeding. You didn't  
14 know that that was going on?

15 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Right. I didn't know that  
16 that was going to be going on. I found out after the fact.

17 **MR. DUMAIS:** One of the Cornwall police  
18 officer attended your place of residence ---

19 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

20 **MR. DUMAIS:** --- and advised you that he had  
21 plead guilty.

22 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yeah. I'm not sure if he  
23 came to see me or called me but I found out through him,  
24 yes.

25 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right. And you did not

1 find out at that time whether or not he had entered a plea  
2 of guilty to one of your charges?

3 **FATHER THIBAUT:** I really don't recall and  
4 I certainly didn't get anything formal, anything in writing  
5 about that. And I always presumed that he had pleaded  
6 guilty to the allegations that I had made but I really have  
7 no recollection of being told specifically that I was one  
8 of the four.

9 As I mentioned yesterday, I knew some of the  
10 charges had been dropped but I always figured like there  
11 were different ones for different -- like in my case, I  
12 think there were two. I thought it was kind of one of the  
13 two for just about everybody but I didn't think that it was  
14 some of the accusers -- their cause had been dropped  
15 totally.

16 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right. Now and you  
17 indicated yesterday that when Sergeants Ron, Herb Lefebvre  
18 initially met with you that you had been surprised by their  
19 visit and not. Any other concerns that you have with that  
20 criminal investigation?

21 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes. As I mentioned  
22 yesterday, I was not pleased with the way they came to see  
23 me and how it was handled at that time. But after I went  
24 to collaborate -- first of all, I appreciated that they  
25 went through my lawyer, through Jacques, to get back to me



1 and when I collaborated after that I have absolutely no  
2 qualms with the way they behaved towards me or they  
3 proceeded. I think they did their job quite  
4 professionally.

5 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right.

6 **FATHER THIBAUT:** No complaints.

7 **MR. DUMAIS:** So then your initial concern  
8 was that they showed up unannounced?

9 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Unannounced and when I  
10 didn't cooperate, the anger that was expressed at that time  
11 -- I basically felt like I was treated as if I was the one  
12 who was guilty.

13 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right. Father Thibault,  
14 these are my questions for you. I understand that you have  
15 prepared some recommendations for the Commissioner's  
16 benefit and you want to read that in?

17 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes, sure.

18 I'll start by expressing some of my hopes.  
19 My hope is that those who live under the burden of this  
20 secret shame and guilt of having been sexually abused may  
21 free themselves by talking to someone. They may be  
22 believed and not be betrayed again in their trust. Perhaps  
23 not everyone should or needs to tell their story publicly  
24 or even to lay charges but I believe that we all need to  
25 talk about it.

1           As someone once said to me "We are as sick  
2           as our secrets" and I really discovered that in my life. I  
3           hope that through this Inquiry and through my testimony  
4           here this week people may realize even more that the  
5           healing of the abuse doesn't happen overnight. It can be  
6           progressive in stages and we need to give it the time  
7           needed. Although I went to court 21 years ago about the  
8           sexual abuse I suffered and I had started to talk about it  
9           and work on it even before that. I wasn't ready then nor  
10          was I ready 10 years ago or even five or four years ago to  
11          tell my story publicly and to face the fear and the risks  
12          that it involved as I am doing today.

13                 People need to know that we can't just  
14          forget about what has been done to us. It can get better  
15          but it never goes totally away. However, it's important to  
16          remember that there is life after abuse as I said yesterday  
17          in my introductory comments.

18                         **THE COMMISSIONER:** M'hm.

19                         **FATHER THIBAUT:** There is even life as a  
20          member of the church and I want to be a sign of that hope.  
21          It has been my experience that it's important as a victim  
22          of sexual abuse to let go of the anger also. The anger  
23          kept me under the control of my abuser and letting go of  
24          that anger broke that control that I had given to him.

25                         I will probably never forget what he did to

1 me but the anger and the pain are not there. At least they  
2 have greatly diminished when I remember those events. I  
3 hope this Inquiry and my testimony will help those who  
4 aren't there yet to continue to move in that direction.

5 I have come to realize that it was not easy  
6 to forgive someone who never admitted his fault and who  
7 showed no sign of remorse or of wanting to be forgiven.  
8 However, I could not just wait for apologies. I didn't  
9 need to forgive because he wanted to be forgiven or even  
10 because he deserved it but I needed to forgive because I  
11 needed it. That helped me to forgive.

12 My abuser may not have been punished the way  
13 I would have wanted it but he can't take away my freedom  
14 any more. I am no longer afraid and that's such a great  
15 feeling.

16 Let's hope and pray that we as individuals,  
17 institutions, society, may bring the help needed to those  
18 who are guilty of abuse because people don't just get to do  
19 that without problems in their own lives.

20 May we find ways also to help those who were  
21 or may be at some point falsely accused and whose  
22 reputations are often ruined or seriously damaged. They  
23 too need assistance. May we have the much needed resources  
24 for all.

25 I hope that we who are on the front line and

1       who receive a story of sexual abuse -- whether we are  
2       priests, teachers, counsellors, parents, friends, et  
3       cetera, will be able to discern how to help the person in  
4       the best way possible -- that this inquiry will help us to  
5       do so realizing that the false victims need as much help as  
6       the others albeit in a very different way.

7                       Before I go on to my recommendations, I want  
8       to take this opportunity to thank all those who supported  
9       me and helped me in one way or another over the years. My  
10      parents, my brothers, my sisters, my friends and my brother  
11      priests, my therapist and many others who have been there  
12      for me whether they knew my story or not. Your help and  
13      love and support has been and continues to be greatly  
14      appreciated.

15                      For many reasons I toiled with the idea of  
16      coming before this inquiry and telling my story publicly.  
17      However, one of the main reasons behind my hesitation was  
18      because I realized that my decision will not only impact on  
19      me but will also affect those I love and care for, mainly  
20      my family. I just hope that no one will hold this against  
21      you and that you will reap the benefits of my testimony  
22      just as I hope many others will and that I will also.

23                      My recommendations -- before I begin my  
24      recommendations --let me state that I am basing them on my  
25      own experience which dates back some 30 years as far as the

1 abuse is concerned and 21 years as far as the allegations  
2 made by me and the process that followed.

3 I am aware that things have changed since  
4 and I am glad that there has been improvement even though I  
5 may not be fully aware of what the details of those changes  
6 are. However, I present these recommendations to affirm  
7 the positive changes that have been made and encourage  
8 those involved to continue in that direction.

9 Sometimes when we look in the past at what  
10 was, it makes us appreciate what we have now.

11 I present them also as challenges in the  
12 areas where no change has occurred or even where changes  
13 have been negative or have been steps in the wrong  
14 direction so that the efforts may continue to bring  
15 improvement in those areas -- excuse me.

16 My first recommendation concerns the Church.  
17 I am glad that there are now protocols for cases of sexual  
18 abuse or assault that have been developed by the Canadian  
19 Conference of Catholic Bishops and by our diocese that  
20 wasn't there back in 1986. Now we need to make sure that  
21 those protocols continue to be followed and are revised  
22 periodically.

23 I much prefer the approach taken by our  
24 Canadian bishops than that of their American counterparts.  
25 I have serious problems with "one size fits all" approach

1 and I feel that, when a bishop simply removes from ministry  
2 a priest who has committed sexual abuse and sends him away  
3 on his own -- as some U.S. bishops have done following the  
4 Dallas meeting in June, 2002 -- the Church isn't really  
5 taking its responsibility and is putting itself in the  
6 position of potentially perpetuating the problem and of  
7 being responsible if such priests abuse someone else later.

8 If a priest is deemed too dangerous to be in  
9 ministry, wouldn't he be too dangerous to be left on his  
10 own without any supervision or help?

11 I recommend that, here in Canada, we not  
12 adopt such a way to deal with priests who have committed  
13 sexual abuse but continue in the direction taken by our  
14 Conference of Catholic Bishops.

15 Number 2 -- On getting the victims involved  
16 in the investigation. Victims should never be treated or  
17 made to feel as if they are the guilty ones. For this, an  
18 appropriate process should be put into place if it's not  
19 already done so that police officers don't just show up at  
20 a presumed victim's home unannounced to question him or her  
21 on the possibility of having been abused sexually.

22 Number 3 -- About the set-up for meeting  
23 with Crown Attorney. The Crown Attorney should not invite  
24 all the people involved in a case -- victims and others  
25 associated to them -- together at the same time. At least

1 not without checking with them to see if they mind and not  
2 without informing them of who else will be there.

3 Number 4 -- Regarding the sentencing.  
4 First, the victim should be somehow involved in the  
5 sentencing. An option should be given to them of giving an  
6 impact statement.

7 Secondly, stronger sentences should be  
8 imposed on those found to be guilty of sexual abuse,  
9 especially in the case of repeat offenders. They should be  
10 helped in whatever way is suitable for their particular  
11 cases.

12 When I recommend stronger sentences, I'm not  
13 necessarily speaking of more severe punishment. I use  
14 stronger in the sense of sentences that are based on what's  
15 needed specifically -- sentences that are firm and that are  
16 followed through.

17 Number 5 -- Information to the victims. The  
18 victims should be informed, even in writing, of the  
19 development of the case and of the specific outcome of it.  
20 No victim should ever be left in the dark.

21 Number 6 -- On the protection of the  
22 victim's identity. The courts need to continue to protect  
23 the identity of the victims, if the victims so wish, by a  
24 publication ban on their names and identifying factors.  
25 However, I recommend that the victims always be made aware

1 of such bans before they appear before a judge to give  
2 their testimony. That publication ban should continue to  
3 be effective after the court process. However, maybe an  
4 exception could be made when it is determined that the  
5 accusations were false.

6 I would like to thank Mr. Commissioner  
7 Glaude for maintaining that publication ban until such a  
8 time as I was ready to disclose my story and my identity.

9 Number 7 -- Regarding the length of the  
10 process. I realized that I was very lucky that the case I  
11 was involved in was a relatively short process for us  
12 although I am also aware that it made a difference that  
13 Father Gilles Deslauriers pleaded guilty shortly after the  
14 preliminary inquiry.

15 However, I have observed that it has been  
16 way too long of a process for a number of others. I don't  
17 know how, but if anything can be done about shortening the  
18 process while still remaining fair to all who are involved,  
19 please do something about it. I wish I could tell you how.

20 Number 8 -- Recommendations about  
21 characteristics of perpetrators and education. In my view,  
22 education is needed both for young people as well as  
23 society as a whole regarding certain characteristics of  
24 perpetrators.

25 When we hear of a child being sexually



1 abused society accepts willingly the fact that children are  
2 innocent and vulnerable and that such an awful crime needs  
3 to be dealt with and punished. That's a good and valid  
4 instinct.

5 However, when a teenager or young adult gets  
6 sexually abused many are quick to jump to the conclusion  
7 that the victim should have known better or has asked for  
8 it or consented. That is a very hurtful comment.

9 People forget or do not understand that  
10 everyone is vulnerable. Perpetrators are manipulative,  
11 choose victims, carefully groom the over, lie to them,  
12 develop trust and abuse that trust.

13 This kind of social perception is hurtful to  
14 victims who are frequently re-victimized by it and it is a  
15 dangerous perception because it lulls people into a sense  
16 of complacency, particularly young people who are  
17 vulnerable to abuse.

18 Therefore, education of young people is  
19 needed. Adolescents or teenagers should be educated in the  
20 school system or through some form of public initiative to  
21 understand the characteristics of perpetrators; how they  
22 prey on vulnerable people; how they recruit, groom, gain  
23 trust; and how people can misuse such trust to gain sexual  
24 advantage over a young person.

25 Ultimately, abuse is basically a question of

1 betrayed trust, much more than a question of intelligence.

2 This education should be carried out  
3 sensitively so as not to promote excessive fear or paranoia  
4 but it should be something that teenagers and adolescents  
5 understand and recognize so as to provide them with as much  
6 information as possible.

7 Social education is also necessary so the  
8 society at large understands the nature and characteristics  
9 of perpetrators. This will help eliminate social  
10 misconceptions about consent or other misunderstandings  
11 about victims thereby providing broader social  
12 understanding and acceptance of the reality of sexual  
13 abuse. This I believe will encourage not only greater  
14 sensitivity but understanding as well as prevention and  
15 detection of such crime.

16 Number Nine -- About the help given to the  
17 victims. Although much is already in place, this Commission  
18 needs to put in place further elements that will assure  
19 ongoing help for the victims of sexual abuse, as much in  
20 terms of resources as of financial assistance.

21 Number 10 -- In dealing with the  
22 truthfulness of the allegations of sexual abuse. As we  
23 have seen, especially in the last couple of decades and  
24 through this inquiry, it is usually not easy to tell which  
25 story is true and which one is false. To say that it's not

1 always obvious is an understatement.

2                   However, I would ask that the Commission  
3 make recommendations to establish ways to protect the  
4 innocent and to maintain the presumption of innocence until  
5 proven guilty. It is a delicate and difficult issue  
6 because we want people of every age to be protected from  
7 sexual abuse and yet we need to avoid that someone would be  
8 tried in the media and judged guilty by society without a  
9 proper process to determine the level of guilt.

10                   Furthermore, along that line, I believe that  
11 such an inquiry cannot dodge the question of finding ways  
12 to restore the reputation of those who have been falsely  
13 accused. Although it is a very difficult one, I recognize,  
14 I firmly believe that true healing will not be possible in  
15 this community if that question remains unaddressed.

16                   Number 11 -- My last recommendation is also  
17 about the constant need for education. I believe that this  
18 Phase 1 of the inquiry has already been a forum for  
19 education on sexual abuse and on its consequences. In line  
20 with that I recommend that especially with Phase II a  
21 special concern be put on education.

22                   If we want to prevent further abuse, we need  
23 to educate and re-educate and re-educate everyone again,  
24 not only children. People need to understand that sexual  
25 abuse can happen to anyone, as I said a while ago, and it

1 does happen to people of all kinds of ages, of intellectual  
2 capacities and of social and financial status.

3 We need to be informed and to be careful  
4 without becoming totally paranoid. The education in that  
5 domain should also help us realize that we still need to  
6 trust anyway but that we also need to be prudent in our  
7 trust, always on our guard and ready to question and  
8 evaluate that trust.

9 Finally, I would like to thank you for  
10 allowing me to appear before this public inquiry and for  
11 taking the time to listen to me. I'm sorry for being so  
12 longwinded. Those who know me know that's one of my  
13 characteristics but I hope you realize how important my  
14 presence here is for me and I just want you to know that I  
15 could easily go on.

16 Having been hiding in silence for so many  
17 years, I have a lot to say but I won't go through it all in  
18 one sitting.

19 Thank you once again.

20 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Thank you.

21 **MR. DUMAIS:** On that, thank you for your  
22 participation, Father Thibault. My friends will surely  
23 have some questions for you. Thank you.

24 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Mr. Canto?

25 --- CROSS-EXAMINATION BY/CONTRE-INTERROGATOIRE PAR MR.

1           **STEPHEN CANTO:**

2                   **MR. CANTO:** Good morning, Mr. Commissioner.

3                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** Good morning.

4                   **MR. CANTO:** Good morning, Father Thibault.

5                   **FATHER THIBAULT:** Good morning.

6                   **MR. CANTO:** My name is Steven Canto and I'm  
7 here representing the Citizens for Community Renewal. The  
8 Citizens for Community Renewal is a group of concerned  
9 citizens with standing at this inquiry. Their chief  
10 mandate is to ensure that needed institutional reforms are  
11 implemented and to ensure that there is protection for  
12 children and justice for all.

13                   I don't anticipate being very long with you.  
14 I just want to clarify a few points.

15                   The first area is with respect to the R<sup>3</sup>  
16 movement. You indicated that in September of 1976, Father  
17 Deslauriers, he entered La Citadelle and he started this  
18 movement.

19                   **FATHER THIBAULT:** September 1977.

20                   **MR. CANTO:** Seventy-seven ('77), sorry.

21                   **FATHER THIBAULT:** Yeah.

22                   **MR. CANTO:** And you joined this movement the  
23 following January. Correct?

24                   **FATHER THIBAULT:** January '78, yes.

25                   **MR. CANTO:** Approximately, do you remember

1           how many students were involved with this movement, give or  
2           take? I know it's reaching ---

3                   **FATHER THIBAUT:** A lot of us because at  
4           first, as I say, until September '78, we went to Ottawa.

5                   **MR. CANTO:** Yep.

6                   **FATHER THIBAUT:** And it started with three  
7           girls who went to Ottawa that one, but then we'd usually be  
8           about 10. When '78 started, the fall of '78, there were  
9           usually, I'd say roughly, 25-30 of us at each one.

10                  **MR. CANTO:** Okay.

11                  **FATHER THIBAUT:** And we held about -- I  
12           think it was about six weekends per year and that went on,  
13           as far as I can remember, until Father Gilles left the  
14           diocese in '86. So, there's quite a number of young people  
15           who went through, not just from La Citadelle -- most of  
16           them went through La Citadelle but we also reached out to  
17           some of our friends from elsewhere.

18                  **MR. CANTO:** And besides Father Deslauriers  
19           being involved, were any other school officials involved?  
20           Because my understanding is that the R<sup>3</sup> movement was  
21           commenced through the school itself.

22                  **FATHER THIBAUT:** It wasn't commenced  
23           through the school.

24                  **MR. CANTO:** M'hm.

25                  **FATHER THIBAUT:** It was through Father

1 Gilles who was chaplain at the school.

2 MR. CANTO: That's right.

3 FATHER THIBAUT: It was supported by the  
4 school.

5 MR. CANTO: M'hm.

6 FATHER THIBAUT: There was always -- on the  
7 weekends here in Cornwall, there were always two priests  
8 involved.

9 MR. CANTO: Okay.

10 FATHER THIBAUT: Some of the teachers got  
11 involved to a certain extent in some of the meetings  
12 afterwards. I don't remember any of the teachers attending  
13 a weekend per se but there may have been but I don't  
14 remember. I do remember that there's a couple of them  
15 wanting to get involved and it didn't really work. Looking  
16 back, I think Father Gilles didn't want them in his -- in  
17 his way.

18 MR. CANTO: Thank you very much.

19 The second area that I want to take you to  
20 is the first time you disclosed the therapy session, let's  
21 say. It was during your retreat to Trois-Rivières in  
22 Quebec.

23 FATHER THIBAUT: Yes.

24 MR. CANTO: And you disclosed this  
25 information to a woman who was a layperson.

1                   **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

2                   **MR. CANTO:** All right. And she took you to  
3 a priest within Quebec -- a religious order.

4                   **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes, at the same place.

5                   **MR. CANTO:** Yes, same place, exactly.

6                   **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yeah.

7                   **MR. CANTO:** And, if I understand your  
8 evidence, when you disclosed it to the priest it was in the  
9 context of a confession.

10                   **FATHER THIBAUT:** I'm pretty sure it was. I  
11 can't totally remember that but yes.

12                   **MR. CANTO:** And he recommended that you  
13 contact Father Deslauriers.

14                   **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yeah, he recommended that  
15 I make sure that it stopped. It wasn't -- I don't remember  
16 it being an order, kind like you have ---

17                   **MR. CANTO:** Of course not, no. Yeah. And  
18 did he make any other recommendations, for example,  
19 actually contacting the Alexandria-Cornwall Diocese?

20                   **FATHER THIBAUT:** Speaking to the bishop  
21 about it?

22                   **MR. CANTO:** Yes.

23                   **FATHER THIBAUT:** I really don't recall  
24 that.

25                   **MR. CANTO:** Okay. And how about the secular



1 authorities at the time -- the Cornwall Police, Children's  
2 Aid?

3 **FATHER THIBAUT:** I don't remember that.

4 **MR. CANTO:** You don't remember; all right.

5 **FATHER THIBAUT:** And I don't -- I really  
6 don't remember but I don't think he did.

7 **MR. CANTO:** Okay.

8 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Because I was --

9 **MR. CANTO:** It's reaching back quite a bit.

10 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yeah. And I was -- excuse  
11 the expression -- I was a very good little boy back then.  
12 And I probably -- if I felt I needed to go to authorities  
13 like that, I probably would have.

14 **MR. CANTO:** Okay. And a final area that I  
15 want to take you to is your second meeting with Bishop  
16 LaRocque after you spoke with your spiritual advisor who  
17 told you to come forward, and that you ended up speaking  
18 with Father Vaillancourt and the following day you spoke  
19 with Bishop LaRocque.

20 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Can I just correct? My  
21 spiritual advisor didn't tell me to speak to Bishop  
22 LaRocque.

23 **MR. CANTO:** No, she recommended.

24 **FATHER THIBAUT:** I told her that I would be  
25 speaking to Bishop LaRocque and she supported me.

1 MR. CANTO: Fair enough. Thank you for the

2 --

3 FATHER THIBAUT: I had made the decision  
4 already.

5 MR. CANTO: Thank you for the clarification.

6 FATHER THIBAUT: Okay.

7 MR. CANTO: And if I understand your  
8 evidence correctly, you told us that after disclosing the  
9 abuse to Bishop LaRocque, he listened; he was sympathetic -  
10 -

11 FATHER THIBAUT: Very much so.

12 MR. CANTO: -- and compassionate?

13 FATHER THIBAUT: Yes.

14 MR. CANTO: Okay. And --

15 FATHER THIBAUT: He calmed all fears that I  
16 had.

17 MR. CANTO: Very good. Did he make any  
18 recommendations with respect to you contacting the secular  
19 authorities as well?

