

**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 108**

**Held at :**

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

Thursday, May 10, 2007

**Tenue à:**

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

Mardi, le 10 mai 2007

**Appearances/Comparutions**

Mr. Peter Engelmann	Lead Commission Counsel
Ms. Maya Hamou	Commission Counsel
Ms. Julie Gauthier	Registrar
Mr. Mark Crane	Cornwall Police Service Board
Ms. Suzanne Costom	Ontario Provincial Police
Mr. David Rose	Ontario Ministry of Community and Correctional Services and Adult Community Corrections
Mr. Darrell Kloeze	Attorney General for Ontario
Mr. Peter Chisholm	The Children's Aid Society of the United Counties
Mr. Allan Manson	Citizens for Community Renewal
Mr. Dallas Lee	Victims Group
Mr. William Carroll	Ontario Provincial Police Association
Ms. Terri Saunders	Cornwall Standard Freeholder
Ms. Lori Harreman	Mr. André Bissonnette

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1 --- Upon commencing at 9:44 a.m./

2 L'audience débute à 9h44

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 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Good morning, all.

8 **MR. ENGELMANN:** Good morning, Mr.  
9 Commissioner.

10 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Good morning, sir.

11 **MR. ENGELMANN:** I apologize for the delay  
12 this morning. There were some issues that needed to be  
13 discussed both with counsel and with the witness.

14 In keeping with tradition, I want to  
15 introduce someone who is new to you. It is Lori Harreman  
16 who is with us this morning.

17 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Good morning.

18 **MR. ENGELMANN:** She is counsel for Mr.  
19 Bissonnette.

20 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Thank you.

21 **MR. ENGELMANN:** He is the witness today.

22 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Yes.

23 **MR. ENGELMANN:** There are a couple of issues  
24 that I wanted to address before we start the evidence.

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

1                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** The first issue is not  
2 related to this witness. It is related, however, to our  
3 next witness. Ms. Antoine, who is presently scheduled for  
4 next week. I had a visit from Mr. Chisholm, counsel for  
5 the Children's Aid Society, yesterday, together with his  
6 client, Mr. Carriere.

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

8                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** They advised me that they  
9 had just discovered quite a number of relevant documents  
10 dealing with the next witness and in particular dealing  
11 with the institutional response to her allegations of child  
12 sexual abuse.

13                   Perhaps I can just have Mr. Chisholm speak  
14 to it. He did send a letter to all counsel yesterday  
15 confirming what he told me and he would like to address you  
16 very briefly on this if he could.

17                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** Thank you. Mr. Chisholm.

18 --- **SUBMISSIONS BY/REPRÉSENTATIONS PAR MR. CHISHOLM:**

19                   **MR. CHISHOLM:** Good morning, Mr.  
20 Commissioner.

21                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** Good morning, sir.

22                   **MR. CHISHOLM:** I would like to start by  
23 telling you how sorry we are for the delay and the  
24 potential likely delay that will result from the late  
25 disclosure of these documents that were discovered

1           yesterday morning with respect to the next scheduled  
2           witness. The documents have been scanned and handed over  
3           to Ms. McArthur this morning, but there will be a delay in  
4           getting the documents assigned Bates page numbers and  
5           document numbers.

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

7                           **MR. CHISHOLM:** All I can tell you, sir, is  
8           that we are very sorry. It was an oversight. We are going  
9           to do our very best to make sure that stuff like that does  
10          not happen again, but it happened. The documents are  
11          certainly relevant. So I would like to apologize to you,  
12          your counsel, your staff, the Parties with standing and to  
13          the public who will be, no doubt, inconvenienced by the  
14          delay as a result of a late disclosure.

15                          **THE COMMISSIONER:** I appreciate your  
16          frankness, sir, and I think that that goes a long way. So  
17          what you are telling me is in all likelihood we won't be  
18          able to use up the Monday and the Tuesday of next week?

19                          **MR. CHISHOLM:** I don't believe that we can,  
20          sir. These documents and my review of them yesterday are  
21          documents that have to be disclosed to the parties and your  
22          counsel and are quite relevant to the next witness.

23                          Mr. Engelmann, there is no way that we can  
24          start in-chief or anything like that?

25                          **MR. ENGELMANN:** Sir, the documents not only



1 refer to the CAS institutional response, but they also tie  
2 into other institutions.

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

4 **MR. ENGELMANN:** The witness is residing in  
5 Edmonton. I would like to bring her once.

6 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Right.

7 **MR. ENGELMANN:** And have it done once. It's  
8 not easy; she also has a dependent child, and I don't want  
9 to inconvenience them. I don't think Mr. Chisholm  
10 mentioned her directly when he apologized, but he certainly  
11 did mention that to me yesterday and we passed on an  
12 apology from him and his client to Ms. Antoine as well  
13 yesterday. It is difficult for her to travel and so I  
14 think the best situation for us now is to get the documents  
15 prepared as quickly as we can.

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

17 **MR. ENGELMANN:** They go to our service  
18 provider. They get placed into our database. They get  
19 distributed to the Parties and, given where we are at and  
20 given the need for the Parties to have some time with these  
21 documents so that they can then notify us as to what  
22 documents they may wish to use in cross-examination in  
23 accordance with Rule 38, it is unlikely that we would be  
24 able to call her on the 28<sup>th</sup> of May.

25 So what I am proposing is that we will bring

1 her back the weekend of June 3<sup>rd</sup>, and lead that evidence on  
2 June 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>.

3 **THE COMMISSIONER:** All right.

4 **MR. ENGELMANN:** The difficulty is, given the  
5 short notice, we are not in the position to fill that time  
6 next Monday and Tuesday.

7 **THE COMMISSIONER:** All right.

8 **MR. CHISHOLM:** Mr. Engelmann is quite right,  
9 another oversight on my part in not extending my apology  
10 directly to Ms. Antoine. She is certainly, I'm sure, as  
11 any witness would be, apprehensive.

12 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Exactly.

13 **MR. CHISHOLM:** So I would pass on my apology  
14 to her as well.

15 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Thank you.

16 **MR. CHISHOLM:** Thank you, sir.

17 **THE COMMISSIONER:** All right. In the  
18 circumstances, we will not be sitting Monday and Tuesday  
19 then.

20 I am concerned, however, that we continue to  
21 press on as much as possible, Mr. Engelmann. So what I'm  
22 going to ask you to do is find a week in June, speak with  
23 the Parties, and we'll just replace those days with an  
24 extra week in June. All right? Thank you.

25 **MR. ENGELMANN:** We have lost some other

1 time.

2 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Yes.

3 **MR. ENGELMANN:** So I'll be speaking to  
4 counsel at the end of the day then.

5 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Exactly. I think it's  
6 important that we don't lose sight of the fact that in an  
7 inquiry of this magnitude, there will be days when they  
8 simply cannot be filled and mistakes do happen. And so I  
9 think we'll just have to all pull together and find a week  
10 in June and make up for the lost time. Thank you.

11 **MR. ENGELMANN:** Sir, before starting the  
12 evidence of Mr. Bissonnette who is here ---

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

14 **MR. ENGELMANN:** --- he's here now in the  
15 hearing room.

16 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Yes.

17 **MR. ENGELMANN:** An issue arose just  
18 yesterday concerning the naming of his alleged perpetrator.

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

20 **MR. ENGELMANN:** I had a discussion with some  
21 counsel yesterday about this issue and Mr. Chisholm, on  
22 behalf of the Children's Aid Society -- they are the  
23 principal public institution involved in this case, sir, --  
24 indicated to me that given that the alleged perpetrator was  
25 a ward -- was in foster care and CAS was responsible for

1 him at the time of the alleged sexual abuse, sexual  
2 assault, he would be seeking a publication ban on the  
3 naming of this individual.

4 This comes into play in two ways in this  
5 case. There is at least one of the documents that I  
6 intended to enter as an exhibit is a file -- it's a case  
7 file on this individual and his family. So, of course his  
8 name is all over that document. As well, of course, Mr.  
9 Bissonnette were to mention to individual in his evidence,  
10 given that the hearing is webcast and over Cogeco, the use  
11 of the name would be an issue for a party seeking a  
12 publication ban.

13 I discussed this matter with Ms. Harreman  
14 this morning and she has had time now to meet with her  
15 client, Mr. Bissonnette. Mr. Bissonnette has informed her,  
16 and now me, that it would be sufficient for him if he were  
17 to use this individual's first name.

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

19 **MR. ENGELMANN:** The alleged perpetrator is  
20 now deceased. He was never charged. To our knowledge, he  
21 is not linked to anyone else that we have been examining.  
22 But I don't want to give too much background here, sir,  
23 simply to say I don't think the issue of the publication  
24 ban in his oral testimony need be argued, given Mr.  
25 Bissonnette's position that if he could simply use the

1 individual's first name in his oral evidence. However,  
2 there may be Parties here.

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

4 **MR. ENGELMANN:** And others who wish to take  
5 a position on the publication ban issue. In fact, I know  
6 that The Freeholder is here. Ms. Saunders wishes to  
7 address the matter. Mr. Lee and/or others may wish to  
8 address the matter.

9 **THE COMMISSIONER:** All right.

10 **MR. ENGELMANN:** So perhaps I will turn it  
11 over to Mr. Chisholm ---

12 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Yes.

13 **MR. ENGELMANN:** --- who gave us notice  
14 yesterday about this, to set out why he thinks a  
15 publication ban is needed with respect to at least the  
16 alleged perpetrator and his naming in some of the  
17 documents.

18 **THE COMMISSIONER:** All right. Thank you.

19 Mr. Chisholm, you gave notice yesterday.  
20 Would that have included a notice to the CBC?

21 **MR. CHISHOLM:** It did to Mr. Henry by way of  
22 email and to be more accurate, last night would be a better  
23 description. At 7:08 p.m., an email went to Mr. Henry and  
24 to Ms. Saunders from The Standard-Freeholder. A telephone  
25 voice mail went to Ms. Simpson of course.

1 I've spoken with Ms. Simpson this morning --

2 -

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

4 **MR. CHISHOLM:** --- she advised me that she  
5 is not taking a position with respect to this motion. Ms.  
6 Saunders, as you heard from Mr. Engelmann, will be opposing  
7 ---

8 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Yes.

9 **MR. CHISHOLM:** --- the motion.

10 Perhaps just a little bit of background ---

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

12 **MR. CHISHOLM:** --- Mr. Commissioner. The  
13 individual in question was a Crown ward of the CAS who went  
14 into care in 1954. He became a permanent ward of the CAS  
15 on March 20<sup>th</sup> of 1956. I suspect we will hear from Mr.  
16 Bissonnette an allegation that this individual, this Crown  
17 ward with this -- society ward was a -- perpetrated a  
18 sexual abuse on Mr. Bissonnette.

19 I would point out that, as far as I can tell  
20 in the timeframe, the individual we were speaking of would  
21 have been a young person. I have him at 15, 16 years of  
22 age so under the -- by today's definition of a young  
23 person, would be a young person pursuant to the *Youth*  
24 *Criminal Justice Act*. You heard from Mr. Engelmann that,  
25 to our knowledge, the individual was never charged with any

1 offence, nor convicted of any offence ---

2 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Nor convicted of any  
3 offence arising out of this?

4 **MR. CHISHOLM:** Correct, sorry. Correct.

5 I would just draw to your attention, sir,  
6 the provisions in -- if today a young person were to be  
7 charged with the offence of sexual assault and ended up in  
8 youth court, that person would enjoy the protection of the  
9 publication ban afforded to him, pursuant to Section 110 of  
10 the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* ---

11 **THE COMMISSIONER:** But that Act does not  
12 apply to this Inquiry?

13 **MR. CHISHOLM:** That's correct sir, but I  
14 suppose what I'm asking you to do it to ---

15 **THE COMMISSIONER:** By analogy.

16 **MR. CHISHOLM:** --- an analogy, consider the  
17 wisdom of the federal Parliament in enacting that  
18 legislation to protect the identity of young persons who  
19 are charged. If we could step back a bit here with respect  
20 to this allegation, as far as we know there never was a  
21 charge, so I wouldn't submit the person we're speaking of  
22 can be perhaps in even a better position, if you will, with  
23 respect to a young person charged then of the *Youth*  
24 *Criminal Justice Act*.

25 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Well, it depends. Maybe

1 he wasn't charged because something went wrong, and maybe  
2 he should have been charged.

3 **MR. CHISHOLM:** Perhaps, perhaps. And I  
4 believe that it may well fall under the *Juvenile*  
5 *Delinquents Act* ---

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

7 **MR. CHISHOLM:** --- that was around before my  
8 time, but I don't know if there would have been any  
9 protections afforded to his identity at that point.

10 But what I'm asking you to consider, sir, is  
11 applying the wisdom of the federal Parliament -- that  
12 Parliament saw fit to protect the identity of persons --  
13 young persons, who are charged. I believe it would be a  
14 worthy pursuit in this case.

15 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Well, that's good. What  
16 about the test?

17 **MR. CHISHOLM:** The test, the  
18 Dagenais/Mentuck Test ---

19 **THE COMMISSIONER:** We ---

20 **MR. CHISHOLM:** --- we can't forget about  
21 that.

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

23 **MR. CHISHOLM:** The session order is  
24 necessary in order to prevent serious risk to the proper  
25 administration of justice because reasonable alternative



1 measures will not prevent the risk.

2 The second branch of the test, sir, is the  
3 societal effects of the publication ban outweigh the  
4 deleterious effects on the rights and interest of the  
5 parties and the public.

6 What we're proposing here, Mr. Commissioner,  
7 is not an in camera here or anything of this sort. I would  
8 submit that we're proposing to use the individual's first  
9 name in the hearing room today, which would be broadcast  
10 over the worldwide web and would be available in the  
11 transcript down the road. What I would be seeking is a  
12 publication ban that would prohibit the publication of any  
13 information that would tend to identify the individual  
14 we're speaking of.

15 In terms of reasonable alternative measures,  
16 I don't know if there are any, to achieve the goal that my  
17 client is striving to achieve. I don't know that there are  
18 any alternative measures that would achieve the purpose  
19 that we are seeking, short of a publication ban that would  
20 prevent that harm of disclosing the identity of the person  
21 alleged to have committed the abuse.

22 **THE COMMISSIONER:** So if he's deceased, it's  
23 not going to affect him.

24 **MR. CHISHOLM:** We're told he is deceased by  
25 Mr. Engelmann. What I'm not certain of, sir, are his

1           descendents or relatives. I'm not sure if this individual  
2           ever had children or relatives who may still be in the area  
3           to write ---

4                       **THE COMMISSIONER:** Has there been an attempt  
5           to find out?

6                       **MR. CHISHOLM:** No, sir. I can tell you,  
7           being a resident of Cornwall, I'm familiar with the  
8           surname.

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

10                      **MR. CHISHOLM:** Whether or not they're  
11           related, I can't say. But it's my understanding there are  
12           people who have the surname in the area.

13                      The beneficial effects of what I would be  
14           seeking, sir, would be -- the publication ban would prevent  
15           this individual's reputation, although he is deceased, it  
16           would prevent his reputation from being damaged. And if  
17           there are any relatives in the area, they would avoid the  
18           potential embarrassment of reading the unproven criminal  
19           allegations about this individual in the newspaper  
20           tomorrow, or the day after, or whenever.

21                      With respect to the deleterious effects,  
22           sir, of what I'm asking, it will affect the openness that  
23           we have strived to achieve in this Public Inquiry. There's  
24           no question about that. I would point out, sir, as Mr.  
25           Engelmann indicated, that as far as I know, this person is

1 not attached to ---

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

3 **MR. CHISHOLM:** --- to anyone else, not  
4 linked to anyone as Mr. Engelmann stated. I don't believe  
5 this individual was a public figure in the community nor,  
6 to my knowledge, was he attached to any public institution.  
7 I would submit, sir, in these circumstances that the  
8 harmful effect of the publication ban we would seek would  
9 be limited.

10 Subject, sir, to your questions or comments,  
11 those would be my submissions.

12 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Thank you.

13 **MR. CHISHOLM:** Thank you, sir.

14 **THE COMMISSIONER:** All right, so what order  
15 should we take -- Madam Clerk, do you have a list of the --  
16 -

17 **MR. ENGELMANN:** Perhaps we could just follow  
18 the normal order?

19 **THE COMMISSIONER:** All right.

20 So, Mr. Manson, do you have any -- oh, he's  
21 taking instructions.

22 --- SUBMISSIONS BY/REPRÉSENTATIONS PAR MR. MANSON:

23 **MR. MANSON:** Mr. Commissioner ---

24 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Yes?

25 **MR. MANSON:** --- it's consistent with other

1 positions that we've taken. We oppose Mr. Chisholm's  
2 application.

3 **THE COMMISSIONER:** You propose?

4 **MR. MANSON:** Oppose it. I'm sympathetic to  
5 his concerns, but in terms of harmful effects we are  
6 talking about someone who is deceased. I'm familiar with  
7 the evidence that is going to be called, and I think the  
8 matter should be done openly and publicly.

9 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Thank you.

10 **MR. MANSON:** Thank you.

11 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Mr. Lee?

12 --- SUBMISSIONS BY/REPRÉSENTATIONS PAR MR. LEE:

13 **MR. LEE:** I think I can pretty much echo the  
14 comments of Mr. Manson, here.

15 I, too, oppose this. I think there are  
16 going to be times where things happen at this Inquiry that  
17 may be undesirable, you know. It would be preferable if  
18 this man were alive, that we could get his opinion, that we  
19 could be given advice. That's not the case. He may have  
20 family here and, you know, in the interests of openness, I  
21 think the openness principle, the right of the media, the  
22 right of the public to know what's happening, to be able to  
23 follow this Inquiry outweigh in this case the effects that  
24 Mr. Chisholm is worried about.

25 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Thank you.

1 Mr. Rose?

2 --- SUBMISSIONS BY/REPRÉSENTATIONS PAR MR. ROSE:

3 MR. ROSE: The Ministry of Community Safety  
4 and Correctional Services is not taking a position on this  
5 motion.

6 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you. Mr. Kloeze?

7 ---SUBMISSION BY/SUBMISSION PAR MR. KLOEZE:

8 MR. KLOEZE: Mr. Commissioner, I would  
9 support Mr. Chisholm's request for publication ban for the  
10 reasons that he has stated, *The Youth Criminal Justice Act*  
11 and its predecessor legislation.

12 If an investigation and charges were laid  
13 today, the person's identity would be absolutely protected  
14 by the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* and its predecessor  
15 legislation. And although that Act does not, as you say,  
16 apply to this Commission in the sense that charges were not  
17 laid at that point and no investigation was undertaken. I  
18 think that, as Mr. Chisholm said, you could act by analogy  
19 and accept and acknowledge the important interest of  
20 protecting young persons' identities who are the subject of  
21 investigations -- criminal prosecutions.

22 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you. Diocese is  
23 not here. Mr. Crane, is it?

24 MR. CRANE: (Off mic).

25 THE COMMISSIONER: I'm sorry?

1 MR. CRANE: Good morning, sir.

2 THE COMMISSIONER: Good morning.

3 MR. CRANE: The Cornwall Police Service take  
4 no position with respect to this issue, sir.

5 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you. OPP?

6 MS. SACCOCCIO-BRANNAN: No position, sir.

7 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you. OPPA?

8 MR. CARROLL: No position, sir.

9 THE COMMISSIONER: Okay. And the school  
10 board's not here. Okay.

11 Mr. Engelmann?

12 MR. ENGELMANN: I know Ms. Harreman doesn't  
13 have standing, but this is her client ---

14 THE COMMISSIONER: Oh no, absolutely, yes.

15 MR. ENGELMANN: --- and if she wishes to ---

16 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you.

17 MR. ENGELMANN: --- say something, I think  
18 she should be welcome.

19 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you. Do you wish  
20 to comment at this point? Thank you.

21 --- SUBMISSION BY/SUBMISSION PAR MS. HARREMAN:

22 MS. HARREMAN: Thank you, Mr. Commissioner.

23 We would simply point out that were the  
24 gentleman in question alive today, he would be today an  
25 adult, and the fact remains he is not alive today. And,

1           therefore, in terms of deleterious effects to him and his  
2           reputation, they would be limited.

3                       And given what my colleagues have already  
4           outlined in terms of the public interest mandate at the  
5           Inquiry, and the need for openness and the fact, frankly,  
6           that all of the potential links between this gentleman and  
7           other institutional witnesses or victims have not yet been  
8           explored, we would ask that there not be a publication ban.

9                       **THE COMMISSIONER:** Thank you.

10                      **MR. ENGELMANN:** Ms. Saunders wished to  
11           address you, sir.

12                      **THE COMMISSIONER:** Yes, thank you.

13           --- SUBMISSION BY/SUBMISSION PAR MS. SAUNDERS:

14                      **MS. SAUNDERS:** Good morning, Mr.  
15           Commissioner. Thank you.

16                      I'm just going to reiterate something that  
17           we put on the record several months ago in relation to  
18           publication ban issues in general. I believe all the  
19           parties have copies of the submissions that we made at that  
20           time.

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

22                      **MS. SAUNDERS:** We recognize that this  
23           Commission could not bring out the real stories of harm if  
24           it did not, in appropriate cases, promise confidentiality  
25           to innocent victims of wrong-doing whose names have not

1 already been made public. And we accept the need for such  
2 confidentiality and we would not ask that that would be  
3 lifted.

4 However, persons identified by complainants  
5 as being perpetrators, should not be protected by  
6 publication bans or any other step to keep their identities  
7 secret. The Commission presents the opportunity for fair  
8 and balanced testimony, and persons whose testimony is  
9 unreliable will be dealt with accordingly.

10 Obviously the Commission is concerned with  
11 unfounded allegations against innocent persons, but fair  
12 and accurate reporting by the media of the proceedings of  
13 the Commission and its findings, will allow the Commission  
14 itself to deal with the issue of unfair allegations in its  
15 own way. And the potential harm in not airing out the  
16 serious complaints merely because the Crown has not charged  
17 an alleged perpetrator and a court has not convicted him or  
18 her of a crime, is that the Commission process may not be  
19 working for those who have serious complaints of abuse.

20 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Thank you.

21 **MS. SAUNDERS:** Thank you.

22 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Mr. Engelmann, anything  
23 else?

24 **MR. ENGELMANN:** I think the matter has been  
25 argued, sir. I'm not going to take a position.



1                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** Thank you.

2                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** It's a case-by-case  
3 situation. I think you've heard both sides.

4                   **--- RULING BY/DÉCISION PAR JUSTICE NORMAND GLAUDE:**

5                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** Thank you. I'm going to  
6 deny the motion. The reason for that is as follows.

7                   It is clear that under the Dagenais/Mentuck  
8 test that the first priority is to keep things as public as  
9 possible, save and except where the person bringing the  
10 motion satisfies me, on a balance of probabilities, that it  
11 should not be made public.

12                   I find that I have insufficient evidence to  
13 satisfy me on a balance of probabilities that the first  
14 principle should be dislodged. I say that because the  
15 gentleman in question is deceased. I have some vague  
16 comments that there may be some people in the community  
17 with his surname, but there is insufficient evidence before  
18 me to show me that there would be grave prejudice or  
19 anything to dislodge the test in Dagenais/Mentuck.

20                   With respect to the analogy to the *Youth*  
21 *Criminal Justice Act*, that causes me some difficulty.  
22 However, had I had more evidence to show some kind of  
23 prejudice, then that argument may well have prevailed.  
24 However, given the fact that the gentleman in question is  
25 deceased, and I have no evidence before me to dislodge that

1 principle, I am unable to accede to the otherwise valid new  
2 request. Thank you.

3 **MR. ENGELMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Commissioner.  
4 The next witness for the Commission Inquiry then is André  
5 Bissonnette. Mr. Bissonnette, if you could come forward?

6 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Good morning, sir.

7 **MR. ANDRÉ BISSONNETTE, Sworn/Assermenté**

8 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Mr. Bissonnette, how are  
9 you doing this morning?

10 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Nervous.

11 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Yes, we all are.

12 I want to welcome you to this Inquiry.  
13 People are going to ask you some questions. I want you to  
14 feel as comfortable as you can. Listen carefully to the  
15 questions. If there is something that you don't  
16 understand, let me know. If there is something that you  
17 don't feel comfortable about, you can let me know as well.

18 I want you to think about your answer, and  
19 give us your best answer loud and clear into the  
20 microphone. If you don't know the answer to a question,  
21 you can tell me that as well. I don't know, I don't  
22 remember, that kind of thing.

23 If at any time you need a break, for any  
24 reason, just let me know, and we'll take a break. Do you  
25 have any questions of me at this time?

1                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Not at this time.

2                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** All right. Again, if you  
3 have any questions, just let me know.

4                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Thank you, Mr.  
5 Commissioner.

6                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** All right. Mr.  
7 Engelmann.

8                   **--- EXAMINATION IN-CHIEF BY/INTERROGATOIRE EN-CHEF PAR MR.**  
9 **ENGELMANN:**

10                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** Good morning, Mr.  
11 Bissonnette.

12                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Good morning.

13                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** To your right we have some  
14 water, if you need it. As well there's a little speaker  
15 just below you there, just next to the screen, and if  
16 you're not hearing me you can turn that noise up just a  
17 little bit, the volume, and you'll be able to do that.  
18 You have a computer screen in front on you, sir, and there  
19 will be some documents I'll be showing you.

20                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes, sir.

21                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** And you can either read a  
22 hard copy, or read them off the screen.

23                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Okay.

24                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** All right?

25                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Thank you.

1                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** And, sir, just with respect  
2 to the motion, and I know you were present and this was  
3 just discussed with you this morning, the publication ban  
4 request was denied, so if you wish to use the name of the  
5 alleged perpetrator you're allowed to do so.

6                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Thank you.

7                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** Okay. Mr. Bissonnette,  
8 before we start talking about some background, you  
9 understand, sir, that this Commission of Inquiry is  
10 investigating how institutions have responded to  
11 allegations of child sexual abuse?

12                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes, I do.

13                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** And I understand, sir, that  
14 when you were a ward at the CAS, you alleged that you were  
15 sexually and physically abused.

16                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes, sir.

17                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** Mr. Bissonnette, I  
18 understand that you were born here in the City of Cornwall  
19 on October 9<sup>th</sup>, 1948.

20                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** October 29<sup>th</sup>.

21                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** Twenty-ninth (29<sup>th</sup>)? I'm  
22 sorry. You are now, then 58 years of age?

23                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** That's true.

24                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** And, sir, you're not  
25 currently married, but you are in a long-term relationship?

1                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes, sir.

2                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** And I understand, sir, that  
3 you have children from a previous marriage?

4                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes, I do.

5                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** And can you tell us how many  
6 children you have and their ages?

7                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** I have a daughter, she's  
8 36. And I have two boys, 35 and 34.

9                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** And, Mr. Bissonnette, do you  
10 have any grandchildren?

11                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes, I do. My oldest boy  
12 has two. I have two granddaughters.

13                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** Okay. I'd like to ask you  
14 just a little bit about growing up here in Cornwall and in  
15 doing so, a bit about your educational background if I  
16 could, just very briefly. I understand you went to school  
17 in both English and French.

18                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes, I did.

19                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** And can you tell us where  
20 you started school? Which school here in Cornwall?

21                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** It was called Ste-Thérèse  
22 school.

23                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** All right. And  
24 approximately how long did you go to Ste-Thérèse's?

25                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** I just till -- I was

1 placed in foster home which will be about 10 and a half to  
2 going on 11.

3 MR. ENGELMANN: All right. And, sir, I  
4 understand -- we'll go through this in some details as we  
5 go through the foster home placements that you had -- but  
6 that you -- at the end of the day completed Grade 10 at an  
7 adult vocational school here in Cornwall

8 MR. BISSONNETTE: Yes, that's true.

9 MR. ENGELMANN: All right. And after  
10 completing your education, you held a number of jobs?

11 MR. BISSONNETTE: Yes, I did.

12 MR. ENGELMANN: But not many of them were  
13 long term; is that fair?

14 MR. BISSONNETTE: No, that's true.

15 MR. ENGELMANN: My understanding is the  
16 longest job that you did hold was at the Domtar plant here  
17 in Cornwall.

18 MR. BISSONNETTE: That's true.

19 MR. ENGELMANN: And you were there for just  
20 over three years, sir?

21 MR. BISSONNETTE: Yes, about three-and-a-  
22 half years.

23 MR. ENGELMANN: And sir, during your  
24 employment history, there were some difficulties as a  
25 result of alcoholism.

1                   MR. BISSONNETTE: Yes.

2                   MR. ENGELMANN: All right. We'll talk a  
3 little about how that arose and when that arose.

4                   MR. BISSONNETTE: Okay.

5                   MR. ENGELMANN: But, it's also my  
6 understanding that you're not currently employed.

7                   MR. BISSONNETTE: No, I am not.

8                   MR. ENGELMANN: You're receiving some kind  
9 of disability.

10                  MR. BISSONNETTE: I am on ODS disability.

11                  MR. ENGELMANN: And is that as a result of  
12 an accident that occurred to you, sir?

13                  MR. BISSONNETTE: I have a bad neck and bad  
14 back, and I have a form of arthritis in my heels which I  
15 get flare-ups and which it makes it hard to walk sometimes.

16                  MR. ENGELMANN: All right. And you've been  
17 on some kind of disability pension since approximately  
18 when?

19                  MR. BISSONNETTE: Since '95 -- 1995.

20                  MR. ENGELMANN: Now, Mr. Bissonnette, as I  
21 understand it, in preparation for giving evidence today,  
22 you've had an opportunity to review some of the files from  
23 the Commission's disclosure database.

24                  MR. BISSONNETTE: That is correct.

25                  MR. ENGELMANN: All right. And I think what

1 I'd like to do, sir, is just show you a number of these  
2 files at the beginning and we'll get them marked as  
3 exhibits and then we'll go back to them as we go through  
4 your evidence.

5 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Okay.

6 **MR. ENGELMANN:** So, Madam Clerk, I'd like to  
7 start with Document number 120974. Mr Commissioner, this  
8 is a document that is entitled, "Child Care Face Sheet" and  
9 it says, "N-O" as well for number, and the child in  
10 question is André Bissonnette.

11 **THE COMMISSIONER:** So, Exhibit 436.

12 **---EXHIBIT NO./PIÈCE NO P-436:**

13 (120974) André Bissonnette - Child Care Face  
14 Sheet re: André Bissonnette - June 1963.

15 **MR. ENGELMANN:** Mr. Bissonnette, would this  
16 be one of the documents that you would have ---

17 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes, I have seen this  
18 document.

19 **MR. ENGELMANN:** Okay. The next document  
20 that I'd like shown to the witness is Document number  
21 120975. It is my understanding, Mr. Commissioner, this is  
22 a summary of history with the CIS. Again, name of child  
23 indicated André Bissonnette.

24 **THE COMMISSIONER:** H'hm.

25 **MR. ENGELMANN:** Document is 17 pages long;



1 the witness can be shown a copy.

2 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Thank you. That will be  
3 Exhibit Number 437.

4 **---EXHIBIT NO./PIÈCE NO P-437:**

5 (120975) André Bissonnette - Case Notes re:  
6 André Bissonnette.

7 **MR. ENGELMANN:** Mr. Bissonnette, would this  
8 be another document that you would have had an opportunity  
9 to see?

10 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes, sir.

11 **MR. ENGELMANN:** I am not going to ask you  
12 detailed or specific questions. When I do, I'll take right  
13 to a section because I know this is a long document.

14 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Okay. Thank you.

15 **MR. ENGELMANN:** The next document I'd like  
16 to refer to is Document number 120976 and it's entitled,  
17 "Summary Report for Juvenile Court - re Andre Bissonnette".  
18 It was prepared April 16<sup>th</sup>, 1964. That could be the next  
19 exhibit, sir.

20 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Four-thirty-eight (438).  
21 Thank you.

22 **---EXHIBIT NO./PIÈCE NO P-438:**

23 (120976) André Bissonnette - Summary report  
24 for Juvenile court re: André Bissonnette -  
25 April 16, 1964.

1                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** Again, Mr. Bissonnette, if  
2 you could just confirm that this two-page document would  
3 have been a document that you would have had a chance to  
4 look at.

5                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes, sir, I have read  
6 this.

7                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** All right.

8                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** I have seen it.

9                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** And again, if there are any  
10 specific questions, you'll certainly have an opportunity to  
11 re-read the document.

12                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes.

13                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** The next document I would  
14 like you to have a look at, sir, is Document number 120979.  
15 It's entitled, "Social and School History - re: André  
16 Bissonnette". It's dated September 30<sup>th</sup>, 1963. It's a one-  
17 page document. Just be a moment with that, sir.

18                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** M'hm.

19                   **(SHORT PAUSE/COURTE PAUSE)**

20                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** I'm sorry, is this the  
21 document?

22                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** I'll have copies made at  
23 the break.

24                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** All right. That will be  
25 Exhibit 439. Thank you.

1           **---EXHIBIT NO./PIÈCE NO P-439:**

2                           (120979) André Bissonnette - School and  
3                           Social History re: André Bissonnette -  
4                           September 30, 1963.

5                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** Mr. Bissonnette, you'll just  
6           have to look at this on the screen for a minute. I  
7           apologize but we'll make sure you have a hard copy later.  
8           This is just a one-page document that -- it's -- the name  
9           on the bottom is Pierre Dubuc, social worker.

10                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes.

11                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** Dated September 30<sup>th</sup>, 1963.  
12           Is this a document that you might have seen in reviewing  
13           some of the CAS files?

14                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** I think I have seen this  
15           one, yes.

16                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** All right. Sir, the next  
17           document I want you to take a look at is Document number  
18           123503. This is a CAS case file for a Mr. Larry Hawn. Mr.  
19           Bissonnette -- just one moment.

20                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** Thank you.

21                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** Is this a document that ---

22                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** Exhibit 440.

23           **---EXHIBIT NO./PIÈCE NO P-440:**

24                           (123503) André Bissonnette - Case Notes re:  
25                           Larry Roy William Hawn.

1                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** --- you would have looked at  
2 during the course of your preparation?

3                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** The one that's on the  
4 screen?

5                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** No, the one that you've just  
6 been handed which will come up on the screen in a minute.  
7 It's a very long document.

8                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes, I read some of this  
9 report, yes.

10                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** All right. That's Exhibit  
11 440, is that correct Mr. Commissioner?

12                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** Yes, it is.

13                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** Next document, sir, Document  
14 123623. It's a document -- it's essentially a file dealing  
15 with a foster home run by the Lamarche family, Document  
16 number -- Lionel Lamarche as there is more than one  
17 Lamarche here. Document number 123623.

18                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** Thank you. Exhibit 441.

19                   **---EXHIBIT NO./PIÈCE NO P-441:**

20                                   (123623) André Bissonnette - Foster Home  
21                                   Case Notes re: Lamarche, Lionel and Noella.

22                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** Again Mr. Bissonnette, this  
23 is from the CAS files. Lionel Lamarche and Noella  
24 Pominville, this is a foster home you were at?

25                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes.

1                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** It's a document you might  
2                   have had an opportunity to review, sir.

3                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes, I have.

4                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** Okay. Next document,  
5                   Document number 123635, and this deals with a -- this is  
6                   another foster home file, another Lamarche family, Jean and  
7                   Gabrielle. If that could be the next exhibit, sir.

8                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** Thank you. Exhibit 442.

9                   **--- EXHIBIT NO./PIÈCE NO P-442:**

10                   (123635) André Bissonnette - Foster Home  
11                   Case Notes re: Lamarche, Jean and Gabrielle

12                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** Again, Mr. Bissonnette, this  
13                   would be another foster home where you spent some time at?

14                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes, I have.

15                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** Yes.

16                   The next document is Document number 738479.  
17                   This is an excerpt of documents from a foster home CAS file  
18                   by the name of Meunier.

19                   Again, Mr. Bissonnette, this would have been  
20                   a foster home where you spent some time at?

21                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** I didn't hear the name.

22                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** Meunier?

23                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Meunier, yes.

24                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** Yes.

25                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes.

1                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** Sir, if the Document number  
2                   738479, the excerpt that we've provided, could be Exhibit  
3                   443?

4                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** Thank you. Yes, it is.

5                   **--- EXHIBIT NO./PIÈCE NO P-443:**

6                   (738479) Excerpts 7168277-89, 7168297-307 -  
7                   André Bissonnette - Re-Opening Summary and  
8                   Case Notes re: Meunier, Jean-Guy and Shirley

9                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** Lastly, Mr. Bissonnette, I'm  
10                  having you shown document 739180. This is another CAS file  
11                  dealing with a foster home, the foster home being Bourgon.

12                  **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes.

13                  **MR. ENGELMANN:** Is that a foster home you  
14                  would have spent some time at, sir?

15                  **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes.

16                  **MR. ENGELMANN:** Again, you have had an  
17                  opportunity to review this file?

18                  **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes, I have.

19                  **MR. ENGELMANN:** All right.

20                  **THE COMMISSIONER:** Exhibit 444.

21                  **--- EXHIBIT NO./PIÈCE NO P-444:**

22                  (739180) André Bissonnette - Social History  
23                  of Bourgon, Raymond and Vivian

24                  **MR. ENGELMANN:** I'm just going to check my  
25                  exhibit numbers. I'll just be a moment.

1 (SHORT PAUSE/COURTE PAUSE)

2 MR. ENGELMANN: Mr. Bissonnette, you said  
3 that you were placed in the care of CAS when -- I believe  
4 it was shortly before your 11<sup>th</sup> birthday?

5 MR. BISSONNETTE: Yes, I think it was. From  
6 what I reviewed, I think it was October the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1959.

7 MR. ENGELMANN: Yes, if you want to just  
8 take a look. It is Exhibit 436.

9 MR. BISSONNETTE: Yes.

10 MR. ENGELMANN: It's the one that says  
11 "Child care face sheet number".

12 MR. BISSONNETTE: Yes.

13 MR. ENGELMANN: And it says, "Date of  
14 admission: October 2<sup>nd</sup>, '59". Do you see that?

15 MR. BISSONNETTE: That's correct.

16 MR. ENGELMANN: Okay. So you've refreshed  
17 your memory about the date by looking at the document?

18 MR. BISSONNETTE: Yes.

19 MR. ENGELMANN: Okay. Sir, when you were  
20 placed in care, just before then, you were in a large  
21 family. Is that fair?

22 MR. BISSONNETTE: Yes, we were nine  
23 children.

24 MR. ENGELMANN: All right. As I understand  
25 it, you were not the youngest but the second youngest?

1                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** That's correct.

2                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** I also understand that it  
3 wasn't just you that was placed in foster care.

4                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** No, it wasn't.

5                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** Okay. Can you give us a  
6 sense, sir, of which of your siblings were also placed in  
7 foster care with you at that time?

8                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Beside myself, I had a  
9 brother who was a year older than me, Emile.

10                  **MR. ENGELMANN:** Yes.

11                  **MR. BISSONNETTE:** And I had a sister,  
12 Cecile, who was a year older than him. And then the oldest  
13 was Marie. So four of us were placed in foster care.

14                  **MR. ENGELMANN:** All right.

15                  **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Two girls and two boys.

16                  **MR. ENGELMANN:** It was at the same time?

17                  **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes.

18                  **MR. ENGELMANN:** You had five siblings who  
19 were not placed in care?

20                  **MR. BISSONNETTE:** That's correct.

21                  **MR. ENGELMANN:** Four of them were older than  
22 Marie?

23                  **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes.

24                  **MR. ENGELMANN:** And the last one was younger  
25 than you?



1                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yeah, five years younger  
2                   than me.

3                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** And that was a sister?

4                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Sister, Rose.

5                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** Yes. And, sir, I also  
6                   understand that you became a permanent ward, and again I'm  
7                   looking at Exhibit 436, on September 19<sup>th</sup>, '61. So that  
8                   would have been a couple of years after first going into  
9                   foster care.

10                  **THE COMMISSIONER:** It's on the first page,  
11                  sir, at the bottom it says, "September 19<sup>th</sup>, 1961,  
12                  permanent".

13                  **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes, that's correct.

14                  **MR. ENGELMANN:** All right. Sir, can you  
15                  just very briefly tell us why you were placed in foster  
16                  care back in '59. What was your understanding?

17                  **MR. BISSONNETTE:** There was a lot of  
18                  drinking going on in my home from what I remember. A lot  
19                  of drinking, a lot of verbal and physical fights between my  
20                  parents. There was a lot of the neighbours that came over  
21                  and drank and it was pretty -- a lot of chaos and a very  
22                  dysfunctional home.

23                  **MR. ENGELMANN:** Okay.

24                  **MR. BISSONNETTE:** That's what I can recall  
25                  at that time.

1                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** All right. There was no  
2 physical or sexual abuse in the home?

3                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** No. Like, we'd get the  
4 strap or stuff like that but nothing, you know, harmful;  
5 like, you know, physical.

6                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** Were your parents together  
7 at that time when you were placed in foster care or had  
8 they separated at that point?

9                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** They were separated at the  
10 time.

11                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** Sir, I understand, while you  
12 were in the care of the Children's Aid Society as a ward,  
13 you were placed in several different homes?

14                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes, I think I was placed  
15 in five or six foster homes, and I was also placed in a  
16 receiving home, which I returned to three or four times  
17 between homes. This is ---

18                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** All right, we'll go to that.  
19 What, sir, to you was the difference between a receiving  
20 home and a foster home?

21                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** A receiving home is a  
22 temporary home you go to till they find you a place. That  
23 was ---

24                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** Was that explained to you at  
25 that time or can you remember?

1                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** I was told I was waiting  
2 for them to find a place.

3                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** All right. So let's go back  
4 then to that first time you were placed somewhere, and  
5 that's October 2<sup>nd</sup>, '59. The records seem to indicate that  
6 you were placed in a receiving home first.

7                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Mrs. Lafortune's.

8                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** Right. And that you were  
9 there for approximately a month. Is that fair? I don't  
10 know if you can recall.

11                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** It's possible according to  
12 what I've been reading, they probably ---

13                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** All right. Sir, were you  
14 placed there on your own or were you placed there with your  
15 siblings?

16                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** From what I remember, I  
17 was placed there with the eldest of the sisters, which was  
18 Marie. The two of us were placed in that receiving home.

19                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** All right. Is it possible  
20 that all four of you were there and then you and Marie were  
21 sent to the first foster home?

22                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** It's possible, but I know  
23 Marie and I ended up in my first foster home together.

24                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** So, you are in the Lafortune  
25 receiving home for a short time, perhaps a month, in the

1 fall of '59. Any issues or concerns about any form of  
2 abuse or other problems?

3 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** No. She was a very fine  
4 lady, very affectionate. You know, she treated me like a  
5 mother. She was a very nice person.

6 **MR. ENGELMANN:** In the first foster home  
7 that you were placed in, that was a home run by the  
8 Whartons. Is that correct?

9 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes.

10 **MR. ENGELMANN:** Sir, there is no foster home  
11 file in our records on this. The CAS didn't have one for  
12 the Wharton home at this time, but if you'd look at Exhibit  
13 437, on page 2. It's about halfway down the page, sir. It  
14 indicates that:

15 "On November 5<sup>th</sup>, 1959, Marie and André  
16 were placed in the Wharton home."

17 Do you see that?

18 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes.

19 **MR. ENGELMANN:** All right. And there is  
20 also a reference, sir, in two places that you ran away, or  
21 you deserted. At the end of the first paragraph:

22 "André ran away and went to his  
23 father's home for a visit."

24 And, a couple lines further down:

25 "December 22<sup>nd</sup>, André deserted from

1 the Wharton home."

2 And a little further down:

3 "André ran away from the Wharton home  
4 today, under the influence of his  
5 sister, Marie."

6 And I just want to ask you a couple of  
7 questions about the Wharton Home. First of all, did you in  
8 fact run away from that home on two or more occasions?

9 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** I ran away from there on  
10 my own the first time.

11 **MR. ENGELMANN:** Yes -- yes? And did you  
12 also leave a second time with your sister, Marie?

13 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes, she grabbed me by the  
14 hand and took me out of there.

15 **MR. ENGELMANN:** All right. And could you  
16 tell us why it was you ran away from that home the first  
17 time and the second time?

18 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Mrs. Wharton was a very  
19 severe lady. I'd always be getting swapped on the side of  
20 the head for no reason. I don't think she ever liked me  
21 from the day I was there, or my sister, and I got to the  
22 point I feared this lady.

23 I would come home from school or I'd have to  
24 hide behind my sister because I'd be wetting in my pants  
25 because I was so fearful of this lady. From what I

1 remember, there would be a lot of slaps on the side of the  
2 head, and often I wouldn't get dessert. My sister would  
3 sneak some in her pocket for me when she could, but most of  
4 the time my sister, Marie, would be in front of me and  
5 taking the first blows and then she'd come after me, like,  
6 you know? And if she caught me wetting my pants, then I'd  
7 get a licking all over again.

8 So this was what was going on, and I think I  
9 was too young to think, really, but my sister couldn't see  
10 me getting abused like that anymore. And she just took me  
11 by the hand and we ran to my father's place.

12 **MR. ENGELMANN:** All right, so you would have  
13 been about 11 then?

14 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes.

15 **MR. ENGELMANN:** She would have been -- you'd  
16 just turned 11 -- and she would have been 14 or 15? I  
17 think you told us she was about 14 years old?

18 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Fourteen (14), between 14  
19 and 15, yeah. I think so, yeah.

20 **MR. ENGELMANN:** And the physical abuse  
21 you've just described, that -- was this -- do you allege  
22 this was by one of the parents or both of them in this  
23 home?

24 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** It was more Mrs. Wharton.  
25 But there was also an occasion like, if one -- they had

1           their own children and treated their own children I believe  
2           in -- if there was a birthday party or something, I'd see  
3           myself coming down the stairs and I was told to go back up  
4           the stairs. I wasn't allowed to participate. I wasn't  
5           part of that family and that didn't go over too well with  
6           me, at that age.

7                       **MR. ENGELMANN:** Okay.

8                       **MR. BISSONNETTE:** And it was all stuff like  
9           that -- and the abuse -- and we both ran away.

10                      **MR. ENGELMANN:** Now, do you recall, Mr.  
11           Bissonnette, if either the first time you ran away or the  
12           second time you ran away, if a CAS worker or social worker  
13           would have asked you about why you were running away, or  
14           would have talked to you about it?

15                      **MR. BISSONNETTE:** I probably was too scared  
16           to say anything, but I read in here somewhere that the  
17           Children's Aid knew that I made a complaint that this lady  
18           was too severe -- I don't recall exactly where it is but  
19           it's probably in here somewhere. So I must have said  
20           something, like -- you know.

21                      **MR. ENGELMANN:** I'll just be a moment.

22                      **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Okay.

23                      **MR. ENGELMANN:** Yes, sir, in the first  
24           paragraph, under the caption ---

25                      **THE COMMISSIONER:** What page, now?

1                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** Page -- it's Bates page  
2                   1132009. It's page 2 ---

3                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** Right.

4                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** --- of that exhibit, which  
5                   is Exhibit -- I believe it's 437?

6                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** Yes.

7                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** There's a reference -- if  
8                   you'll -- Mr. Bissonette, if you'll look where it says  
9                   "November 9 '59", it says:

10                                 "Worker communicated with the W.  
11                                 Foster home, the F.M. [I think that's  
12                                 foster mother] said Andre and Marie  
13                                 passed the weekend phoning Cecile  
14                                 and Mrs. Lafortune, saying they were  
15                                 lonesome and did not want to remain  
16                                 in this foster home because Mrs. W  
17                                 was too severe."

18                   Is that the reference ---

19                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes.

20                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** --- that you're indicating?  
21                   Now, after you ran away the second time, did  
22                   you go back to the Wharton home?

23                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** No.

24                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** Okay.

25                   Do you know if the CAS did anything about



1 that home, after that?

2 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** I don't believe they did  
3 anything. My -- we ran to my father's place and my two  
4 older brothers wanted to go back there -- sorry. I'm glad  
5 they didn't. They wanted to take action in their own  
6 hands. And I believe the Children's Aid came and got us at  
7 my father's, and I think we ended up back at Mrs.  
8 Lafortune's there.

9 **MR. ENGELMANN:** Okay, so you explained --  
10 you and your sister did explain to your older siblings and  
11 to your father about the physical abuse?