20 FATHER THIBAUT: I don't recall --

21 MR. CANTO: You don't recall?

22 FATHER THIBAUT: -- him making any  
23 reference to that.

24 MR. CANTO: Reference. Did he offer any  
25 assistance with contacting the secular authorities on your

1           behalf?

2                           **FATHER THIBAUT:** I don't remember that.

3                           **MR. CANTO:** You don't remember that. Okay -  
4           - and just a last area. When you did come forward, after  
5           you had your initial meeting with Ron and Herb Lefebvre and  
6           then you spoke with Mr. Leduc, my understanding is that you  
7           subsequently were in contact with the bishop again?

8                           **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

9                           **MR. CANTO:** And you advised him that you had  
10          been in contact with the secular authorities.

11                          **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

12                          **MR. CANTO:** If I am understanding correct?  
13          Okay. And that you --

14                          **FATHER THIBAUT:** He was --

15                          **MR. CANTO:** Sorry.

16                          **FATHER THIBAUT:** Go ahead.

17                          **MR. CANTO:** No, no, no. Go right ahead.

18                          **FATHER THIBAUT:** He was very supportive of  
19          that.

20                          **MR. CANTO:** Very good.

21                          **FATHER THIBAUT:** He never gave me any  
22          impression that he wasn't at ease with that.

23                          **MR. CANTO:** M'hm.

24                          **FATHER THIBAUT:** He never gave me the  
25          impression or made any comments of saying, "No, you

1 shouldn't do that."

2 **MR. CANTO:** M'hm.

3 **FATHER THIBAUT:** He was very, very open  
4 when I spoke to him about that.

5 **MR. CANTO:** Okay. Father Thibault, thank  
6 you very much, and those are my questions. And on behalf  
7 of my clients, we want to thank you.

8 **FATHER THIBAUT:** You're welcome.

9 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Thank you. Mr. Lee. Oh,  
10 I am sorry. Oh, do we have a new order here?

11 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** We do.

12 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Okay. Mr. Paul?

13 --- CROSS-EXAMINATION BY/CONTRE-INTERROGATOIRE PAR MR. IAN  
14 PAUL:

15 **MR. PAUL:** Father Thibault, my name is Ian  
16 Paul. I appear for a citizens group by the name of the  
17 Coalition for Action.

18 I have not a lot of questions, but a few  
19 questions, and I wanted to start on your overall  
20 recommendations.

21 One of your recommendations was about  
22 transferring priests who were facing charges or convicted  
23 of charges, and just upon your recommendation to your case,  
24 I take it that, given your trip to Hull in this case it  
25 would have been your wish that there would not be -- that

1           there would have been a suspension of the individual in  
2           your case?

3                       **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes. Definitely, Father  
4           Gilles, as I found out eventually -- it's not a point -- I  
5           never even questioned the fact that there may be others,  
6           but as I found out, he was a repeat offender. He's a man  
7           that I still believe is dangerous and my recommendation was  
8           definitely that in that type of case he be totally removed  
9           from ministry, any kind of ministry interaction with  
10          people, not only with adolescents but with adults because  
11          he caused problems for a number of adults, also abused  
12          their trust, manipulated them and -- but that he not be  
13          left on his own.

14                      **MR. PAUL:** And did you -- were you left  
15          feeling dissatisfied with the fact that your recommendation  
16          was not being accepted about that?

17                      **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

18                      **MR. PAUL:** Did you feel that the position  
19          that he was in when he was transferred to the Hull area,  
20          that he posed some type of risk to the public there?

21                      **FATHER THIBAUT:** I believe he was in a  
22          situation where he could. He was a potential risk,  
23          definitely.

24                      **MR. PAUL:** Now, you also noted that perhaps  
25          you'd become more satisfied with the type of protocols that

1 are set out in the Catholic Church at this time that may  
2 not have existed back then.

3 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Definitely.

4 **MR. PAUL:** I just --

5 **FATHER THIBAUT:** I don't think there was  
6 any -- I may be wrong there, but I don't get the impression  
7 that there was anything that would guide a bishop, in this  
8 instance Bishop LaRocque, with what to do specifically --

9 **MR. PAUL:** All right. Yeah.

10 **FATHER THIBAUT:** -- in a situation like  
11 that, which does exist today in most dioceses.

12 **MR. PAUL:** As far as protocols, you're  
13 talking about reporting and dealing with sexual abuse, are  
14 you satisfied with the level of publication and  
15 dissemination within the Church at this time?

16 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes. I think there is  
17 much more transparency and there is definite efforts in  
18 caring for those who make allegations when they're -- even  
19 before they were recognized legally as victims and the  
20 removal of somebody from ministry. I think, it's always  
21 difficult, and here I speak as a priest who see other  
22 priests being removed, when you don't know if it's a true  
23 allegation or not but at least it helps to -- it shows that  
24 we're dealing with it.

25 **MR. PAUL:** Now, you did mention that you

1           were not aware initially that there were other people  
2           making complaints other than, I take it, the Brisson  
3           family?

4                           **FATHER THIBAUT:**   Yes.

5                           **MR. PAUL:**   Now, when you were bringing  
6           forward your complaint, are they the only ones you were  
7           aware of other than yourself?

8                           **FATHER THIBAUT:**   Yes.  When I complained  
9           about it, and as I say, I don't -- I knew that there were,  
10          at some point, the ad hoc committee had been put together.

11                          I don't remember being aware of exactly who  
12          had gone, and I was at least under the impression that some  
13          people who went to speak to that Commission were not only  
14          speaking about sexual abuse but other manipulations that  
15          they had suffered.

16                          **MR. PAUL:**   So another area I want to ask you  
17          about in terms of the time when you actually came forward  
18          and made the report of abuse, was there some significance -

19          -

20                          **FATHER THIBAUT:**   To whom?

21                          **MR. PAUL:**   Yourself.

22                          **FATHER THIBAUT:**   No.  To whom?

23                          **MR. PAUL:**   Oh, sorry.  Initially, to the  
24          bishop.

25                          **FATHER THIBAUT:**   Okay.

1                   **MR. PAUL:** And in terms of the timeframe,  
2 was there a significance in your mind of waiting until you  
3 were ordained as opposed to doing it before?

4                   **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes. In my mind it was --  
5 I guess I had more -- I felt I'd have more leverage  
6 afterwards than beforehand. There was also -- how would I  
7 say -- self-interest in the sense that I was afraid if I  
8 revealed it before and I wasn't believed, that I'd never be  
9 ordained.

10                  **MR. PAUL:** Yes. I want to ask you about  
11 that. That belief, was that based on any particular facts  
12 or discussions with other people or what caused you to have  
13 that concern?

14                  **FATHER THIBAUT:** As I mentioned yesterday,  
15 I was aware that Father Gilles was the bishop's right-hand  
16 man in many areas and that he had a lot of power towards  
17 the bishop, and that if on the one hand, based on the fact  
18 that when I started talking a couple of years ago -- years  
19 before to the bishop of having the impression that father  
20 Gilles wasn't true with me and was playing games behind my  
21 back, that he said, "Be careful. Those are grave  
22 accusations." That led me to say, "Well, if he doesn't  
23 believe me with something like that, would he believe me  
24 with something stronger?" But also with the fact that if I  
25 -- Father Gilles was ever confronted by the bishop, saying,



1 "Well, this seminarian says you've abused him sexually. Is  
2 that true?" that Father Gilles, being the manipulator and  
3 the liar that I had come to realize, could easily say -- I  
4 don't know what there but something like, "No, I never did  
5 that and you got to be careful because Claude Thibault is a  
6 real liar."

7 And whereas I felt that after the ordination  
8 there was possibly more to -- more leverage. I had no idea  
9 at that time that somebody else would come forward before I  
10 did, and the Brissons opened the door and that's why I  
11 decided to go.

12 **MR. PAUL:** So you perhaps felt your position  
13 may be more secure once you were ordained?

14 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

15 **MR. PAUL:** And perhaps your position might  
16 be taken more seriously if you were more on the level of an  
17 equal to the person you're making the complaint against?

18 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yeah. However, I was also  
19 very aware that that was a risk that I was taking. I knew  
20 I had to take that risk. But I also knew that even after  
21 being ordained, the bishop could boot me out or could have  
22 tried to do that, which was not the case at all. He  
23 believed me.

24 **MR. PAUL:** Do you have any recommendations  
25 you've considered in terms of protecting persons, such as

1           yourself who have a role in your Church, from being  
2           discriminated by complaints or do you feel that's  
3           adequately covered by the present protocol?

4                       **FATHER THIBAUT:** I am not sure I understand  
5           your question.

6                       **MR. PAUL:** In terms of being a student  
7           expecting to be ordained, do you wish to have any protocols  
8           within the Church that would protect your position if you  
9           make a complaint or have you considered that?

10                      **FATHER THIBAUT:** I don't see how that would  
11           be naturally possible. What I basically want to make sure  
12           is that no matter who, no matter position who makes such a  
13           complaint be heard.

14                      **MR. PAUL:** Yes. The only other area I had  
15           questions on is you have a spiritual advisor. I just want  
16           to understand better the role in the Church of a spiritual  
17           advisor. First, who normally performs that function?

18                      **FATHER THIBAUT:** There's a variety of  
19           people. It is not necessarily -- there are some who will  
20           study in spiritual direction, but you don't necessarily  
21           need to have specific studies in order to guide somebody.  
22           I think most religion and priests have the potential to do  
23           that and to do a good job.

24                      There are, if I take for example when I was  
25           at the Seminary, they provided us a list with possible

1 spiritual advisors that were within the Seminary context,  
2 which we were told that it had to be one of those but when  
3 I first moved to Ottawa after -- for my last year at Ottawa  
4 University I wanted to have somebody locally, which I did  
5 have a priest at that time, but that wasn't -- I could have  
6 picked in a different number of people.

7 **MR. PAUL:** Now, when you're with a spiritual  
8 advisor, are you under the impression that there is  
9 confidentiality equivalent or similar to a confession?

10 **FATHER THIBAUT:** In most cases, it's  
11 considered -- it doesn't have the strict seal of  
12 confession, but it's considered something pretty  
13 confidential.

14 **MR. PAUL:** Those are my questions. Thank  
15 you Father Thibault.

16 **FATHER THIBAUT:** You're welcome.

17 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Mr. Lee.

18 --- CROSS-EXAMINATION BY/CONTRE-INTERROGATOIRE PAR MR.

19 **DALLAS LEE:**

20 **MR. LEE:** Good morning, Father Thibault. My  
21 name is Dallas Lee.

22 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Good morning.

23 **MR. LEE:** I am counsel for a group at the  
24 Inquiry known as the Victims' Group. I have a few areas I  
25 would like to canvas with you.

1 I want to start by reviewing some of your  
2 background as kind of a segue into some of the questions  
3 about the effects of abuse that I want to talk to you  
4 about.

5 FATHER THIBAUT: Okay.

6 MR. LEE: So I'm just going to do this as  
7 kind of a checklist and please interject if there's  
8 anything that I've missed.

9 FATHER THIBAUT: Okay.

10 MR. LEE: You are born and raised in  
11 Cornwall?

12 FATHER THIBAUT: Yes.

13 MR. LEE: Your parents were very religious?

14 FATHER THIBAUT: Yes.

15 MR. LEE: Your father was a member of the  
16 parish council?

17 FATHER THIBAUT: Yes, at some point.

18 MR. LEE: You attended a Catholic grade  
19 school and a Catholic middle school here in Cornwall?

20 FATHER THIBAUT: Yes.

21 MR. LEE: You were an altar boy?

22 FATHER THIBAUT: Yes.

23 MR. LEE: You were a reader during mass?

24 FATHER THIBAUT: Yes.

25 MR. LEE: You were involved with a youth

1 group at your parish?

2 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

3 **MR. LEE:** Once you got to high school and  
4 you got into the kind of a weird situation with the Public  
5 high school that was dominated by -- but anyways, while you  
6 were there, you were on the Pastoral Committee?

7 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

8 **MR. LEE:** And my understanding of that is  
9 that would have helped organize school-church activities  
10 like prayer sessions, and masses, and other religious  
11 activities and things like that? Is that right?

12 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

13 **MR. LEE:** You then got involved in the R<sup>3</sup>  
14 Movement?

15 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

16 **MR. LEE:** And there were religious retreats  
17 associated with that?

18 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

19 **MR. LEE:** And everything I've just discussed  
20 with you was before you had graduated from high school?

21 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

22 **MR. LEE:** I take it you would agree with me  
23 that religion and your faith at that time in your life was  
24 a huge part of your life?

25 **FATHER THIBAUT:** It definitely was, yes.

1                   **MR. LEE:** A huge part of your family life, a  
2 huge part of your social life?

3                   **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

4                   **MR. LEE:** And the area I'm interested in is  
5 then you were abused by a priest?

6                   **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

7                   **MR. LEE:** Not a guy on the street, not a  
8 teacher, not a family member. A priest.

9                   **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

10                  **MR. LEE:** Can you talk to us a little bit  
11 about -- with all the reflection, the time you've had to  
12 reflect and obviously your role now in life, looking back  
13 on it, the effect it had on you to have that breach of  
14 trust come from a priest as opposed to somebody else?

15                  **FATHER THIBAUT:** Okay. First of all, I  
16 believe that my involvement with the Church, my faith and  
17 all of that was very instrumental in the fact -- with the  
18 abuse itself. One of the reasons why -- like, there was a  
19 lot of confusion over this abuse, this so-called therapy.  
20 In my mind, it never felt right, but it was somebody that,  
21 as he had said and falsely said, had a degree in  
22 psychology, and he spoke at different times that his thesis  
23 was something regarding sexual problems or deviants or  
24 whatever. So he was, in my mind, a master of that, but he  
25 was also a priest.

1                   And I really -- I wouldn't say -- I knew a  
2                   number of priests so I wouldn't say that I believed that a  
3                   priest could do no wrong. I think I had a good  
4                   understanding at that point that priests are human and can  
5                   make mistakes but I constantly would come back to the fact,  
6                   like, well, he knows what he's doing, even though it  
7                   doesn't feel right. It doesn't feel right with my  
8                   religious values; what I had been taught; what I had grown  
9                   up with. He is a priest. So there has got to be something  
10                  that I'm missing that he sees and I -- he had brainwashed  
11                  me, I would say, so much with having to trust him that that  
12                  is exactly what I did.

13                                 Does that answer your question?

14                                 **MR. LEE:** It does, thank you. And obviously  
15                                 we know that he didn't -- the result of the abuse wasn't to  
16                                 take your faith away from you; that wasn't what happened.  
17                                 It could have. It has happened with some. We know that.  
18                                 With you, it didn't happen.

19                                 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yeah, it could have -- if  
20                                 I can address that.

21                                 **MR. LEE:** Yes.

22                                 **FATHER THIBAUT:** It certainly could have,  
23                                 and it damaged it. It shook it up. I would say it's my  
24                                 faith, in my case, that saved me.

25                                 And it is also the fact that I was involved

1 with other priests. I had other priests that I felt close  
2 to and that had nothing to do with Father Gilles so I was  
3 able early on, and still to this day, to realise that the  
4 Church was and is much more than Gilles Deslauriers, who  
5 abused me.

6 The Church is much more than its ministers.  
7 And I say that for myself too.

8 **MR. LEE:** We know from your evidence in-  
9 chief, in particular, that you continued practicing your  
10 faith through high school. You went to the University of  
11 Ottawa. Your faith continued to be a big part of your  
12 life, and then you decided to become a priest -- your going  
13 to enter the Seminary. Was that a difficult decision for  
14 you to make at that time, given what was going on?

15 **FATHER THIBAUT:** I would say at first I --  
16 although some people had talked to me about priesthood,  
17 that was the last thing I wanted to do and that had nothing  
18 to do with the abuse by Father Gilles. It is something I  
19 debated that I eventually -- that I felt inside so I  
20 decided to go to the Seminary to check it out and started  
21 realising that I really belonged there.

22 And as I said, I continued my relationship  
23 with Father Gilles, continued to consider him a friend.  
24 The abuse, sexual abuse as such had diminished and the word  
25 I was looking for yesterday is that the hold -- he still



1 had a very firm hold on me until I started being challenged  
2 by my friend at the Seminary about the influence he had on  
3 me.

4 Once I started realising that hold, once I  
5 started realising that it was abuse, the effect that it had  
6 had on me, it shook things up. But what it forced me to do  
7 was to realise that even though at some point I was -- and  
8 I think I mentioned that yesterday -- at some point I was  
9 basically becoming a priest for Father Gilles Deslauriers  
10 rather than God in God's Church.

11 Thank God I saw clearly to that and through  
12 that before being ordained. I would have had all the  
13 reasons in the world to say I don't want to have anything  
14 to do with the Church. I don't want to have anything to do  
15 with being a priest but I was able to refocus and to  
16 discover that, a bit like I said a while ago, there's life  
17 after abuse. There is life in the Church after abuse, and  
18 I had some people there that were good models and who  
19 really helped me through that.

20 So that's what allowed me to continue to be  
21 a priest and to want to make a difference -- I would say a  
22 difference from the inside, rather than outside being  
23 casting stones, and I'm not casting stones at those who  
24 would have made that choice there, but I felt I could make  
25 a difference.

1                   And even though I have been quiet in silence  
2                   for 21 years, publicly I have voiced my opinion in a number  
3                   of ways since, and I mentioned yesterday like with Bishop  
4                   LaRocque, with going to see Bishop Proulx, Bishop Valois,  
5                   not to pester anybody or not out of revenge but in wanting  
6                   to make sure things changed. That's also why I say that  
7                   I've already been -- I'm already part of Phase II of this  
8                   inquiry.

9                   **MR. LEE:** We're -- you know, I'd like to  
10                  thank you on behalf of my clients for that. Phase II is  
11                  hugely important to my clients as you might imagine and  
12                  it's something that ---

13                  **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

14                  **MR. LEE:** --- you know, the majority of my  
15                  clients aren't going to testify here in Phase I and I don't  
16                  think there's a single one of them that isn't going to take  
17                  part in Phase II. So I applaud you for being involved in  
18                  that.

19                  You've told us a little bit just now about  
20                  wavering a little bit while in seminary about, as you put  
21                  it, were you doing it for Gilles Deslauriers or were you  
22                  doing it for God and church.

23                  Did you ever waver at all about your desire  
24                  to be incardinated once you were out of the seminary in  
25                  this diocese? Did that ever enter your mind?

1                   **FATHER THIBAUT:** I don't think so. Even  
2                   though in my second year, as I said, I rebelled. I was in  
3                   an identity crisis basically when I started realizing what  
4                   had happened and I rebelled against Father Gilles and when  
5                   I say rebelled it wasn't always vocally because I was  
6                   stuck. He was ---

7                   **MR. LEE:** Right.

8                   **FATHER THIBAUT:** He was the hand that fed  
9                   me as vocation director so I had to be very careful not to  
10                  burn bridges, but I rebelled of some sort against him and  
11                  anybody that had to do with that. So to a certain extent,  
12                  against the diocese.

13                  But I don't recall ever questioning the fact  
14                  of being incardinated for this diocese and definitely when  
15                  I was ordained, by that time I had reconciled with myself  
16                  that the Diocese of Alexandria-Cornwall, like I said, for  
17                  the church was much more than Father Gilles and that I  
18                  could be here. I really believed that I could be here and  
19                  even that brings me to a bit -- something that I don't  
20                  remember who asked the question a while ago, but in the  
21                  risk I was saying -- the risk I was taking in declaring  
22                  this to the bishop, even after my ordination, he could have  
23                  booted me out.

24                  I didn't want to be -- at that time, I felt  
25                  I belonged here. I know I was taking the risk or even when

1 I went to court and I was afraid the next day it would be a  
2 headline about this. My picture would be there and I was  
3 afraid to be rejected and I remember saying, "God, I  
4 believe you put me here for a reason. I don't want to be a  
5 missionary in Africa. I've got nothing against that, those  
6 who do it, but I didn't feel that was my calling." And I  
7 said, "But if so is your will, I'll do that".

8 Twenty-one (21) years later, I'm still here  
9 and I'm glad to be here.

10 **MR. LEE:** Your place is here and it's always  
11 been ---

12 **FATHER THIBAULT:** That's what I feel. Some  
13 may disagree but ---

14 **MR. LEE:** So as you mentioned, you ordained  
15 in '86 at the Nativity Church here in Cornwall. Is that  
16 right?

17 **FATHER THIBAULT:** Yes, it was.

18 **MR. LEE:** So 21 years and all of your work  
19 as a priest then has been within the Diocese of Alexandria-  
20 Cornwall. Is that right?

21 **FATHER THIBAULT:** Yes, it has except for  
22 some studies where I was away for a while and on sick leave  
23 also, but the actual work has always been within this  
24 diocese.

25 **MR. LEE:** And the -- you know, you alluded

1 to it a little bit at the very beginning of your testimony  
2 but you now find yourself in a fairly unique position, I  
3 would suggest to you, that you're at a public inquiry where  
4 one of the institutions being examined is your diocese.

5 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

6 **MR. LEE:** Where you're an employee; at the  
7 same time you're a victim of abuse. I mean that must be a  
8 little bit of a difficult position for you to be in.

9 **FATHER THIBAUT:** It's been a very difficult  
10 situation for 21 years. I feel at times I'm in both camps  
11 and I have the privilege to be able to understand both  
12 sides, not everything, but to have a good perspective to  
13 understand both sides.

14 But I've also been hurt by comments on both  
15 sides and situations either that they're not being done the  
16 way I would like to or whatever, but I always feel I'm in  
17 both camps and yet I don't belong anywhere.

18 But in that sense, I think I can be helpful  
19 and that's part of why I decided to come to this inquiry  
20 because I think my position is very different than that of  
21 many others.

22 **MR. LEE:** And my understanding -- I was  
23 really struck by something that you said yesterday and it  
24 drove it home for me the position you find yourself in and  
25 that was when you were talking about Gilles Deslauriers

1 being sent to Hull, I suppose, when he ended up in Hull  
2 anyways under Bishop Proulx and that you went to Bishop  
3 Proulx, as I understand it, to -- because you wanted him to  
4 hear the other side of the story. Is that right?

5 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

6 **MR. LEE:** And what you said yesterday is you  
7 went to him and I'm paraphrasing here. Please let me know  
8 if you agree with this. You went not only as a victim of  
9 abuse but as -- in the quote I have, as a priest that loves  
10 the church.

11 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

12 **MR. LEE:** Is that right?

13 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

14 **MR. LEE:** And you'd agree I take it based on  
15 your experience with victims that that is fairly unique in  
16 terms of victims of clergy abuse.

17 **FATHER THIBAUT:** I'm not the only one but,  
18 yes, it's rather uncommon.

19 **MR. LEE:** And you also said that you wanted  
20 Bishop Proulx to hear the side of the story from the victim  
21 or someone like you because you weren't angry at the church  
22 and you didn't want to destroy it.

23 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

24 **MR. LEE:** Is that right? And you still feel  
25 that way today?

1                   **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes, I don't feel angry at  
2 the church. I believe we all make mistakes and there were  
3 mistakes that were made. I mean I make mistakes. Don't  
4 tell anybody but I make mistakes too sometimes, and ---

5                   **MR. LEE:** I think you've just doubted  
6 yourself. We're on the webcam here. So ---

7                                   **(LAUGHTER/RIRES)**

8                   **FATHER THIBAUT:** But it's -- I'm not angry  
9 and I do believe that there are important steps that have  
10 been made since. I recognized that in my recommendations  
11 and -- but -- okay, where was I going here. It's -- repeat  
12 the question again?

13                   **MR. LEE:** I think I has simply asked you  
14 whether or not you still essentially feel the same way  
15 today as you did when you went to Bishop Proulx in the  
16 sense that you were going to him as not only a victim of  
17 abuse but as a priest who loved the church and as somebody  
18 who wasn't angry at the church or out to destroy it.

19                   **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

20                   **MR. LEE:** And there was that different  
21 perspective.

22                   **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yeah, and also at that  
23 time, I was reticent to do that. I look back and I say,  
24 "My gosh, what courage I had" because I've always been  
25 somewhat of a shy person. A lot of people don't believe

1 that but there is ---

2 **MR. LEE:** You don't come off as shy.

3 **FATHER THIBAUT:** It's that side of me,  
4 timid side and especially towards authority and I had been  
5 always taught to respect authority and it was not  
6 disrespectful what I did. I was very careful but the thing  
7 was also I didn't want to ever in my life say "I should  
8 have". Especially, once Bishop Proulx died, I was very  
9 much at peace because I knew I had said what I needed to  
10 say and I do believe that had I not done that, I would  
11 still today be saying, "Oh, maybe if I would have done it,  
12 it could have made a difference".

13 **MR. LEE:** I want to get into some of your  
14 evidence in-chief and go through just to clarify a few  
15 things and there are a couple of areas that haven't been  
16 covered that I want to get into. I'm going to try to go  
17 chronologically as best as I can.

18 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Okay.

19 **MR. LEE:** So I want to start with the  
20 initial disclosure to -- my understanding the name was  
21 Rose-Annette Vachon.

22 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yeah.

23 **MR. LEE:** Is that right?

24 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Rose-Annette, yeah.

25 **MR. LEE:** So you're 19 years old at the time



1 and this is when you're on the retreat in Trois-Rivières.  
2 Is that right?

3 **FATHER THIBAUT:** M'hm, yes.

4 **MR. LEE:** And you talked to her and she says  
5 we better go see a priest and you go and talk to Father  
6 Coté. Is that right?

7 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

8 **MR. LEE:** Do you know what diocese he was a  
9 member of?

10 **FATHER THIBAUT:** He's a member of a  
11 religious order. So he doesn't belong to a particular  
12 diocese.

13 **MR. LEE:** But he was based in Quebec?

14 **FATHER THIBAUT:** He was living at that  
15 retreat centre at that time in Trois-Rivières.

16 **MR. LEE:** Do you recall him giving you any  
17 advice other than go and talk to Father Deslauriers and  
18 tell him to stop?

19 **FATHER THIBAUT:** No. I was already asked  
20 that question and basically we discussed that but I don't  
21 remember him saying anything like -- and I really don't  
22 remember him saying like go to the cops; go to see Bishop  
23 LaRocque about this and, whether it's him or anybody else  
24 also, I didn't ask them to do that either. I wouldn't have  
25 wanted anybody to go tell the bishop at that time.

1 I wasn't ready to disclose that to him and I  
2 wouldn't have wanted anybody to do it for me.

3 **MR. LEE:** Thank you for that. That's  
4 helpful.

5 Father Coté, did he -- I mean when you look  
6 back on it and you have the conversation, do you remember  
7 any discussion coming from him about whether there might be  
8 other victims, whether this was a problem, whether it was a  
9 widespread thing?

10 **FATHER THIBAUT:** No. As I said, until my  
11 friend asked -- said to me, "Claude, if that happened to  
12 you, how many others did it happen to", that was the first  
13 time that it ever came into my mind that there may be  
14 others. So I'm convinced that that was not an issue that  
15 Father Coté brought up.

16 **MR. LEE:** Looking back on it now and in your  
17 position as an active priest now, would you expect that the  
18 reaction, if a similar situation were to happen today,  
19 would be more proactive?

20 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes, I think with what's  
21 happened in Canadian Church, American Church and all of  
22 this, the reaction would be very different. If somebody  
23 came to see me about a similar situation like that, one of  
24 my first questions, at least to myself, maybe to the  
25 person, was like "Are there any others? Is that happening

1 to anybody else?"

2 MR. LEE: And I take it that's because you  
3 understand now that these oftentimes are not isolated  
4 incidents?

5 FATHER THIBAUT: Yes.

6 MR. LEE: There is usually more than one  
7 victim?

8 FATHER THIBAUT: Yes, I believe that there  
9 are cases that it's one case that happens, and then it's  
10 the only one, but I also know that there's a number of  
11 repeated offenders, repeat in the sense of repetition with  
12 the same person but also with different people.

13 MR. LEE: I want to talk to you about Gilles  
14 Deslauriers for a minute.

15 FATHER THIBAUT: We know from your  
16 evidence-in-chief that you met him in high school. Contact  
17 with him continued through your undergraduate degree.

18 FATHER THIBAUT: Yes.

19 MR. LEE: You were in Cornwall for a bit of  
20 that, and the last year in Ottawa, and while you were in  
21 Ottawa that contact continued, I take it?

22 FATHER THIBAUT: M'hm.

23 MR. LEE: For the last year of your  
24 undergraduate degree?

25 FATHER THIBAUT: Yes. And one of the

1 things he did when -- and I remember when I was in Cornwall  
2 doing that, but he would drive to Ottawa with a number of  
3 us to do Air Cube meetings in Ottawa. Even though there  
4 were Ottawa-based meetings, he did meetings with us, and  
5 again to me, that was -- that's a sign of the hold that he  
6 had on so many of us.

7 **MR. LEE:** This is while you were in  
8 university?

9 **FATHER THIBAUT:** While I was in university.  
10 As I say, when I was in university at the Cornwall Campus I  
11 joined him and others to go to Ottawa, but once I was in  
12 Ottawa he also came and led some meetings there.

13 **MR. LEE:** And my understanding is that  
14 Father Deslauriers encouraged you to enter the seminary; is  
15 that correct?

16 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes, he encouraged me.

17 **MR. LEE:** And ---

18 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Definitely.

19 **MR. LEE:** --- while you were in the seminary  
20 you've told us that the relationship with him continued?

21 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes, it did.

22 **MR. LEE:** And you told us -- we know that in  
23 part because you told us about Steve Amesse, and the -- am  
24 I pronouncing that right? Amesse, is that right?

25 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Amesse, yes.

1                   **MR. LEE:** And him questioning you about the  
2 relationship with Deslauriers.

3                   **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes. Yes.

4                   **MR. LEE:** Is my understanding right that  
5 Steve Amess was a fellow seminarian?

6                   **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes, he was.

7                   **MR. LEE:** Was he from Cornwall?

8                   **FATHER THIBAUT:** No.

9                   **MR. LEE:** He was ---

10                  **FATHER THIBAUT:** No.

11                  **MR. LEE:** When did you first meet him, at  
12 the seminary or ---

13                  **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yeah, at the seminary. He  
14 was from New Brunswick, I guess.

15                  **MR. LEE:** So you just knew him from school,  
16 from the seminary?

17                  **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

18                  **MR. LEE:** Is that right?

19                  **FATHER THIBAUT:** I didn't -- I met him at  
20 the seminary. I didn't know him before.

21                  **MR. LEE:** And you were told -- telling us  
22 that -- the words you used, I think, were that Amesse was  
23 concerned that Deslauriers was controlling you. Were those  
24 his words, controlling?

25                  **FATHER THIBAUT:** I'm not sure that they

1           were his words, but he came to express that he was  
2           concerned on the influence that he had. Basically -- based  
3           on situations, like there's times I'd speak to him about  
4           things that I was planning to do ---

5                       **MR. LEE:** Speak to Amesse?

6                       **FATHER THIBAUT:** To Steve, yes, and then  
7           I'd then either come to Cornwall and then -- or speak to  
8           Gilles on the phone, or speak to Steve about that, and I  
9           had at times made a 180 degree turn based on what Gilles  
10          would say because there would be situations I'd go to see  
11          him and I'd think -- let's say I'd think blue and come out  
12          of there thinking red because that's what he had told me I  
13          needed to think.

14                      **MR. LEE:** And in relation to the seminary  
15          then, did Father Deslauriers have any official duties at  
16          the seminary?

17                      **FATHER THIBAUT:** Official duties at the  
18          seminary?

19                      **MR. LEE:** Duties, yes.

20                      **FATHER THIBAUT:** No, he was the middleman,  
21          the contact between the seminary and the diocese, but he  
22          did not work for the seminary or for St. Paul's University.

23                      And we need to understand here that St.  
24          Paul's Seminary and St. Paul's University were like -- are  
25          working together but it's two different buildings and two

1 different setups. So Father Gilles did not have any duties  
2 with any of those.

3 **MR. LEE:** Did he ever visit you at the  
4 seminary?

5 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes, he did.

6 **MR. LEE:** Often?

7 **FATHER THIBAUT:** I don't quite remember. A  
8 number of times, but I don't remember if I'd say often. He  
9 did. That was part of his role as Vocation Director.

10 **MR. LEE:** Father Thibault, the point I'm  
11 getting to is that you have Steve Amesse, this friend that  
12 you meet at the seminary who is not from Cornwall. He's an  
13 Ottawa friend. Gilles Deslauriers has no official duties  
14 at the seminary. He's not a -- he's not there all the  
15 time.

16 Would you agree with me that for Steve  
17 Amesse to pick up on the fact that you were being  
18 controlled by Gilles Deslauriers it had to be pretty  
19 obvious?

20 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Today I agree, yes.

21 **MR. LEE:** Did anybody else at the seminary -  
22 - and I'm thinking primarily of somebody in an official  
23 capacity -- ever say anything to you about that, ever  
24 discuss that with you?

25 **FATHER THIBAUT:** No, no, not about that.

1                   **MR. LEE:** What about at the diocese, did a  
2 priest ever come up to you and discuss that with you at  
3 all?

4                   **FATHER THIBAUT:** No. Whether anybody  
5 picked up on it, I don't know. As I say, Steve was a good  
6 friend, and I shared different things with him that I  
7 didn't necessarily share with everybody at the seminary,  
8 but I don't remember any priest ever saying to me, "Be  
9 careful about that priest," or any of that kind. I do  
10 remember a number of times Father Gilles saying that about  
11 others, putting me on guard about so and so, and I did  
12 sense back then too that he was jealous of my relationship  
13 with some other priests, one of them being my parish  
14 priest, that I was very involved with the parish there and  
15 ---

16                   **MR. LEE:** Did Father Deslauriers -- sorry,  
17 just to pick up on what you just said -- did Father  
18 Deslauriers ever warn you about a relationship with another  
19 priest in terms of some sexual issue? I mean, did he ever  
20 say to you, "You better watch out for that guy"?

21                   **FATHER THIBAUT:** No.

22                   **MR. LEE:** No. It was just a -- okay.

23                   **FATHER THIBAUT:** No, more, "Well, he's not  
24 the best one for you. I'll take care of you," kind of  
25 thing.



1                   **MR. LEE:** Based on what you've told us, not  
2 really all that surprising, given what you have told us  
3 about how he was controlling ---

4                   **FATHER THIBAUT:** No, not at all, not at  
5 all.

6                   **MR. LEE:** Now, one of the -- one of the  
7 issues that I'm confused on is that -- is after this 1979  
8 retreat in Trois Rivières, my understanding is you come  
9 back and you talk to Father Deslauriers and the abuse  
10 stops. Is that right?

11                   **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes. Yes.

12                   **MR. LEE:** And there is no further abuse  
13 after that?

14                   **FATHER THIBAUT:** There is no further abuse,  
15 and as far as I remember, it was never brought back until I  
16 confronted him in 1985. So he didn't -- he didn't try to  
17 say, "Well, have you changed your mind? Or maybe you are  
18 doing the wrong decision here." He never came back to it.  
19 He continued to make me feel very special, continued to --  
20 well, to control me, but continued to be very friendly with  
21 me, did not threaten me in any way, at least not that I  
22 remember. He didn't say, "Well, this is going to stop.  
23 You'd better never tell anybody about it." I don't  
24 remember that, but as I say, I do remember he tried to --  
25 he continued to make me feel special, or tried to. And in

1           that sense I believe today that he tried to keep me on his  
2           side. He preferred to have me on his side than against  
3           him.

4                       **MR. LEE:** He had a hold on you for ---

5                       **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

6                       **MR. LEE:** --- for those years. Is that  
7           right?

8                       **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes, yes he did.

9                       **MR. LEE:** And then you ended up in the  
10          seminary and the Steve Amesse issue comes up. You told us  
11          yesterday that the controls stops on March 21<sup>st</sup>, 1985.

12                      **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

13                      **MR. LEE:** And that's the day you go to him  
14          and you confront him and you are telling him, essentially,  
15          that you are taking back control of your life. Is that  
16          right?

17                      **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

18                      **MR. LEE:** How do you know that date?

19                      **FATHER THIBAUT:** How do I know that date?  
20          It's inscribed in my mind as a very important date. I also  
21          double checked that lately in my agenda, my date book, and  
22          I've got it marked, meeting with Gilles Deslauriers circled  
23          in red.

24                      **MR. LEE:** A date book in terms of your  
25          scheduled appointments and things like that?

1                   **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yeah, my agenda.

2                   **MR. LEE:** Did you keep a journal or a diary  
3 at the time?

4                   **FATHER THIBAUT:** I did for a little while,  
5 at Father Gilles' recommendation. I started a diary in  
6 October 31<sup>st</sup>, 1977. So I hadn't known him very long and he  
7 recommended that, but it only goes as far as -- I kind of  
8 gave up on -- sometime in 1978.

9                   **MR. LEE:** It didn't last very long, did it?

10                  **FATHER THIBAUT:** No. And I also was very  
11 careful what I put in because every once in a while he'd  
12 read it. So I don't have any record in there of saying,  
13 "Well, I met with him today and we had therapy" or anything  
14 like that.

15                  **MR. LEE:** You have another specific date  
16 that you referenced being November 25<sup>th</sup>, '85 which is when  
17 you went to your spiritual director, Sister Myrna. Is that  
18 right?

19                  **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

20                  **MR. LEE:** And can you help us understand  
21 what's going on in your life at the time? I mean, it's  
22 been -- the abuse has been stopped for five or six years.

23                  **FATHER THIBAUT:** M'hm

24                  **MR. LEE:** You're at the seminary. How were  
25 you coping at that point in time with what's happened to

1           you?

2                           **FATHER THIBAULT:** The -- a lot of the issues  
3           towards Father Gilles, I had -- well, first of all, I  
4           started to deal with when I started realizing the control  
5           he had with me. I felt stuck because I couldn't go to the  
6           Bishop and say towards Father Gilles, I had -- well, first  
7           of all, started to deal with when I started realizing the  
8           control he had with me.

9                           I felt stuck because I couldn't go to the  
10          bishop and say, "I don't want to have anything to do with  
11          this man anymore" because I felt that he would ask me why,  
12          and I really wasn't ready to give him that -- to answer  
13          that question at that point.

14                          When I started my internship, I looked for  
15          another spiritual director and when I started in, I guess,  
16          it's the beginning of '85 with Sister Myrna, I started  
17          discussing many of my issues with Father Gilles to -- so to  
18          work them out. I confronted him. But we kept on looking  
19          at that.

20                          So I did a lot of work. I came a long way  
21          already, which led me eventually to disclose to her about  
22          the sexual abuse. I had to tippy toe --

23                          **MR. LEE:** Tippy toe? Tiptoe.

24                          **FATHER THIBAULT:** Tiptoe.

25          -- tiptoe my way to there because I -- I wouldn't say I

1       didn't trust her, but I didn't trust that information. I  
2       had trouble trusting myself still so when I disclosed it  
3       was, "This is what I've done back in March, I confronted  
4       him with that. I feel so much more free. Now, this is  
5       what I need to do. I realize I need to go speak to the  
6       bishop, and I will do it after my ordination."

7                   **MR. LEE:** But before that you needed  
8       somebody to talk to? You wanted to talk to Sister Myrna.  
9       Is that right?

10                   **FATHER THIBAUT:** Oh, yes. Yes.

11                   **MR. LEE:** Yes. And I can I take that the  
12       point of that was in some part to at least help you sort  
13       out these issues, and the questions you had, and a plan of  
14       action. Is that right?

15                   **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes. I wasn't in any  
16       formal kind of therapy. Spiritual direction is -- there's  
17       a certain element of counselling in there and so that's  
18       what basically happened at that point.

19                   But I needed to sort things out but I  
20       believe that speaking to other, and in this case, it was a  
21       steppingstone in order to be able to get -- to be able to  
22       speak to the bishop.

23                   **MR. LEE:** What was it at that time -- and to  
24       situate you in time here, you haven't yet learned from the  
25       Brissons about Benoit?

1                   **FATHER THIBAUT:** No.

2                   **MR. LEE:** So you're the only one as far as  
3 you know for sure?

4                   **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

5                   **MR. LEE:** Now, what is it that makes you  
6 decide at that point that within six months of ordination  
7 you have to go to the bishop?

8                   **FATHER THIBAUT:** Okay. First of all, to  
9 situate myself in time, at that point, I was in the  
10 seminary in Montreal. Following my pastoral internship I  
11 did one semester in Montreal to complete my studies. We're  
12 looking at the ordination coming up in February. I wasn't  
13 quite finished my semester when I met Sister Myrna.

14                   It was basically a gradual realization. How  
15 would I say? I had started realizing before that that at  
16 some point I needed to tell the bishop. At that point, I  
17 was ready to take the risk. I had made the decision to  
18 take the risk and I spoke to Sister Myrna about that.

19                   And the six months was because I need  
20 deadlines. So if I -- and I knew that if I just say,  
21 "Well, sometime after my ordination, I have to speak to  
22 him" there are chances that I wouldn't have done it. So, I  
23 needed to give myself a deadline, a frame to do it. I knew  
24 that that would help me.

25                   I certainly didn't plan on being in his

1 office nine days later. That was definitely not in my  
2 plan. When I spoke about within six months it probably was  
3 in my mind more like five and a half.

4 **MR. LEE:** Will --

5 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Close to the deadline.  
6 But when I found out about the Brissons -- I found out that  
7 they had advised the bishop it was -- there is a door  
8 that's opened.

9 I owe it to Benoit for the risk he had  
10 taken; but I owe it to myself to not wait.

11 **MR. LEE:** And at this point, Father  
12 Deslauriers is still a priest?

13 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

14 **MR. LEE:** Still in active Ministry?

15 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yeah. At Nativité Parish,  
16 yes.

17 **MR. LEE:** Was he still in the school at that  
18 point, do you know?

19 **FATHER THIBAUT:** I think he was. I'm not  
20 sure.

21 **MR. LEE:** Still respected in the community  
22 really so there's no public knowledge of any of this. Is  
23 that right?

24 **FATHER THIBAUT:** No. No. Very respected  
25 and he spoke at my ordination. Vocation Directors usually

1 ask if the candidate has been -- the question is different  
2 in French than in English. In French it would be  
3 equivalent, "Est-ce qu'il a les aptitudes requises; Does he  
4 have the required aptitudes."

5 **MR. LEE:** Right.

6 **FATHER THIBAUT:** In English, and again,  
7 it's a bit the same thing, "Has he been judged to be  
8 worthy?"