12 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes, my father and my  
13 brothers that were there ---

14 **MR. ENGELMANN:** All right.

15 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** We told them what was  
16 going on there and they were very upset.

17 **MR. ENGELMANN:** All right.

18 So what happened after that, Mr. Bissonette?  
19 You didn't go back to that home, right?

20 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** No, I didn't.

21 **MR. ENGELMANN:** And did you, in fact, then  
22 go back to the receiving home?

23 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** I believe I did.

24 **MR. ENGELMANN:** Okay.

25 Now, it appears that you spent approximately

1 six months in the receiving home with the Lafortune's, the  
2 early -- the first six months of 1960. And again, any  
3 issues or concerns while you were there, the second time?

4 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** I believe I was there by  
5 myself, I don't think my sister Marie was with me. No, I  
6 got along very well with Mr. and Mrs. Lafortune. I did  
7 well in school, and there was no issue there, any problems  
8 at all. I really liked that place.

9 **MR. ENGELMANN:** All right.

10 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** And she was very  
11 understanding and very affectionate woman, like. She was  
12 like a mother to me and she took a liking to me too, so.

13 **MR. ENGELMANN:** Okay, and that -- again, I'm  
14 looking at Exhibit 437 at the bottom of the third page,  
15 Bates page 1132010. It's hard to read, but about three  
16 lines down from -- in the bottom paragraph, it says:

17 "A great improvement has been  
18 realized in his behaviour [or] in A's  
19 behaviour. He's quiet, obedient, has  
20 very good relations with Mr. and Mrs.  
21 L. He's doing well in school,  
22 presents no behaviour problems.

23 Is that kind of consistent with how you  
24 recall ---

25 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes.

1                   MR. ENGELMANN: --- that situation?

2                   MR. BISSONNETTE: Yes, because I remember I  
3 liked it there a lot.

4                   MR. ENGELMANN: All right.

5                   So do you know -- you were moved from this  
6 home and I assume you were moved because it was simply a  
7 receiving home, it wasn't a foster home.

8                   MR. BISSONNETTE: Yes, I think so. Because  
9 I think there was -- there might have been one -- people  
10 would come and go.

11                  MR. ENGELMANN: All right.

12                  MR. BISSONNETTE: Different ---

13                  MR. ENGELMANN: And were you there with one  
14 of your sisters? Were you there with Marie, or ---

15                  MR. BISSONNETTE: I was ---

16                  MR. ENGELMANN: All right.

17                  MR. BISSONNETTE: --- with Marie for a short  
18 period there.

19                  MR. ENGELMANN: All right. And you were  
20 then moved to another foster home, and this was the foster  
21 home of Lionel Lamarche.

22                  MR. BISSONNETTE: Yes, that's correct.

23                  MR. ENGELMANN: And the records would seem  
24 to indicate that that happened in July of 1960. And again,  
25 I'm looking at Exhibit 437. And sir, there's a reference

1 to this at the fifth page. It's document -- it's -- sorry,  
2 it's Bates page number 1132012

3 It's the third paragraph.

4 (SHORT PAUSE/COURTE PAUSE)

5 There's a reference to the Lemarche foster home. Do you  
6 see that?

7 MR. BISSONNETTE: Yes, I do.

8 MR. ENGELMANN: All right. And just on the  
9 next page, sir, top of page 6, it says:

10 "Placed in the Lionel Lemarche foster  
11 home from July 16<sup>th</sup> to date."

12 And that's a note that's written, I believe,  
13 sometime in 1961. And, sir, it's our understanding from  
14 just reviewing the records that you were in that home for  
15 approximately two years?

16 MR. BISSONNETTE: Yes.

17 MR. ENGELMANN: From July of 1960 till the  
18 end of June, 1962.

19 MR. BISSONNETTE: That's correct.

20 MR. ENGELMANN: And were you placed in that  
21 home on your own, or were you placed there with one or more  
22 of your siblings?

23 MR. BISSONNETTE: All four of us were there.

24 MR. ENGELMANN: All right. Were some of  
25 them there before you got there?

1                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** I think Emile and Cecile  
2                   were there.

3                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** Okay. And then you and  
4                   Marie arrived?

5                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** I think about the same  
6                   time.

7                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** All right. And can you tell  
8                   us whether there were other children in that home, sir?

9                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** They had a daughter named  
10                  Charmaine.

11                  **MR. ENGELMANN:** Yes. And were there any  
12                  other foster children?

13                  **MR. BISSONNETTE:** No. Yes, excuse me.  
14                  There was a girl there by the name of Cheryl. I don't know  
15                  her last name, but ---

16                  **MR. ENGELMANN:** All right. Sir, can you  
17                  give us a sense, just generally speaking, how you and your  
18                  siblings were treated in the Lamarche home. And when I say  
19                  the Lamarche home, I mean Lionel Lamarche home, for those  
20                  two years?

21                  **MR. BISSONNETTE:** To give it to you in four  
22                  letters. Hell.

23                  **MR. ENGELMANN:** And was that your personal  
24                  experience or also that of your siblings?

25                  **MR. BISSONNETTE:** All of us. Mostly my own.

1 A lot of physical abuse. Mental abuse.

2 MR. ENGELMANN: Yes. Okay. Was this  
3 something that you say was occurring from one or both  
4 parents in that home?

5 MR. BISSONNETTE: From both parents.

6 MR. ENGELMANN: Sir, the abuse that you  
7 allege that you suffered in that home, was it physical and  
8 mental abuse?

9 MR. BISSONNETTE: Yes.

10 MR. ENGELMANN: Not sexual abuse?

11 MR. BISSONNETTE: No, but not till later  
12 with one of my sisters.

13 MR. ENGELMANN: All right. Well, let just  
14 ask you about your siblings then for a minute. Did you  
15 observe any physical or sexual abuse of your sister, Marie?

16 MR. BISSONNETTE: Not Marie, no.

17 MR. ENGELMANN: Physical or sexual?

18 MR. BISSONNETTE: Physical, yes. Not  
19 sexual.

20 MR. ENGELMANN: All right. And you would  
21 have actually observed that?

22 MR. BISSONNETTE: Yes.

23 MR. ENGELMANN: All right. And what about  
24 your brother, Emile?

25 MR. BISSONNETTE: Physical abuse.

1                   MR. ENGELMANN: Okay. And your sister  
2                   Cecile?

3                   MR. BISSONNETTE: He attempted to have sex  
4                   with her on one occasion.

5                   MR. ENGELMANN: Who did?

6                   MR. BISSONNETTE: Mr. Lionel Lamarche.

7                   MR. ENGELMANN: Okay. And did you observe  
8                   that, sir, or is that something that was told to you ---

9                   MR. BISSONNETTE: No.

10                  MR. ENGELMANN: --- by your sister?

11                  MR. BISSONNETTE: This was told by my  
12                  sister.

13                  MR. ENGELMANN: And to your knowledge, did  
14                  you ever observe her being physically abused?

15                  MR. BISSONNETTE: I believe I did.

16                  MR. ENGELMANN: Okay. Were there other  
17                  issues there, sir, aside from that?

18                  MR. BISSONNETTE: There was many, if I may  
19                  be able to elaborate on ---

20                  MR. ENGELMANN: Certainly.

21                  MR. BISSONNETTE: When we -- when Marie and  
22                  I first got there, Cecile and Emile were there, and it  
23                  seemed like they had a hard time with Marie and I. And in  
24                  the beginning it wasn't too bad, but it turned out this guy  
25                  made me and my brother, Emile, work like workhorses. We

1           could never do enough, or could do it fast enough. It  
2           wasn't two boys he wanted, it two bulldozers.

3                        I remember things like he had a long lawn,  
4           longer than this room, and he had about 20 loads of topsoil  
5           and we had to level that. And I believe I was only about  
6           11 and-a-half at the time. My brother, Emile, was 12 and-  
7           a-half. And we couldn't wheelbarrow it and level it fast  
8           enough for this guy. He'd kick our arse often. He even  
9           whipped my brother and myself -- Emile one time, and my  
10          brother, Emile, he had scars on his back over that with a  
11          weeping willow. When the guy lost it, he lost it.

12                      When there was no work around the house,  
13          we'd have to go to the Pominville's, who were next door,  
14          which these people were Noella Lamarche's parents.

15                      **MR. ENGELMANN:** Oh, I see, so, yes?

16                      **MR. BISSONNETTE:** We'd have to do work  
17          there. My brother, Emile, was hired out as a hired hand to  
18          Lionel Lamarche's brother, who I called Hector Lamarche,  
19          who was just down the road from us in Bonville. And he had  
20          to work there, and a lot of times he didn't want to go, and  
21          Lionel said, "If you don't go, you're going to get a  
22          licking." And he had to go.

23                      There was times I had to go and help there,  
24          and --

25                      **MR. ENGELMANN:** So you're age in that home



1 would have been 11 and-a-half to about 13 and-a-half. Is  
2 that fair?

3 MR. BISSONNETTE: Yes.

4 MR. ENGELMANN: And you're brother was a  
5 year older?

6 MR. BISSONNETTE: Yes.

7 MR. ENGELMANN: And your sister, Cecile,  
8 would have been, sort of 13 to 15, and Marie a bit older  
9 again?

10 MR. BISSONNETTE: Yes.

11 MR. ENGELMANN: Okay. Just wanted to put  
12 the time in perspective in the age. So there was a lot of  
13 physical labour. The physical abuse you've described, was  
14 that infrequent or frequent?

15 MR. BISSONNETTE: They were very frequent.

16 MR. ENGELMANN: Okay.

17 MR. BISSONNETTE: I also had to go work at  
18 Lionel Lamarche's -- or Hector Lamarche's sometimes, and I  
19 remember having to go and throw hay down, and I had to  
20 climb up this ladder from the outside of the barn, and when  
21 I got done, I came back out on the ladder, and when I went  
22 to close the trap door, I fell. I was about 20 feet high,  
23 and landed on my head. Almost broke my neck and my back.  
24 I landed on some broken bottles. I was split wide open  
25 here, and I don't know where they took me. Somebody picked

1 me up, and it was never reported to the Children's Aid. I  
2 don't see it anywhere in these documents where this  
3 accident was reported, because we had no business being  
4 there.

5 We never seen a dime for all this work.

6 **MR. ENGELMANN:** You weren't paid an  
7 allowance, or anything ---

8 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** No.

9 **MR. ENGELMANN:** --- for all that work?

10 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** No. And this man would  
11 come home, he worked at the paper mill -- he'd come home  
12 drunk. They'd start fighting in the middle of the night.  
13 I'd start wetting my pants again. But according to the  
14 CAA, I wet my pants because my parents used to come and  
15 visit. But I was there for two years, and even my sisters  
16 will swear to it, my parents never came to visit us there.  
17 I don't know where it came -- where this comes from.

18 And it would bring me back to the days of my  
19 parents, that I used to hide under the bed, I'd be scared,  
20 and that's where I started urinating -- pissing in my  
21 pants. And there was something that stayed with me every  
22 time I'd get emotional. And this is what the reason why  
23 I'd be wetting in my pants.

24 And my sister told me one time she had to  
25 baby-sit. Lamarche was gone for a couple of days, and he

1 told her, "Well, you sleep in my bed 'cause the crib's  
2 there, and I'll sleep in yours". And she woke up in the  
3 middle of the night, he's under the blanket with her and  
4 fondling her.

5 **MR. ENGELMANN:** This is the allegation ---

6 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** My sister.

7 **MR. ENGELMANN:** --- that your sister talked  
8 about?

9 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes, my sister Cecile.  
10 She panicked, she started shaking, and he said, "I think  
11 you'd better go to your room". He got scared. My sister  
12 never talked to me about that until after this Inquiry  
13 started.

14 And another ---

15 **MR. ENGELMANN:** So you didn't know about  
16 that at the time?

17 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** No.

18 **MR. ENGELMANN:** All right. What about the  
19 Children's Aid Society? You would have all had a worker;  
20 correct?

21 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** We never knew or told when  
22 our social worker was going to come over until the last  
23 minute.

24 **MR. ENGELMANN:** And do you remember ---

25 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Like they never would have

1 dropped in unannounced.

2 MR. ENGELMANN: Sorry, they never dropped in  
3 unannounced?

4 MR. BISSONNETTE: Unannounced.

5 MR. ENGELMANN: Okay. So that -- so can you  
6 just tell us how often they would visit, and what those  
7 visits would be like?

8 MR. BISSONNETTE: They didn't come over that  
9 often and before they come, the Lamarches would tell us,  
10 "If you say anything you're going to get it. The social  
11 worker is coming over and don't even say a word".

12 So our little meetings would be at the  
13 kitchen table, with my --

14 (SHORT PAUSE/COURTE PAUSE)

15 -- my three -- my sisters and my brother and  
16 the two Lamarche, Lionel and Noella Lamarche. They'd do  
17 all the talking.

18 MR. ENGELMANN: The foster parents would do  
19 all the talking?

20 MR. BISSONNETTE: They do all the talk. If  
21 the social worker asked how we were, they'd probably do all  
22 the answering for us. If we did say anything, it would be  
23 improper because we knew we'd have to pay the price for it.

24 MR. ENGELMANN: Did the social worker ever  
25 meet with you, children, alone?

1                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Never. Not from what I  
2 can recall. Never.

3                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** And when I say that, either  
4 as individuals or as a group of children?

5                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Or as a group. When my --  
6 -

7                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** The parents were always  
8 there?

9                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Pardon?

10                  **MR. ENGELMANN:** The foster parents were  
11 always there?

12                  **MR. BISSONNETTE:** They were always there.  
13 Yes.

14                               He -- he almost broke my neck one time. I  
15 had a hard time with my Math. She put me in this room and  
16 she said, "You're going to learn your Math or else". She  
17 came in two hours later and I was playing with something,  
18 and she came in with a strap. Told me to get up on my bunk  
19 bed. I wouldn't go. I -- so she nailed me with the strap  
20 and told me to go up on my bunk bed, and I wouldn't go.

21                               I counted the times. She hit me 13 times on  
22 my leg. I was black and blue. And she said, "You either  
23 you get up on the bunk bed", she said, "you little bastard,  
24 or you're going to get it right across the face". And I  
25 just said, "Go ahead". I was fed-up. She said, "You wait

1 until Lionel comes home".

2 Well, of course, Mr. Muscles came in later  
3 because he was a big man. "You don't want to learn your  
4 time table?" He said, "You're going to learn it".

5 He grabbed me by the back of the hair and he  
6 grabbed me by the belt and he threw me up. I didn't even  
7 touch the top bunk and I landed in the corner. I hit the  
8 ceiling. I hurt my neck, but nothing was -- I didn't go to  
9 the hospital for it or anything. I believe to this day, I  
10 got a bad neck. That didn't help.

11 And every Sunday, we had to go to church.  
12 We were five miles from Bonville to St. Andrew's. We were  
13 in harm's way every Sunday because we had to hitchhike to  
14 church. The CAA here said that the Pominville's took us to  
15 church every Sunday. They never went to church a day in  
16 their life. Neither did the Lamarche's. They did when you  
17 got married and that was about it.

18 And we had to hitchhike to church. It's  
19 either that or get our ass kicked. And sometimes when it  
20 would be raining -- if you know Highway 138 where the  
21 general store is, the Bonville Road, there's the big  
22 general store. And when it was raining, we'd hide under  
23 there for two or three hours because -- and we lied, we'd  
24 say we went to church.

25 Anybody could have picked us up, cut our

1 throats, rape my sisters, but the CAS didn't know any of  
2 this, I guess, because we weren't allowed to say a word and  
3 we were all too fearful of what was going to happen once  
4 they left. And we were dressed in rags. I never remember  
5 having good clothes there.

6 **MR. ENGELMANN:** Sir, those Sundays when  
7 you'd hitchhike to church, would you see your real mother  
8 or father?

9 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Sometimes. She lived with  
10 a man by the name of Phil Waters, who used to live up the  
11 St. Andrew's Road, I guess. And sometimes, they'd pick us  
12 up at the church and we'd spend, like I say, a Sunday  
13 afternoon there or maybe a weekend there, and they'd drive  
14 us back.

15 **MR. ENGELMANN:** Do you recall if you would  
16 have mentioned to your mother and/or her friend at that  
17 time what was happening at the Lamarche home?

18 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** I don't know if my sisters  
19 did, but I was too scared to say anything to anybody.

20 **MR. ENGELMANN:** Okay. Sir, did one of your  
21 sisters actually run away from that home?

22 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** My sister, Marie, I guess  
23 they kind of put her in charge when we'd go skating at the  
24 school. And my sister, Marie, had a watch. She would set  
25 it back an hour just because we'd be enjoying ourselves.

1 She knew when we got back what was going to happen and  
2 again, she'd stand in front of us, all three of us, and  
3 she'd take the blows before they get at us.

4 Noella Lamarche was just as fierce as he was  
5 because they had a lot of physical battles between Marie  
6 and Mrs. Lamarche. And she would use her fists. She'd use  
7 anything that she could grab.

8 And that one time when we came home from  
9 skating, we were an hour late, "Where you been?" She  
10 grabbed my sister by the throat and by the hair and dragged  
11 her into the bedroom and told us three others to stay  
12 there, but we could see the door and I remember my poor  
13 sister was like this, trying to hide the blows. And my  
14 sister, Marie, snapped and she started swinging too, and  
15 Mrs. Lamarche stopped and she said, "You bitch, you're  
16 going to be out of here by tomorrow". And Marie ran away.  
17 This was two weeks before she was 16.

18 When this episode happened with my sister,  
19 Cecile, about him trying to sleep with her, trying to have  
20 sex with her, she told Mrs. Lamarche the next day what her  
21 husband tried to do.

22 **MR. ENGELMANN:** And this, again, is  
23 something that was just told to you recently?

24 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yeah.

25 **MR. ENGELMANN:** You don't know this.



1                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Well, she told me maybe --

2                   -

3                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** Yes.

4                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** --- 20 years ago, but my  
5                   sister is here today and she still has a hard time with all  
6                   the shame to even talk about that.

7                   But I'm just telling you what she told me  
8                   and when she told Noella Lamarche what her husband was  
9                   trying to do, she didn't believe Cecile. As a matter of  
10                  fact, the next day she was on the phone calling the  
11                  Children's Aid saying, "I want this girl out of my home.  
12                  She's causing trouble".

13                  It was a cover-up. And it's in the report  
14                  here, somewhere on the Lamarche's. They say my sister  
15                  deteriorated to a point that I want her -- that she was  
16                  taken out of that home.

17                  **MR. ENGELMANN:** Was she actually removed  
18                  from the home the next day?

19                  **MR. BISSONNETTE:** She was removed from the  
20                  home and she went to my mother's.

21                  **MR. ENGELMANN:** So that would have just left  
22                  you and your brother, Emile?

23                  **MR. BISSONNETTE:** We were there not too long  
24                  after, I guess.

25                  **MR. ENGELMANN:** All right. Now, you've

1 talked about physical abuse. Were there ever bruises that  
2 were visible to others? And were there comments made?

3 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Like I said, my brother  
4 got scars on his back. I know I carried a lot of bruises,  
5 a lot of things you couldn't see. We got a lot of kicks in  
6 the arse. I know my legs were marked. That time she  
7 strapped me 13 times, I was black and blue from my crutch  
8 down to my knee, my left leg.

9 **MR. ENGELMANN:** Would that have been obvious  
10 to people in the school or ---

11 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** No. No.

12 **MR. ENGELMANN:** --- Children's Aid?

13 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** No. You couldn't see it.

14 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Any time for a break.  
15 Why don't we take the morning break, sir, we'll come back  
16 in 15 minutes. All right?

17 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Thank you.

18 **THE REGISTRAR:** Order. All rise.

19 À l'ordre. Veuillez vous lever.

20 --- Upon recessing at 11:03 a.m./

21 L'audience est suspendue à 11h03

22 --- Upon resuming at 11:21 a.m./

23 L'audience est reprise à 11h21

24 **THE REGISTRAR:** The hearing is now resumed.  
25 Please be seated.

1                   Veillez vous asseoir.

2                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** Mr. Engelmann.

3                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Commissioner.

4                   Mr. Bissonnette, just before the break, we  
5                   were talking about some of the experiences you and your  
6                   siblings had in the Lionel Lamarche foster home, and we are  
7                   in the timeframe 1960 to 1962. Okay?

8                   You have also told us about how your sisters  
9                   came to leave that home, but you and your brother, Emile,  
10                  stayed.

11                  **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes.

12                  **MR. ENGELMANN:** And I understand that just  
13                  at the end of June of 1962, you and your brother left that  
14                  home, as well.

15                  **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes, we did.

16                  **MR. ENGELMANN:** All right. And was there,  
17                  sort of, an incident that occurred? Or, do you recall why  
18                  it was that you were taken from that home or you left that  
19                  home?

20                  **MR. BISSONNETTE:** No, I don't know why, we  
21                  just ---

22                  **MR. ENGELMANN:** It just happened?

23                  **MR. BISSONNETTE:** It happened, I guess. I  
24                  never knew why, it just -- that's what it came to.

25                  **MR. ENGELMANN:** If you could take a look at

1 ---

2 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** I'd like to just say one  
3 thing before you could move on, something that came to mind  
4 when I was on break.

5 **MR. ENGELMANN:** Yes.

6 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** When my sister Marie ran  
7 away, she hitchhiked to Ottawa. And she was so terrified  
8 that the Children's Aid was going to find her that she  
9 slept on the steps of a church for three nights. And then  
10 she worked in a restaurant for a year, sleeping in the room  
11 next to a potato bin. She was so fearful that the cops or  
12 the Children's Aid was going to come after her -- I guess  
13 she didn't know what age we were supposed to stay in the  
14 Children's Aid -- I didn't know what age I had to stay in  
15 the Children's Aid in those days. And I just wanted to put  
16 -- I just wanted to say that, because I wasn't the only one  
17 that suffered there at the Lamarche's. We all did.

18 **MR. ENGELMANN:** And that again -- that'd be  
19 something she would have told you?

20 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes.

21 **MR. ENGELMANN:** Yeah, okay. You did tell us  
22 about things that you actually saw involving your sister.

23 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Pardon me?

24 **MR. ENGELMANN:** You did tell us about  
25 physical abuse that you saw ---

1 MR. BISSONNETTE: Oh, yes.

2 MR. ENGELMANN: --- involving your sister.

3 MR. BISSONNETTE: Yeah, the physical abuse  
4 in the ---

5 MR. ENGELMANN: --- halfway house?

6 MR. BISSONNETTE: Yes.

7 MR. ENGELMANN: Yeah. And sir, I'm -- did  
8 you -- again, either during the time you were there or when  
9 you and your brother left, would you have talked to your  
10 social worker about some of what you described to us?

11 MR. BISSONNETTE: No, I was too scared.

12 MR. ENGELMANN: All right.

13 Sir, if you could turn to -- it's Exhibit  
14 441, to Document number 123623, and that's the Lamarche  
15 foster home file of the Children's Aid Society.

16 It describes -- and I'm looking at page 6.  
17 I'm not sure of -- the Bates page numbers aren't indicated.  
18 One-one-four-eight-seven-six-nine (1148769). It's the  
19 bottom of the page there.

20 There's a very brief discussion about you  
21 and your siblings. Do you see that? It starts on the  
22 length and nature of agency contact, and it mentions Cecile  
23 and Emile. And then it mentions Marie and then it mentions  
24 you. You'll note, sir, it does say that Marie ran away  
25 December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1960, so that would have been after you'd

1           been there for about six months?

2                           Does that make sense to you as far as  
3           timing?

4                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yeah, yes.

5                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** It says that, "Cecile was  
6           removed on March 7<sup>th</sup>, 1962".

7                           You indicated to us that -- I guess, the  
8           next day after she disclosed alleged sexual abuse or  
9           attempted sexual abuse, she was removed from the home.

10                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes, that's correct.

11                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** And it says that Emile left  
12           on June 29<sup>th</sup> '62, and that you left on June 29<sup>th</sup> 1962;  
13           correct?

14                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes.

15                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** All right. Now, you've told  
16           us about physical abuse; you've told us about mental abuse.  
17           You've told us about alleged sexual abuse, and that that  
18           you knew from your sister. The brief description we see  
19           here doesn't say anything negative at all, does it?

20                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** No, I see that.