9 I was fuming inside when answered that  
10 question.

11 **MR. LEE:** I can imagine.

12 Mr. Commissioner, I'm in your hands for a  
13 break. I don't know what you're thinking is.

14 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Yes. Well, my thinking  
15 is we should have a break.

16 **MR. LEE:** Now, is a good time.

17 **THE REGISTRAR:** Order. All rise. À  
18 l'ordre. Veuillez vous lever.

19 This hearing will resume at 11:20.

20 --- Upon adjourning at 11:07 a.m./

21 L'audience est ajournée à 11h07

22 --- Upon resuming at 11:32 a.m./

23 L'audience est reprise à 11h32

24 **THE REGISTRAR:** This hearing is now resumed.  
25 Please be seated. Veuillez vous asseoir.



1 THE COMMISSIONER: Mr. Lee.

2 --- CROSS-EXAMINATION BY/CONTRE-INTERROGATOIRE PARE MR.

3 DALLAS LEE:

4 MR. LEE: Father Thibault when we left off  
5 we were discussing, what I'll call the six-month plan, as  
6 you said the five and a half to six-month plan --

7 FATHER THIBAUT: Yeah.

8 MR. LEE: -- And you suggested and you told  
9 us in chief that that didn't end up working out for you.  
10 You got a call from the Brissons and that changed the plan,  
11 didn't it?

12 FATHER THIBAUT: It sure did.

13 MR. LEE: So the dates I have are that you  
14 were ordained on February 1st, 1986, and you got a call  
15 from Lyse Brisson on February 7th, 1986.

16 FATHER THIBAUT: That's correct.

17 MR. LEE: So less than a week later. Is  
18 that right? And my understanding is that was a short call  
19 and you said that you wanted to come and see her?

20 FATHER THIBAUT: Yes.

21 MR. LEE: And you did that that same night.  
22 Is that right?

23 FATHER THIBAUT: Yes.

24 MR. LEE: And that's the first time that you  
25 learned for a fact that you weren't the only victim of

1 Gilles Deslauriers; is that right?

2 **FATHER THIBAUT:** That's right on.

3 **MR. LEE:** There had been some suggestions  
4 earlier that entered your mind, but you didn't know?

5 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yeah. And there is --  
6 there were definitely questions but I had absolutely no  
7 indication of who had been and who had not.

8 **MR. LEE:** Did you doubt the story that was  
9 being told to you by the Brissons at all?

10 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Not at all.

11 **MR. LEE:** Not at all. And as I understand  
12 it, that changed things in your mind; is that right, about  
13 what you had to do in term of telling the bishop?

14 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yeah. Because I realized  
15 that I was not going to wait another six months -- that I  
16 needed to go forward. As I mentioned a while ago, the door  
17 was open and I needed to go.

18 If I can clarify something regarding one of  
19 your questions a while ago, like, when I said that in 1985  
20 I really broke the fear and the control towards the fear  
21 that I had of Father Deslauriers and the control he had  
22 over me.

23 One of the reasons I didn't disclose that  
24 right after that, was that I was very aware of the control  
25 he had on others. So although I broke the control over me,

1 I was aware that there was control.

2 So there wasn't fear towards him; there  
3 wasn't fear of him confronting me but there was fear in  
4 what he could do behind my back. Is that -- is that clear?  
5 Do you understand that?

6 **MR. LEE:** I do understand.

7 **FATHER THIBAUT:** So that made a big  
8 difference in why I waited almost a year before disclosing  
9 it to Bishop LaRocque.

10 **MR. LEE:** Can you -- one of the things I'm  
11 interested in is it's been an issue with several of the  
12 witnesses we've had so far about the importance of finding  
13 out you're not alone and the importance that of knowing  
14 you're not the only one, and the effect that has on  
15 disclosure.

16 Can you tell us what that day was like for  
17 you when you learned that Benoit Brisson had also been  
18 abused? Emotionally, I mean, how did you feel when you  
19 learned about that?

20 **FATHER THIBAUT:** I felt very sad to find  
21 out that it had happened to somebody, when that was  
22 confirmed in my mind.

23 I didn't believe I was the only one after  
24 the discussion with Steve. From then on I really suspected  
25 there would be others but I would've liked -- and there's

1 part of me that would have like to find out that there  
2 wasn't.

3 So, on the one hand, I was very sad to hear  
4 that; on the other hand, it really felt good to realize  
5 that I wasn't alone.

6 It felt good to know that when I would speak  
7 to the bishop that he had already heard of another  
8 situation. So that I wasn't the first one to confront him  
9 with something like that, but I was -- appuyé, appuyé -- I  
10 was --

11 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Endorsed.

12 **MR. LEE:** -- endorsing. I was confirming  
13 something he had heard about somebody else that Father  
14 Gilles was a sexual aggressor.

15 So it -- as I say, I had, even there, mixed  
16 feelings but I also felt very happy.

17 I remember sitting in my car, coming out of  
18 their house, and I just sat there for a few minutes and I  
19 remember saying "God, what are you doing here?"

20 **MR. LEE:** And you would -- my understanding  
21 is you had gone to school with Benoît in grades 7 and 8.  
22 Is that right?

23 **FATHER THIBAULT:** Yes. Grades 7 and 8 and  
24 in high school also. We're the same age so we weren't in  
25 all the same classes in high school but he was in my

1 homeroom for grades 7 and 8.

2 **MR. LEE:** And you had both done the R<sup>3</sup>  
3 retreats?

4 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

5 **MR. LEE:** You now know, I take it, that you  
6 were both the subject of therapy sessions by Gilles  
7 Deslauriers?

8 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

9 **MR. LEE:** In pretty similar stories -- you  
10 know that?

11 **FATHER THIBAUT:** I found that out -- yes.

12 **MR. LEE:** And I take it you are aware that  
13 you were even being abused by Deslauriers in roughly the  
14 same period?

15 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yeah -- that's vague in my  
16 mind there -- I don't remember what dates he talked about,  
17 but I think it would be very realistic.

18 **MR. LEE:** So, I take it it wasn't a huge  
19 surprise to you to get a call generally from Lyse Brisson?

20 **FATHER THIBAUT:** No. I knew the family  
21 quite well because I knew Benoît and I knew the rest of his  
22 family. There had been different interactions so -- and  
23 Mme Brisson I knew from being a teacher of mine -- so to  
24 get a call from her -- like when my mother told me "Mme  
25 Brisson called and wants you to call back" -- like there

1 was nothing in my mind -- like first of all, I didn't  
2 expect that it would be anything of that nature, but it  
3 wasn't kind of "oh my gosh, why is she calling me?" Not  
4 that she called me on a regular basis either.

5 **MR. LEE:** I understand that. And my  
6 understanding is the first question she asked you relates  
7 to the fact that she knew at that point that you had had  
8 trouble while you were in the seminary. Is that right?

9 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

10 **MR. LEE:** Were you surprised that she knew  
11 that?

12 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Not totally surprised. I  
13 wasn't aware that she knew, but her son, Roch, Benoît's  
14 youngest brother or younger than Benoit, was in Ottawa when  
15 I was in the seminary and he'd come and visit us at times  
16 and when I went through my rebellion there's one specific  
17 time where he came to the seminary and there was another  
18 seminarian from our diocese who came to see me and said  
19 "Roch is here to have lunch with us". And I said "Well,  
20 you have lunch with him, I don't want to have anything to  
21 do with him". So I presume that Roch related that to his  
22 parents at some time that that would have been really out  
23 of character for me in the way they knew me.

24 **MR. LEE:** That was part of the issues you  
25 were having -- that you weren't behaving as you normally

1 would.

2 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes. I didn't want to see  
3 him because he was a friend of Gilles Deslauriers, he was a  
4 member of R<sup>3</sup> and I was really struggling with that.

5 **MR. LEE:** So, you've now learned once you  
6 deal with the Brissons that there's at least one other  
7 victim.

8 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

9 **MR. LEE:** And you know him. You're close to  
10 the family and the plan changes. Is that right?

11 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

12 **MR. LEE:** And even though you wanted more  
13 time to prepare yourself and to get ready to tell the  
14 bishop, you believe you no longer have that time and you  
15 have to go talk to him. Is that right?

16 **FATHER THIBAUT:** I wouldn't say that I  
17 needed more time to prepare. I think I was already  
18 prepared. I just wasn't comfortable with having to go see  
19 him about that so I was procrastinating, I guess, and  
20 that's why I gave myself a six-month deadline.

21 **MR. LEE:** I want to discuss a little bit  
22 with you the reasons you were hesitant to go and see the  
23 bishop about this. You had already spoken once about  
24 Father Deslauriers in '83. Is that right?

25 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

1                   **MR. LEE:** It's fair to say I take it it  
2 wasn't well received. He didn't make you feel comfortable?

3                   **FATHER THIBAUT:** No and I repeat that I did  
4 not speak about the abuse at that time but feelings I had  
5 regarding his sincerity -- Gilles' sincerity and it wasn't  
6 well received. At least that was my perception.

7                   **MR. LEE:** And what I heard you say yesterday  
8 was that you thought it was too risky to tell the bishop  
9 because of 1) the power that Gilles Deslauriers had in the  
10 diocese and secondly, Bishop Laroque's trust of him -- is  
11 that right?

12                   **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

13                   **MR. LEE:** And your concern that you've  
14 talked about a lot is that you feared that you might not be  
15 ordained if you came forward ---

16                   **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yeah.

17                   **MR. LEE:** --- at that point and you wanted  
18 more leverage as you put it.

19                   **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yeah, in the sense that if  
20 the bishop didn't believe me or if he believed me and  
21 confronted Gilles and Gilles would make up some story in my  
22 back -- behind my back -- to justify himself and to make  
23 himself look good. I knew the bishop had basically the  
24 power to say "Hey, we don't need somebody like you as a  
25 priest".



1                   **MR. LEE:** What prior dealings had you had  
2 with the bishop before the meeting in '86? We know you had  
3 met with him in '83. What other -- during the time you  
4 were a seminarian I mean -- are you dealing with the bishop  
5 often?

6                   **FATHER THIBAUT:** Not very often. There  
7 were some -- I'd say some social events that he usually had  
8 -- a meal for seminarians sometimes when we'd come home for  
9 the Christmas holidays.

10                   I'd see him at different religious  
11 celebrations but I had met him a few times like in his  
12 office alone -- especially when I went to see him about  
13 considering going into the seminary -- so there had been  
14 some interaction but most of it was done through the middle  
15 man that Father Gilles was and as I explained -- I think  
16 it's yesterday or earlier this morning -- Father Gilles  
17 would often kind of put me on guard about going to see the  
18 bishop myself.

19                   What I read into that today is he basically  
20 was saying "If you go and it doesn't work, well too bad for  
21 you -- if I go, I know how to manipulate him and we'll get  
22 what we want".

23                   **MR. LEE:** Of those, you know, dinners and  
24 events and things like you've spoken to and the few other  
25 one-on-one meetings, were any of those negative from your

1 point of view? Were those all positive relationships with  
2 the bishop at that point?

3 **FATHER THIBAUT:** No, they were good. Um,  
4 his stature made him somewhat intimidating. I mean, he was  
5 a big man and -- but also through, as I say, the warnings I  
6 guess that Father Gilles gave me, I came to realize at some  
7 point -- like when I came to see what was really going on -  
8 - I came to realize that he had basically painted in my  
9 mind the bishop as a monster, as somebody that really  
10 wasn't approachable, that was, I guess, mean and so that  
11 created the fear and I think that that was probably meant  
12 to be that way because if I would have been good friends  
13 with the bishop, Father Gilles was probably afraid that I  
14 would have talked to him about things that he didn't want  
15 me to talk to the bishop about.

16 **MR. LEE:** Do you recall any discussion or  
17 meeting or correspondence from the bishop that further  
18 increased your concerns that you might not be ordained or  
19 was it what Deslauriers was doing that caused you that  
20 concern?

21 **FATHER THIBAUT:** No, it wasn't from the  
22 bishop himself.

23 **MR. LEE:** You were brought yesterday by Mr.  
24 Dumais, in-chief, to the evidence of Mme Brisson at this  
25 Inquiry. Do you recall that? And he took you to the

1 transcript and read what she had to say here.

2 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

3 **MR. LEE:** And one of the things that she  
4 told us here was that you disclosed your own abuse to her  
5 at that meeting on February 7<sup>th</sup>. Do you recall seeing that  
6 in the transcript?

7 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes, I recall seeing that,  
8 yeah.

9 **MR. LEE:** And the other thing that she told  
10 us was that, when you met her that night, you told her that  
11 you had disclosed your abuse to the bishop a few years  
12 earlier and that he had not believed you. Do you recall  
13 that part of the transcript?

14 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes, I believe I remember  
15 that part.

16 **MR. LEE:** And you disagreed with her  
17 recollection of that meeting.

18 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes I do. I firmly  
19 believe that I did not tell her that evening that I had  
20 been sexually abused.

21 At some point, she had mentioned to me that  
22 it was written all over my face, which could have been, but  
23 I did not verbalize that.

24 And, I did not tell her that I had told the  
25 bishop about the sexual abuse a couple of years earlier and

1 one of the reasons I didn't tell her that is that it's not  
2 something that had happened at that point.

3 **MR. LEE:** So my understanding of your  
4 evidence then is that, when you went and met with the  
5 bishop in '83, you told him that things weren't too good  
6 between you and Father Deslauriers. You told him that  
7 Father Deslauriers was being untruthful and you told him  
8 that Father Deslauriers was playing games behind your back.  
9 Is that right?

10 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Okay, I told him that I  
11 had the impression and I was tiptoeing with that one too so  
12 I didn't say "He's not true, he's playing games". I said  
13 "I get the impression" because I was very careful because I  
14 didn't want to antagonize him or provoke him.

15 **MR. LEE:** And the bishop responded to you  
16 that these were grave allegations and that you needed to be  
17 careful. Is that right?

18 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yeah -- "Be careful, those  
19 are grave accusations".

20 **MR. LEE:** Do you recall telling the bishop  
21 anything else during that meeting?

22 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Nothing else.

23 **MR. LEE:** Things between you and Deslauriers  
24 weren't very good.

25 **FATHER THIBAUT:** No. Nothing -- nothing

1 more concerning Father Gilles -- we went back to  
2 discussing my evaluation and probably talked about "la  
3 pluie et le beau temps" -- however you say that.

4 **THE COMMISSIONER:** The weather.

5 **FATHER THIBAUT:** The weather.

6 **MR. LEE:** Would you agree with me that what  
7 you've just told us that you told the Bishop LaRocque is  
8 pretty vague?

9 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Pretty vague?

10 **MR. LEE:** Pretty vague and ---

11 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

12 **MR. LEE:** And did the Bishop ask you to  
13 flush that out a little bit? Did he ask you what you  
14 meant?

15 **FATHER THIBAUT:** No.

16 **MR. LEE:** He didn't say to you what do you  
17 mean by playing games?

18 **FATHER THIBAUT:** No. No, he didn't.

19 **MR. LEE:** He didn't ask you what do you mean  
20 by being untruthful?

21 **FATHER THIBAUT:** No. I meant to be vague.  
22 As I say, I was kind of checking my way through, but he did  
23 not ask any -- he definitely did not ask any clarifications  
24 on that.

25 **MR. LEE:** The issue -- the question I'm left

1 with, Father Thibault, with those things that you say to  
2 the Bishop is it's his response that these are grave  
3 allegations.

4 Wouldn't you agree with me that it is  
5 overstating things a bit to suggest that what you told the  
6 Bishop, in any way, amounts to a grave allegation?

7 **FATHER THIBAUT:** In a sense, if you look at  
8 it from the point of view that it was vague, yes; however,  
9 I was also generalizing the fact that he was being  
10 untruthful and he was playing games behind my back. So, it  
11 was also -- it was an accusation and I felt it was  
12 overreaction. Why he did? I don't know.

13 **MR. LEE:** Father Thibault, I am going to put  
14 a very frank proposition to you and I want you to agree or  
15 disagree with me. I am going to suggest to you that you  
16 were hesitant to go to the Bishop in 1986 and disclose your  
17 abuse and his response that these were grave allegations  
18 were the result of the fact that you had, in fact, in 1983  
19 disclosed to the Bishop that you had been sexually abused  
20 by Gilles Deslauriers?

21 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Okay. Repeat that please?

22 **MR. LEE:** I am suggesting to you that in  
23 1983, you went to the Bishop and you told him that you were  
24 sexually abused by Gilles Deslauriers but he did not  
25 believe you and that he failed to take action.

1 Do you agree or disagree with that?

2 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Okay. I'm sorry. Can I  
3 ask you to repeat that again? Slow down please.

4 **MR. LEE:** In 1983, the first -- you agree  
5 there was a meeting in '83 with ---

6 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

7 **MR. LEE:** --- Bishop LaRocque about Gilles  
8 Deslauriers. We have -- you've told us what happened at  
9 that meeting, and we have Madame Brisson telling us that  
10 you told her, you'll admit, an entirely different story on  
11 February the 7<sup>th</sup>.

12 **FATHER THIBAUT:** M'hm.

13 **MR. LEE:** I am suggesting to you that the  
14 Commissioner should prefer the evidence of Madame Brisson  
15 in that situation and that what she says you told her that  
16 night is what, in fact, happened.

17 **FATHER THIBAUT:** No.

18 **MR. LEE:** I want to go now to the second  
19 disclosure -- sorry, I apologize, that was unintentional --  
20 to the second meeting you had with Bishop LaRocque in 1986.

21 You reminded him at that time about the  
22 meeting you had had in 1983?

23 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes, I did.

24 **MR. LEE:** And you told us about the fact  
25 that you said had you been more receptive, things might

1 have been different.

2 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

3 **MR. LEE:** At the end of that meeting, Mr.  
4 Canto got into you a little bit about whether or not the  
5 Bishop told you he was going to go to the police or  
6 referred you to the police and you answered those  
7 questions.

8 Do you recall at the end of that meeting him  
9 ordering you to do anything?

10 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Anything, no.

11 **MR. LEE:** Did he order you not to do  
12 anything? Do you have any recollection of that?

13 **FATHER THIBAUT:** No.

14 **MR. LEE:** It was just ---

15 **FATHER THIBAUT:** I don't recall him saying  
16 anything to the effect go tell this person or that person  
17 or don't talk about it or anything like that.

18 **MR. LEE:** Do you know, after that meeting,  
19 in February of 1986 with the Bishop, whether or not he  
20 called the police? Do you have any knowledge of that?

21 **FATHER THIBAUT:** I have no knowledge of  
22 that.

23 **MR. LEE:** My understanding is your first  
24 contact with the police is June 3, 1986 when they come to  
25 the Rectory.



1                   **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

2                   **MR. LEE:** And that was a surprise to you?

3                   **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

4                   **MR. LEE:** You hadn't called the police?

5                   **FATHER THIBAUT:** I had not called the  
6 police, you say?

7                   **MR. LEE:** Right?

8                   **FATHER THIBAUT:** No, I hadn't called them.

9                   It was a surprise in the sense that I was  
10 surprised that they appeared unannounced. I wasn't totally  
11 surprised that they would have thought that I would have  
12 been a victim but I was surprised by their visit and the  
13 way they proceeded.

14                   **MR. LEE:** And for a variety of reasons  
15 you've discussed that I'm not going to get back into, you  
16 didn't tell them at that time, you didn't confirm for them  
17 you were a victim of Gilles Deslauriers, am I right?

18                   **FATHER THIBAUT:** No, I did not.

19                   **MR. LEE:** You just weren't ready?

20                   **FATHER THIBAUT:** I wasn't ready.

21                   **MR. LEE:** But at that point, you know the  
22 police are involved and, I take it, you understand at that  
23 point they are probably not going away?

24                   **FATHER THIBAUT:** They're not going away?

25                   **MR. LEE:** They're not going away. The

1 police aren't just going to give up because you don't want  
2 to talk to them. Is that what you were thinking?

3 **FATHER THIBAUT:** No. I was aware that  
4 there was an investigation going on, but I believed after I  
5 made a "no comments" statement that I would be left alone.

6 **MR. LEE:** Why did you call Jacques Leduc  
7 then?

8 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Why did I call him or why  
9 did I call someone?

10 **MR. LEE:** Why did you call a lawyer?

11 **FATHER THIBAUT:** A lawyer?

12 Because I really wasn't sure if what I had  
13 answered was the right thing. I kind of sensed that I --  
14 that it wasn't right, but I needed legal advice.

15 **MR. LEE:** Did somebody at the Diocese  
16 suggest that you speak with Mr. Leduc?

17 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Not that I can recall.

18 **MR. LEE:** You knew him beforehand as counsel  
19 of the Diocese. Is that right?

20 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yeah, I knew of some  
21 implication. As I said yesterday, I knew he had done a  
22 canon law degree at St. Paul's University. So I had met  
23 him a few times. So I figured I didn't have a personal  
24 lawyer at that time, so I figured he would be somebody good  
25 to talk to about this.

1                   **MR. LEE:** And he gave you some advice and a  
2 week later he calls you back and he says the police are  
3 calling again, and they want to talk to you. Is that  
4 right?

5                   **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

6                   **MR. LEE:** And you go to the police station  
7 to see him; is that right?

8                   **FATHER THIBAUT:** I first went to see him  
9 when he called me to tell me that they wanted to see me. I  
10 first told him, "Can I go see you to talk about this?" And  
11 that's when I told him that I was ready to cooperate. So  
12 then we made an appointment and he came with me to the  
13 police station.