21                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** No. In fact it says --  
22           well, first of all, it says that:

23                           "The foster parents cooperated  
24                           readily with the agency."

25                           And it says, Mr. Bissonnette:

1                    "These boys still have a fondness for  
2                    the home and were unhappy about  
3                    leaving."

4                    And, I guess, the first question I want to  
5                    ask you is, did you ever make a comment like that -- you or  
6                    your brother -- to your knowledge, to the social worker?

7                    **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Never, we were happy to  
8                    leave.

9                    **MR. ENGELMANN:** Do you know ---

10                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** I don't know where this  
11                   come from. I never had a fondness of living there for two  
12                   years. Let alone leaving.

13                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** Now, you've only seen this  
14                   recently.

15                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Pardon me?

16                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** You've only seen this  
17                   document recently?

18                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes. Yes.

19                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** Were you -- how did -- were  
20                   you surprised when you saw that?

21                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** I started laughing because  
22                   -- and I must say, Mr. Commissioner, through all these  
23                   files that I reviewed, to the best of my recollection --  
24                   and the lot of this has been fabricated to suit the CAS.

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

1                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** And I really mean that.

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

3                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Because there's a lot of  
4 stuff I read in here -- I don't want to go too far with  
5 what I'm saying ---

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

7                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** --- but what I've been  
8 portrayed as ---

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

10                  **MR. BISSONNETTE:** --- it's pretty painful  
11 and it's insulting, and it hurts me. And how they  
12 portrayed the Bourgons, which was the best home I ever had,  
13 how they minimized the kind of home it really was. But  
14 anyway, we'll get to that.

15                  **THE COMMISSIONER:** All right.

16                  **MR. BISSONNETTE:** But I just wanted to ---

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

18                  **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Sorry.

19                  **MR. ENGELMANN:** No.

20                         It does say, Mr. Bissonnette, "Reasons for  
21 closing", that Mrs. Lamarche had obtained a job in Cornwall  
22 and she requested the boys be moved at the end of the  
23 school year.

24                  **MR. BISSONNETTE:** That I don't know anything  
25 about, except for reading it.



1                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** All right.

2                   Now you, in fact, did go to another foster  
3 home after that. And the foster home was the -- I think,  
4 the one you just mentioned to the Commissioner, the Bourgon  
5 family?

6                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes.

7                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** And if we look back to  
8 Exhibit 437, I believe it will give us -- I'm sorry, if we  
9 look at 436 on the second page, Bates page 1132006. We've  
10 got a reference, a Mrs. Raymond Bourgon, Moose Creek, June  
11 29<sup>th</sup> '62.

12                   Do you see that, the first list there?

13                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes, I do.

14                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** All right. And the next  
15 item under that is September 26<sup>th</sup> '63. Mrs. Jean-Guy  
16 Meunier.

17                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** That's correct.

18                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** All right. So would it be  
19 fair to say that you were at the Bourgon foster home for  
20 approximately 14, 15 months?

21                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Something like that, yes.

22                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** All right. And when you  
23 were sent there were you on your own, or were you with your  
24 brother, Emile?

25                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Emile and I both arrived

1 at the Bourgon's the same day.

2 **MR. ENGELMANN:** Okay. And there's a  
3 reference to this again, sir, on -- sorry, in the document  
4 -- it's Exhibit 437. It's the ninth page in. And I'm  
5 looking at Bates page 1132016 and it's about halfway down  
6 the page here. You'll see "Assessment, case worker, Mrs.  
7 Lorraine..." -- I think it's "...Creskery".

8 Do you remember a social worker, a case  
9 worker, from Children's Aid by that name?

10 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** I think she was my social  
11 worker, but I don't really recall the name till I seen it -  
12 --

13 **MR. ENGELMANN:** That's fine.

14 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** --- when I've reviewed the  
15 document.

16 **MR. ENGELMANN:** That's fine.

17 Do you remember having a female social  
18 worker at that time?

19 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Pardon?

20 **MR. ENGELMANN:** Do you remember having a  
21 female social worker at that time?

22 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** It's possible. I think it  
23 was, yes.

24 **MR. ENGELMANN:** All right. In any event, it  
25 does say under the assessment that:

1                    "The worker visited André several times  
2                    in his foster home. The foster  
3                    parents, Mr. and Mrs. Bourgon, were  
4                    interviewed separately, as well as with  
5                    André."

6                    I just wanted to ask you, sir, when you were  
7                    at the Bourgon home, do you recall being visited from time-  
8                    to-time by someone from the Children's Aid Society?

9                    **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes, I think so.

10                  **MR. ENGELMANN:** All right. And you told us  
11                  when you were visited at the previous home, at the Lionel  
12                  Lamarche residence, when the social worker came the foster  
13                  parents always knew, and they were there when the social  
14                  worker met with the children.

15                  **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes, that's correct.

16                  **MR. ENGELMANN:** And you told us about how  
17                  they did most of the talking for you.

18                  **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes.

19                  **MR. ENGELMANN:** What happened at the Bourgon  
20                  home? Was it the same thing or was it different, with  
21                  respect to the contacts with the CAS?

22                  **MR. BISSONNETTE:** It was totally different.  
23                  I was able to be out and open about what I had to say, and  
24                  they found me to be very happy there with this family.

25                  **MR. ENGELMANN:** Right. So your experience

1 with the family was totally different.

2 MR. BISSONNETTE: Yes.

3 MR. ENGELMANN: And I understand that. But  
4 what about the visits from the CAS. Did the worker meet  
5 with you alone or were those meetings as well -- were the  
6 parents present.

7 MR. BISSONNETTE: Those meetings were also  
8 with the parents, of the Bourgon's.

9 MR. ENGELMANN: All right. What about your  
10 opportunity to speak at those meetings?

11 MR. BISSONNETTE: I was able to speak about  
12 anything I wanted.

13 MR. ENGELMANN: All right.

14 MR. BISSONNETTE: She would be asking me all  
15 kinds of questions.

16 MR. ENGELMANN: And did you feel comfortable  
17 in responding?

18 MR. BISSONNETTE: Yes, I did.

19 MR. ENGELMANN: And why was that?

20 MR. BISSONNETTE: Because they treated me  
21 good.

22 MR. ENGELMANN: That is your foster parents?

23 MR. BISSONNETTE: The Bourgon's. It was a  
24 very good home, and there was a lot of affection, and they  
25 took to me right away like -- they thought the world of me.

1                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** All right. And did that  
2 start right from the get-go, sir?

3                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes, the connection was  
4 made. I remember the second day being there, he let me  
5 drive the tractor with him. Like, I mean, it was a total  
6 different kind of person.

7                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** All right.

8                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** A loving and caring  
9 person.

10                  **MR. ENGELMANN:** All right. And would you  
11 describe your treatment throughout those 14, 15 months as  
12 being loving and caring?

13                  **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes.

14                  **MR. ENGELMANN:** So you had no concerns or  
15 complaints about these foster parents?

16                  **MR. BISSONNETTE:** None at all, no.

17                  **MR. ENGELMANN:** And do you recall that you  
18 said, "Right from the get-go"? Did you recall anything at  
19 all from when you first started with the Bourgons, you and  
20 your brother, that would make you feel that way? You  
21 mentioned driving a tractor.

22                  **MR. BISSONNETTE:** I guess what I'm -- the  
23 word I'm trying to use is we felt accepted, whereas in the  
24 Lamarche's I never felt a part of the family -- you know.  
25 I never felt accepted with the Lamarches. There I did.

1                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** All right. Now, despite  
2 feeling accepted and having a different circumstance, you  
3 in fact had some difficulties when you were at the  
4 Bourgon's with respect to your schooling.

5                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes, I did.

6                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** And can you tell us about  
7 that?

8                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** My brother and I, we did a  
9 lot of fighting against each other, and I think after  
10 attending the school for a period of time, I don't  
11 recollect how long, it came to the point we got expelled.

12                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** Both of you?

13                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Both of us. And from what  
14 I see in these documents, it says because of cursing and  
15 fighting and impertinence. But really what it was, foster  
16 children were being discriminated in that school. It was a  
17 Catholic school and it seemed like -- and the Children's  
18 Aid also states this that there was some discrimination  
19 against the wards.

20                   And when they expelled us, I remember Mr.  
21 Raymond Bourgon, he went back to the school and he put up a  
22 big fight and he was really p'eed off. And he was the kind  
23 of man that when he had something to say, he said it. And  
24 that didn't go over too well in the school.

25                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** All right, Mr. Bissonnette,

1 and if you could turn to Exhibit 439. And as you said, the  
2 Children's Aid Society notes even say this. I'm looking at  
3 your social and school history. It's a one-page document.

4 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** (Four-thirty-nine) 439?

5 **MR. ENGELMANN:** Yes. It's up on the screen  
6 now.

7 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Have I got that?

8 **THE COMMISSIONER:** You should. Oh, isn't  
9 that the one we were supposed to photocopy?

10 **MR. ENGELMANN:** Oh.

11 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** No wonder I can't find it.

12 **MR. ENGELMANN:** Sir, if you look on the  
13 screen, the first paragraph is there, and it's --

14 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Okay, I'll look at it  
15 here.

16 **MR. ENGELMANN:** I'm not going to take you  
17 anywhere else.

18 About the third line down, it says:

19 "In March 1963, André was living in the  
20 same foster home as one of his  
21 brothers. He was expelled from school  
22 for the rest of the school year because  
23 of his serious misbehaviour. However,  
24 there appears to have been some  
25 prejudice against our wards in that

1 small community."

2 Can you -- you've used that term,  
3 "discrimination", and they've said, "prejudice". Do you  
4 have some sense as to being treated differently because you  
5 were a foster -- in foster care at that time?

6 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** At that age, boys will be  
7 boys. And I don't feel my brother and I were any different  
8 from the other boys that were there. Like everybody did a  
9 little bit of fighting, a little -- it wasn't nothing  
10 serious. And I don't think -- I didn't feel any different  
11 than the other kids. But we did swear a lot, so --

12 **MR. ENGELMANN:** Did other kids do that as  
13 well?

14 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Well, sure.

15 **MR. ENGELMANN:** Okay. And so, I don't want  
16 to put words in your mouth, but what are you saying? Other  
17 kids fought and swore and didn't get expelled and you and  
18 your brother did?

19 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** I didn't hear you, sorry.

20 **MR. ENGELMANN:** You've just said to us that  
21 you felt there was prejudice and you talked about  
22 discrimination. You've said other kids were fighting,  
23 other kids were swearing. Did the other kids get expelled?

24 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Not that I'm aware of, no.

25 **MR. ENGELMANN:** So what happened after you



1 were expelled? Did you go back to school that spring?

2 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes, I did. What happened  
3 was Sister Superior and somebody by the name Robillard, who  
4 was on the board of trustees or on the school board I'm not  
5 sure which, it was up to them to take us back, or not. And  
6 Sister Superior, I guess, according to these documents ---

7 **MR. ENGELMANN:** Sir, I just really want to  
8 know what you know.

9 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Oh. What I know is --  
10 okay. What I know is, I went back to school on a probation  
11 period for six months.

12 **MR. ENGELMANN:** All right. So did you  
13 finish the school year, in that spring, to your knowledge?

14 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** M'hm,

15 **MR. ENGELMANN:** Because it says you were  
16 expelled and I just wanted to ask you about that, and  
17 whether or not that was for the remainder of the school  
18 year or not.

19 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** I know I was out of school  
20 for a while. I can't tell you how long.

21 **MR. ENGELMANN:** All right. And when you  
22 were out of school, what did the Bourgon's do with you?

23 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Not too much. We worked  
24 the farm.

25 **MR. ENGELMANN:** Okay. So one of the

1 Bourgon's was home during the school day? If you weren't  
2 at school and you were at home ---

3 MR. BISSONNETTE: They were both there.

4 MR. ENGELMANN: Okay.

5 MR. BISSONNETTE: Yes.

6 MR. ENGELMANN: Yes. They were farmers?

7 MR. BISSONNETTE: Yes, they were farmers.

8 They had 23 head of cattle.

9 MR. ENGELMANN: Okay.

10 (SHORT PAUSE/COURTE PAUSE)

11 And can you give us a sense, sir -- you said  
12 you went back to school on probation?

13 MR. BISSONNETTE: Yes.

14 MR. ENGELMANN: Do you have a sense as to  
15 how well you were doing that year, when you were with the  
16 Bourgon's?

17 MR. BISSONNETTE: I did very well. By the  
18 time I went back to school, they moved my brother a mile  
19 down the road to somebody by the name of Emile  
20 Quesneville(ph), who is Mrs. Bourgon's brother.

21 MR. ENGELMANN: Yes.

22 MR. BISSONNETTE: We were separated. And  
23 after we were separated it just seemed like I did better.  
24 Like I said, and I'll be honest about it, we did a lot of  
25 fighting among each other. I excelled to the point that I

1 was doing very well in school. I think I ended up with a  
2 69 average. I was very, very good in Art, I used to draw  
3 art sketches, chalk, and my worker - I think it went from  
4 Mrs. Creskery -- is that her name? I think it was around  
5 that time Pierre Dubuc took over.

6 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Another social worker?

7 **MR. ENGELMANN:** Yes. And those names, you  
8 just know them from reviewing the file or do you actually  
9 remember them?

10 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Lorraine Creskery, I don't  
11 even remember the name.

12 **MR. ENGELMANN:** Yes.

13 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Pierre Dubuc, yes, it  
14 stands out very well in my mind.

15 **MR. ENGELMANN:** Okay.

16 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** And he seen that I had a  
17 lot of talent. I was doing well in a lot of my subjects --  
18 that I passed was -- I had a 69, but as Art was concerned,  
19 he thought I had a lot of talent for it and he had plans  
20 down the road to put me in an Art class in a vocational  
21 school. He thought that I was that good at it. So there  
22 was no problem once I went back to that school. None to  
23 worry.

24 **MR. ENGELMANN:** So, you were still living  
25 with the Bourgon's ---

1                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes.

2                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** --- and you ended up leaving  
3 there in September of 1963.

4                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes.

5                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** Do you recall why it was  
6 that you were moved? Were you told?

7                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Mrs. Bourgon was an  
8 epileptic; she used to take epileptic seizures. I was told  
9 by her husband that she had a couple of miscarriages. When  
10 she was pregnant, her seizures would come more often. I  
11 guess the Children's Aid knew that she was epileptic and he  
12 pulled me to a side and he always spoke to me in French and  
13 he said, "Little boy, I think we are going to let you go,  
14 he says..." ---

15                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** This is Mr. Bourgon?

16                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Mr. Bourgon. He said, "Ma  
17 tante is ill, she is not feeling well and --", well I call  
18 her "Aunt" in French. And he says, "You're going to have  
19 to leave". And I guess I started crying and everything and  
20 I think they kept me for a while longer. It was the best  
21 home I ever had. I couldn't ask for any better and I was  
22 on my way, I was doing well. And when I did leave it broke  
23 my heart, but I had to go, and I understood why I had to  
24 go.

25                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** Sir, Exhibit 444, if you'll

1 have a look at that, I believe that's the file for the  
2 Bourgon home.

3 And just starting -- I'm on the third page,  
4 Mr. Bissonnette, the bottom half. It's Bates page 7176264.  
5 The worker at the time, Pierre Dubuc, does describe in his  
6 first paragraph a very positive relationship with the  
7 family. He then, in the second paragraph, talks about the  
8 fact that you were expelled for fighting and swearing. So  
9 those first two paragraphs, you don't take any issue with,  
10 do you?

11 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** I just -- may I read  
12 these?

13 **MR. ENGELMANN:** Sure, please.

14 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** I'm not on the right page.

15 **MR. ENGELMANN:** No, we're not. Page 3,  
16 Bates page 7176264.

17 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Okay, next page. There  
18 you go.

19 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Okay.

20 **MR. ENGELMANN:** And I am talking about the  
21 paragraphs that start just under, "November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1962".  
22 Perhaps I can just let you read a bit.

23 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Okay. Yes, the first  
24 paragraph, very true.

25 **MR. ENGELMANN:** I am sorry, which paragraph?

1                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** The first paragraph.

2                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** Yes.

3                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** On November 22<sup>nd</sup>, yes.

4                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** And then again there's a  
5 reference to the problems at school in the second  
6 paragraph?

7                                 Now, in the third paragraph, there is an  
8 indication that she suffers from epilepsy and she was  
9 physically unable to cope with the boys' constant fighting,  
10 destructiveness in the home. Were you told that by Mrs.  
11 Bourgon at the time or simply told the issue about  
12 epilepsy?

13                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** I don't think we were told  
14 anything like that unless Mr. Bourgon thought maybe it had  
15 an impact on her.

16                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** All right. But that may  
17 have been something that they described to the Children's  
18 Aid.

19                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** I was not aware of that,  
20 no.

21                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** Now, it is said in the last  
22 paragraph that you were upset, that you had declared you  
23 were happy in the home, did not want to leave. Is it fair  
24 to say you might have indicated that to your social worker?

25                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes.

1                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** And it says that the foster  
2 parents revealed a change of heart and literally pleaded  
3 that André be allowed to live with them. Again, I don't  
4 know if you know this ---

5                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** I don't know if that's  
6 true.

7                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** All right.

8                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Very possible.

9                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** But there is a reference  
10 here to the agency receiving poor reports regarding Mr.  
11 Bourgon. Again you would not have been aware of that at  
12 the time. Is that fair?

13                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** I knew the CAS didn't like  
14 him too much. And the reason I say this is because the  
15 first day we arrived at the Bourgon's, it didn't go over  
16 too well. My brother and I, we had rags on for clothes.  
17 Our cuff pants were between our -- above our ankles. And  
18 when we arrived, the social worker took us there, like I  
19 say, when he -- he was a man when he had something to say,  
20 he said it.

21                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** This is when you'd left the  
22 Lionel Lamarche and come to the ---

23                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes. He said, "What is  
24 this? Where do these kids come from?" He said, "Look at  
25 them". And I think there was an argument between him and

1 the Children's Aid -- I'd rather call it Children's aid  
2 instead of CAS ---

3 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Yes, sure.

4 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** --- I am more familiar --  
5 about getting us some clothes and he wanted some money  
6 there on the spot or something to buy us some clothes. And  
7 it didn't go over too well. I remember some argument but  
8 it turned out -- I guess he didn't do it their way, or she  
9 didn't have forms, or I don't know how they paid for  
10 clothes in those days. But that very next day, he went and  
11 he bought clothes and he just brought the bill to her.  
12 They didn't appreciate that too much.

13 **MR. ENGELMANN:** Well, there was a reference.  
14 I am looking at that same Exhibit, 444, on the very last  
15 page, 7176266, about five lines down:

16 "Another factor was they did not follow  
17 up the policy of the agency too well,  
18 or they would not always consult the  
19 agency concerning the boys' need for  
20 clothing. They would buy the clothes  
21 and we would receive the bills from the  
22 stores. We knew the boys needed  
23 clothes but we had to pay for the  
24 clothes without being informed of  
25 this."



1 So that's what you were just referring to?

2 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes, I think that caused a  
3 little bit of static between him and my social worker.

4 **MR. ENGELMANN:** All right. So you were then  
5 transferred to another home.

6 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes.

7 **MR. ENGELMANN:** And this was the Meunier  
8 home. Is that correct?

9 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes.

10 **MR. ENGELMANN:** And that home meant you had  
11 to leave Moose Creek or that area, and move to a new area,  
12 Long Sault ---

13 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes.

14 **MR. ENGELMANN:** --- just to the west of  
15 Cornwall.

16 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** That's correct.

17 **MR. ENGELMANN:** And were you moved there  
18 with your brother, Emile, or were you moved there on your  
19 own?

20 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** No, by the time I left the  
21 Bourgon's, I think my brother Emile was out of the foster  
22 ward. He was 16; he was a year older than me.

23 **MR. ENGELMANN:** Yes.

24 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** I went alone to the  
25 Meunier's.

1                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** So when you moved, in  
2                   September 27<sup>th</sup> of '63, you were still 14. You were turning  
3                   15 at the end of October.

4                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes.

5                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** And the document that refers  
6                   to the Meunier home is Exhibit 443.

7                   And -- I'll just be a moment. Yes, it's  
8                   towards the back of the tab. It's Bates page number  
9                   7168304.

10                  **THE COMMISSIONER:** How many pages back? So  
11                  from -- it's page 7, actually.

12                  **MR. ENGELMANN:** Oh, on the back.

13                  **THE COMMISSIONER:** Page 7 in that document,  
14                  I think. Yes.

15                  **MR. ENGELMANN:** I just want to take you  
16                  there briefly, sir. At the bottom of that page, December  
17                  8<sup>th</sup> '63, there's a reference to ---

18                  **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Is this 443?

19                  **MR. ENGELMANN:** This is Exhibit 443, yes.

20                  **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Page 7.

21                  **MR. ENGELMANN:** There's probably two page  
22                  7's. It's a long document. It's the second page 7. I  
23                  apologize.

24                  **THE COMMISSIONER:** If you go right to the  
25                  back of the document ---

1                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Right.

2                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** --- and then go back, and  
3 you'll see the -- you'll pick up the pages there.

4                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Okay.

5                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** Work that way.

6                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Oh yeah, okay. Okay, I  
7 got it. Okay, I got it.

8                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** Okay, do you see a reference  
9 there to December 8<sup>th</sup> '63. It says:

10                                 "André Bissonnette who was  
11                                 placed in the Meunier home for about  
12                                 two months, was moved from there.  
13                                 André was extremely disturbed. This  
14                                 boy was very attached to his former  
15                                 foster parents, etc."

16                   Now -- and he suggests that -- if you look a  
17 little further down:

18                                 "He continually talked about the  
19                                 Bourgons saying how much he wished  
20                                 he was living there again. I believe  
21                                 this is what started the trouble with  
22                                 the Meuniers."

23                   So, let's just talk a little bit about the  
24 Meunier home.

25                   You arrived there. It means you're going to

1 have to start at a new school. Did they have children of  
2 their own or other foster children?

3 MR. BISSONNETTE: Yes, they had four  
4 daughters; they were younger than me.

5 MR. ENGELMANN: All right. So the four  
6 daughters were quite a bit younger?

7 MR. BISSONNETTE: Yes.

8 MR. ENGELMANN: You would have been 14 going  
9 on 15. Were there any other foster children there?

10 MR. BISSONNETTE: There was a student by the  
11 name of Larry Hawn.

12 MR. ENGELMANN: All right. And as I  
13 understand it, sir, he was approximately a year older than  
14 you were?

15 MR. BISSONNETTE: About 12, 14 months -- a  
16 year older than I was, yes.

17 MR. ENGELMANN: Yes. And was he your size,  
18 physically?

19 MR. BISSONNETTE: No, he was a lot bigger  
20 than me. I wasn't quite 15 yet.

21 MR. ENGELMANN: Okay. And you were only in  
22 this home for a couple of months?

23 MR. BISSONNETTE: Yes.

24 MR. ENGELMANN: All right. And can you tell  
25 us if you experienced any physical or sexual abuse or

1 assault while you were in this home?

2 MR. BISSONNETTE: I have. I -- physical and  
3 sexual abuse.

4 MR. ENGELMANN: And was that from the  
5 parents or from someone else in the home?

6 MR. BISSONNETTE: This was from Larry Hawn -  
7 --

8 MR. ENGELMANN: M'hm.

9 MR. BISSONNETTE: --- who was also a -- I  
10 think, a CAA ward.

11 MR. ENGELMANN: A CAS ward?

12 MR. BISSONNETTE: Yeah.

13 MR. ENGELMANN: All right. And can you tell  
14 us when that would have started, approximately?

15 MR. BISSONNETTE: I think it started the  
16 first or the second night I was there.

17 MR. ENGELMANN: Okay. And was that physical  
18 or sexual, or both?

19 MR. BISSONNETTE: It was both.

20 MR. ENGELMANN: And how often -- did this  
21 just happen once or did it happen more than once?

22 MR. BISSONNETTE: It happened on a few  
23 occasions.

24 MR. ENGELMANN: All right. Did you at any  
25 time agree with what was happening or say that you wanted

1 something to happen?