14                   **MR. LEE:** Do you remember why that was? Why  
15 he went with you?

16                   **FATHER THIBAUT:** I think I asked him to  
17 come.

18                   **MR. LEE:** I want to change topics now and  
19 get into after the Preliminary Inquiry, you've told us that  
20 the Bishop approaches you and asks you to reach out to the  
21 other victims of abuse and offer assistance. Is that  
22 right?

23                   **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes, and I think in terms  
24 of chronology, if I remember correctly, it was after Gilles  
25 had pleaded guilty.

1                   **MR. LEE:** So the criminal process is done?

2                   **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

3                   **MR. LEE:** And then -- okay.

4                   **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

5                   **MR. LEE:** I wasn't clear on your evidence  
6 yesterday. Do you remember specifically what the Bishop  
7 authorized you to offer these people?

8                   **FATHER THIBAUT:** What I recall is that he  
9 told me -- how do I say -- he asked me if I could speak to  
10 the other guys that I knew, and he was aware that I knew  
11 those guys, that I was friends with them. He asked me if I  
12 could go see them and tell them that if they needed any  
13 kind of help from the Diocese to contact the Bishop, and he  
14 would see what he could do to help.

15                   **MR. LEE:** And you did that?

16                   **FATHER THIBAUT:** And I did that.

17                   **MR. LEE:** Was any of this in writing? Was  
18 correspondence done or was it just you ---

19                   **FATHER THIBAUT:** No, it was verbally both,  
20 from the Bishop to me and from me to the other guys.

21                   **MR. LEE:** What reactions did you receive  
22 from the other guys with this offer?

23                   **FATHER THIBAUT:** Let me put it this way; I  
24 don't remember any negative reaction. From what I  
25 remember, it would have been, well, thank you. I don't

1 remember any negative reaction. I don't remember anybody  
2 saying yes, I want help, I'll go see him. I don't remember  
3 anything ---

4 **MR. LEE:** You do not remember anybody saying  
5 that they wanted help on the spot to you, saying ---

6 **FATHER THIBAUT:** No, no.

7 **MR. LEE:** Do you know what the process --  
8 was there a process set up? What were these people to do  
9 if they did want help?

10 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Basically, I told them to  
11 contact the Bishop if they needed help.

12 **MR. LEE:** Do you have any information on  
13 whether or not that ever happened? Whether or not any of  
14 these people you spoke to contacted the Bishop and were  
15 helped?

16 **FATHER THIBAUT:** I found out a couple of  
17 years ago that somebody, a number of years later, did go  
18 see the Bishop. Yes, I am aware of that. I am not aware  
19 of any of the other ones whether they did or not. And as I  
20 mentioned yesterday, I didn't pursue that. I didn't go  
21 check with them.

22 **MR. LEE:** You weren't asked to follow up.

23 **FATHER THIBAUT:** I wasn't asked to follow  
24 up.

25 **MR. LEE:** What about you, Father Thibault,

1           what -- did you receive assistance from the Diocese at any  
2           point?

3                       **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes I did.

4                       **MR. LEE:** Can you be more specific on what  
5           help you received? Counselling?

6                       **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yeah. I went to see a  
7           therapist in Ottawa.

8                       **MR. LEE:** And can I presume the Diocese paid  
9           for that?

10                      **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

11                      **MR. LEE:** How long did that arrangement  
12           last?

13                      **FATHER THIBAUT:** I'm not sure. A few  
14           years. I don't remember exactly.

15                      **MR. LEE:** And it ended because you were  
16           satisfied that it should come to an end; is that right?

17                      **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes, we had included that  
18           we had reached the goals that we wanted to at that point.

19                      **MR. LEE:** The funding didn't get cut off.  
20           It was your decision; is that right?

21                      **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes. Yes.

22                      **MR. LEE:** What about an apology?

23                      **FATHER THIBAUT:** From?

24                      **MR. LEE:** Let's start with Bishop LaRocque.  
25           Did he ever apologize to you for what you went through?

1                   **FATHER THIBAUT:** I don't remember any  
2 formal apology but I would say his attitude towards me, his  
3 reaction when I told him about this was sufficient. I  
4 don't remember, as I say, a specific apology to me and I  
5 never requested one either.

6                   **MR. LEE:** He seemed sorry and that was good  
7 enough for you?

8                   **FATHER THIBAUT:** Oh, yeah. Yeah, he  
9 definitely seemed sorry.

10                  **MR. LEE:** How did that make you feel?

11                  **FATHER THIBAUT:** That he seemed sorry?

12                  **MR. LEE:** Yeah.

13                  **FATHER THIBAUT:** It made me feel good in  
14 the sense that I felt that I was believed and he took  
15 different means to support me. So that definitely was a  
16 good thing.

17                  **THE COMMISSIONER:** What kind of means?

18                  **FATHER THIBAUT:** Different means to help me  
19 in the sense like listening, supporting me when I told him  
20 that I would be going to -- that I had pressed charges,  
21 made a statement.

22                                When he told me that -- asked me to go see  
23 the other victims and offer help and I said to him, "Well,  
24 I need help. Can I have it?" He provided the means for me  
25 to see somebody.

1                   **MR. LEE:** Other than the one time  
2 instruction or request from Bishop LaRocque to have you go  
3 and contact these other victims and offer support, have you  
4 ever in an official capacity at the diocese had that role  
5 otherwise?

6                   Have you ever been in charge of supporting  
7 victims of abuse or supporting those who come forth with  
8 allegations?

9                   **FATHER THIBAUT:** No, no official capacity  
10 and even contacting the other victims, I wouldn't  
11 necessarily qualify in official capacity. It wasn't a  
12 mandate. He basically asked me would you do that.

13                   **MR. LEE:** So you're not the person at the  
14 diocese to ask about how other victims of abuse have been  
15 helped. Is that right?

16                   **FATHER THIBAUT:** No.

17                   **MR. LEE:** I'm near ---

18                   **FATHER THIBAUT:** I would say part of that  
19 has always been like an implicit -- I would say an implicit  
20 belief that I did not want to divulge my own implication,  
21 my own story of being sexually abused and I think that the  
22 bishop respected that in never getting me involved in being  
23 -- being there for other victims, providing care, of  
24 informing them of that care.

25                   He did in this specific case because these



1 guys knew. They had been co-complainants with me.

2 **MR. LEE:** I want to talk about your request  
3 to the bishop -- to Bishop LaRocque at the time to have  
4 Father Deslauriers's faculties removed. This happens after  
5 the conviction. Is that right?

6 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

7 **MR. LEE:** And my understanding is he tells  
8 you he can't do that because it might destroy Father  
9 Deslauriers. Is that right?

10 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yeah, he told me he  
11 believed that it was not the proper thing to do, that it  
12 would destroy him, yeah.

13 **MR. LEE:** So what's the result of that?  
14 Father Deslauriers is still a priest?

15 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

16 **MR. LEE:** Still wearing the collar?

17 **FATHER THIBAUT:** At that time, yes.

18 **MR. LEE:** Still celebrate mass, hear  
19 confession?

20 **FATHER THIBAUT:** As far as I knew, yes.

21 **MR. LEE:** He could do everything you could  
22 do as a priest. Is that right?

23 **FATHER THIBAUT:** As far as I know, yes. I  
24 was told he was watched but I know that he can't be  
25 watched.

1                   **MR. LEE:** That leads into my next question.  
2                   If it would destroy Father Deslauriers to remove his  
3                   faculties, did the bishop give you any indication of what  
4                   he would do, of what Bishop LaRocque would do to keep an  
5                   eye on this guy?

6                   **FATHER THIBAUT:** Well, he told me that the  
7                   bishop -- that Bishop Proulx was aware of what had gone on  
8                   and he told me that Gilles was seeing a psychologist. I  
9                   don't remember which frequency.

10                   That was also part of the sentence that he  
11                   needed to see somebody and he felt that he was being taken  
12                   care of so that he didn't need to do more.

13                   **MR. LEE:** So Bishop Proulx had his eye on  
14                   him. Is that right?

15                   **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yeah, he was supervising  
16                   him.

17                   **MR. LEE:** And we know that Father  
18                   Deslauriers went to Hull where Bishop Proulx was the bishop  
19                   there?

20                   **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yeah, I don't remember  
21                   when he was in that area but he did go there at some point.

22                   **MR. LEE:** My understanding is that he  
23                   finally retired in 1996. Are you aware of that?

24                   **FATHER THIBAUT:** I don't know the date. I  
25                   know he left Saint-Jérôme Diocese at some point but I don't

1 remember the date.

2 **MR. LEE:** One of the issues that my clients  
3 are struggling with at this inquiry is -- I mean this thing  
4 sounds a little bizarre I have to tell you. You're a  
5 priest to the diocese. You're an employee.

6 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

7 **MR. LEE:** And you're sexually abused by  
8 another priest.

9 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Not when I was -- I wasn't  
10 a priest when I was abused.

11 **MR. LEE:** At the time you disclosed, you're  
12 a priest and he's a priest. Is that right?

13 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes, at that time, yes.

14 **MR. LEE:** So you go and you tell your boss  
15 and you ask for the other guy to lose his job and it  
16 doesn't happen. I take it you would -- you can appreciate  
17 the fact that, you know, if you were working across town at  
18 Wal-Mart, this guy would have been fired.

19 And the question I want to put to you is  
20 sitting here today, do you have any concerns about the way  
21 this situation was handled? Do you have any  
22 recommendations for how it should be handled in the future?

23 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Okay, can you repeat the  
24 question, please?

25 **MR. LEE:** You went to the bishop. You asked

1           that he had -- he would have his faculties removed because  
2           you're concerned. The bishop refuses. Do you have any  
3           concerns about the message that's sent or how that was  
4           handled? Do you have any recommendations on how a bishop  
5           should handle that in the future if something similar  
6           happens?

7                           **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes, it shouldn't be  
8           handled that way. As I mentioned a while ago, I believe  
9           that the protocols that are in place address that much  
10          better.

11                           When -- first of all, when there are  
12          allegations, they are looked into and, under most  
13          circumstances, the priest is removed from ministry until  
14          the case is solved.

15                           In the case of somebody who is convicted, I  
16          believe that every case should be looked at. As I  
17          mentioned, I don't believe in a one-size-fits-all policy,  
18          but there are some cases I believe that with some help,  
19          some therapy, that it's possible to determine whether the  
20          person is dangerous to repeat.

21                           But in a case like Father Gilles, I really  
22          do believe that they should make sure that they're not  
23          reintegrated in ministry the way he was. And I'm happy to  
24          see that the situation is very different right now.

25                           Does that answer your question?

1                   **MR. LEE:** It does. Thank you.

2                   It's safe to say, I take it, that you spent  
3 a lot of time with Father Deslauriers in your -- during  
4 your high school years and ---

5                   **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

6                   **MR. LEE:** And after that. Are you aware of  
7 his background to any degree? Was that something you  
8 discussed with him?

9                   **FATHER THIBAUT:** He told us many stories.  
10 He didn't speak much about himself but he told us different  
11 stories and I don't know what to believe and what not to  
12 believe.

13                   At times he spoke about coming from a large  
14 family. I knew he had come from Sudbury when he came to  
15 Cornwall.

16                   He had been with the Jesuits at some point.  
17 He had been in Haiti. That's about the extent of what I  
18 knew.

19                   What's true in there and what's not, I'm not  
20 sure.

21                   **MR. LEE:** So you knew that he was a Jesuit  
22 Brother at some point before being a priest. Is that  
23 right?

24                   **FATHER THIBAUT:** At some point, yes, from  
25 what he had said. I had never -- that had never been

1 confirmed or infirmed by anybody else.

2 And also the thing that he did speak about a  
3 number of times was his doctoral degree and studies in  
4 psychology.

5 **MR. LEE:** And that gave him some legitimacy  
6 in your eyes; is that right?

7 **FATHER THIBAUT:** It certainly did.

8 **MR. LEE:** You mentioned that you knew that  
9 he had come from Sudbury.

10 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

11 **MR. LEE:** And my understanding is that he  
12 came to Cornwall around the same time that Bishop Proulx  
13 came from Sudbury to Cornwall; is that ---

14 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes, and I was aware of  
15 that.

16 **MR. LEE:** You knew that. Do you know  
17 whether Bishop Proulx brought anybody else with him from  
18 Sudbury?

19 **FATHER THIBAUT:** No.

20 **MR. LEE:** No, you don't know or no, there  
21 was no one?

22 **FATHER THIBAUT:** I don't know. Sorry.

23 **MR. LEE:** My understanding is that Father  
24 Deslauriers was then ordained the priest here in Cornwall  
25 by Bishop Proulx.

1                   **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

2                   **MR. LEE:** Is that right?

3                   **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes, he was not a priest  
4 when he came to Cornwall.

5                   **MR. LEE:** And my understanding is that they  
6 worked closely together once they arrived here.

7                   **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

8                   **MR. LEE:** Is that your understanding?

9                   **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes, that's my  
10 understanding.

11                   **MR. LEE:** And then after this issue came to  
12 light, you've already talked about the fact that Father  
13 Deslauriers went from Cornwall to Hull where Bishop Proulx  
14 was. Is that right?

15                   **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

16                   **MR. LEE:** And then my understanding is he  
17 was incardinated in Hull under Bishop Proulx.

18                   **FATHER THIBAUT:** I don't know if he ever  
19 was incardinated in Hull.

20                   **MR. LEE:** Okay. Fair enough. Do you have  
21 any ---

22                   **FATHER THIBAUT:** I'm not sure.

23                   **MR. LEE:** Do you have any other information  
24 for us as to the extent of the relationship between Bishop  
25 Proulx and Father Deslauriers?

1                   **FATHER THIBAUT:** Extent of the  
2 relationship? According to Gilles, they were very good  
3 friends but I don't know anything more than that and I  
4 never heard -- how would I say -- Bishop Proulx talking  
5 about how he considered Gilles and even when I went to see  
6 him, we did not really discuss how he -- his own  
7 relationship with Father Gilles.

8                   **MR. LEE:** Have you -- Father Thibault, have  
9 you spoken with Bishop LaRocque in the last two and a half,  
10 three years since this inquiry has been called?

11                   **FATHER THIBAUT:** Trying to think. I think  
12 it's three summers ago, I was in -- going to Detroit and I  
13 had lunch with Bishop LaRocque.

14                   **MR. LEE:** He is in Windsor now; is that  
15 right?

16                   **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes, in Windsor. I think  
17 it's three years ago.

18                   **MR. LEE:** Did you discuss the inquiry at  
19 all?

20                   **FATHER THIBAUT:** No, I don't remember  
21 discussing the inquiry.

22                   **MR. LEE:** Did you discuss Father  
23 Deslauriers?

24                   **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

25                   **MR. LEE:** If I can have a moment, please.



1 THE COMMISSIONER: M'hm.

2 (SHORT PAUSE/COURTE PAUSE)

3 MR. LEE: Father Thibault, I know that  
4 testifying here put you in a bit of an awkward position and  
5 I appreciate your patience there. Those are my questions.

6 FATHER THIBAUT: You're welcome.

7 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you.

8 Mr. Chisholm?

9 MR. CHISHOLM: Good afternoon, sir.

10 THE COMMISSIONER: Good afternoon.

11 MR. CHISHOLM: Good afternoon, Father  
12 Thibault. My name is Peter Chisholm. We met about 23  
13 years ago when you helped me with an English essay when I  
14 was in high school.

15 FATHER THIBAUT: Oh, my gosh, I don't  
16 remember that.

17 (LAUGHTER/RIRES)

18 THE COMMISSIONER: Your past is coming to  
19 haunt you.

20 FATHER THIBAUT: Well, was it good advice?

21 (LAUGHTER/RIRES)

22 MR. CHISHOLM: Your answers were good. I  
23 won't comment on the essay, the mark I received on the  
24 essay but thank you again for giving me your time back  
25 then.

1                   **FATHER THIBAUT:** Okay.

2                   **MR. CHISHOLM:** And thank you today for  
3 giving us your time. I don't have any questions for you  
4 and I am counsel for the local Children's Aid Society.  
5 Thank you very much.

6                   **FATHER THIBAUT:** You're welcome.

7                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** Thank you.

8                   Mr. Rose or Rouleau?

9                   **MR. ROSE:** No questions.

10                  **THE COMMISSIONER:** Thank you.

11                  Ms. Im?

12                  **MS. IM:** I have no questions. Thank you.

13                  **THE COMMISSIONER:** Thank you.

14                  Ms. Robitaille? No. Oh, yes, okay.

15                  --- CROSS-EXAMINATION BY/CONTRE-INTERROGATOIRE PAR MS.

16                  **ROBITAILLE:**

17                  **MS. ROBITAILLE:** Good afternoon. I guess  
18 this is afternoon now, Mr. Commissioner. Good afternoon  
19 Father Thibault.

20                  **FATHER THIBAUT:** Good afternoon.

21                  **MS. ROBITAILLE:** My name is Danielle  
22 Robitaille and I'm counsel for Jacques Leduc and I have a  
23 few questions but ça va pas prendre trop long.

24                  **FATHER THIBAUT:** Trop longtemps. Okay.

25                  **MS. ROBITAILLE:** So if I understand your

1 evidence correctly, on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1986, two police officers  
2 came to the rectory and this was a difficult time for you.  
3 You felt self conscious. There were other priests in the  
4 rectory at that time. You were uncomfortable and indeed  
5 you've testified that you panicked and you denied that  
6 Deslauriers had abused you at that point.

7 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Right. Just a minor  
8 detail; the priests were in the parish hall ---

9 **MS. ROBITAILLE:** Okay.

10 **FATHER THIBAUT:** --- and I was -- somebody  
11 came to get me. I guess the secretary came to tell me I  
12 had somebody wanting to see me.

13 **MS. ROBITAILLE:** Okay. So once the police  
14 have left the rectory, you placed a call to my client,  
15 Monsieur Jacques Leduc.

16 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes. I don't recall  
17 exactly if I called him that day or the next day, but very  
18 quickly afterwards.

19 **MS. ROBITAILLE:** And you know that he is the  
20 diocese's lawyer?

21 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes, I knew at that time  
22 that he had something to do with the diocese. I knew he  
23 was on the matrimonial tribunal, but I didn't know exactly  
24 what full capacity I guess.

25 **MS. ROBITAILLE:** And you've testified

1 earlier that you thought he was someone you could trust.

2 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

3 **MS. ROBITAILLE:** Yes. And so you told Mr.  
4 Leduc that you've just lied to the police. You tell him  
5 that you have denied the abuse.

6 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

7 **MS. ROBITAILLE:** And Monsieur Leduc's advice  
8 to you is that you must tell the police the truth and that  
9 if you're not prepared to tell them the story -- the entire  
10 story, then the only thing you can say is no comment; is  
11 that correct?

12 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yeah. He told me very  
13 clearly because I did say to him that there had been abuse  
14 and that I had lied about it. And he told me that I  
15 couldn't lie about it and basically that I had to tell the  
16 truth or the only other option was no comments.

17 **MS. ROBITAILLE:** And so during that  
18 conversation, at some point, you asked him to do two things  
19 for you on your behalf. You asked him to call the police  
20 and to ask that the police replace your denial of the abuse  
21 with a no comment; correct?

22 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes. I did not want to  
23 call the police myself. I asked him if he could do it for  
24 me.

25 **MS. ROBITAILLE:** And you also asked that

1 Monsieur Leduc call the police and let them know that you  
2 weren't prepared to give a statement at that time?

3 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes. Basically in saying  
4 no comments, I don't remember exactly the content of the  
5 conversation but he was clear that it was no comments. I  
6 don't remember if he specifically said, "He is not prepared  
7 to give a statement at this time".

8 **MS. ROBITAILLE:** Okay. To your knowledge,  
9 Monsieur Leduc made that call on your behalf to the police?

10 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes, I was there.

11 **MS. ROBITAILLE:** You were there when he ---

12 **FATHER THIBAUT:** I was there when he  
13 called, yes.

14 **MS. ROBITAILLE:** And this made you feel  
15 relieved in some respect?

16 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

17 **MS. ROBITAILLE:** Okay.

18 **FATHER THIBAUT:** I felt very bad at having  
19 lied ---

20 **MS. ROBITAILLE:** Yes.

21 **FATHER THIBAUT:** --- especially since I  
22 knew there was abuse and I knew that this investigation was  
23 something that I wanted to happen.

24 **MS. ROBITAILLE:** Okay. And then sometime in  
25 the next week or two, Monsieur Leduc gives you a call and

1 let's you know that the Cornwall Police wants to speak with  
2 you; correct?

3 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

4 **MS. ROBITAILLE:** And you meet with Monsieur  
5 Leduc at his law firm and you let him know that you're  
6 ready, to use your words, to collaborate with the police at  
7 that point?

8 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

9 **MS. ROBITAILLE:** And you asked Monsieur  
10 Leduc to come with you to the police station when you give  
11 your statement?

12 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

13 **MS. ROBITAILLE:** And he goes with you to the  
14 police?

15 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes, he came with me.

16 **MS. ROBITAILLE:** So over all, would you say  
17 that Monsieur Leduc assisted you during this period of a  
18 few weeks in your dealings with the Cornwall Police?

19 **FATHER THIBAUT:** I found him very  
20 supportive. I really appreciated his help.

21 **MS. ROBITAILLE:** And indeed his supportive  
22 role continued into the prelim where he was there when you  
23 gave your testimony?

24 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes, I don't remember if  
25 he was in the hearing room itself but he was present.

1                   **MS. ROBITAILLE:** So Monsieur Leduc helped  
2 you communicate with the police both when you were prepared  
3 to give a statement and in the short period of time when  
4 you were not prepared to talk about it?

5                   **FATHER THIBAULT:** Yes.

6                   **MS. ROBITAILLE:** So it's fair to say that  
7 Monsieur Leduc helped you. He had a supportive role and  
8 that he assisted you in telling the authorities precisely  
9 what had happened to you at the hands of Father  
10 Deslauriers.

11                   **FATHER THIBAULT:** Yes.

12                   **MS. ROBITAILLE:** Those are my questions.  
13 Thank you.

14                   **FATHER THIBAULT:** You're welcome.

15                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** Thank you.

16                   So now we go to the Cornwall Police. Ms.  
17 Lalji?

18                   **MS. LALJI:** Good afternoon, Mr.  
19 Commissioner.

20                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** Yes.

21                   **MS. LALJI:** Good afternoon, Father Thibault.  
22 My name is Reena Lalji.

23                   **FATHER THIBAULT:** Good afternoon.

24                   **MS. LALJI:** I am counsel for the Cornwall  
25 Police. On behalf of the Cornwall Police, I wanted to

1           thank you for your evidence today and yesterday. And I  
2           have no questions for you. Thank you.

3                       **FATHER THIBAUT:** You're welcome.

4                       **THE COMMISSIONER:** Madame Lahaie?

5                       **Me LAHAIE:** Bonjour, Père Thibault.

6                       **PÈRE THIBAUT:** Bonjour.

7                       **Me LAHAIE:** Je suis Diane Lahaie et je  
8           représente la Police provinciale de l'Ontario.

9                       J'aimerais vous remercier pour vos  
10          recommandations, puis votre courage pour venir de l'avant.  
11          Je suis certaine que ça va faire une grande différence dans  
12          la vie de plusieurs personnes. Merci. Je n'ai aucune  
13          question pour vous.

14                      **PÈRE THIBAUT:** Merci.

15                      **LE COMMISSAIRE:** O.k. Merci.

16                      Mr. Carroll is not here. Ms. Tymochenko?

17                      **MS. TYMOCHENKO:** No questions.

18                      **THE COMMISSIONER:** All right. Does that  
19          take care of everyone?

20                      Maître -- oh, sorry, Mr. Sherriff-Scott.

21                      **MR. SHERRIFF-SCOTT:** Oh, I think it's  
22          typical regime when the interest is at stake is that I will  
23          go last. I am sorry; did she say she had no questions?

24                      **THE COMMISSIONER:** No questions.

25                      **MR. SHERRIFF-SCOTT:** My mistake. I only



1 wanted to check and verify something with your counsel to  
2 determine whether a document was made part of the record  
3 and I don't think I have any questions.

4 (SHORT PAUSE/COURTE PAUSE)

5 MR. SHERRIFF-SCOTT: Just to confirm, Mr.  
6 Commissioner, there is a document that my friend and I just  
7 want to make sure for the record. It's Document number  
8 703429. I should wait for the -- yes, sorry, I didn't see  
9 it up there.

10 It's 703429, and it's the typed version in  
11 French of Father Thibault's statement, and I believe it was  
12 marked as Exhibit 84, but I just want to confirm that for  
13 the record.

14 THE COMMISSIONER: There is a Déclaration --  
15 there is a statement in French C-84.

16 MR. SHERRIFF-SCOTT: And that's the typed  
17 version in French of three pages, Commissioner?

18 THE COMMISSIONER: Yes.

19 MR. SHERRIFF-SCOTT: Okay, thank you.  
20 That's all, I just wanted to confirm that.

21 THE COMMISSIONER: Yes.

22 MR. SHERRIFF-SCOTT: Father Thibault, thank  
23 you very much for your evidence. I appreciate you coming  
24 and commend you on your courage for being here. I know it  
25 has been a difficult decision to come.

1 Thank you very much. I have no questions.

2 **FATHER THIBAUT:** You're welcome.

3 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Thank you. I have a  
4 couple of questions, Père Thibault.

5 Not only are you a priest in the area and a  
6 local person, you are a victim and a survivor now of sexual  
7 abuse.

8 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

9 **THE COMMISSIONER:** I am wondering if  
10 everything would have finished in 1986 or so we wouldn't be  
11 here but other things of sexual abuse, allegations of  
12 sexual abuse came up, and I just want to be clear that in  
13 1983 and all of those years following that, did Monseigneur  
14 LaRocque ever seek any guidance from you or any thoughts  
15 about how to handle what was going on in the parish with  
16 respect to new allegations?

17 **FATHER THIBAUT:** I don't remember if he  
18 sought advice per se, but there's a number of times where I  
19 got back to him and did give him advice so whether it was  
20 solicited or not -- I do believe there's times where I  
21 went, whether it was solicited or not.

22 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Right.

23 **FATHER THIBAUT:** When the Diocese worked on  
24 the protocol under Bishop LaRocque and then under Bishop --  
25 when it was revised under Bishop Paul André Durocher, I was

1 active in giving feedback, although it was non-official  
2 basis, I did discuss with Bishop Paul André who knew of my  
3 sexual abuse even before he came to this Diocese.

4 I knew of him, but we talked about that  
5 after he arrived and when he revised that I sat down with  
6 him and discussed the possibility that I would sit on the  
7 ad hoc committee working on that. And we mutually agreed  
8 that it would not be a good idea because he'd probably have  
9 to justify why I was on it.

10 **THE COMMISSIONER:** M'hm.

11 **FATHER THIBAUT:** And I wasn't ready at that  
12 point to reveal the fact that I had been a victim of sexual  
13 abuse.

14 **THE COMMISSIONER:** All right.

15 **FATHER THIBAUT:** But I did give feedback --  
16 I made sure to be heard at different times since 1986  
17 although it was in the behind-the-scene type of thing.

18 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Do you know if your  
19 advice was accepted or acted upon?

20 **FATHER THIBAUT:** It was definitely listened  
21 to. I think most of it was acted upon. I can't remember  
22 exactly which advice I had given.

23 The one thing we discussed about the fact --  
24 the advice I had given about removing his faculties, wasn't  
25 but most of it, I think from what I recall, was taken into

1 consideration.

2 **THE COMMISSIONER:** M'hm, okay.

3 **FATHER THIBAUT:** The other thing -- I don't  
4 know, I'll just say this -- that was instrumental, I think  
5 -- well, I'll put it this way, that I was glad that it  
6 filtered to the national level.

7 Steve Amesse was one of those that was asked  
8 to be part of the committee -- one of the committees that  
9 worked on hope and recovery.

10 **THE COMMISSIONER:** M'hm.

11 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Is that what it's called?

12 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Hope and ---

13 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Suffering to Hope? Pain  
14 to Hope from the Canadian Conference of Bishops.

15 **THE COMMISSIONER:** M'hm.

16 **FATHER THIBAUT:** So he had my testimony and  
17 I'm sure he wasn't asked because he knew my story.

18 I think it happened that way, but I knew  
19 that indirectly I had input into that too.

20 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Was it generally known,  
21 do you think, in your fellow priests in the area that you  
22 were a survivor of sexual abuse before it became public?

23 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Until last week?

24 **THE COMMISSIONER:** M'hm.

25 **FATHER THIBAUT:** I don't know. I know a

1 certain number of them knew because I had told them.

2 I presume some found out through the  
3 grapevine, but I remember talking to a few friends that  
4 told me that they didn't think that they all knew. And I  
5 do believe that they didn't all know.

6 **THE COMMISSIONER:** All right.

7 **FATHER THIBAUT:** But I've never gone around  
8 and asked and even last week I gave them a letter to let  
9 them know that I was coming here and I did not go ask  
10 anybody whether they knew or not.

11 **THE COMMISSIONER:** After the Deslauriers  
12 matter was finished, how do you feel you were treated by  
13 the Diocese as an employee and having been the survivor of  
14 that kind of ---

15 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Very well.

16 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Yes?

17 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Very well. I never felt  
18 that Bishop LaRocque -- if I wanted to speak about him  
19 first, that he resented what I was.

20 As a matter of fact, I was on sick leave in  
21 2000, and he came to visit me at some point and it was in  
22 the middle of Project Truth and all of that. We discussed  
23 it, and I asked him specifically, I said, "Whenever you  
24 look at everything that has happened since, we kind of  
25 opened a can of worms. Are you ever angry at me when you

1 look at that?" And he very quickly said, "No, you did what  
2 you had to do."

3 **THE COMMISSIONER:** M'hm.

4 **FATHER THIBAULT:** And I really didn't feel  
5 that there was any animosity nor did I ever that. When I  
6 asked him that question, it's not because I had felt  
7 animosity. I just kind of wanted to clear that in my own  
8 mind and brother priests who did know or who were involved  
9 in the case, who did know about my involvement were  
10 supportive.

11 As I said, I've always felt good to be here  
12 amongst my confreres.

13 **THE COMMISSIONER:** All right.

14 So do you have any feelings -- it must have  
15 been a very unique perspective to see Project Truth come  
16 into town; to see an Inquiry come into town. Do you have  
17 any comments or how you felt about that?

18 **FATHER THIBAULT:** It has been difficult. I  
19 guess it would have been no matter what perspective I was  
20 in. It's been difficult for the community in general.

21 **THE COMMISSIONER:** M'hm.

22 **FATHER THIBAULT:** And I am part of it and  
23 the whole Cornwall area has been deeply affected, but it  
24 was particularly difficult from my standpoint.

25 People have painted all priests with the

1 same brush.

2 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Some people.

3 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes, some people. Sorry,  
4 not everybody. Okay, you're right. I stand to be  
5 corrected -- a number of people and I've heard over the  
6 years people say, "Well, all priests are abusers."

7 **THE COMMISSIONER:** M'hm.

8 **FATHER THIBAUT:** As a victim of abuse  
9 myself, that was very difficult, and I couldn't respond to  
10 that because I didn't want people to know.

11 So to put all priests in the same boat, I  
12 found it difficult -- those people who did.

13 Some people put all victims in the same  
14 category. I have heard people say, "Well, they're all a  
15 bunch of liars. They're trying to make money. This and  
16 that -- which were some comments that were very unfair and,  
17 again, I couldn't always respond.

18 There's times where I did say, "Well, I know  
19 some very well", which was true. And I said, "Well, this  
20 is what their story is".

21 There were a couple of occasions where I  
22 even said, "There is one that I know quite well, and this  
23 is what he told me."

24 I didn't say -- today, I can say that that  
25 was me. But it was hard because, as I say, I could

1 understand a lot of what both sides were going through.

2 I could identify with a lot of the pain from  
3 what I was hearing from victims or presumed victims. I  
4 don't know which ones are which -- alleged victims,  
5 recognised victims or not, but I could identify to some of  
6 the stories, as I could identify with the pain of some of  
7 my brother priests who have been accused and again I don't  
8 know which ones have been accused falsely or not. But, I  
9 know that there is pain and because of the work that I've  
10 done for myself, I have been able to receive -- I have had  
11 not from this Diocese, but I've had some abusers that have  
12 come to me out of the blue to talk to me as abusers and  
13 where I was able to not get angry at them but help them.

14 And in those cases, it was people that had  
15 been brought to court and that there was something that had  
16 been done about it.

17 **THE COMMISSIONER:** All right. Thank you  
18 very much.

19 I want to thank you for having come and  
20 testified here today. I think that you've made an  
21 important contribution not only to the inquiry but to the  
22 community, and I certainly look forward to your  
23 contribution in Phase II if you so desire.

24 **FATHER THIBAULT:** Thank you, sir.

25 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Thank you very much.



1                   **FATHER THIBAULT:** Can I scream now?

2                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** Can you scream?

3                   **FATHER THIBAULT:** Can I scream?

4                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** Wait until I leave.

5                                   **(LAUGHTER/RIRES)**

6                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** Thank you.

7                   **THE REGISTRAR:** Order; all rise. À l'ordre;  
8                   veuillez vous lever.

9                                   This hearing will resume at 2:00 p.m.

10                   --- Upon recessing at 12:27 p.m. /

11                                   L'audience est suspendue à 12h27

12                   --- Upon resuming at 2:06 p.m. /

13                                   L'audience est reprise à 14h06

14                   **THE REGISTRAR:** This hearing is now resumed.  
15                   Please be seated. Veuillez vous asseoir.

16                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** Good afternoon.

17                                   Yes, sir.

18                   **MR. STAUFFER:** Yes. Good afternoon, Mr.

19                   Commissioner. For the record, my name is Stauffer, initial  
20                   I.

21                                   Now, Mr. Commissioner, I have a few  
22                   housekeeping matters which are of significance I think to  
23                   all concerned.

24                                   I've been advised that there has been a stay  
25                   granted with respect to witnesses C-12 and C-13's proposed

1 testimony. They, of course, will not be called tomorrow.

2 So the plan of action right now is that Mr.  
3 Jamie Marsolais will be giving evidence tomorrow, followed  
4 by the alternative cross-examination of Ron Leroux. So  
5 that is the plan as I understand it right now for tomorrow  
6 and the following days but for this afternoon, we have  
7 Monsieur Fernand Vivarais and I would like to call him as a  
8 witness.

9 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Thank you.

10 **MR. SHERRIFF-SCOTT:** Excuse me, Mr.  
11 Commissioner.

12 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Yes.

13 **MR. STAUFFER:** Mr. Sherriff-Scott would like  
14 to say something.

15 **THE COMMISSIONER:** My lunch was great. Is  
16 that what you wanted to inquire about?

17 **(LAUGHTER/RIRES)**

18 **--- SUBMISSIONS BY/REPRÉSENTATIONS PAR MR. SHERRIFF-SCOTT:**

19 **MR. SHERRIFF-SCOTT:** The witness proposed to  
20 be called, sir, it is revealed through the anticipated  
21 summary of evidence has never made a complaint or did not  
22 make a complaint to any public institution in connection  
23 with any of his allegations of historical sexual abuse.

24 We do know from his summary of evidence that  
25 he alleges to have been abused by the -- at the hands of a

1 priest in the 1950s.

2 **THE COMMISSIONER:** M'hm.

3 **MR. SHERRIFF-SCOTT:** And concedes therein  
4 that he never made a complaint or lodged information with  
5 any public institution at any time prior to your Terms of  
6 Reference being issued relating to that matter.

7 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Yes. Right.

8 **MR. SHERRIFF-SCOTT:** So my formula is simple  
9 in terms of my concern. The Terms of Reference empower  
10 you to measure and investigate institutional responses to  
11 allegations of historical abuse and there cannot have been  
12 a response to investigate when no allegation or complaint  
13 was ever lodged or made.

14 And so I would submit that on jurisdictional  
15 basis the evidence is precluded.

16 There has been some discussion that perhaps  
17 this might be a contextual witness. I'm not sure how this  
18 would amount to any context or why context would make what  
19 would not be jurisdictionally proper jurisdictionally  
20 proper.

21 The suggestion on context, as I understand  
22 it, has been that it might be germane to investigate why  
23 people didn't come forward. I would suggest that I  
24 disagree with that interpretation of your jurisdiction.

25 That might be an interesting issue for a

1 sociological retrospective but not one I submit which the  
2 Commission is founded to investigate.

3 Moreover, based on the anticipated summary  
4 of evidence, there are no facts and I emphasize the word  
5 "facts" which are described about institutions, one or  
6 another, which relate to the non-disclosure issue.

7 And so I am concerned that the witness being  
8 tendered is one which is outside the jurisdiction of the  
9 Commission to hear.

10 Thank you, sir. Those are my comments.

11 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Thank you.

12 Anyone wish to speak in favour of that  
13 position?

14 All right. Anyone wanted -- well, we'll  
15 start with you, Mr. Stauffer.

16 --- SUBMISSIONS BY/REPRÉSENTATIONS PAR MR. STAUFFER:

17 **MR. STAUFFER:** Yes. Thank you, Mr.  
18 Commissioner.

19 The proposed testimony from Mr. Vivarais  
20 certainly was circulated quite some time ago to all  
21 parties. I am not quite sure what my friend, Mr. Sherriff-  
22 Scott, means by no institution has been identified. There  
23 is mention of a priest in the A.E.

24 However, what this witness will be called  
25 for, beyond his own story obviously, is why he did not

1 report his abuse or alleged abuse to any authorities until  
2 quite recently.

3 And so my friend is quite right in that his  
4 reporting did come after the Order in Council was signed,  
5 but in this case, he has similar evidence to give certainly  
6 to other witnesses we have heard and I would pick up on my  
7 friend's comment about contextual evidence.

8 It's our position that Mr. Vivarais would  
9 talk about his abuse or alleged abuse and why he did not  
10 report, to a great extent, again, buttressing what we've  
11 heard or what this Commission has heard from the expert  
12 witnesses in 2006 from Dr. Jaffe and others.

13 So the question today, really I think for  
14 your consideration, Mr. Commissioner, is why should he be  
15 called and then we're suggesting that he should be called  
16 to indicate why a fellow of his years at the time of the  
17 alleged abuse would not have reported and why he did not  
18 report for years following. So what barriers existed in  
19 his mind as to why he did not report?

20 So that is, I am going to suggest, the  
21 reason why Mr. Vivarais has been called and for that matter  
22 why Mr. Marsolais will be called tomorrow, but I'll let my  
23 friend Ms. Hamou perhaps deal with that tomorrow if that  
24 objection remains for Mr. Marsolais.

25 But for today's purposes, I can only say

1 that it's important evidence. It's similar evidence. It's  
2 evidence where there is no institution responding so we are  
3 not making any allegations against an institution per se  
4 today through Mr. Vivarais. I intend to call no evidence  
5 in that regard.

6 **THE COMMISSIONER:** All right.

7 **MR. STAUFFER:** But there will be mention  
8 obviously of a priest. So that is -- those are my  
9 comments, Mr. Commissioner. Thank you.

10 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Thank you.

11 Anybody wish to add anything? Hang on  
12 there. Mr. Canto, did you wish to say anything? No?  
13 Pardon me?

14 **MR. CANTO:** We support Commission counsel.

15 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Yes. Mr. -- hang on now.  
16 Madam Clerk, I don't have my list anymore. There we go.

17 Mr. Paul, do you -- okay. Mr. Lee?

18 --- **SUBMISSIONS BY/SOUMISSIONS PAR MR. LEE:**

19 **MR. LEE:** I should note you've noticed by  
20 now that the Coalition for Action has been slotted in  
21 between the Citizens for Community Renewal and the Victims  
22 Group in the order of cross-examination.

23 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Well, it might take me a  
24 while to learn that, but okay.

25 **MR. LEE:** I don't have a whole lot to say

1 after Mr. Stauffer. I did want to comment though when he  
2 talks about the contextual nature of this evidence.

3 The point that also needs to be made is that  
4 Mr. Vivarais and Mr. Marsolais are being called, as I  
5 understand it, to help us understand a little bit the other  
6 side of the coin in terms of what we've heard from many,  
7 many victims of abuse who have come forward and complained  
8 to institutions at various times.

9 We know there are just as many and probably  
10 more who did not and that's the key point as Mr. Stauffer  
11 put it, the barriers that exist that have a huge effect and  
12 that, I would suggest, is one of the -- one of the goals or  
13 should be one of the goals for institutions.

14 It's not only how to respond when they get  
15 an allegation but how to foster an environment where people  
16 are comfortable coming forward, and where people are  
17 willing to tell their stories, and where people are willing  
18 to put the institutions in a position where they can  
19 respond because if they don't know anything, obviously,  
20 they have a very difficult time doing their jobs and  
21 helping these people.

22 Mr. Marsolais and Mr. Vivarais, as Mr.  
23 Stauffer said, aren't being called to discuss institutional  
24 response per se.

25 sThey are here as representative of others

1 who aren't going to be called and it's valuable evidence  
2 for this Commission.

3 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Thank you.

4 So Mr. Paul, you ---

5 **MR. PAUL:** I have no comments other than to  
6 support the Commission.

7 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Thank you.

8 Mr. Chisholm?

9 **MR. CHISHOLM:** No submissions, sir. Thank  
10 you.

11 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Thank you.

12 Mr. Rouleau?

13 **MR. ROULEAU:** Nothing to say, sir.

14 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Thank you.

15 Ms. Im?

16 **MS. IM:** No submissions. Thank you.

17 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Okay. Ms. Robitaille?

18 Is she gone? Okay.

19 Mr. Sherriff-Scott -- all right. Ms. Lalji?

20 Mr. Crane?

21 --- **SUBMISSIONS BY/SOUMISSIONS PAR MR. CRANE:**

22 **MR. CRANE:** Good afternoon, Mr.

23 Commissioner.

24 We're not taking a position with respect to  
25 this issue but for the purposes of the record, I think it



1 should just reflect that the -- I'm not sure it has been  
2 said yet that with regards to the anticipated evidence, the  
3 allegations raised by Mr. Vivarais occurred in Montreal,  
4 according to the anticipated evidence, and I leave that for  
5 your consideration.

6 **THE COMMISSIONER:** They occurred in  
7 Montreal.

8 **MR. CRANE:** They allegedly occurred in  
9 Montreal.

10 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Right.

11 **MR. CRANE:** Yes.

12 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Okay. Any comment to  
13 that?