2 MR. BISSONNETTE: I never agreed. I was  
3 scared of him. He was a lot bigger than me.

4 MR. ENGELMANN: Right. Do you recall trying  
5 to avoid what was happening in any way?

6 MR. BISSONNETTE: It was hard to avoid -- I  
7 had to share the same bed with him.

8 MR. ENGELMANN: They had you sleeping in the  
9 same bed?

10 MR. BISSONNETTE: No, the same bedroom.

11 MR. ENGELMANN: Bedroom? Okay. And did you  
12 tell the foster parents what was happening at that time?

13 MR. BISSONNETTE: Nothing was told to the  
14 foster parents till the day I ran away.

15 MR. ENGELMANN: All right. And do you  
16 remember why you didn't tell them when it was happening?

17 MR. BISSONNETTE: I was too ashamed and I  
18 couldn't -- I was too scared of him. He threatened me if I  
19 said anything, and I couldn't defend myself. I couldn't  
20 handle what --

21 (SHORT PAUSE/COURTE PAUSE)

22 -- I couldn't handle what was going on, but  
23 yet I was too ashamed to tell anybody.

24 The Meuniers were strangers, I couldn't talk  
25 to them. I couldn't talk to anybody about it. It was just

1 a dark secret I didn't want to -- I couldn't open up to  
2 anybody about it. I felt too much shame.

3 **MR. ENGELMANN:** How long did this go on?  
4 Was there something that caused it to end?

5 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** I'd say this went on for  
6 about two weeks, off and on. And I remember I used to go  
7 across the highway, down by the river. I used to cry. I  
8 used to pray, I used to blame my mother, blame the  
9 Children's Aid for every damn thing that was happening to  
10 me. And I had a hard time handling it. I just kind of  
11 reached the point of hopelessness. And I put up with it as  
12 long as I -- until one day I couldn't put up with it  
13 anymore.

14 **MR. ENGELMANN:** Sir, did something happen  
15 that led you to be placed in a separate room from him?

16 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes.

17 **MR. ENGELMANN:** Do you want to take a  
18 minute?

19 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** No, I'm okay.

20 **MR. ENGELMANN:** Okay. Can you tell us what  
21 happened?

22 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** I wasn't doing too well in  
23 school; my grades and everything went down. I didn't  
24 listen; I didn't much care about anything anymore. I  
25 couldn't handle what -- the emotional pain I was suffering

1 -- that was going on in my life. I started fighting with  
2 the school and I started with the high school. I started  
3 fighting with high school guys who were twice my size. I  
4 was taking this anger out on everybody.

5 I come home one day, I remember -- all I  
6 remember was there was a lot of leaves on the ground.  
7 We were outside, and Larry Hawn was outside, and I told him  
8 if he ever came around me or tried to touch me again I'd  
9 kill the son-of-a-bitch.

10 Well, that didn't go over too well. It took  
11 everything for me to say that because, like I say, I was  
12 scared of him. He was big. I knew I'd probably get it.  
13 So we ended up -- we had a bad fight. I got the worst of  
14 it. I was covered with blood, but I wouldn't stay down. I  
15 was fighting for my life.

16 I guess Mr. Meunier seen it from inside the  
17 house and he came out and he grabbed me. Nobody that day  
18 knew what the fight was about except me and Larry Hawn.  
19 And I think it was then that they separated us in different  
20 rooms, and he never came around me after that.

21 **MR. ENGELMANN:** So he didn't try and do  
22 anything to you after that?

23 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Never. Never came around.

24 **MR. ENGELMANN:** Did you tell anybody then?

25 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** No.



1                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** Okay. But you were placed  
2 in different rooms?

3                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes.

4                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** Now you stayed there until  
5 sometime in December of that year?

6                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** What month?

7                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** You stayed there until  
8 sometime in December of that year. Is that correct?

9                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Around December the 8<sup>th</sup>.

10                  **MR. ENGELMANN:** Do you recall what happened  
11 then and why is was you were moved again?

12                  **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes, I do. I -- like I  
13 say, I wasn't doing too well in school. I didn't much care  
14 about anything. I kind of just closed my mind because I  
15 was too emotional. I'd go to school and all I could think  
16 of was what had happened to me and the day I was going to  
17 be free from Children's Aid.

18                  The school expelled me and the oldest of the  
19 youngest daughters had a big envelope. And I remember we  
20 were all on the school bus. And she said, "You know what  
21 this is". I didn't know. And when I came home, it was a  
22 letter from the principal or whatever stating I was  
23 expelled from school.

24                  I don't know how long after that -- it could  
25 have been a day, could have been two days after -- anyway

1 the day came and she approached me ---

2 MR. ENGELMANN: Who's she?

3 MR. BISSONNETTE: Mrs. Meunier.

4 MR. ENGELMANN: The foster mother?

5 MR. BISSONNETTE: The foster mother.

6 MR. ENGELMANN: Yes.

7 MR. BISSONNETTE: And she said, "What are  
8 you going to do? Be a bum the rest of your fucking life?"  
9 I mean this is the way she talked to me. "You're not going  
10 to school, you got kicked out of school."

11 (SHORT PAUSE/COURTE PAUSE)

12 I don't where I got the courage. I told  
13 her, I says, "I got kicked out of school because I'm living  
14 with a fucking queer who's been abusing me, or molesting  
15 me". I don't remember the word I used. It didn't sooner  
16 come out of my mouth I got a slap in the side of the face.  
17 "Shame on you for talking like that. Making stories up  
18 like that." Like I -- as if I insulted her.

19 (SHORT PAUSE/COURTE PAUSE)

20 She said, "Get out of my sight! Get out.  
21 Go and do something, just get out of my sight". She got  
22 hysterical.

23 I got out all right. It was a stormy day.  
24 It was snowing like hell and I put my clothes on. I walked  
25 across the highway. We were along the river there in Long

1 Sault, about six or seven miles from Cornwall. I walked  
2 across the highway into the bush, and I walked along the  
3 river. I was running away to my mother's. I didn't want  
4 the cops to pick me up, that's why I took the bush.

5 I was in snow up to my waist. By the time I  
6 got to my mother's I was almost frozen from the waist down.  
7 When I got to my mother's I told her what happened. Pardon  
8 the expression, but I told my mother, I says, "I'm living  
9 with a fucking queer who's been molesting me". And I told  
10 her, Mrs. Meunier, and I got a slap in the mouth for it".  
11 My mother took care of me, she put some towels on my legs.

12 Later that evening, Mr. Meunier came over to  
13 get me.

14 **MR. ENGELMANN:** I'm sorry, Mr. Meunier came  
15 to your mother's home, to get you?

16 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** To get me. By then my  
17 mother knew about it and Phil Waters, her common-law  
18 husband, knew about it.

19 And Mr. Meunier says, "I'm taking you home".  
20 And I says, "I aint going back there to that molester".  
21 And my mother said, "My son isn't going back there". He  
22 left.

23 It was the next day, my social worker came  
24 to my mother's. And then he was told.

25 **MR. ENGELMANN:** So, just -- I can get ---

1                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** He was told that I -- what  
2 happened. I told him, my mother told him.

3                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** All right. So you told Mrs.  
4 Meunier. She hits you, you leave. You tell your mother.  
5 You tell her common-law husband. And you tell the social  
6 worker. So they're all told about abuse, or sexual  
7 assault.

8                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes.

9                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** Is that correct?

10                  **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes, that's correct.

11                  **THE COMMISSIONER:** Who was the social  
12 worker, sir?

13                  **MR. BISSONNETTE:** It was Pierre Dubuc.

14                  **THE COMMISSIONER:** All right. Okay.

15                  **MR. ENGELMANN:** What happens then? Do you  
16 know if -- first of all, what happens to you?

17                  **MR. BISSONNETTE:** I was an emotional wreck.  
18 When he came over, he came into the house ---

19                  **MR. ENGELMANN:** "He" being the social  
20 worker?

21                  **MR. BISSONNETTE:** The social worker.

22                  **MR. ENGELMANN:** Yes.

23                  **MR. BISSONNETTE:** And we told. I didn't get  
24 into any details, but I told him. The guy that was living  
25 at the Meunier's was a molester because that's the kind of

1 words I would use. Sorry.

2 MR. ENGELMANN: That's okay.

3 MR. BISSONNETTE: I'm not sure.

4 MR. ENGELMANN: So you ---

5 MR. BISSONNETTE: Nothing was said. I think  
6 I stayed at my mother's for five days.

7 MR. ENGELMANN: Did the police ever come and  
8 interview you?

9 MR. BISSONNETTE: Nobody.

10 MR. ENGELMANN: So you don't know if anybody  
11 talked to them?

12 THE COMMISSIONER: Talked to who?

13 MR. ENGELMANN: Talked to the police.

14 THE COMMISSIONER: Okay.

15 MR. BISSONNETTE: No.

16 MR. ENGELMANN: All right. And where were  
17 you then placed, sir?

18 MR. BISSONNETTE: Well like I say, I was at  
19 my mom's for about four or five days from what I remember.  
20 And I found that very weird. And then, I think it was  
21 Pierre Dubuc, or somebody from the Children's Aid, took me  
22 back to the Bourgon's.

23 MR. ENGELMANN: To the Bourgon's.

24 MR. BISSONNETTE: Bourgon's, out in Moose  
25 Creek.

1                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** And I understand you spent a  
2                   few days there.

3                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** I think I spent two weeks  
4                   there.

5                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** And then, sir, it's my  
6                   understanding you went back to a receiving home?

7                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Back to Mrs. Lafortune's.

8                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** Okay. So just before we go  
9                   further, I'd like you to take a look at -- it's Exhibit  
10                  443.

11                  **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes.

12                  **MR. ENGELMANN:** And it's page 8, so right at  
13                  the end; it's near the end of the document. It's the  
14                  second page 8. It's bates page 7168305.

15                  **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yeah.

16                  **MR. ENGELMANN:** There's a description of --  
17                  we looked at the bottom of page 7. On page 8, I would like  
18                  you to look at the third paragraph. It says:

19                                 "A problem arose between both boys, and  
20                                 it was homosexuality. André told  
21                                 worker at first and I mentioned it to  
22                                 the foster parents who separated the  
23                                 two boys in two different rooms.  
24                                 However, I learned from André later  
25                                 that Mr. Meunier told André that he

1                   should have told him about this and not  
2                   the worker since this was the Meuniers'  
3                   home and not the worker."

4                   So let me just ask you about this. You have  
5                   indicated to us, there's a fight, you're separated and that  
6                   you actually don't disclose abuse or sexual assault until  
7                   sometime in December.

8                   Mr. Dubuc seems to be writing that you were  
9                   separated because of something he did. Do you see that?

10                   "André told worker at first. I  
11                   mentioned to the foster parents who  
12                   separated the two boys."

13                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** I see that.

14                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** All right. And it also says  
15                   something -- it doesn't say anything about molesting or  
16                   abuse. It says:

17                   "Problem arose between both boys and it  
18                   was homosexuality."

19                   What, if anything, do you remember telling  
20                   Mr. Dubuc or Mr. Dubuc being told by your mother in your  
21                   presence?

22                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** I didn't understand the  
23                   question.

24                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** Okay. Sorry.  
25                   Did you tell Mr. Dubuc that you were

1 involved in a homosexual relationship with Larry Hawn?

2 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Never.

3 **MR. ENGELMANN:** Okay. How did you describe  
4 what happened to you?

5 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** I'll repeat it again. I  
6 told him I was living with a fucking molester who was  
7 molesting me. And these are the words I used to the social  
8 worker in front of my mother and in front of Phil Waters in  
9 her house that day.

10 **MR. ENGELMANN:** So when I'm reading ---

11 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** I know, but this is --  
12 that's why it's a -- there's a lot of stuff here that's  
13 been fabricated. It didn't happen this way. Mr. Meunier  
14 is all upset because I told the worker before I told him.  
15 That don't make sense. His wife knew when I got the slap  
16 in the face. I got punished for telling what I said.

17 **MR. ENGELMANN:** So there's a lot in this  
18 paragraph that you don't agree with?

19 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** No, and I'm very insulted  
20 for them trying to classify me as a homosexual. It's a  
21 good cover-up, but it's not going to work with this guy. I  
22 know I was held down against my will, and there was never  
23 any consent on my part, and I know what that bastard did to  
24 me and I'll take it to my grave, but it didn't happen like  
25 this.



1                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** I'm just noticing at the end  
2 of the paragraph it says:

3                   "Actually, they are doing a good job  
4 with Larry Hawn who is not really  
5 presenting any problem, except that he  
6 does not socialize too much with other  
7 boys or girls and has presented this  
8 problem of homosexuality with André,  
9 and we might suppose that he does some  
10 sex play with himself."

11                   So that's certainly not anything you told  
12 the social worker?

13                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** No. And if you keep  
14 reading, somewhere in here it also says that Mrs. Meunier  
15 kind of faired Larry, the way he used to look at her when  
16 she'd be working in the kitchen.

17                   After I left this home, Larry Hawn came onto  
18 one of their friends who spent the night. Well ---

19                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** Wow, wow.

20                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** This is just something  
21 you've read, sir.

22                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Okay. Sorry.

23                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** So you can't -- Let's just  
24 stick to what you know please.

25                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Okay.

1                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** All right.

2                   In any event, what's written here is not the  
3 way you remember it?

4                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** No.

5                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** Now, after leaving this  
6 home, you told us you spent some time with your mother, you  
7 spent some time in the Bourgon home, and you went back to  
8 the Lafortune receiving home. And I understand, sir, that  
9 in mid-January of 1964, you were placed in a foster home,  
10 parents by the name of Lalonde?

11                  **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes.

12                  **MR. ENGELMANN:** And you were there for  
13 approximately one month? Is that fair?

14                  **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes.

15                  **MR. ENGELMANN:** Any difficulties there, sir  
16 that you can recall?

17                  **MR. BISSONNETTE:** I found him to be weird.  
18 He was always watching war pictures and told me I shouldn't  
19 go out with girls because I'd catch venereal diseases.  
20 Just the kind of way he talked to me, it didn't make sense.

21                  While I was in that home, I went to high  
22 school for a week, and I got thrown out of high school too  
23 because ---

24                  **MR. ENGELMANN:** Where was that home, sir, do  
25 you remember?

1                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** In Cornwall, on Guy  
2 Street.

3                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** Okay. What happened after  
4 that month there? Where did you end up going?

5                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** I'm not quite sure if I  
6 went to Alexandria foster home or to a detention centre in  
7 Martintown, which was run by Detective Brunet.

8                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** We've got -- and I'm just  
9 looking at the first Exhibit, 436. It says:

10                                   "Shirley Lalonde, Jan. 16<sup>th</sup>, 1964".

11                                   It's the second page of that document. And  
12 then on February 20<sup>th</sup>, 1964, it says, "Mrs. Brunet", and it  
13 has "D.H." after it.

14                                   Do you know if D.H. means Detention Home?

15                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Detention Home. Yes.

16                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** All right. Do you know why  
17 you were sent there, sir? Was it explained to you?

18                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** I know I wasn't doing well  
19 in school. I think they had told me I was unmanageable or  
20 something like that. I never really knew why I went to a  
21 detention home. I'll be honest, from the Meuniers -- I  
22 don't think anybody could do much with me because I was too  
23 screwed up. I was too -- I was hurting too much. I felt  
24 the CAS had let me down. When I tried to say something, I  
25 wasn't believed. I kind of just gave up.

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

2                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** I understand, sir, and I  
3                   made a mistake, that you actually spent a few days at  
4                   another Lamarche foster home just before going to that  
5                   detention centre or that detention home. Do you recall  
6                   that, spending about four days?

7                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes.

8                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** Yes, okay.

9                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** But this is different  
10                  than the previous Lamarche?

11                  **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yeah.

12                  **MR. ENGELMANN:** Yes.

13                  And when you were sent to the Brunet  
14                  detention home, that was in Martintown? Is that correct?

15                  **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes, that's correct.

16                  **MR. ENGELMANN:** Can you tell us what that  
17                  was like and how that started?

18                  **MR. BISSONNETTE:** By the time I got to the  
19                  detention home, she had to handcuff me to a chair. I was  
20                  so mixed up, hurting, and I gave her a hard time. And she  
21                  started talking to me.

22                  **MR. ENGELMANN:** Her being Mrs. Brunet?

23                  **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Mrs. Brunet.

24                  **MR. ENGELMANN:** And you said her husband was  
25                  a police officer?

1                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Detective Brunet. I  
2 remember him because when I was much younger at home, my  
3 real home, he came over a couple of times because the cops  
4 came over there a few times. That's how I knew him.

5                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** M'hm.

6                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** So he knew me. He knew,  
7 well, a little bit of me.

8                   After a day or two, I got talking. I  
9 started opening up to Mrs. Brunet. I couldn't talk about.  
10 It's -- my shame, but I could talk about not doing well in  
11 school. She was asking me all kinds of questions, and my  
12 attitude kind of changed, and we became very close. She  
13 took a liking to me and she gave me a lot of leisure on  
14 that farm. Somebody -- I wasn't there that long, I think.  
15 Two months, I don't remember. If somebody ran away or  
16 something, I ---

17                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** From these ---

18                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** I'd be the guy to go and  
19 catch them. Or get up in the middle of night and go --  
20 they had about a hundred stairs. She'd wake me up in the  
21 middle of the night, "Go and check the cows" and stuff like  
22 that. So she took a liking to me, and I was able to -- she  
23 became a good friend. And I really liked it there.

24                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** All right. And do you  
25 recall, sir -- you were there from sort-of the middle of

1 February to sometime in April -- do you recall having to go  
2 to court during that period of time?

3 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes, I went to court. I  
4 think it was two or three occasions, I'm not sure. It  
5 could have been four.

6 **MR. ENGELMANN:** And was that dealing with  
7 this issue of unmanageability?

8 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes, some of it. Yes,  
9 because just before I left the Lalonde's, I went high  
10 school for a week. I played hooky for a week and I didn't  
11 want to go back to Lalonde's, and I was getting more and  
12 more unmanageable. And I think that's why I was going to  
13 court.

14 And she had a lot of connections because she  
15 was married to a detective, like I said earlier. And she  
16 made a lot of phone calls and I could hear her talking  
17 sometimes to some of the people. There was talk that they  
18 might be sending me down for it.

19 **MR. ENGELMANN:** To the reform school in  
20 Alfred?

21 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Pardon?

22 **MR. ENGELMANN:** To the reform school in  
23 Alfred.

24 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes.

25 **MR. ENGELMANN:** And did that come up when

1           you went to court?

2                       **MR. BISSONNETTE:** That's where I was --  
3           that's where they -- the CAS -- suggested I do it off,  
4           because I was charged with unmanageability. And ---

5                       **MR. ENGELMANN:** And you said Mrs. Brunet  
6           made some phone calls about that, in your presence?

7                       **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Mrs. Brunet did  
8           everything. She didn't tell me about Alfred, but she said,  
9           "It's a place I'd rather you didn't go and I'm going to do  
10          everything to try and keep you here on the farm". And she  
11          made about three or four phone calls to the judge, the  
12          court, the justice -- I don't know who she was calling, and  
13          she was pulling for me. And then, the last time I went to  
14          the court, it was suggested by the CAA -- the CAS -- that I  
15          be put in Alfred, to learn discipline.

16                      **MR. ENGELMANN:** And that was a decision that  
17          was made by a judge in a courtroom.

18                      **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yeah. I think it was  
19          Judge Bergeron, if I remember right.

20                      **MR. ENGELMANN:** Was Mrs. Brunet there?

21                      **MR. BISSONNETTE:** No.

22                      **MR. ENGELMANN:** Okay. So who was it that  
23          ended up telling you you were going to Alfred?

24                      **MR. BISSONNETTE:** The judge.

25                      **MR. ENGELMANN:** Okay. And did you go

1 immediately from the courtroom, or did you go back to the  
2 Brunet house?

3 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** I went back to the Brunet  
4 house.

5 **MR. ENGELMANN:** All right. Do you remember  
6 how you ended up getting to Alfred?

7 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** I think it was Dubuc or it  
8 was a worker. I'm not a 100 percent sure who took me  
9 there, but I know the day I went there, I was scared to go  
10 there.

11 **MR. ENGELMANN:** Why were you scared to go  
12 there? Do you remember?

13 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Mrs. Brunet didn't want me  
14 to go there. She -- I told her a lot about myself, but I  
15 never talked to her about the sexual abuse. But she -- I  
16 guess she thought I went through enough. That was the last  
17 place I needed.

18 She told me, "It's not a place for you to  
19 go". She wouldn't tell me why. She said, "I'm going to do  
20 everything to keep you here on the farm". And once the  
21 judge said, you know, "You're going to go to school" -- and  
22 the day I left, I just gave up on everything because -- the  
23 day I left, I cried. I cried so much that I reached a  
24 point, I didn't have a voice.

25 I don't know who the asshole was that drove



1 me; I don't really remember. I think it was --- and all I  
2 heard on the way down there was, "Oh, you're going to love  
3 it there. There's guys your age. There's a lot of sports  
4 and there's hockey and there's baseball and there's  
5 football". And here I'm crying like it was the end of the  
6 world.

7 That was it. He brought me to Alfred.

8 **MR. ENGELMANN:** Sir, there's a report about  
9 the juvenile court. It's Exhibit 438. It's a two- page  
10 document.

11 It appears to have been prepared by Pierre  
12 Dubuc ---

13 **(SHORT PAUSE/CORTE PAUSE)**

14 --- and it gives some background, and I'm  
15 looking at the second page, first paragraph. It refers to:

16 "Mrs. Brunet found him to be quite  
17 cooperative."

18 I'm assuming that doesn't surprise you  
19 seeing that, given the relationship you say you had with  
20 her.

21 It then says on March 5<sup>th</sup> you appeared in  
22 court and it says you were given a chance, might try  
23 another placement:

24 "Placed André on probation with  
25 Children's Aid Society for six

1                                   Months. Requested André to attend  
2                                   school until he became 16."

3                                   And I note in the next paragraph -- I don't  
4 know if you remember that, sir. You did say you went to  
5 court a couple of times.

6                                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** I think I went two or  
7 three times.

8                                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** Yes.

9                                   Then it says:

10                                   "After working intensively with André  
11 for a month and-a-half in the  
12 detention home, we judged him ready  
13 to move him to a new foster home, so  
14 we did on April 3<sup>rd</sup>, on a farm near  
15 Alexandria. However, three days  
16 later the farmer requested we move  
17 André from his home on account of  
18 his disturbance."

19                                   Do you remember that, sir? Being pulled out  
20 of the detention home for three days?

21                                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** I remember the home.

22                                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** Do you remember which home  
23 that is that's being referred to there?

24                                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** The Lamarche in  
25 Alexandria.

1                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** Okay. And is that accurate,  
2 what's written here?

3                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Pardon me?

4                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** Is that accurate? It says:  
5                                "Requested we move André from his  
6                                home on account of his disturbance.  
7                                Did not want to stay on a farm,  
8                                refused to work..."

9                                It has several things that are said there.  
10                   And I'm just asking you if that's in fact accurate or not  
11                   to the best of your knowledge?

12                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** To the best of my  
13                   knowledge, I don't know if I went to that -- Alexandria --  
14                   before the detention home, or if they gave me a chance and  
15                   I went after the detention home. I thought from the  
16                   detention home I went to Alfred.

17                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** All right.

18                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** So I don't think this is  
19                   correct.

20                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** What it says is ---

21                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** But I remember ---

22                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** Yeah?

23                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** --- taken out of there.

24                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** It says that they moved you  
25                   back to the detention home on April 6<sup>th</sup>. And then it seems

1 that you were moved to Alfred on April 16<sup>th</sup>.

2 I guess -- just, what I'm wondering sir, is  
3 if that paragraph -- if you have any recollection of that,  
4 if that's true or not. About three days on a farm,  
5 presumably in early April.

6 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** I remember being on a farm  
7 for three days, but I also remember from the detention home  
8 to Alfred. I don't remember going to a farm and coming  
9 back to the detention home.

10 **MR. ENGELMANN:** All right.

11 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** I'm sorry, but I don't.

12 **MR. ENGELMANN:** Okay.

13 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Mr. Engelmann, we should  
14 be thinking about lunch whenever you ---

15 **MR. ENGELMANN:** Yes, I'm almost there.

16 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Okay.

17 **MR. ENGELMANN:** All right. So you end up  
18 going back to court in any event, and it's suggested -- or,  
19 you're ordered to go to Alfred.