14 **MR. STAUFFER:** The allegation, as I  
15 understand it, of abuse did occur in Montreal. However,  
16 its genesis was in the City of Cornwall.

17 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Okay. Well, we'll see  
18 that maybe.

19 Ms. Costom, any comments?

20 **MS. COSTOM:** We leave the matter to your  
21 consideration.

22 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Thank you.

23 Mr. Carroll is not here.

24 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Not here. Mr. Machinko  
25 is not here. That's that. All right.

1 --- REPLY BY/RÉPLIQUE PAR MR. SHERRIFF-SCOTT:

2 MR. SHERRIFF-SCOTT: I would just say that  
3 in response, sir, that the point my friend, Mr. Stauffer,  
4 raised is the expression that he used that I noted was  
5 "barriers in his mind" and I - submit that the Commission  
6 is investigating facts, not perceptions or beliefs or  
7 theories and there are no facts disclosed in this  
8 anticipated summary of evidence about institutions which  
9 join issue with that point. Moreover, as I said at the  
10 outset I, in any event, disagree that jurisdiction that you  
11 have doesn't permit that analysis of why people didn't  
12 purport in the first instance. Thank you.

13 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you. I am going to  
14 hear the evidence on the basis that we are completely the  
15 evidence of the alleged victims and victims that have  
16 reported.

17 It certainly will not -- this evidence will  
18 not be used -- to negatively impact on any of the  
19 institutions and any finding that I may make with respect  
20 to any 5 2 notices.

21 I think it is important though that as we  
22 are closing off the victims and the alleged victims  
23 evidence that we also hear from someone who has not  
24 disclosed and to hear whether or not there any systemic  
25 inhibitions or whether or not there was an environment that

1 prevented him or her from coming forward at that time.

2 With respect to the rest, whether it was in  
3 Montreal or not, I don't know that that is all that  
4 relevant. Now, I'll figure that out and deal with it as a  
5 matter of weight.

6 But again, I think from my understanding is  
7 that this is a way to close off victims evidence and I'll  
8 accept the evidence in that light.

9 **Report Sir**

10 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Hang on

11 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Yes

12 **THE REGISTRAR:** Your name?

13 **MR. VIVARAIS:** Fernand Vivarais

14 **THE REGISTRAR:** Please spell your name.

15 **MR. VIVARAIS:** F E R N A N D V I V A R A I

16 S

17 **FERNAND VIVARAIS, Affirmed/Sous affirmation solennelle**

18 **THE COMMISSIONER:** --you can have a seat  
19 please. So if you can bring the chair up, as

20 **MR. VIVARAIS:** Yes.

21 **THE COMMISSIONER:** ---best as you can,  
22 because you have to speak into the microphone. If there is  
23 something that you don't understand, or that you're un --  
24 unsure about, just let me know and we'll talk about that.

25 Listen carefully to the questions, give your

1 best answer. If you don't understand the question, say so.  
2 If you don't know the answer, you can say you don't know  
3 the answer.

4 And if at any time you need a break, let me  
5 know.

6 **MR. VIVARAIS:** Okay. That's fine. Thank  
7 you.

8 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Go ahead.

9 --- **EXAMINATION IN-CHIEF BY/INTERROGATOIRE EN-CHEF PAR MR.**  
10 **IAN STAUFFER :**

11 **MR. STAUFFER:** Thank you Mr. Commissioner.  
12 Yes, Mr. Vivarais if you could just keep up your voice, so  
13 that all of us can hear. You don't have to repeat  
14 yourself.

15 **MR. VIVARAIS:** Okay.

16 **MR. STAUFFER:** All right.

17 Thanks very much. Now, Mr. Vivarais, you  
18 are hear to give testimony, as to what you say occurred to  
19 you a number of years ago. Is that correct?

20 **MR. VIVARAIS:** That's right.

21 **MR. STAUFFER:** And could you give us a  
22 little bit of background. When were you born?

23 **MR. VIVARAIS:** I was born here in Cornwall  
24 on Marlboro Street.

25 **MR. STAUFFER:** When was that?

1 MR. VIVARAIS: 1947. January 4<sup>th</sup>.

2 MR. STAUFFER: All Right.

3 So you would be coming up -- well, you're 60  
4 now.

5 MR. VIVARAIS: 60, that's right -- just  
6 turned 60.

7 MR. STAUFFER: All right. And sir, in terms  
8 of brothers and sisters, do you have any?

9 MR. VIVARAIS: I've got two brothers, and  
10 three sisters. Yes.

11 MR. STAUFFER: And where were you in the  
12 order -

13 MR. VIVARAIS: I'm the second oldest.

14 MR. STAUFFER: The second oldest. All  
15 right. Are you married Sir?

16 MR. VIVARAIS: Yes, I am. -

17 MR. STAUFFER: And ---

18 MR. VIVARAIS: Forty years.

19 MR. STAUFFER: Sorry.

20 MR. VIVARAIS: Forty years.

21 MR. STAUFFER: All right. And do you have  
22 any children?

23 MR. VIVARAIS: I've got two. I've got a boy  
24 and a girl. Yes sir.

25 MR. STAUFFER: And some grandchildren I

1 understand.

2 **MR. VIVARAIS:** Yes, six of them. Yup.

3 **MR. STAUFFER:** All Right.

4 Now, at some point you went to school and that was here in  
5 Cornwall. Is that correct?

6 **MR. VIVARAIS:** Yes, that's right. I was  
7 born on Marlboro and I went to Sacred - St. John Apostle  
8 for Kindergarten, then we moved to Aubin Street where I  
9 went to Sacred Heart school for a couple of years, and then  
10 they transferred that to an English school, then I went to  
11 St. Gabriel for the - for six, seven or eight, I think it  
12 was or something like that.

13 **MR. STAUFFER:** All Right. And did you go  
14 beyond the public school?

15 **MR. VIVARAIS:** I went to Grade 9 - CCBS but  
16 I didn't finish my nine.

17 **MR. STAUFFER:** All right. And did you ever  
18 go back to school after -

19 **MR. VIVARAIS:** No sir -

20 **MR. STAUFFER:** --- after you left

21 **MR. VIVARAIS:** No Sir, I didn't.

22 **MR. STAUFFER:** All right. Now with respect  
23 to where you worked, if we could just go through that for a  
24 brief moment. Did you work after you left school?

25 **MR. VIVARAIS:** Yeah, I've had all kinds of

1 little jobs. Not the best of jobs with grade eight you  
2 don't get a heck of a lot. But, construction work and a  
3 purse factory and a glass factory.

4 Then I ended up in Domtar when I was  
5 eighteen, nineteen. My dad got me in there and the only  
6 reason I could stay in there, if I did the job I could stay  
7 and if I didn't I was going home. It was hard work, it was  
8 unloading pump cars. So, Tony Morgan at the time was the  
9 manager of the - the guy that was hiring people, so he said  
10 'if you could do the job Fern you stay, and if you can't  
11 you go home'.

12 **MR. STAUFFER:** I understand that you were  
13 injured on the job at some point.

14 **MR. VIVARAIS:** Yeah, that was in '82. June  
15 7<sup>th</sup>, '82 I ---

16 **MR. STAUFFER:** Okay.

17 **MR. VIVARAIS:** Changing cables on a crane,  
18 yeah, I snapped my back, yeah.

19 **MR. STAUFFER:** So your backs been injured  
20 and I gather it still bothers you today.

21 **MR. VIVARAIS:** I've had a few surgeries on  
22 it. Yeah.

23 **MR. STAUFFER:** So with the Commissionairs  
24 permission at some point you may have to stand -

25 **MR. VIVARAIS:** That would be nice, yeah.

1                   **MR. STAUFFER:** Sure, feel free to do so.

2                   **MR. VIVARAIS:** Right. Thank you.

3                   **MR. STAUFFER:** If it helps. And I  
4 understand you do take pain medication from time to time.

5                   **MR. VIVARAIS:** Yeah -- quite a few of them.

6                   **MR. STAUFFER:** Yeah. For your back. All  
7 right. Now Mr. Vivarais, in terms of the incident  
8 occurred, I'm going to take you back to the years around  
9 1958 or 1959.

10                  **MR. VIVARAIS:** M'hm.

11                  **MR. STAUFFER:** Am I in the right time frame?

12                  **MR. VIVARAIS:** You're right, you're close.  
13 You're right around there, yeah.

14                  **MR. STAUFFER:** So you would have been some  
15 where in the area of eleven or twelve years old.

16                  **MR. VIVARAIS:** That's right.

17                  **MR. STAUFFER:** Okay. Can you tell the  
18 Commissioner what were the events that led up to your  
19 story? What is -

20                  **MR. VIVARAIS:** Just that I met this Father  
21 Stone, Carl Stone, at the Saint John Bosco Church and he  
22 used to drive around with us, you know come and play ball  
23 or whatever, we were in the school yard or by the power  
24 lines or at home, he'd stop and play ball, whatever, he'd  
25 shoot the crap with us and he -- just one week he asked us



1 if we'd go to an Ice Capades in Montreal with him. So he  
2 asked me and three other fellows if we'd go up. And I  
3 asked mom and dad and they had no problem with that.

4 **MR. STAUFFER:** Had you been to Montreal  
5 before that visit?

6 **MR. VIVARAIS:** Yeah, might have been maybe  
7 once at the up on the hill there to see this Father Andre  
8 there, with mom and dad there, but that was a long -- can't  
9 remember the dates on that one.

10 **MR. STAUFFER:** Right. Had you been to the  
11 Ice Capades before?

12 **MR. VIVARAIS:** No, Sir. No sir.

13 **MR. STAUFFER:** So this would be some new ---

14 **MR. VIVARAIS:** If I could just remember what  
15 happened ---

16 **MR. STAUFFER:** Probably exciting adventure  
17 that you were going to go on.

18 **MR. VIVARAIS:** Yeah, it was an excitement.  
19 Yeah.

20 **MR. STAUFFER:** Yeah. Just about Brother  
21 Andre, how does he enter this picture?

22 **MR. VIVARAIS:** Well, mom had a stroke back  
23 then on her left side or something and she went up there  
24 and apparently he cured her. It was a miracle or  
25 something, I guess.

1                   **MR. STAUFFER:** Would you describe your  
2 mother as a Religious woman?

3                   **MR. VIVARAIS:** Yeah, pretty fair and dad  
4 also. Dad was a weekly going to church. And sometimes  
5 after his eleven to seven shift at night he'd stop in and  
6 go to Church also.

7                   **MR. STAUFFER:** Which Church would you have  
8 attended back then?

9                   **MR. VIVARAIS:** Saint John de Bosco.

10                  **MR. STAUFFER:** Saint John de Bosco. All  
11 right. And in terms of Reverend Stone, you were talking  
12 about him coming by and seeing you fellows and so on and  
13 offering to go up to Montreal, driving up to Montreal. And  
14 so your parents agreed with that.

15                  **MR. VIVARAIS:** Yeah. Yeah.

16                  **MR. STAUFFER:** There was no concerns.

17                  **MR. VIVARAIS:** No. No. Like he says if we go  
18 up there after the Ice Capades we get two different rooms,  
19 adjoining rooms and the boys would sleep in one and he'd  
20 sleep in the other.

21                  **MR. STAUFFER:** Okay. Had you heard Reverend  
22 Stone preach, if I could put it that way. Had he been  
23 officiating at a church ceremony?

24                  **MR. VIVARAIS:** Hearing confessions and all  
25 that. But as far as going to the front of the Church, I

1 don't recall, but I'm sure I went to confession with him a  
2 few times.

3 **MR. STAUFFER:** So you'd gone to confession,  
4 and that -

5 **MR. VIVARAIS:** Yeah yeah

6 **MR. STAUFFER:** And that had been heard by  
7 Father ---

8 **MR. VIVARAIS:** As far as going into schools  
9 I don't recall him going into the schools.

10 **MR. STAUFFER:** Okay. So tell us in terms of  
11 the Montreal trip. Just take us slowly through it. Where  
12 did you go, as best as you can remember, and what happened.

13 **MR. VIVARAIS:** I'm not sure if it was a  
14 Hotel or a Motel. I know it was adjoining rooms and after  
15 the Ice Capades we ended up there and - he - one of the  
16 older fellows, no - Stone said well here, one of you can  
17 sleep with me. I said, four of you can sleep in the one  
18 bed in that room and you may well three in that room and  
19 one of you guys can sleep with me and I guess I was the guy  
20 who slept with him that night.

21 **MR. STAUFFER:** Well, there was just the one  
22 bed room in Father's ---

23 **MR. VIVARAIS:** There was two, -- yeah, there  
24 was only the one bed, yeah, yeah. Well, I'm thinking he's  
25 a God or something. He's ---

1                   **MR. STAUFFER:** Okay. As much as you can  
2 tell us, tell us what happened.

3                   **MR. VIVARAIS:** I hate goin' there, man. I  
4 hate goin' there. -

5                   As soon as I sat on the side of the bed and  
6 I took my ---

7                   **MR. STAUFFER:** Sorry.

8                   **MR. VIVARAIS:** (Inaudible)

9                   **MR. STAUFFER:** Mr. Vivarais, I appreciate  
10 that this is difficult. Tell us what you can and just go  
11 from there.

12                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** I think you've been to  
13 this inquiry before, ---

14                   **MR. VIVARAIS:** Yes, I have. Yeah, I've been  
15 here. Yes. It's a little stiff.

16                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** No, no and I understand.

17                   **MR. VIVARAIS:** Just bear with me.

18                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** All I am saying is that  
19 we certainly are not interested in embarrassing you or ---

20                   **MR. VIVARAIS:** No, no, I know. It's just  
21 when I got in bed with him, he got me in a bear hug and he  
22 actually held me like a dog ---

23                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** M'hm.

24                   **MR. VIVARAIS:** --- over and over again.  
25 That happened three times that night. It wasn't pretty.

1                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** No, it wasn't pretty at  
2 all. Okay. So then the next morning?

3                   **MR. VIVARAIS:** He got up and he jumped in  
4 the shower. Here I was still laying there and all that  
5 semen and all that dried up all over me and he got out of  
6 the shower and said "Okay, guys, let's go. It's time to  
7 go". So I just wiped whatever I could off me with the  
8 blankets and we got in the car and came all the way home.

9                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** All right.

10                  **MR. STAUFFER:** Now, one of the results of  
11 all of this Mr. Vivarais and, correct me if I'm wrong, just  
12 talking about cleaning, what has been your practice in the  
13 last 40 or so years - - -

14                  **MR. VIVARAIS:** I still go through that.  
15 Back then I used to wash and scrub, wash and scrub, I  
16 couldn't get it off. To this day, I still haven't got it  
17 off.

18                  **MR. STAUFFER:** Okay. All right.

19                  **MR. VIVARAIS:** It's even -- now I'll jump in  
20 the shower periodically and you know, you don't think about  
21 it. And you try and scrub it off and you can't it off.

22                  **MR. STAUFFER:** Okay. Could you tell us  
23 again, correct me if I'm wrong, what size were you at the  
24 time?

25                  **MR. VIVARAIS:** I was only a little fellow

1 for God's sake. I was only 11-12 and he was maybe a guy  
2 your size, maybe a little bit bigger than you. He was a  
3 big fellow.

4 **MR. STAUFFER:** Okay. After, you've heard  
5 the Commissioner, and we'll just move on here.

6 **MR. VIVARAIS:** Yes.

7 **MR. STAUFFER:** Yes, but after that incident  
8 or series of incidents in Montreal that you say happened,  
9 what contact, if any, did you have following that with Mr.  
10 ---

11 **MR. VIVARAIS:** After that episode, no, I  
12 used to, like I say, I needed to be sitting at home or at  
13 school, sitting and looking out the window. And I'd see  
14 him driving by and he's just stalking me steady, steady.  
15 It didn't matter where I was by the power lines or I was  
16 sitting at home or in the driveway whatever.

17 Every time I seem to turn around and he was  
18 just looking at me, you know, just driving by and that  
19 "tchutt, tchutt", I still can remember that today and it's  
20 been going on 50 years.

21 **MR. STAUFFER:** I am sorry, what "tchutt,  
22 tchutt", what's that?

23 **MR. VIVARAIS:** Well, every time he'd look at  
24 me and he would give me that "tchutt, tchutt", more like  
25 shut your mouth, shut up.

1                   **MR. STAUFFER:** Okay.

2                   **MR. VIVARAIS:** That was on a weekly thing.  
3 He had me. I was scared. I was scared.

4                   **MR. STAUFFER:** Okay. With respect to your  
5 parents, did you ever tell them about this?

6                   **MR. VIVARAIS:** No, no, like say "Mom, that  
7 Father André hearing miracles and all that" and she  
8 wouldn't dare.

9                   I never even thought of asking her; telling  
10 her. She wouldn't have believed that anyway. You never  
11 spoke of a priest back then. It was unheard of.

12                   They were Gods. They were Gods. Or at  
13 least I thought they were then. I don't think the same  
14 today but ---

15                   **MR. STAUFFER:** What about your dad? Did you  
16 ever talk to him at all?

17                   **MR. VIVARAIS:** No, I don't know, I couldn't  
18 you know, what are you going to do? Tell him that some  
19 priest had his -- stuck his thing between your legs and you  
20 know, no, I couldn't talk about it -- it's just too much  
21 shame.

22                   **MR. STAUFFER:** Okay. Did you ever think of  
23 going to the police?

24                   **MR. VIVARAIS:** No, again.

25                   **MR. STAUFFER:** Why?

1                   **MR. VIVARAIS:** There was no penetration, you  
2 know. I never knew that night. I thought, you know, but  
3 no, I got to give him credit, he didn't penetrate but now -  
4 - I thought I was -- I asked the older guys if penetration  
5 -- for rape, it has to be penetration but there was never  
6 any penetration so I says, it's got to be a crime; it's  
7 just ---

8                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** All right. So you're  
9 saying that the reason you didn't go to the police is you  
10 didn't feel it was a crime?

11                   **MR. VIVARAIS:** No. There was no  
12 penetration.

13                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** Fair enough.

14                   **MR. STAUFFER:** Did you know about the  
15 Children's Aid Society back then, in the '50s?

16                   **MR. VIVARAIS:** No, I'd never heard, never  
17 said nothing ---

18                   **MR. STAUFFER:** That wasn't something you'd  
19 ever really ---

20                   **MR. VIVARAIS:** No, I've never; never even  
21 thought of it.

22                   **MR. STAUFFER:** Okay. And with regard to the  
23 church, did you talk to anybody at all, any other priests  
24 or anybody in the church administration?

25                   **MR. VIVARAIS:** No, sir, I never.



1                   **MR. STAUFFER:** Okay. Why, again, I don't  
2 want to belabour this, Mr. Vivarais, but we're trying to  
3 get any idea as to why you didn't tell anyone.

4                   **MR. VIVARAIS:** Okay, I was scared. I was  
5 actually scared. I mean, if he could do that to me, and if  
6 I'd tell a cop and even the cop wouldn't believe it, then I  
7 thought he was going to kill me. I actually thought he was  
8 going to kill me.

9                   I was scared. I was literally scared.

10                  **MR. STAUFFER:** Again, maybe I just haven't  
11 heard you, but why wouldn't you call the police or tell the  
12 police? I understood you ---

13                  **MR. VIVARAIS:** They wouldn't believe it  
14 anyway. I mean, like I said, there was no penetration so  
15 after time, if you'd call the cops and tell the cops and  
16 they get together, no, there was -- I couldn't do it. I  
17 just never did.

18                  **MR. STAUFFER:** All right. You did  
19 eventually go to the police but this was not that long ago?

20                  **MR. VIVARAIS:** No, it was just last year I  
21 think it was. I seen a ---

22                  **MR. STAUFFER:** And I understand you were  
23 referred to the Montreal police ---

24                  **MR. VIVARAIS:** Yeah. I seen a Larry  
25 Frappier. Larry Frappier I think he was a cop here in

1 town. Then he told me how a friend it had happened to in  
2 Montreal so he says you've got to go report it in Montreal,  
3 which I did, just last year I think it was.

4 I seen an officer there named Eric Seguin I  
5 think it was.

6 **MR. STAUFFER:** Okay.

7 **MR. VIVARAIS:** And then a little after that  
8 there was another officer, she called me, she was Mrs.  
9 Hamelink or Detective Hamelink or something from Montreal.

10 **MR. STAUFFER:** M'hm.

11 **MR. VIVARAIS:** But she said since he died  
12 now, there is nothing we can do about it.

13 **MR. STAUFFER:** M'hm.

14 **MR. VIVARAIS:** No, I tried -- the reason I  
15 came forward, I seen these other guys being abused ---

16 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Sorry, you seen other  
17 guys being abused?

18 **MR. VIVARAIS:** Well, I seen that on paper, I  
19 seen it, you know, all over. These guys are getting  
20 abused. I says it's going on 50 years and it's still going  
21 on. I says it's not right; it's not right.

22 **MR. STAUFFER:** So that's what you're saying  
23 to us Mr. Vivarais ---

24 **MR. VIVARAIS:** Yes.

25 **MR. STAUFFER:** --- you came forward because

1           you'd heard about other ---

2                   **MR. VIVARAIS:** I'd seen other guys in the  
3 newspaper, you know. They were being on paper and  
4 everything else and they're not being believed. You're  
5 liars. It didn't happen. It did happen. It happened to  
6 me.

7                   **MR. STAUFFER:** All right.

8                   **MR. VIVARAIS:** It's still going on. It's  
9 not right. It's not right.