20 **THE COMMISSIONER:** And, Mr. Engelmann, we  
21 should be thinking about lunch, whenever ---

22 **MR. ENGELMANN:** Yes, I will. I'm almost  
23 there.

24 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Okay.

25 **MR. ENGELMANN:** All right. So you end up

1 going back to court in any event, and it's suggested, or  
2 you're ordered to go to Alfred.

3 MR. BISSONNETTE: Yes.

4 MR. ENGELMANN: Despite the concerns Mrs.  
5 Brunet is saying to you, and you've told us about how you  
6 felt about it. You went there for approximately six  
7 months.

8 MR. BISSONNETTE: There was only 6 months to  
9 go before I was 16.

10 MR. ENGELMANN: And I don't want to get into  
11 the details of it, but I understand that you alleged you  
12 were abused at the Alfred Training School.

13 MR. BISSONNETTE: Yes.

14 MR. ENGELMANN: And that was both physical  
15 and sexual.

16 MR. BISSONNETTE: Yes.

17 MR. ENGELMANN: And, sir, at some time after  
18 -- as an adult, I understand that you attempted to report  
19 some physical and/or sexual abuse, to the police.

20 MR. BISSONNETTE: of Alfred.

21 MR. ENGELMANN: Is that correct?

22 MR. BISSONNETTE: Yes.

23 MR. ENGELMANN: And, sir, can you tell us,  
24 and I understand this was in the year, in or around the  
25 year 2000?

1                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes.

2                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** Can you tell us, why after  
3 so many years you decided why you wanted say something  
4 about this? What had happened?

5                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** I got to go to the  
6 washroom. Can we take a break?

7                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** Sure.

8                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** Let's take the lunch  
9 break.

10                  **MR. ENGELMANN:** Sure.

11                  **THE COMMISSIONER:** So we'll come back at  
12 two. Okay. Thank you.

13                  **THE REGISTRAR:** Order; All rise. A l'ordre;  
14 Veuillez vous lever.

15 --- Upon recessing at 12:34 p.m./L'audience est suspendue à  
16 12h34.

17 --- Upon resuming at 2:05 p.m./L'audience est reprise à  
18 14h05

19                  **THE REGISTRAR:** The hearing is now resumed.  
20 Please be seated. Veuillez vous asseoir.

21                  **THE COMMISSIONER:** Ready to go? Ready to  
22 go?

23                  **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes, I am.

24                  **THE COMMISSIONER:** Thank you.

25                  **MR. ENGELMANN:** Good afternoon, Mr.

1 Commissioner.

2 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Mr. Engelmann.

3 **MR. ENGELMANN:** Good afternoon, Mr.

4 Bissonnette. When we left off sir, I believe I was trying  
5 to ask you, or about to ask you about events in your life  
6 in, or around 2000. I know there were some changes in your  
7 life; is that fair?

8 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes.

9 **MR. ENGELMANN:** I understand, for example,  
10 you dealt for the first time, successfully, with a -- with  
11 alcoholism.

12 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes, I did, yes.

13 **MR. ENGELMANN:** And that since then, you've  
14 been free of alcohol in your life.

15 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes, I have.

16 **MR. ENGELMANN:** I also understand that you  
17 started a relationship at, or about, that time.

18 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes, that's true.

19 **MR. ENGELMANN:** And, is it true, sir, that  
20 as a result of these changes in your life, you decided to  
21 talk to the authorities about child sexual abuse.

22 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** That is correct.

23 **MR. ENGELMANN:** And I understand, sir, that  
24 when you first did that, that would have been with the  
25 Ontario Provincial Police in Hawkesbury, Ontario.

1                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** That is true.

2                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** And, sir, when you did that,  
3 did you talk to them about the abuse you've described to us  
4 in the Meunier home, or was that about abuse you suffered  
5 at Alfred?

6                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** It was about Alfred.

7                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** And just about Alfred?

8                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** I don't recall saying  
9 anything about at the Meuniers what when on. I think it  
10 was strictly about Alfred.

11                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** Right. And, sir, I  
12 understand that any abuse that you would have reported  
13 while you were a CAS ward, in other words, the abuse you  
14 talked about involving Larry, you would have only spoken to  
15 police authorities, and in particular, the Ontario  
16 Provincial Police, sometime in 2006.

17                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes, sir, that's true.

18                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** All right.

19                   **(SHORT PAUSE/COURTE PAUSE)**

20                   Did you have any contact -- let's just go  
21 back to Alfred. You were released from there on your 16<sup>th</sup>  
22 birthday?

23                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes, I was.

24                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** Did you have any contact  
25 with the Children's Aid, or Children's Aid officials, after



1           you got out of Alfred?

2                       **MR. BISSONNETTE:** I received a call from the  
3 Children's Aid about a week, a week and a half, after I was  
4 released from Alfred. They offered to pay for an education  
5 for me until I was the age of 18. They were willing to  
6 pay. I don't know if they wanted me to go back in foster  
7 homes, or not, I don't remember. What I remember is they  
8 offered to pay for my education up until the age of 18.  
9 And in a few unkind words I told the CAA where they could  
10 go. My foster days in the Children's Aid were over.

11                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** Okay. So you didn't accept  
12 that offer from them?

13                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** No, I did not.

14                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** And was that your social  
15 worker that had contacted you, or do you remember?

16                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** It's possible; but I'm not  
17 -- I don't really recall if it was him or not.

18                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** They did make that offer,  
19 but you just weren't in a position to say yes to it, at  
20 that point.

21                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** No.

22                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** Sir, I wanted to ask you  
23 some questions about the impact, or effects, of the alleged  
24 abuse you've suffered; also about your views, or your  
25 comments on the institutional response to your allegations.

1 And also ask you for some suggestions, or recommendations  
2 for us, given that we're looking at how institutions  
3 respond to child sexual abuse.

4 And, sir, I understand you've prepared some  
5 form of statement?

6 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes.

7 **MR. ENGELMANN:** Is that correct?

8 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes, I have, but I would  
9 like to say something before I read that?

10 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Yes.

11 **MR. ENGELMANN:** Certainly.

12 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** When you ask me if anybody  
13 called me from the Children's Aid, or when I came out of  
14 Alfred.

15 **MR. ENGELMANN:** Yes.

16 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Maybe ten years after,  
17 during the time I was married, I ran into Mrs. and Mr.  
18 Meunier in a bar. And she came over to me, and I remember  
19 this like yesterday, and she said, "We're so sorry, André,  
20 that we didn't believe you." And I'll never forget that.  
21 And that was the only time I ever seen the Meuniers again.  
22 So I just thought, at least you know that for what it's  
23 worth.

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

25 **MR. ENGELMANN:** And that Mrs. Meunier, who

1 was your foster ---

2 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes, Mr. and Mrs. Meunier  
3 were there at the bar. And I'd say that be back in the mid  
4 '70s.

5 **MR. ENGELMANN:** Okay.

6 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Because I left Alfred in  
7 1964.

8 **THE COMMISSIONER:** So when you left Alfred,  
9 where did you go?

10 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** I went to my mother's.

11 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Okay, right. Okay.

12 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** For two weeks, and then I  
13 ended up at my dad's place.

14 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Okay. Good.

15 **MR. ENGELMANN:** Did you have any other  
16 contact with former foster parents, sir?

17 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** I met Mr. Bourgon 24 years  
18 after I left there. I went looking for him, and I tried to  
19 bring him to AA with me. He had a problem.

20 **MR. ENGELMANN:** I'm sorry?

21 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** He had a problem with  
22 alcohol, by then, and he's deceased since. And I've seen  
23 Mrs. Bourgon 44 years later, which was about three weeks  
24 ago. And I just asked her a few questions. And she told  
25 me when I came back for those two weeks, I was never the

1 same guy. Well, I wasn't the same little guy she left two,  
2 or three months just before.

3 MR. ENGELMANN: Oh, I see. When you came  
4 back to them after the abuse allegations ---

5 MR. BISSONNETTE: Yes.

6 MR. ENGELMANN: --- you've talked to us  
7 about.

8 MR. BISSONNETTE: She said I was full of  
9 anger, sad. She said I looked pathetic. And I forgot to  
10 mention that a while ago.

11 MR. ENGELMANN: Was it good to see her  
12 again?

13 MR. BISSONNETTE: It was. She was happy to  
14 see me again. And they told me they did everything to try  
15 and get me back. In June, they wouldn't tell them where I  
16 was.

17 THE COMMISSIONER: Yes.

18 MR. BISSONNETTE: I could have went there  
19 for the last six months, but it didn't work out that way.

20 MR. ENGELMANN: Mr. Bissonnette, is there  
21 anything else that you want to add before you answer those  
22 questions in the form of your statement?

23 MR. BISSONNETTE: Yes. The day they took me  
24 to Alfred's, I told you earlier I cried so much I lost my  
25 voice. I was put in an infirmary there, and I was given

1 needles and medication, to the point that I couldn't defend  
2 myself and that's when the Christian Brothers came. I was  
3 raped, sodomized, and when I came out of Alfred, anger or  
4 unmanageable can describe me until now. I'm not like that  
5 today but most of my life, that's the way I went on,  
6 couldn't handle authority.

7 **MR. ENGELMANN:** Sir, I wanted to ask you  
8 about the impact that physical and/or sexual abuse has had  
9 on you. The allegations you've spoken about. Did you want  
10 to just answer that orally or did you have something that  
11 you had prepared that ---

12 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** I have something prepared.

13 **MR. ENGELMANN:** Okay.

14 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** And I would like to read  
15 it.

16 **MR. ENGELMANN:** Yes, that's fine.

17 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Thank you.

18 I have been told that I could read a  
19 statement about the impacts that the abuse has had on me  
20 and make recommendations as to how such abuse could be  
21 avoided in the future.

22 While I was experiencing physical and  
23 emotional abuse, I experienced a lot of anxiety, fear and  
24 shame. Whenever I was made to feel afraid, I would wet  
25 myself, which only reinforced my feelings of shame and

1           worthlessness. I couldn't concentrate at school or in  
2           sports and lost interest in life.

3                       The fact the abuse I experienced with my  
4           parents was allowed to continue in my foster homes made me  
5           wonder why I was taken away from my parents and made the  
6           poor treatment I received seem normal.

7                       The sexual abuse I experienced intensified  
8           all of the negative feelings I was already experiencing but  
9           also transformed them into anger and hate. I felt suicidal  
10          at times but was mostly just angry at the world.

11                      When I finally disclosed my abuse to Mrs.  
12          Meunier only to be slapped down and ignored, I was  
13          devastated. I just wanted to die. I completely gave up  
14          hope after that. I was filled with anger and looking for  
15          opportunities to lash out at others. I felt deserted by  
16          the people who were supposed to be helping me. I felt  
17          there was no justice.

18                      I couldn't open up again about the abuse at  
19          the detention home, but Mrs. Brunet's kindness did make me  
20          want to trust her again. However, she wasn't able to  
21          protect me either, and I was sent to Alfred where I was  
22          sexually abused again.

23                      I knew that Mrs. Brunet did not want me to  
24          go there, which made me even more scared. I cried  
25          uncontrollably. I felt lost and hopeless. By the time I

1 got to Alfred, I had no voice, and I was sent to the  
2 infirmary where I was kept sedated and further abused.

3 I felt like I was being tortured. I felt  
4 bitter and filled with hate. I blame CAS for sending me to  
5 Alfred. I was angry to the point of not caring what the  
6 consequences were.

7 When I got out of Alfred, I was determined  
8 that no one was ever going to hurt me again. CAS called me  
9 a few days after I got out offering me more education, but  
10 I swore at them and told them to leave me alone.

11 I turned to alcohol to deal with my shame  
12 and my pain. I never shared my story of abuse with my ex-  
13 wife and only told my children and other family members  
14 after the Inquiry began. I could never be intimate with  
15 anyone. I couldn't keep a job because I couldn't deal with  
16 authority. I could not be a good father to my children. I  
17 had nothing positive in me to give them.

18 I drank for 36 years and for 22 years, I was  
19 in and out of AA. I tried to commit suicide on several  
20 occasions. Eventually, through AA, I was encouraged to try  
21 to deal with my past. I guess I would mumble things about  
22 Alfred and my abusers in Cornwall when I was drunk and said  
23 enough to make people think there was a link between my  
24 past and my drinking.

25 So I reported the Alfred abuse to the police

1 in Hawkesbury, but by then, my abusers were dead and the  
2 Crown was no longer interested in Alfred.

3 After the Inquiry started, I reported the  
4 sexual abuse at the Meuniers to the police as well, but  
5 again I was told my abuser was dead.

6 So I still feel like I have been denied  
7 justice. This could have been prevented. Foster homes  
8 should have been evaluated more carefully. References  
9 should have been checked more thoroughly. For example,  
10 many of the Lamarches' references were their family members  
11 or friends and not objective. Objective references are  
12 particularly important because foster parents receive money  
13 for taking foster children.

14 On the other hand, negative reports about  
15 the Bourgons were too quickly believed.

16 The Lalonde house was not investigated  
17 enough and it was only after I left there that CAS  
18 determined Mr. Lalonde was unstable. He was a mental  
19 patient from Brockville.

20 CAS should also have conducted surprise  
21 visits to homes and should have interviewed us separately  
22 from our foster parents. That would have helped a lot at  
23 the Lamarches. Children should also be believed when they  
24 disclose abuse, and reports of physical and emotional abuse  
25 should be taken as seriously as reports of sexual abuse.



1 It should not take corroboration from an adult before a  
2 child's report of abuse is believed and acted upon.

3 All allegations of abuse should be  
4 accurately recorded by CAS workers in their files. Foster  
5 parents and CAS workers should also be better trained in  
6 recognizing signs of abuse.

7 From the reports I've seen, I think my  
8 worker minimizes the signs of aggressive, sexual behaviour  
9 from Larry and concerns expressed by the Meuniers even  
10 before I was placed there. I should've never had been put  
11 in the same room with him or in that home.

12 Children who have been abused should be  
13 given counselling, and their unmanageable behaviour should  
14 be understood and treated as the effect of the abuse not as  
15 a behaviour that should be punished.

16 In my case, if I had been believed when I  
17 reported Larry Hawn's behaviour and given counselling, I  
18 might not have become so unmanageable. I might not have  
19 run away from the school, then charged and then sent to  
20 detention. Once in detention, however, I should have been  
21 allowed to stay there instead of going to Alfred, which  
22 they knew was not going to give me what I needed then.

23 Alternatively, I should have been sent back  
24 to the Bourgons who, I am told, were looking for me and who  
25 visited me in Alfred.

1                   On a more positive note, I have appreciated  
2                   and benefited a lot from this Inquiry and would like to  
3                   thank everyone for their hard work. I wish there had been  
4                   an inquiry to Alfred, but I'm glad that many of the same  
5                   institutions are being held to account in this process. I  
6                   am hopeful that future foster kids won't have to go through  
7                   what I did. And I want to thank you, Mr. Commissioner.

8                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** Thank you very much.  
9                   Thank you.

10                  All right. So now, Mr. Engelmann is -- have  
11                  you finished asking?

12                  **MR. ENGELMANN:** I have.

13                  **THE COMMISSIONER:** All right. So now, there  
14                  will be other folks who are going to ask you some  
15                  questions, and we'll do the same as we go. They'll  
16                  introduce themselves and tell you which institution they  
17                  represent. All right?

18                  **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Thank you sir.

19                  **THE COMMISSIONER:** Thank you.

20                  Mr. Manson?

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

22                  **MANSON:**

23                  **MR. MANSON:** My name is Allan Manson, and  
24                  I'm the lawyer for the Citizens for Community Renewal which  
25                  is a group of Cornwall citizens who are committed to the

1 reform of institutions. I just want to start by thanking  
2 you for your testimony today. It was a very compelling  
3 experience for me to listen to you.

4 I am going to be referring briefly to  
5 Exhibits 437 and 438.

6 Mr. Bissonnette, earlier this morning, you  
7 referred to a Mr. Robillard who was involved with the  
8 school in Moose Creek. Is that correct?

9 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes, that's correct.

10 **MR. MANSON:** Do you remember him or did his  
11 name come back to you when you read the documents?

12 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** I remember Lady Superior  
13 and when I went to see Mrs. Bourgon about three-four weeks  
14 ago, she told me that there was a Mr. Robillard on the  
15 school board there.

16 **MR. MANSON:** And did you have any dealings  
17 with -- I'm going back to the time when you were expelled  
18 from school in Moose Creek and you told us that Mr. Bourgon  
19 -- Raymond Bourgon went back to the school and stood up for  
20 you.

21 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes.

22 **MR. MANSON:** At that time, did you have any  
23 dealings with Mr. Robillard?

24 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** I, personally, no.

25 **MR. MANSON:** I just wanted to point out, Mr.

1 Bissonnette, if we look at Exhibit 437 at page 9 ---

2 MR. BISSONNETTE: Yes.

3 MR. MANSON: Can we get page 9 up, please?

4 THE COMMISSIONER: Four-thirty-seven (437)?

5 MR. MANSON: Yes.

6 THE COMMISSIONER: Page 9, Madam Clerk.

7 (SHORT PAUSE/COURTE PAUSE)

8 MR. MANSON: We just have to wait for it to  
9 come up, Mr. Bissonnette.

10 MR. BISSONNETTE: That's okay.

11 MR. MANSON: Near the bottom of the page.

12 THE COMMISSIONER: Page 9. Is it -- it's  
13 taking its sweet time. Faster we go, the longer it takes,  
14 or when I used to -- I was going to say when I used to work  
15 but -- when I used to work in the mines they'd say, "Hurry  
16 up and wait". So that's what we're doing, is we're waiting  
17 for the computer to get ready.

18 MR. MANSON: Well, I'll read it to you, Mr.  
19 Bissonnette. Do you have a hard copy in front of you?

20 THE COMMISSIONER: Yes, he does.

21 MR. BISSONNETTE: Yes, I do.

22 MR. MANSON: And can we go to the bottom of  
23 page 9?

24 MR. BISSONNETTE: Yes.

25 MR. MANSON: I want to suggest that Mr.

1 Robillard was not only secretary to the school board but he  
2 was a confidential informant for the CAS. This CAS  
3 document at the bottom, it says:

4 "As the public notary, Mr. Robillard  
5 said he was aware of Mr. Bourgon's many  
6 debts. He also suggested that Mr.  
7 Bourgon was known to have stolen bags  
8 of grain from neighbours to practice  
9 very poor work habits and to be  
10 interested in Emile and André only  
11 insofar as they could do him work on  
12 the farm."

13 Is that true do you think?

14 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** No, that's not true.

15 **MR. MANSON:** His interest in you and Emile  
16 was not simply as cheap labour.

17 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** No, because my brother  
18 moved down the road.

19 **MR. MANSON:** But, with respect to yourself,  
20 you spoke about how well you got along with Mr. Bourgon.

21 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes and when I worked  
22 there on the farm ---

23 **MR. MANSON:** Yes.

24 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** --- milked the cows and  
25 everything, it was a family thing.

1                   **MR. MANSON:** You didn't think he was taking  
2 advantage of you?

3                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** No.

4                   **MR. MANSON:** Obviously Mr. Robillard wasn't  
5 a good friend of Mr. Bourgon's; he didn't think very highly  
6 of him.

7                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** No, he didn't.

8                   **MR. MANSON:** Can we go to the same period of  
9 time, and I want to talk about your school experience. If  
10 we're talking 1963 to '64, I understand that you were  
11 expelled from three schools in one year. Is that correct?

12                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** I don't know if it was  
13 within one year but I have been expelled from three  
14 schools, yes.

15                   **MR. MANSON:** And the reason for your  
16 expulsions were things like fighting, being impertinent and  
17 swearing.

18                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes.

19                   **MR. MANSON:** Nothing more vicious than that?

20                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** No.

21                   **MR. MANSON:** And then, eventually, the  
22 Children's Aid Society brought an application in court  
23 charging you with unmanageability; correct?

24                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Eventually, yes.

25                   **MR. MANSON:** And if we could go back to

1 Exhibit 437, at page 17, please?

2 THE COMMISSIONER: So it's the last page in  
3 that document?

4 MR. MANSON: Yes. In the paragraph that  
5 starts, "In September '63 ..." part way down that  
6 paragraph.

7 MR. BISSONNETTE: What page, sir?

8 MR. MANSON: Seventeen (17) Mr. Bissonnette.

9 THE COMMISSIONER: The last one.

10 MR. BISSONNETTE: Yes.

11 MR. MANSON: It says:

12 "Our agency had to lay a charge of  
13 unmanageability against the boy ..."

14 -- meaning yourself,

15 "... and placed him in a detention home.

16 The reasons were that the boy had  
17 missed school for at least one week and  
18 refused to return to school and to the  
19 foster home."

20 Were those the reasons that were explained to you for the  
21 charge of unmanageability?

22 MR. BISSONNETTE: I remember not going to  
23 school for a week. I don't really remember if I went back  
24 to Lalonde or if I was taken once I got caught playing  
25 hooky. I wasn't sure -- I'm not sure.

1                   **MR. MANSON:** But at this period of time, you  
2 told us that you were doing quite well in the detention  
3 home with Mrs. Brunet.

4                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** I came to that point with  
5 her. I was there for about two months, two-and-a-half  
6 months.

7                   **MR. MANSON:** And this would be the same time  
8 that you were going back and forth to court?

9                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes.

10                   **MR. MANSON:** And if we could just turn to  
11 page 15 of Exhibit 437, please? Halfway down that big --  
12 wow -- I used to have eyes that could read that. I also  
13 used to be six-foot-four and blond; was a long time ago.

14                                   **( LAUGHTER/RIRES )**

15                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** So, do you want it up  
16 some more?

17                   **MR. MANSON:** No, that's fine.

18                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** Okay.

19                   **MR. MANSON:** I'm just going to read to you  
20 from this document about the time when you were in the  
21 detention home. And I'm starting with the sentence, on the  
22 right-hand side, "Of course ...":

23                                   "Of course, we had to put a stop to his  
24 behaviour and we had no other choice  
25 than to place him in the detention



1 home. This is what I mean here. He  
2 has changed quite a bit in the last  
3 month he has been in the DH. I don't  
4 know how long this will last but I feel  
5 that the boy has improved tremendously  
6 in this line. He has had a chance to  
7 think like he said and he understands  
8 himself better. He understands now  
9 that people are not trying to be  
10 against him but to help him, especially  
11 foster parents. He understands the  
12 same things as myself too. He  
13 understands if he follows the law and  
14 rules whether it's traffic laws or even  
15 that of listening to foster parents,  
16 everything is fine and people like him  
17 then."

18 I want to suggest to you, Mr. Bissonnette,  
19 that this positive change was a result of your interaction  
20 with Mrs. Brunet at the detention home.

21 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes, I had a very good  
22 relationship with her.

23 **MR. MANSON:** But this is the same time that  
24 you're in front of the courts, being charged with  
25 unmanageability. Is that correct?

1                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** I suppose it was, yes.

2                   **MR. MANSON:** Because, you were speaking to  
3 Mrs. Brunet about the court proceedings and wanting to  
4 avoid going to Alfred. Is that correct?

5                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** That's correct.

6                   **MR. MANSON:** Did any adults, anyone in  
7 authority, ever threaten you with going to Alfred? Did  
8 anybody ever say, "If you don't shape up, you'll end up in  
9 Alfred?"

10                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** I don't recall if I heard  
11 that.

12                   **MR. MANSON:** Did anyone from the CAS ever  
13 talk to you about being sent to Alfred?

14                               Do you remember? I know it's a long time  
15 ago, but can you recall?

16                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** I don't recall.

17                   **MR. MANSON:** Can we go back to this page 15  
18 that we were looking at a minute ago? Here you've got the  
19 CAS worker -- see, it's about a quarter of the way up, from  
20 the bottom -- saying:

21                               "He understands that he's the cause of  
22 his being placed in the DH now, and for  
23 awhile he was quite scared of being  
24 moved to training school."

25                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** So, someone must have said

1 something.

2 MR. MANSON: But you can't recall a threat  
3 or anything of that sort?

4 MR. BISSONNETTE: I remember Mrs. Brunet --  
5 which I also stated awhile ago -- that she told me, the  
6 last place she'd like to see me go to would be Alfred. So  
7 if I heard anything, it would be, probably, from her.