10                  **MR. STAUFFER:** You eventually found your way  
11 to the Men's Project I understand?

12                  **MR. VIVARAIS:** Yeah, when it came into town,  
13 yeah. I forget what year it was, a few years back, yeah.

14                  **MR. STAUFFER:** And did you receive some  
15 counselling there?

16                  **MR. VIVARAIS:** Yeah, I went there for about  
17 a year, give or take I think in there someplace.

18                  **MR. STAUFFER:** Can you comment on that as to  
19 whether that helped you at all?

20                  **MR. VIVARAIS:** It was all right but not  
21 knowing back then that my brother was also abused, he  
22 started to come and I was told that we can't take the two  
23 of you because I won't be able to speak the way I want to  
24 speak.

25                               So they told me I could stay but he had, you

1 know, they couldn't take the two of us on so eventually I  
2 just said the hell with it.

3 If you can't help my brother and help me, I  
4 said the heck, I don't need it.

5 **MR. STAUFFER:** So these are group sessions  
6 that you were going to---

7 **MR. VIVARAIS:** Yeah.

8 **MR. STAUFFER:** --- it's not one on one?

9 **MR. VIVARAIS:** No, no, they were just -- I  
10 thought that was -- I didn't think that was right also. If  
11 they can't help the two of us, there's something wrong  
12 there.

13 **MR. STAUFFER:** All right. Now, the effects  
14 that you're saying came out of all this from the late '50s;  
15 can you tell the Commissioner about those effects?

16 **MR. VIVARAIS:** M'hm. Yeah. You start  
17 drinking at a very young age ---

18 **THE COMMISSIONER:** You start drinking?

19 **MR. VIVARAIS:** Yeah. Yeah.

20 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Before we go there ---

21 **MR. VIVARAIS:** Yes, sir.

22 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Can I just stop you ---

23 **MR. VIVARAIS:** Sure.

24 **THE COMMISSIONER:** --- for a minute? So  
25 basically, you know, in the 1950s when this happened, you

1 were afraid of him?

2 **MR. STAUFFER:** Yeah. I was petrified, yeah.

3 **THE COMMISSIONER:** You understood, in your  
4 mind, that you couldn't go to the police because there was  
5 no penetration?

6 **MR. VIVARAIS:** That's right.

7 **THE COMMISSIONER:** All right. So now,  
8 you've lived in Cornwall most of your life?

9 **MR. VIVARAIS:** All my life, yeah.

10 **THE COMMISSIONER:** All right. So now, can  
11 we just go down the road and look at things that so when  
12 Perry Dunlop for example ---

13 **MR. VIVARAIS:** M'hm.

14 **THE COMMISSIONER:** --- you've read about  
15 what he had done and that kind of thing?

16 **MR. VIVARAIS:** Yeah.

17 **THE COMMISSIONER:** So, at that point had you  
18 considered coming forward to say something? And what I  
19 want to do is go through ---

20 **MR. VIVARAIS:** Yeah, yeah.

21 **THE COMMISSIONER:** --- time and see ---

22 **MR. VIVARAIS:** No, I thought he was quite a  
23 man doing what he did, you know, getting another shot; he  
24 is getting out, it's not right for him either.

25 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Just a minute ---

1                   **MR. VIVARAIS:** I know you don't want to go  
2 there. I hear you.

3                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** No, no, no, I don't need  
4 to hear your editorial -- that big word --- I don't need  
5 the editorial about that.

6                   **MR. VIVARAIS:** Okay.

7                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** Okay, because I will have  
8 to decide what ---

9                   **MR. VIVARAIS:** Yeah.

10                  **THE COMMISSIONER:** So, bottom line is  
11 though, so Perry Dunlop is a guy you admired?

12                  **MR. VIVARAIS:** Yeah, yeah.

13                  **THE COMMISSIONER:** Okay. Did you consider  
14 going and telling him about it?

15                  **MR. VIVARAIS:** I just met the man two weeks  
16 ago.

17                  **THE COMMISSIONER:** Oh, okay. No, but I  
18 meant in the story ---

19                  **MR. VIVARAIS:** Oh, oh ---

20                  **THE COMMISSIONER:** --- back in those days,  
21 were you reading the newspapers and knew that he had come  
22 forward?

23                  **MR. VIVARAIS:** No, it might have crossed my  
24 mind I suppose but like I say, no. You kept it in. You  
25 didn't talk about this.

1                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** Right. Okay. Then  
2 Project Truth came over and I guess they made announcements  
3 about if you'd been sexually abused ---

4                   **MR. VIVARAIS:** M'hm.

5                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** --- and is there a reason  
6 why you didn't come forward then?

7                   **MR. VIVARAIS:** I don't know. Just keep it  
8 to yourself. I was taking it to my grave actually.

9                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** I'm sorry.

10                  **MR. VIVARAIS:** I was taking it to my grave.

11                  **THE COMMISSIONER:** All right. All right.

12                  **MR. VIVARAIS:** That's what I was doing.

13                  **THE COMMISSIONER:** Okay. And so then the  
14 inquiry comes around and then you decide to come forward.

15                  **MR. VIVARAIS:** Yeah, because it came back to  
16 life.

17                  **THE COMMISSIONER:** It came back to life.

18                  **MR. VIVARAIS:** Stone, yeah.

19                  **THE COMMISSIONER:** In what way?

20                  **MR. VIVARAIS:** Well, God died once, but  
21 apparently this guy died three times and came back three  
22 times. I don't know, it's ---

23                  **THE COMMISSIONER:** I don't understand that.

24                  **MR. VIVARAIS:** He disappeared, I guess, and  
25 he'd come back and disappear and come back. When I first

1       approached, he was around and when I had seen the law firm,  
2       he disappeared and he came back again.

3                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** You saw a law firm?

4                   **MR. VIVARAIS:** Well, for a lawsuit, like  
5       with Dallas.

6                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** Oh, okay, okay.

7                   **MR. VIVARAIS:** Okay, yeah. No, it's just I  
8       was leaving it alone, but this guy, like I say, he  
9       disappeared and I thought he died. Then I went to see  
10      Dallas' law firm and apparently he was back but apparently  
11      he didn't -- there were a few times he just, I don't know,  
12      he just disappeared. He'd been known to do that.

13                  **THE COMMISSIONER:** All right. Okay. Thank  
14      you.

15                  **MR. STAUFFER:** Thank you, Mr. Commissioner.

16                  So Mr. Vivarais, in terms of the impact it's  
17      had on you this alleged abuse from the Montreal incidents,  
18      could you tell us what you believe has been the impact?

19                  **MR. VIVARAIS:** It's kicked the hell out of  
20      me. It's ruined me. It's, you know, no education, you  
21      don't get a heck of a lot. You know, you see your buddies  
22      with all good jobs. They're lawyers, cops, whatever. It  
23      would have been nice to -- it would have been nice to get -  
24      --

25                  **MR. STAUFFER:** Did you have any medical



1 treatment as a result?

2 **MR. VIVARAIS:** Yeah, I used to go to third  
3 south, weeks on weeks and months on months and, you know,  
4 shock treatments, medication, suicide attempts. It's been  
5 rough.

6 **THE COMMISSIONER:** And how are you feeling  
7 now?

8 **MR. VIVARAIS:** Maybe once this is all over  
9 with today too, I might be a little bit better there, but  
10 I'm coming around pretty good, yeah. I'm not thinking of  
11 blowing my brains out or anything. So I guess I'm doing  
12 all right, but it's been a rough path. It's been rough on  
13 the wife and kids.

14 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Sure.

15 **MR. VIVARAIS:** You know, coming home drunk  
16 every day, every day and you drink to try to get some sleep  
17 because you can't sleep because he's behind you every time  
18 you wake up at night. It's not him, it's your wife, but  
19 you think it's him. It's been rough. It's been rough.

20 **MR. STAUFFER:** Mr. Vivarais, I heard you  
21 affirm as compared to swear on the bible today. Why was  
22 that?

23 **MR. VIVARAIS:** I just don't believe in it  
24 anymore. I don't believe in God. I don't believe in the  
25 church. I don't believe in priests. It's too bad. I

1 don't believe in them.

2 **MR. STAUFFER:** Can you relate to us briefly  
3 the story of your nephew, Denis?

4 **MR. VIVARAIS:** Denis, yeah. It's my nephew.  
5 He passed away last year. It's been nine months, eleven  
6 months now, of a drug overdose and I just couldn't go in  
7 that church. I went into the front to see my kid brother,  
8 but I had to get the hell out. I couldn't stay in there.  
9 It's too bad, but he understood though. I was only a kid,  
10 19 years old.

11 **MR. STAUFFER:** Did you develop a drinking  
12 problem?

13 **MR. VIVARAIS:** Did I develop a drinking  
14 problem? Oh, my God, I think I drank everything out there.  
15 If I had a dollar for every drink I took, I think I'd be a  
16 millionaire.

17 **MR. STAUFFER:** Okay.

18 **MR. VIVARAIS:** Something to be proud of,  
19 huh?

20 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Are you still drinking  
21 now?

22 **MR. VIVARAIS:** No. I might have a little  
23 glass of wine now and then but, no. No, I think I drank  
24 enough.

25 **MR. STAUFFER:** Mr. Vivarais, I think you've

1           come today with some recommendations for Mr. Commissioner  
2           to consider. Would you like to tell us about those?

3                       **MR. VIVARAIS:** Yeah, like a 24-hour hotline;  
4           you know, there's nothing around in Cornwall here. We need  
5           something here for, you know -- I didn't know where to go  
6           and maybe if there would have been something like that back  
7           then, maybe I would have -- some better training for police  
8           and lawyers and judges and -- I had to shoot that in there.

9                       **THE COMMISSIONER:** It's okay. I'm getting  
10          used to it.

11                               **(LAUGHTER/RIRES)**

12                       **MR. VIVARAIS:** Doctors, whatever; training  
13          our kids more on this abuse stuff, you know, going to  
14          schools and get that out in schools a little bit better.

15                       And as far as priests, well, it's one strike  
16          you're out thing. I think that's the only way to go with  
17          that one. I mean, they're no better than anybody else as  
18          far as I'm concerned.

19                       Stiffer sentences. I think this bracelet  
20          thing has gone a little too far.

21                       And as far as pedophiles, I think if they're  
22          made to pay off 100 percent of the compensations for the  
23          victims for medication, transportation and all kinds of  
24          expenses like that, if they had to pay that out of their  
25          own pockets instead of the government doing it, they might

1 smarten up a little bit. You know, they're not -- hit them  
2 where it hurts a little bit, maybe that will smarten them  
3 up.

4 But no, that's pretty well what I have to  
5 say, sir.

6 **MR. STAUFFER:** Thank you, sir.

7 Those are all the questions I have, Mr.  
8 Commissioner. Thank you.

9 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Mr. Canto?

10 **MR. CANTO:** Good afternoon, Mr.  
11 Commissioner.

12 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Yes.

13 **MR. CANTO:** Good afternoon, Mr. Vivarais.  
14 My name is Steven Canto. I am one of the lawyers here on  
15 behalf of the Community of Citizens -- the Citizens for  
16 Community Renewal, the CCR. I have no questions for you,  
17 but thank you for coming.

18 **MR. VIVARAIS:** Thank you.

19 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Thank you.

20 Mr. Chisholm? Oh, I'm sorry, I'll get to  
21 you soon.

22 **MR. CHISHOLM:** That's all right, sir, I'm  
23 here now.

24 Mr. Vivarais, my name is Peter Chisholm,  
25 counsel for the local CAS. I have no questions for you.

1 Thank you for coming today.

2 MR. VIVARAIS: Thank you.

3 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you.

4 Mr. Paul?

5 --- CROSS-EXAMINATION BY/CONTRE-INTERROGATOIRE PAR MR.

6 PAUL:

7 MR. PAUL: Mr. Vivarais, I appear for the  
8 Coalition for Action. My name is Ian Paul. I just had a  
9 couple of questions for you.

10 I did note that one of your recommendations  
11 was to improve education for children.

12 MR. VIVARAIS: M'hm.

13 MR. PAUL: I just want to ask you, you were  
14 about 12 when the abuse occurred I believe?

15 MR. VIVARAIS: That's right.

16 MR. PAUL: From your recommendations, are we  
17 to assume that you had little education from school or  
18 family on abuse?

19 MR. VIVARAIS: None.

20 MR. PAUL: So for that reason, you were  
21 taken by surprise by the events?

22 MR. VIVARAIS: That's right. That's right.

23 MR. PAUL: And you feel that if there was  
24 better education within the school on abuse, you might have  
25 been in a better position to react?

1                   **MR. VIVARAIS:** Well, I think I would have  
2                   been, yeah, because back then, you know, sex, you didn't  
3                   talk about sex. Well, we're about the same age really.  
4                   Well, I don't know, I think -- maybe I'm wrong here --  
5                   sorry about that.

6   **(LAUGHTER/RIRES)**

7                   **MR. VIVARAIS:** Oh, oh, I hit a bad note  
8                   there.

9                   **MR. PAUL:** Oh, no, it's okay. Those are my  
10                  only questions. Thank you.

11                  **THE COMMISSIONER:** Maître Rouleau?

12                  **MR. ROULEAU:** No questions. Thank you.

13                  **THE COMMISSIONER:** Ms. Im?

14                  **MS. IM:** No questions. Thank you.

15                  **THE COMMISSIONER:** Ms. Robitaille? No.  
16                  Mr. Sherriff-Scott?

17                  **MR. SHERRIFF-SCOTT:** Thank you, Mr.  
18                  Vivarais. I have no questions for you.

19                  **MR. VIVARAIS:** Thank you.

20                  **THE COMMISSIONER:** Thank you.

21                  Ms. Lalji? Mr. Crane, sorry.

22                  **MR. CRANE:** Mr. Vivarais, my name is Mark  
23                  Crane. I am counsel for the Cornwall Police Service. I  
24                  don't have any questions for you, sir. Good luck to you.

25                  **MR. VIVARAIS:** Thank you.

1                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** Ms. Costom?

2                   **MS. COSTOM:** I have no questions.

3                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** Mr. Carroll? That should  
4 do it. That's everybody? All right.

5                   Mr. Stauffer, do you have any -- I'm sorry,  
6 Mr. Lee. I'm sorry.

7                   **--- CROSS-EXAMINATION BY/CONTRE-INTERROGATOIRE PAR MR. LEE:**

8                   **MR. LEE:** I just had a couple of areas that  
9 I wanted to clarify. Fern, you mentioned in your evidence  
10 in-chief that you were afraid of Reverend Stone and that  
11 you thought he would kill you.

12                   Can you expand on that a bit and explain to  
13 the Commissioner what you mean by that?

14                   **MR. VIVARAIS:** That's exactly what I meant.  
15 I meant that he was going to kill me if I said anything to  
16 the cops or police, whatever. You know, I was scared,  
17 scared shitless.

18                   **MR. LEE:** Did he ever threaten to kill you?

19                   **MR. VIVARAIS:** No, he was just going by  
20 steady with his car, like I say, and his "tchut, tchut,  
21 tchut". That's all I ever heard for weeks on weeks on  
22 weeks.

23                   You know, like I say, you're sitting in the  
24 yard and he goes by and he's making sure he sees you eye to  
25 eye and he gives you that "tchut, tchut, thcut". Yeah,

1           that's -- I spent a lot of time in the bush at the back of  
2           my place back then. It was Fedderley's (phonetic) bush.  
3           Ray knows where it is, or it used to be there. It's all  
4           built up today, but we used to sit in there a lot of days,  
5           a lot of days. You know, you become a loner after a while  
6           and ---

7                       **MR. LEE:** Why were you in the bush?

8                       **MR. VIVARAIS:** You don't -- you don't trust  
9           anybody after a while and you become -- I used to drink and  
10          fight and drink and fight and God knows how many people I  
11          hurt out there for no reason because of my anger. I'd  
12          pound some people in the face and if they're looking at  
13          this today, I'm really sorry. And if they want to hit me  
14          back, I'll not raise a hand on them. I won't.

15                      **THE COMMISSIONER:** It's water under the  
16          bridge now.

17                      **MR. VIVARAIS:** Yeah, I know, but it's not  
18          good water. It was bad. It was bad.

19                      **MR. LEE:** You mentioned very quickly, and  
20          I'm hoping you can expand. You mentioned at some point,  
21          when you were talking about some of the effects that you  
22          had received treatment in the past. Did you mean  
23          psychological treatment or counselling?

24                      **MR. VIVARAIS:** Counselling, yes. Every now  
25          and then, I've been getting counselling from two different



1 psychologists, very, very good people.

2 MR. LEE: When did you first begin getting  
3 counselling for some of these issues?

4 MR. VIVARAIS: It's been around a year or  
5 two years, I think, there now; something like that.

6 MR. LEE: But you've disclosed relatively  
7 recently the abuse at all; right?

8 MR. VIVARAIS: Yeah, yeah, just in the last  
9 couple of years.

10 MR. LEE: My understanding is you were  
11 getting -- having some psychological issues well back  
12 though and that you were in treatment for those. Is that  
13 right?

14 MR. VIVARAIS: Yeah.

15 MR. LEE: Can you tell us about those  
16 please?

17 MR. VIVARAIS: Some of the abuse you're  
18 talking about here?

19 MR. LEE: You mentioned that you were on  
20 third south, for instance.

21 MR. VIVARAIS: Yeah, like shock treatments  
22 and that? Yeah, that was -- I think they banned them in  
23 '71, '72 or something like that. They were mean. They  
24 were ---

25 MR. LEE: Shock treatments for what, Fern?

1                   **MR. VIVARAIS:** Trying to bring you back to  
2 your senses, I guess, because I didn't have a clue where I  
3 was back then between taking medication, Librium, Valium,  
4 Diazepam or whatever the hell I was on there, it's ---

5                   **MR. LEE:** This was at the hospital.

6                   **MR. VIVARAIS:** Yeah.

7                   **MR. LEE:** They thought this was a legitimate  
8 treatment at the time? It was at the hospital?

9                   **MR. VIVARAIS:** Yeah, third south -- yeah,  
10 third south at the General Hospital. It's, you know, they  
11 give you a needle to put you out and then zap you.

12                   **MR. LEE:** How many times did that happen?

13                   **MR. VIVARAIS:** I had seven of them.

14                   **MR. LEE:** Sorry?

15                   **MR. VIVARAIS:** Seven of them.

16                   **MR. LEE:** The other issue I wanted to  
17 clarify, I don't think it was clear when you mentioned that  
18 reverends don't die three times.

19                   **MR. VIVARAIS:** Well, every time I'd come  
20 back to and when I reported to you guys, they said, "Well,  
21 he's dead. There's nothing we can do."

22                               But you said, "No". And then we'd get some  
23 more reports and found that he was alive. Apparently, they  
24 were moving him from one place to another or something.  
25 That's basically why I ---

1 MR. LEE: Just to assist the Commissioner.

2 MR. VIVARAIS: Yeah, yeah.

3 MR. LEE: You, for a time, thought that  
4 Reverend Stone was dead?

5 MR. VIVARAIS: I did. I did, yes.

6 MR. LEE: And then you learned that he  
7 wasn't dead?

8 MR. VIVARAIS: Right. Yeah, yeah.

9 MR. LEE: And then you thought he was dead  
10 again?

11 MR. VIVARAIS: That's right, yeah.

12 MR. LEE: And so ---

13 MR. VIVARAIS: Yeah, just trying to clear  
14 his mind there. I see he's doing some thinking there,  
15 yeah.

16 (LAUGHTER/RIRES)

17 MR. LEE: You now know that he's deceased?

18 MR. VIVARAIS: Yeah.

19 MR. LEE: But for a while there, you ---

20 MR. VIVARAIS: I thought -- yeah, that's  
21 right.

22 MR. LEE: Fern, I don't have any other  
23 questions for you. Thank you.

24 MR. VIVARAIS: Okay. Thanks.

25 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you.

1 Mr. Stauffer?

2 **MR. STAUFFER:** I have no further questions.  
3 Thank you, Mr. Commissioner, and thank you, Mr. Vivarais.

4 **MR. VIVARAIS:** Thank you.

5 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Mr. Vivarais, your time  
6 here has been short but not without significance, and I  
7 want to thank you for coming out and having the courage to  
8 come forward and tell us about your journey, and I wish you  
9 good luck on the rest of it.

10 **MR. VIVARAIS:** Right; thank you very much.  
11 I hope I didn't insult you with the 60 thing.

12 **THE COMMISSIONER:** No, no, no.

13 (LAUGHTER/RIRES)

14 **MR. VIVARAIS:** Okay.

15 **THE COMMISSIONER:** I've taken worse. Thank  
16 you very much.

17 **MR. VIVARAIS:** Thank you very much.

18 **THE REGISTRAR:** Order; all rise. À l'ordre;  
19 veuillez vous lever.

20 This hearing is adjourned until tomorrow  
21 morning at 9:30 a.m.

22 --- Upon adjourning at 2:48 p.m./

23 L'audience est ajournée à 14h48

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C E R T I F I C A T I O N

I, Marc Demers a certified court reporter inthe Province of Ontario, hereby certify the foregoing pages to be an accurate transcription of my notes/records to the best of my skill and ability, and I so swear.

Je, Marc Demers, un sténographe officiel dans la province de l'Ontario, certifie que les pages ci-hautes sont une transcription conforme de mes notes/enregistrements au meilleur de mes capacités, et je le jure.



---

Marc Demers, CVR-CM