8 MR. MANSON: And then, shortly afterwards,  
9 you ended up in Alfred for six months.

10 MR. BISSONNETTE: Yeah.

11 MR. MANSON: And I listened to you very  
12 carefully when you were explaining that, it's fair to say  
13 that that was hell for you?

14 MR. BISSONNETTE: In Alfred, yes.

15 MR. MANSON: Thank you, Mr. Bissonnette.

16 MR. BISSONNETTE: You're welcome.

17 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you. Mr. Lee?

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

19 MR. LEE: Good afternoon, Mr. Bissonnette.  
20 My name is Dallas Lee, I'm counsel for a party at the  
21 Inquiry called The Victims Group.

22 MR. BISSONNETTE: Yes.

23 MR. LEE: I represent about 50 some victims  
24 of sexual abuse, here. I just have a few questions for  
25 you.

1 I'd like to start, I think, with your  
2 disclosure of the sexual abuse by Larry Hawn to your CAS  
3 worker, Pierre Dubuc. You told us that you ran away from  
4 the Meunier home to your mother's house, is that correct?

5 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes, that's correct.

6 **MR. LEE:** And you disclosed the abuse to  
7 your mother?

8 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes.

9 **MR. LEE:** And to her partner at the time?

10 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes.

11 **MR. LEE:** And that -- I believe you  
12 testified a couple of days later, Mr. Dubuc came by the  
13 house. Is that correct?

14 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** I don't know; it could  
15 have been a day, two days.

16 **MR. LEE:** And you told us that you told him  
17 of the sexual abuse as well, is that correct?

18 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes, I did.

19 **MR. LEE:** I think what you told us was that  
20 you told him you were living with a molester, is that  
21 correct?

22 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** I don't remember the exact  
23 words, but ---

24 **MR. LEE:** Well, that's a better question.  
25 Do you remember exactly what you ---

1                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** I was living with a  
2 molester ---

3                   **MR. LEE:** Do you remember exactly what you  
4 told Mr. Dubuc?

5                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** I was living with a  
6 molester. I was being abused.

7                   **MR. LEE:** And what was Mr. Dubuc's reaction  
8 to that?

9                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** There wasn't any.

10                  **MR. LEE:** Sorry, can you repeat that?

11                  **THE COMMISSIONER:** There wasn't any.

12                  **MR. LEE:** Thank you. Did he ---

13                  **MR. BISSONNETTE:** For five days, I was there  
14 at my mother's, I didn't see him. I thought he was taking  
15 care of it, whatever. I don't know why. I didn't hear  
16 nothing until this Inquiry about it.

17                  **MR. LEE:** As best as you can, try to think  
18 back to the moment when you say to him, "I'm living with a  
19 molester, I'm being abused." Does he ask you any  
20 questions?

21                  **MR. BISSONNETTE:** I told him I was being  
22 abused by an f\*\*\* molester. That Larry Hawn was the  
23 molester, and I was being abused.

24                  **MR. LEE:** So you recall telling him who was  
25 abusing you.

1                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Pardon me?

2                   **MR. LEE:** You recall telling him who was  
3                   abusing you?

4                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** I didn't hear.

5                   **MR. LEE:** Do you recall telling Mr. Dubuc  
6                   the name "Larry Hawn".

7                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Well, I knew him as Larry  
8                   Hawn.

9                   **MR. LEE:** My only question is -- I'm trying  
10                  to figure out what Mr. Dubuc did. Did he question you?  
11                  Did he interview you? Did he sit down and try to get the  
12                  story straight?

13                  **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Nothing was done. Nothing  
14                  was done.

15                  **THE COMMISSIONER:** No -- I -- Monsieur  
16                  Bissonnette, I understand -- what we're just trying to see  
17                  is, we're trying to look back. You're in the home with  
18                  your mom, right?

19                  **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Okay.

20                  **THE COMMISSIONER:** In walks Mr. Dubuc.  
21                  Dubuc? Right? You tell him that this fellow is abusing  
22                  you. What did he say to you?

23                  **MR. BISSONNETTE:** He told me he was going to  
24                  look into it.

25                  **THE COMMISSIONER:** Okay, did he say anything

1 else?

2 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** No, because there was  
3 words said -- it was in my mother's kitchen ---

4 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Yes.

5 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** --- and we were all there,  
6 and my mother was also telling him that she didn't want me  
7 to go back there, to this molester.

8 **THE COMMISSIONER:** So, but ---

9 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** He might have said he was  
10 going to look into it; I don't recall.

11 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Okay, but he -- wait.

12 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** The report was made.

13 **THE COMMISSIONER:** He didn't slap you?

14 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Mr. ---

15 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Mr. Dubuc.

16 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** No, no.

17 **THE COMMISSIONER:** No, no.

18 Did he say "I don't believe you"?

19 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** He didn't say.

20 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Did he say, "I believe  
21 you"?

22 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** I think he said that, "I  
23 was going to look into it."

24 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Okay.

25 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Okay.

1                   **MR. LEE:** What did you think was going to  
2 happen when Mr. Dubuc left the house?

3                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** I was hoping maybe charges  
4 would have been laid, or the perpetrator would have been  
5 taken out of the home if I would have had to go back. But  
6 I didn't want to go back.

7                   I didn't know what he was going to do, I'm  
8 sorry.

9                   **MR. LEE:** Fair enough.

10                   I'd like to shift focus, for a minute.  
11 You've told us -- I'm thinking back to everything you've  
12 told us today; about being involved with the CAS in the  
13 first place; and you've told us that you moved a number of  
14 times; you were expelled from school. You told us that you  
15 were getting into fights with your brother, often. Things  
16 along those lines.

17                   Would you agree with me that, through that  
18 part of your childhood, before the sexual abuse by Larry  
19 Hawn, you were having a lot of problems at various times.

20                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** I was having some  
21 problems, but just before I left the Bourgons ---

22                   **MR. LEE:** M'hm.

23                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** --- I escalated -- I  
24 started doing well, again.

25                   **MR. LEE:** Because there were times, during



1 your childhood, where you got into a positive situation.  
2 You got into a home that you liked, you got in somewhere  
3 where you felt like you were respected, and you started  
4 doing well.

5 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes.

6 **MR. LEE:** Is that correct? And then, for  
7 various reasons, you had to leave that home. And you  
8 weren't doing so well.

9 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes.

10 **MR. LEE:** Is that correct? That's your  
11 recollection of how things went?

12 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** When I went to Lafortune's  
13 -- Mrs Lafortune, the receiving home ---

14 **MR. LEE:** Yes.

15 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** I was always well treated,  
16 there. And she had no problems with me. When I went to  
17 the Bourgon, I had no problems there except with my brother  
18 for fighting -- we got expelled. I think we were being  
19 discriminated.

20 **MR. LEE:** Right and you've told us about  
21 that.

22 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** But when I went back to  
23 school for six months, I excelled in school. I started  
24 being obedient, and I started doing well in school. Then,  
25 when I got to the Meuniers, when that shit happened there;

1 it seemed like it went downhill from there.

2 MR. LEE: In the times that you were not --  
3 that you were having problems, and you -- when you were in  
4 homes that you weren't doing well in. Do you remember ever  
5 being brought to see doctors or counsellors or  
6 professionals at any point?

7 MR. BISSONNETTE: I don't remember, but  
8 according to what I reviewed, they said I had a test or  
9 something, a psychologist or -- I don't know. I read  
10 something about it, but I didn't pay no mind to it. But  
11 it's possible.

12 MR. LEE: I can tell you there is reference  
13 to a psychiatric assessment you would have had on January  
14 30<sup>th</sup>, 1964. So that's a few months after you disclosed the  
15 abuse by Larry Hawn.

16 MR. BISSONNETTE: Yeah.

17 MR. LEE: Let's concentrate on the time  
18 before that.

19 MR. BISSONNETTE: Okay.

20 MR. LEE: Do you remember -- let's break it  
21 down. Do you remember going to the family doctor for  
22 medical problems?

23 Do you remember being seen by just a regular  
24 family doctor like most kids would be?

25 MR. BISSONNETTE: I remember getting my

1           tonsils out; I remember getting by a -- kicked by a cow in  
2           the privates -- I was ruptured.

3                   **MR. LEE:** So you got some -- like any kid,  
4           you got hurt and you went to the doctor; is that right?

5                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yeah.

6                   **MR. LEE:** Do you remember discussing how you  
7           were doing with these doctors? Kind of going for  
8           psychological treatment or counselling or what you'd  
9           probably call that now. Do you remember any of that?

10                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** No, I don't.

11                   **MR. LEE:** Do you remember going -- set the  
12           family doctor aside, do you remember going to people who  
13           were specifically identified to you as counsellors?

14                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** No, I don't remember.

15                   **MR. LEE:** Or psychiatrists or psychologists  
16           or anything like that?

17                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** No.

18                   **MR. LEE:** When you look back on it, can you  
19           think of any efforts that were made by the Children's Aid  
20           Society to try to figure out what was going on with you --  
21           why you were having trouble in some of these homes?

22                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Could you ask that again  
23           please?

24                   **MR. LEE:** Look -- think back on your  
25           childhood, and there are periods of time -- you've agreed

1 with me -- that you were having trouble. That things were  
2 not going well. You were in a home that wasn't doing well;  
3 you weren't doing well at school. You were fighting, there  
4 were other things going on. Do ever remember the CAS  
5 intervening somehow, to try to figure out what was going on  
6 with you? Why you had these issues?

7 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** It seemed when I was going  
8 through a rough time, that's when I didn't do well. But it  
9 seemed when things were doing -- were going well -- I was  
10 doing okay. That's the best thing I can say to that.

11 **MR. LEE:** You told us a few minutes ago  
12 about -- to change focuses again -- you told us a few  
13 minutes ago about running into Mrs. Meunier in a bar in the  
14 mid-1970s and that she came up to you and she apologized  
15 for not having believed you. Is that right?

16 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes.

17 **MR. LEE:** My understanding is you told her  
18 in the 1960s what was happening to you and she slapped you  
19 and she yelled to you and told you to leave it and didn't  
20 believe you. Is that correct?

21 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes.

22 **MR. LEE:** In the 1970s, she apologized for  
23 that and said, "I'm sorry, I didn't believe you".

24 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes.

25 **MR. LEE:** Did she ever explain what had

1           happened in that time period to change her mind?

2                       **MR. BISSONNETTE:** No, because when she said  
3           to me, "I'm so sorry, André, for not believing you about  
4           Larry", to my dying day, this is the words she said. I  
5           told her where she could go. It was too late.

6                       **MR. LEE:** So you didn't have ---

7                       **MR. BISSONNETTE:** And that was the last time  
8           I'd seen her.

9                       **MR. LEE:** So you didn't have a conversation  
10          with her?

11                      **MR. BISSONNETTE:** No. There was no ---

12                      **MR. LEE:** You didn't ask her ---

13                      **MR. BISSONNETTE:** --- I didn't want one.

14                      **MR. LEE:** You didn't ask you about what  
15          information she had or anything like that?

16                      **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yeah.

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

18                      **MR. BISSONNETTE:** No.

19                      **MR. LEE:** Okay.

20                      **MR. BISSONNETTE:** I just assumed it was  
21          whatever.

22                      **MR. LEE:** You mentioned just a few minutes  
23          ago this afternoon, since the lunch break, that you blame  
24          the Children's Aid Society for sending you to Alfred. In  
25          what sense? What do you mean by that?

1                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** For sending?

2                   **MR. LEE:** You said that you blame the  
3 Children's Aid Society for sending you to training school  
4 at Alfred. Why do you say that?

5                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** I say that because when I  
6 was being molested at the Meunier's, something should have  
7 been done. That's why I should have got -- I don't know  
8 what the Children's Aid had to do, but all I know is what  
9 it did to me, and I needed some kind of psychological help.  
10 I never got it. It seems it was downhill from there. I  
11 became unmanageable. I felt betrayed by the Children's  
12 Aid. I'm going to blame the Children's Aid because I was  
13 in the Children's Aid.

14                   **MR. LEE:** You and I discussed a couple of  
15 minutes ago the fact that you were sent for psychological  
16 testing in January of 1964 with a psychologist named Dr.  
17 Isabelle. Do you remember that?

18                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** No, I don't recall that.

19                   **MR. LEE:** You don't recall anything about  
20 it?

21                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** No.

22                   **MR. LEE:** Mr. Bissonnette, those are my  
23 questions for you. I want to, like Mr. Manson, thank you  
24 very much for coming here. Your testimony is, I think, in  
25 the end going to be very, very helpful to this Commission.

1                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Thank you, sir.

2                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** Thank you.

3                   Mr. Chisholm, we'll keep you for last.

4                   **MR. CHISHOLM:** Please, sir, thank you.

5                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** Thank you. Mr. Rose, any  
6                   questions?

7                   **MR. ROSE:** Mr. Bissonnette, my name is David  
8                   Rose. I act for the Ministry of Community Safety and  
9                   Correctional Services. I have no questions for you. Thank  
10                  you for coming here today.

11                  **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Thank you.

12                  **THE COMMISSIONER:** Thank you. Mr. Kloeze.

13                  **MR. KLOEZE:** Mr. Commissioner, I have no  
14                  questions. Thank you.

15                  **THE COMMISSIONER:** Thank you. Mr. Crane.

16                  **MR. CRANE:** Mr. Commissioner, I, too, have  
17                  no questions.

18                  **THE COMMISSIONER:** Thank you. Anyone for --  
19                  Ms. Costom, sorry.

20                  **MS. COSTOM:** Good afternoon, Mr.  
21                  Bissonnette. I am one of the lawyers for the Ontario  
22                  Provincial Police. I have no questions for you and I'd  
23                  like to congratulate you on your testimony and on your  
24                  strength in coming forward, and hope that you continue in  
25                  your recovery.

1                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Thank you very much.

2                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** Thank you. OPP is gone  
3 for the day? Two boards are done. Mr. Chisholm.

4                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Could I take a quick  
5 break?

6                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** Sure, we can. Will 10  
7 minutes -- what time is it? Let's take the afternoon  
8 break. So we'll take 15 minutes.

9                   **THE REGISTRAR:** Order. All rise.

10                   À l'ordre. Veuillez vous lever.

11 --- Upon recessing at 2:47 p.m./

12                   L'audience est suspendue à 14h47

13 --- Upon resuming at 3:07 p.m./

14                   L'audience est reprise à 15h07

15                   **THE REGISTRAR:** The hearing is now resumed.

16 Please be seated. Veuillez vous asseoir.

17                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** Thank you.

18                   Mr. Chisholm, you have some questions of  
19 this witness?

20                   **MR. CHISHOLM:** Thank you, sir.

21                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** Thank you.

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

23 **CHISHOLM:**

24                   **MR. CHISHOLM:** Maybe I don't, sir.

25                   **(LAUGHTER / RIRES)**



1                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** Tread carefully, sir.

2                   **MR. CHISHOLM:** I shall.

3                   Mr. Bissonnette, my name is Peter Chisholm.  
4 I am counsel for the Children's Aid Society in the United  
5 Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry.

6                   I would like to first of all thank you for  
7 coming here today and sharing your story with us and, in  
8 particular, for giving us the recommendations that you've  
9 given to us. I'll let you know that my client appreciates  
10 whenever it does receive such recommendations and you may  
11 not know, but some of the recommendations that you've  
12 already suggested have been put in place, such as private  
13 visits and such.

14                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Thank you.

15                   **MR. CHISHOLM:** You told us earlier today,  
16 sir, that you came into CAS care, the Children's Aid  
17 Society's care, when you were just shy of your 11<sup>th</sup>  
18 birthday. Is that right?

19                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** That's correct.

20                   **MR. CHISHOLM:** That would have been over 47  
21 years ago. Is that right?

22                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** I believe so.

23                   **MR. CHISHOLM:** Do you have a recollection,  
24 sir, today of when you first came into the care of the  
25 Children's Aid Society?

1                   MR. BISSONNETTE: Yes, I do.

2                   MR. CHISHOLM: You do. The Lamarche -- the  
3 first Lamarche foster home that you were in was in  
4 Northfield Station. Is that right?

5                   MR. BISSONNETTE: That's correct.

6                   MR. CHISHOLM: That would be east of  
7 Bonville?

8                   MR. BISSONNETTE: That's correct.

9                   MR. CHISHOLM: About half-a-mile  
10 east. Is that fair to say?

11                   MR. BISSONNETTE: From the house to Highway  
12 38?

13                   MR. CHISHOLM: Highway 138?

14                   MR. BISSONNETTE: Yes.

15                   MR. CHISHOLM: Yes?

16                   MR. BISSONNETTE: Yes, it's a mile.

17                   MR. CHISHOLM: A mile. Okay, so you were  
18 living about a mile east ---

19                   MR. BISSONNETTE: Yeah.

20                   MR. CHISHOLM: --- of the 138, at the  
21 intersection of 138 and Bonville?

22                   MR. BISSONNETTE: That's correct.

23                   MR. CHISHOLM: Okay. You told us about, I  
24 believe, Ms. Lamarche's daughter and I wasn't sure, was it  
25 Charmaine or Charlene that you said today?

1 MR. BISSONNETTE: I think it was Charmaine.

2 MR. CHISHOLM: Charmaine?

3 MR. BISSONNETTE: Yes.

4 MR. CHISHOLM: And she was a daughter of Mr.  
5 Lionel and Ms. Noella Lamarche. Is that right?

6 MR. BISSONNETTE: That's correct.

7 MR. CHISHOLM: That was the only natural  
8 child that the Lamarche's had to your knowledge, that was  
9 living there?

10 MR. BISSONNETTE: At that time, yes.

11 MR. CHISHOLM: And you told us of another  
12 child that was in foster care that was living there. Is  
13 that right? A female?

14 MR. BISSONNETTE: Yes.

15 MR. CHISHOLM: Cheryl, is that her name?

16 MR. BISSONNETTE: Cheryl, I don't know her  
17 last name.

18 MR. CHISHOLM: And you would have stayed at  
19 the Lamarche family home for almost two years. Is that  
20 right?

21 MR. BISSONNETTE: Approximately two years,  
22 yes.

23 MR. CHISHOLM: Your sister, Marie, was with  
24 you part of the time that you were there. Is that right?

25 MR. BISSONNETTE: At the Lamarche's home?

1 MR. CHISHOLM: Yes?

2 MR. BISSONNETTE: Yes, all four of us were  
3 there.

4 MR. CHISHOLM: Do you know how long Marie  
5 stayed at the Lamarche home?

6 MR. BISSONNETTE: I don't recall, sir.

7 MR. CHISHOLM: Marie -- one of your sisters  
8 is here today. Is that right?

9 MR. BISSONNETTE: Two of them.

10 MR. CHISHOLM: Is Marie here today?

11 MR. BISSONNETTE: Yes.

12 MR. CHISHOLM: She is. Does she live in  
13 Cornwall?

14 MR. BISSONNETTE: Yes, she does.

15 MR. CHISHOLM: Her surname would be?

16 MR. BISSONNETTE: Walker.

17 MR. CHISHOLM: Walker?

18 MR. BISSONNETTE: Yes.

19 MR. CHISHOLM: When you attended the -- when  
20 you lived at the Lamarche foster home, was it the Bonville  
21 Public School that you would have attended? What school  
22 was it that you were attending?

23 MR. BISSONNETTE: I think there's only one  
24 there down on that road.

25 MR. CHISHOLM: But it was in Bonville?

1                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** It was in Bonneville, a  
2 public school.

3                   **MR. CHISHOLM:** There's a public school?

4                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes.

5                   **MR. CHISHOLM:** And you told us of some  
6 beatings that took place in that home, in the Lamarche  
7 home?

8                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes, that's correct.

9                   **MR. CHISHOLM:** Can you tell us the frequency  
10 of these beatings? Were they happening once a year, once a  
11 week? How often? Do you recall?

12                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** I can't put really a  
13 timeframe on it, but it was pretty frequent, more or less  
14 trying to keep us in line or pushing us to work hard. If  
15 we said no, it was bad news.

16                   **MR. CHISHOLM:** Now, you told us about some  
17 bruises that you received as a result of a beating at the  
18 Lamarche family home, on your leg?

19                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes.

20                   **MR. CHISHOLM:** Is that right?

21                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes.

22                   **MR. CHISHOLM:** Were there any other injuries  
23 that you ever received?

24                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** When I fell off the barn.

25                   **MR. CHISHOLM:** Yes, okay. In terms ---

1                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** You're talking about  
2                   physical abuse?

3                   **MR. CHISHOLM:** In terms of injuries as a  
4                   result of a beating?

5                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** My leg, my brother's back,  
6                   he got some scars.

7                   **MR. CHISHOLM:** Your brother?

8                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Emile.

9                   **MR. CHISHOLM:** Emile. Is he still in this  
10                  area?

11                  **MR. BISSONNETTE:** He's been in a wheel chair  
12                  for 30 years. He had an aneurysm. His long term memory is  
13                  very good.

14                  **MR. CHISHOLM:** He lives in Cornwall?

15                  **MR. BISSONNETTE:** He's in Ottawa.

16                  **MR. CHISHOLM:** In Ottawa.

17                  **MR. BISSONNETTE:** In a nursing home.

18                               **(SHORT PAUSE/COURTE PAUSE)**

19                  **MR. CHISHOLM:** Apart from the bruises that  
20                  you described, did you have any other injuries as a result  
21                  of beatings?

22                  **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Not that I remember.

23                  **MR. CHISHOLM:** And with respect to Emile,  
24                  you told about the scars on his back arising from being  
25                  whipped. Did I understand your evidence ---

1 MR. BISSONNETTE: Yes.

2 MR. CHISHOLM: --- correctly? And being  
3 whipped by whom?

4 MR. BISSONNETTE: By Mr. Lamarche.

5 MR. CHISHOLM: Mr.? And you've seen the  
6 scars on this -- on Emile's back?

7 MR. BISSONNETTE: He's got a scar there  
8 about six inches. He did this only once, by the way. Mr.  
9 Lamarche.

10 MR. CHISHOLM: It was just one beating with  
11 the whip?

12 MR. BISSONNETTE: With the whip, yes;  
13 weeping willows.

14 MR. CHISHOLM: And you've seen that scar  
15 recently? How long -- how long ago was the last time that  
16 you've seen the scar?

17 MR. BISSONNETTE: Well I'm a power of  
18 attorney for my brother, Emile.

19 MR. CHISHOLM: Yes.

20 MR. BISSONNETTE: I've been looking after  
21 him for the last 30 years, and I went to see him last week.  
22 And if you look on his back you can still see the mark  
23 there.

24 MR. CHISHOLM: The one whipping of Emile,  
25 were you present? Did you see that take place?

1                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** We both got it, I just  
2                   didn't get marked.

3                   **MR. CHISHOLM:** So you were whipped as well?

4                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes. Yes.

5                   **MR. CHISHOLM:** But, if I understood, you  
6                   didn't tell that to Mr. Engelmann this morning did you?  
7                   The whipping? Your whipping?

8                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** We didn't talk about that  
9                   this morning, no.

10                  **MR. CHISHOLM:** I just wanted to make sure  
11                  that I didn't miss it.

12                  And with respect to Cecile's -- you  
13                  mentioned Cecile was -- there was an attempt made by Mr.  
14                  Lamarche to have sex with your sister, Cecile. Is that  
15                  right?

16                  **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Cecile -- yes, that is  
17                  correct.

18                  **MR. CHISHOLM:** I understood the evidence?  
19                  And you didn't see that, but your sister, Cecile, told you  
20                  about it?

21                  **MR. BISSONNETTE:** That's correct.

22                  **MR. CHISHOLM:** Can you tell us when it was  
23                  that she told you for the first time of that incident?

24                  **MR. BISSONNETTE:** I think, it would probably  
25                  be sometime after the year 2000, when I first went to the



1 Hawkesbury Police with my story. So it probably would be  
2 some time since 2000.

3 MR. CHISHOLM: Since 2000. Did I -- did you  
4 make reference earlier today to she telling you this about  
5 some 20 years ago, or did I misunderstand your evidence?

6 MR. BISSONNETTE: I didn't understand the  
7 question, sorry.

8 MR. CHISHOLM: This morning.

9 MR. BISSONNETTE: Yes.

10 MR. CHISHOLM: Did you make reference to  
11 first hearing this from -- about this from Cecile about  
12 some 20 years ago.

13 MR. BISSONNETTE: Yes, I did.

14 MR. CHISHOLM: So that would be well before  
15 2000, is that right?

16 MR. BISSONNETTE: You mean did I bring it up  
17 before today?

18 MR. CHISHOLM: When did your sister, Cecile,  
19 first tell you about this incident with Mr. Lamarche?

20 MR. BISSONNETTE: It was years ago, I can't  
21 really tell you what specific time. It was years ago.  
22 Cecile was very quiet about talking about stuff like that.

23 MR. CHISHOLM: Sir, do you recall, while you  
24 were in the care of the CAS that you would be given medical  
25 exams by doctors, regular medical exams?

1 MR. BISSONNETTE: No, I don't recall, sir.

2 MR. CHISHOLM: You don't recall that?

3 MR. BISSONNETTE: No.

4 MR. CHISHOLM: Do you recall ever receiving  
5 treatment by medical doctors while you were in the care of  
6 the CAS?

7 MR. BISSONNETTE: Yes, I do.

8 MR. CHISHOLM: And you've told us of an  
9 incident involving a cow.

10 MR. BISSONNETTE: It kicked --

11 MR. CHISHOLM: You've told us about an  
12 incident when you had your tonsils out. The -- any other  
13 recollection of receiving medical attention?

14 MR. BISSONNETTE: When I fell off the barn.

15 MR. CHISHOLM: Okay. Tell me about the --  
16 when you fell off the barn, sir, you received a concussion,  
17 is that right?

18 MR. BISSONNETTE: That's what I was told.

19 MR. CHISHOLM: Do you have a recollection of  
20 that event?

21 MR. BISSONNETTE: Yes, I do.

22 MR. CHISHOLM: Okay.

23 MR. BISSONNETTE: Very.

24 MR. CHISHOLM: And you were taken to the  
25 hospital, is that right?

1                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes. Cliff Merphaw picked  
2                   me up.

3                   **MR. CHISHOLM:** Cliff Merphaw?

4                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** He was a hired hand there.

5                   **MR. CHISHOLM:** Yes.

6                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** He picked me up and  
7                   carried me to the house. I don't know exactly where they  
8                   took me I was practically unconscious.

9                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** So do you know if you  
10                  went to a hospital?

11                  **MR. BISSONNETTE:** I don't recall if it was a  
12                  doctor's office or a hospital, but I think was a hospital.

13                  **THE COMMISSIONER:** Okay.

14                  **MR. CHISHOLM:** You don't have any  
15                  recollection of going to the hospital or do you?

16                  **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Oh, yes, I do.

17                  **MR. CHISHOLM:** You do?

18                  **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes.

19                  **MR. CHISHOLM:** And was it a hospital in  
20                  Cornwall?

21                  **MR. BISSONNETTE:** I think it was Hôtel Dieu.

22                  **MR. CHISHOLM:** The Hôtel Dieu?

23                  **MR. BISSONNETTE:** If I'm not mistaken.

24                  **MR. CHISHOLM:** Which is situated on  
25                  McConnell Avenue in Cornwall.

1 MR. BISSONNETTE: Pardon?

2 MR. CHISHOLM: Which is situated on  
3 McConnell?

4 MR. BISSONNETTE: On McConnell, yes.

5 (SHORT PAUSE/COURTE PAUSE)

6 MR. CHISHOLM: Is it all right if I just  
7 take one moment, please?

8 THE COMMISSIONER: Yes.

9 (SHORT PAUSE/COURTE PAUSE)

10 MR. CHISHOLM: I take it, sir, you were  
11 never questioned by the -- any school officials in  
12 Bonville, with respect to the injuries you received at the  
13 Lamarche foster home?

14 MR. BISSONNETTE: No.

15 MR. CHISHOLM: No. And you never, if I  
16 understand your evidence correctly, never told any CAS  
17 officials of the beatings?

18 MR. BISSONNETTE: No.

19 MR. CHISHOLM: And your evidence earlier  
20 today was that you were fearful of retribution by Mr. and  
21 Mrs. Lamarche. Is that why?

22 MR. BISSONNETTE: Yes.

23 MR. CHISHOLM: Thank you. Now, once you  
24 left the Lamarche residence, did you ever make reference to  
25 these injuries sustained while at the Lamarche residence to

1 a CAS worker?

2 MR. BISSONNETTE: When?

3 MR. CHISHOLM: After you left the Lamarche  
4 residence.

5 MR. BISSONNETTE: Yes.

6 MR. CHISHOLM: And you were never going back  
7 there, did you ever make disclosure to the CAS with respect  
8 to the injuries you received at the Lamarche residence?

9 MR. BISSONNETTE: I believe not. I don't  
10 think so.

11 MR. CHISHOLM: Now, you spoke also this  
12 morning of the Wharton family foster home. Do you recall  
13 where -- that was in the City of Cornwall. Is that right?

14 MR. BISSONNETTE: Yes, I believe so.

15 MR. CHISHOLM: Do you recall where that was  
16 located?

17 MR. BISSONNETTE: I'm not too sure, but it  
18 wasn't too far from my father's house who lived on Hebert  
19 Street.

20 MR. CHISHOLM: On Hebert?

21 MR. BISSONNETTE: Yes. Up near Eleventh and  
22 Hebert Street.

23 MR. CHISHOLM: Certainly within walking  
24 distance?

25 MR. BISSONNETTE: Yes.

1 THE COMMISSIONER: Walking distance to what?

2 MR. CHISHOLM: From the Wharton residence --

3 -

4 THE COMMISSIONER: Okay.

5 MR. CHISHOLM: --- to your father's  
6 residence. Is that right?

7 MR. BISSONNETTE: I believe so.

8 MR. CHISHOLM: And how long had you lived on  
9 Hebert Street prior to coming into the CAS care?

10 MR. BISSONNETTE: I think I lived there all  
11 my life.

12 MR. CHISHOLM: So what?

13 MR. BISSONNETTE: Till the Children's Aid.

14 MR. CHISHOLM: For a decade, or so? A  
15 decade or thereabouts?

16 MR. BISSONNETTE: Yes. Ten and a half  
17 years, I guess.

18 MR. CHISHOLM: And you were certainly  
19 familiar with the neighbourhood?

20 MR. BISSONNETTE: Yes.

21 MR. CHISHOLM: You had friends back there?

22 MR. BISSONNETTE: Yes.

23 (SHORT PAUSE/COURTE PAUSE)

24 MR. CHISHOLM: If I could take you, sir, to  
25 Exhibit 437; and it will be the Bates page I want to take

1 you to 1132012.

2 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Page 15. Oh, no, 12?  
3 12?

4 **MR. CHISHOLM:** 12. I believe it's page 5,  
5 Mr. Commissioner.

6 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Page 5.

7 (SHORT PAUSE/COURTE PAUSE)

8 **MR. CHISHOLM:** And if I could take you to  
9 the third paragraph on that page, starting, "After a study  
10 of André's behaviour". I'll just -- I'll just read this  
11 paragraph to you sir:

12 "After a study of André's behaviour,  
13 his placement in the Lamarche foster  
14 home was considered and accepted. The  
15 four Bissonnette children are now  
16 together. André is still nervous and  
17 suffering of Enuresis but he already  
18 makes progress. He declares how happy  
19 he is to be with his siblings and is  
20 close to the new foster parents."

21 Would you agree with that statement that you  
22 were closed to the new foster parents?

23 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** I was happy to be with my  
24 sisters and brothers, yes.

25 **MR. CHISHOLM:** But with respect to the

1 reference to being close to the new foster parents.

2 MR. BISSONNETTE: Being close to the foster  
3 parents?

4 MR. CHISHOLM: Yes.

5 MR. BISSONNETTE: No.

6 MR. CHISHOLM: You disagree with that?

7 MR. BISSONNETTE: I disagree with that.

8 (SHORT PAUSE/COURTE PAUSE)

9 MR. CHISHOLM: If I could take you to a new  
10 document -- I don't believe this has been made an exhibit  
11 yet. It would be Document 120977.

12 THE COMMISSIONER: Just a second, we'll get  
13 you there.

14 (SHORT PAUSE/COURTE PAUSE)

15 MR. CHISHOLM: Nowhere Madam Clerk?

16 THE COMMISSIONER: What's the number again?

17 MR. CHISHOLM: It's Document 120977.

18 THE COMMISSIONER: Okay.

19 MR. CHISHOLM: It's a letter dated January  
20 30, 1964.

21 THE COMMISSIONER: Okay. Do we have it? We  
22 have it on the screen. All right so let's put it up on the  
23 screen. We don't have it, is there a reason for that?

24 MR. CHISHOLM: I don't know, I thought I  
25 gave notice of it, sir.



1                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** Notice was given. I have a  
2                   copy.

3                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** Okay. So that will be  
4                   Exhibit Number -- I'll read from the thing so you can keep  
5                   the exhibit, I'll read from the screen. So what exhibit  
6                   number will it be?

7                   **MR. CHISHOLM:** Four four five (445)?

8                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** Madam Clerk, 445?

9                   **---EXHIBIT NO./PIÈCE NO P-445:**

10                   (120977) Andre Bissonnette - Letter from L.  
11                   Isabelle, Psychologist to Mr. Pierre Dubuc,  
12                   CAS re: Andre Bissonnette - January 30,  
13                   1964.

14                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** All right, Mr.  
15                   Bissonnette, can you read from the screen? This is the  
16                   letter he wants to show you. It's a letter dated January  
17                   30<sup>th</sup>, 1964 to Monsieur -- is it Pierre Dubuc re: Andre  
18                   Bissonnette and Doctor Isabelle, psychologist. Okay.

19                   **MR. CHISHOLM:** Do you recall any  
20                   interactions with Dr. Isabelle the psychologist, Mr.  
21                   Bissonnette?

22                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** The only doctors that I  
23                   remember would be -- how can I put it, I don't remember  
24                   seeing any -- I call it head doctors, psychologist or  
25                   psychiatrist. That I have no recollection, no, I don't.

1                   **MR. CHISHOLM:** You have no recollection of  
2                   that?

3                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** Okay. How about going to  
4                   do a bunch of tests, you know where you do visual tests or  
5                   written tests in the doctor's office?

6                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** I don't remember.

7                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** Okay. No, that's fine.

8                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** I don't recall it, sir.

9                   **MR. CHISHOLM:** So you can't help me with  
10                  respect to whether or not you would have met with Dr.  
11                  Isabelle prior to January 30, 1964 -- that's the date of  
12                  the letter. You can't give us any guidance in that  
13                  perspective. Is that right?

14                  **MR. BISSONNETTE:** January the 30<sup>th</sup>, 1964?

15                  **MR. CHISHOLM:** Yes, if you look at the  
16                  Exhibit 445, that's the date of the letter.

17                  **THE COMMISSIONER:** You'd be 15 years of age,  
18                  she says on the letter and in Grade -- is that six or  
19                  eight?

20                  **MR. CHISHOLM:** Grade 8, I believe.

21                  **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Grade 8, sir.

22                  **THE COMMISSIONER:** Does that help you or  
23                  your memory any?

24                  **MR. BISSONNETTE:** This in Bonville, at the  
25                  Lamarche house you're talking?

1                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** No, no. Well, I don't  
2 know, it's in '64 and you're 15 years old, you're in Grade  
3 8. And so maybe you would have seen her in the fall or  
4 winter of 1963.

5                   **MR. CHISHOLM:** Maybe you don't have any  
6 recollection of it, sir.

7                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** I don't, no, I don't.

8                   **MR. CHISHOLM:** That's fair. You can't tell  
9 me if you did meet with Dr. Isabelle what you would have  
10 told the doctor with respect to your past treatment in  
11 foster homes. Is that fair?

12                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes.

13                   **(SHORT PAUSE/COURTE PAUSE)**

14                   **MR. CHISHOLM:** In your evidence in-chief,  
15 sir, you indicated that you had the view that a lot of the  
16 CAS file had been fabricated to suit the CAS. Do I  
17 understand your evidence correctly?

18                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** That's what I said, yes.

19                   **MR. CHISHOLM:** And can you help us  
20 understand the basis of your belief, why you said that?

21                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** One would be -- there are  
22 several of them, but one would be when they said -- I think  
23 it came up this morning -- I had the fondest memories of  
24 the Lamarches. That's bullshit. There was no good  
25 memories there.

1                   **MR. CHISHOLM:** So you disagree with that  
2 statement?

3                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** I disagree totally about  
4 that. Another would be when it says, bah maybe I shouldn't  
5 ---

6                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** No, no.

7                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Well, I'll just answer  
8 your question.

9                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** I am sorry?

10                  **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Another one would be  
11 Pierre Dubuc ---

12                  **MR. CHISHOLM:** Yes.

13                  **MR. BISSONNETTE:** --- admits -- when I  
14 reviewed these documents -- that Larry Hawn had tendencies  
15 of being a homosexual. But he didn't see it as a problem,  
16 because in those days it was hush hush. But later, he  
17 states, in Larry Hawn's report, "Larry's biggest problem is  
18 his homosexualology". Now to me that's a contradiction.  
19 And to me, this is what I mean when I say it's been  
20 fabricated. It's like there are two stories here. Stuff  
21 like that.

22                  **MR. CHISHOLM:** Anything else sir? Any other  
23 ---

24                  **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Not that I recall right  
25 now.

1                   **MR. CHISHOLM:** Okay. And with respect to  
2 the fabrication you're suggesting that was done by Pierre  
3 Dubuc.

4                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Pardon me?

5                   **MR. CHISHOLM:** With respect to the  
6 fabrication, are you suggesting that was done by Pierre  
7 Dubuc?

8                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** I don't know who wrote  
9 this. I can't answer that.

10                  **MR. CHISHOLM:** That's fair. And do you have  
11 any theory as to why the CAS would fabricate this material?

12                  **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Well, I had my whole life  
13 to think about it, because I threw it away by -- I always  
14 said, to myself, if I would have had the help I needed, and  
15 I cried from my soul what would happening to me. I feel  
16 things would have been different if I would have got the  
17 professional help that I needed. I felt betrayed by the  
18 Children's Aid. It went downhill from there. Yes, I did  
19 become unmanageable, who wouldn't? And to end up in Alfred  
20 was the ultimate price I had to face all over again. So I  
21 felt the CAS has let me down.

22                  **MR. CHISHOLM:** I understand that, but with  
23 respect to a theory as to why the material in your file  
24 would be fabricated, do you have one?

25                  **MR. BISSONNETTE:** I don't understand what

1           you're saying.

2                       **MR. CHISHOLM:** Maybe you don't -- you don't  
3 know why someone would -- why the CAS would fabricate  
4 material in your file, do you?

5                       **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Maybe to cover something  
6 up.

7                       **MR. CHISHOLM:** And do you know what? Do you  
8 have a theory as to what would be covered up?

9                       **MR. BISSONNETTE:** It says that Meuniers did  
10 it for the money. And I don't really want to get into it,  
11 but I will. It says the Meuniers did it for the money.  
12 And it also says ---

13                       **MR. CHISHOLM:** When you say, "did it",  
14 you're referring to being foster parents?

15                       **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes.

16                       **MR. CHISHOLM:** Okay.

17                       **MR. BISSONNETTE:** It also says that Mr.  
18 Meunier was insulted when he found out, from my social  
19 worker -- my social worker was told first, they don't say  
20 what was told.

21                       And then today, in my testimony, it wasn't  
22 the worker that was told first, it was Mrs. Meunier that  
23 was told first.

24                       **Mr. CHISHOLM:** That's what you've indicated  
25 today, right?

1                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** But that's what I mean  
2 when I say some of it has been fabricated to suit the CAS.

3                   **MR. CHISHOLM:** If I could take you please to  
4 Exhibit 443, and the Bates page number is 7168305.

5                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** And what page would that  
6 be?

7                   **MR. CHISHOLM:** That's page 8 on the ---

8                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** Page 8, sir.

9                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes, sir.

10                  **MR. CHISHOLM:** And I'm interested -- when it  
11 comes up on the screen, I'll be interested in the third  
12 paragraph of that page, sir.

13                  **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Four-four-three (443)?

14                  **THE COMMISSIONER:** Page 8.

15                  **MR. CHISHOLM:** It's page 8.

16                  **THE COMMISSIONER:** Oh yes -- I'm sorry.  
17 Exhibit 443, sorry.

18                  Madam Clerk, can you put it on the screen?  
19 My screen's off. This screen's still off. Okay. Now it's  
20 on.

21                  **MR. CHISHOLM:** There we ---

22                  **THE COMMISSIONER:** So do you have Exhibit  
23 443?

24                  **MR. BISSONNETTE:** No, I don't -- I've got  
25 443.

1                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** That's the one. Four-  
2 four-three (443).

3                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Page 8.

4                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** Page 8. Yes. No, no,  
5 don't worry about what's on the screen.

6                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Oh, okay.

7                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** It's not ---

8                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes, okay, I got it.

9                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** Okay, so what's this?  
10 The couple themselves appear? Is that the paragraph we're  
11 going to look at?

12                   **MR. CHISHOLM:** The paragraph I want to take  
13 you to is, "I want to point out also.."

14                   That's the page -- that's the page that's on  
15 the screen. Scroll down, Madam Clerk.

16                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** Well, that's not page 8.  
17 Four-four-three (443) ---

18                   **MR. LEE:** There are two page 8's, sir. It's  
19 the second one.

20                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** Right, okay. Okay.

21                   **MR. LEE:** Sorry.

22                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** Thank you.

23                   So if you go to -- start from the back of  
24 this, Monsieur Bissonnette, and then find the second page  
25 in.



1                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Thank you, sir.

2                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** They're always trying to  
3                   trick us.

4                   **MR. CHISHOLM:** Mr. Bissonnette, do you see  
5                   the paragraph that starts, "I want to point out also..."?  
6                                   "... the Meunier's seemed to be  
7                                   threatened by the agency function, e.g.  
8                                   a problem arose between both boys."

9  
10                   You see that paragraph?

11                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** The first paragraph?

12                   **MR. CHISHOLM:** The third. The third.

13                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Oh, third.

14                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** "I want to point out..."

15                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Could you read it again,  
16                   there?

17                   **MR. CHISHOLM:** The paragraph starts out, "I  
18                   want to point out also..."

19                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes, I got it.

20                   **MR. CHISHOLM:** Okay. Now I'll take you down  
21                   three lines and in that paragraph -- half-way into the  
22                   paragraph there's a sentence that reads:

23                                   "André told worker at first, and I  
24                                   mentioned it to the foster parents.  
25                                   We separated the two boys in two

1 different rooms."

2 You see that, sir?

3 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes, I see that.

4 **MR. CHISHOLM:** Now, that suggests -- that's  
5 -- they suggests that you told the worker first as opposed  
6 to the Meunier's. Do you agree that that's what that  
7 statement indicates?

8 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** That's not the way it  
9 happened.

10 **MR. CHISHOLM:** But you'd agree with me that  
11 the version that you've indicated to us today is different  
12 from what's contained in the record.

13 (SHORT PAUSE/COURTE PAUSE)

14 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** That's not the way it  
15 happened, so I can't answer yes to that.

16 **MR. CHISHOLM:** No, I'm asking you -- I would  
17 suggest that if you're saying it's not the way it happened,  
18 you would say it's a different version of events from what  
19 you've described. Is that right?

20 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes.

21 **MR. CHISHOLM:** And I could take you back --  
22 first off, the day you left the Meunier's, you told us  
23 leaving the Meunier home and running through the woods in  
24 order to avoid detection by the police and the CAS ---

25 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes.

1                   **MR. CHISHOLM:** Do you recall when -- the  
2                   date of that?

3                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** According to this,  
4                   December the 8, but ---

5                   **MR. CHISHOLM:** Nineteen-sixty-three (1963);  
6                   right? I'm taking ---

7                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** I think so. Sixty-three  
8                   ('63).

9                   **MR. CHISHOLM:** I take it, sir, you don't  
10                  have -- but for this document, you wouldn't be able to  
11                  pinpoint a date and say, "It was on December the 8<sup>th</sup>, 1963  
12                  that I ran..."

13                  **MR. BISSONNETTE:** No, no, I can't

14                  **MR. CHISHOLM:** That's fair.

15                  **THE COMMISSIONER:** It doesn't say in here  
16                  that he did run away, did it -- is it? That incident isn't  
17                  covered in these things -- in these reports, is it?

18                  **MR. CHISHOLM:** I don't believe it is, sir.

19                  **THE COMMISSIONER:** Okay.

20                  **MR. CHISHOLM:** If I could take you, please,  
21                  to Exhibit 436? And the second page, Bates page 1132006.  
22                  It's the second page of that Exhibit.

23                  **THE COMMISSIONER:** Do you have that document  
24                  sir? Yes.

25                  **MR. CHISHOLM:** Yeah, you have that sir? It

1 says, "Child care phase sheet..." and half-way down that  
2 page, there's a heading that reads, "School progress".  
3 Right, you see that?

4 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** "School progress"?

5 **MR. CHISHOLM:** Yes. And I'm interested in  
6 your -- if I read this record correct, it indicates that  
7 you failed grade 7 at Moose Creek -- and Moose Creek that's  
8 a separate school? Moose Creek separate school? Do you  
9 recall what school that was?

10 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** I think it was -- it  
11 couldn't have been. It had to be a catholic school because  
12 there was a nun there, a sister.

13 **MR. CHISHOLM:** Okay, and that would be a  
14 separate -- I would suggest that would be -- a catholic  
15 school would be a separate school board school.

16 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** It is, that's okay.

17 **MR. CHISHOLM:** Right?

18 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Okay.

19 **MR. CHISHOLM:** Is that -- your understanding  
20 was in Moose Creek you attended a catholic school. Is that  
21 right?

22 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** To my understanding, yes.

23 **MR. CHISHOLM:** Okay. And did you fail grade  
24 7?

25 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** I think I did.

1                   **MR. CHISHOLM:** Okay. And that was before  
2 you went off to the Meunier's, is that right? When you  
3 were in Moose Creek, you were still at the Lamarche  
4 residence?

5                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** I was expelled from that  
6 school?

7                   **MR. CHISHOLM:** Yes, but before you were  
8 expelled -- I'm looking at the heading. It starts at the  
9 second line, "August '62". There's an indication that --  
10 it states, "Failed".

11                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** Yes, but see in August of  
12 '62 on the top sheet, placement shows that he would have  
13 been at Mr. Bourgon's.

14                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** That's what I was going to  
15 say.

16                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** Pardon me?

17                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** That's what I was going to  
18 say.

19                   **MR. CHISHOLM:** Sorry, at ---

20                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** Monsieur Bourgon's?

21                   **MR. CHISHOLM:** Bourgon's, okay. But not at  
22 the Meunier's; right, sir?

23                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** No. Moose creek, no.

24                   **MR. CHISHOLM:** And then you told us about  
25 the expulsions that you had. A total of how many

1 expulsions, sir, in your educational career?

2 **THE COMMISSIONER:** How often were you  
3 expelled?

4 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** I don't consider Moose  
5 Creek being expelled -- expelled, because of  
6 discrimination.

7 **MR. CHISHOLM:** Okay, but according to this?

8 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Yeah.

9 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** I've been expelled three  
10 times.

11 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Okay, well this says  
12 twice, but ---

13 **MR. CHISHOLM:** Twice, and then once in high  
14 school in Cornwall. Is that right?

15 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Yeah.

16 **MR. CHISHOLM:** Is that the CCVS?

17 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yeah.

18 **MR. CHISHOLM:** Okay. Three times. Thank  
19 you.

20 If I could take you to Exhibit 440 please?  
21 And page 1148446, Bates page. Page 50 of the report.

22 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Four-four-zero (440)?  
23 Yes, okay. Page what?

24 **MR. CHISHOLM:** It's page 50 of the report,  
25 Mr. Commissioner, and it's ---

1                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** Five zero?

2                   **MR. CHISHOLM:** Yes, five zero. And its  
3 Bates page 1148446.

4                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes, I got it.

5                   **MR. CHISHOLM:** Yes, that's it.

6                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Sorry.

7                   **MR. CHISHOLM:** And the last paragraph, if I  
8 can just take you down to the last three lines of the last  
9 paragraph. There is a sentence that starts halfway across  
10 the line:

11                                   "Another point happened also while  
12                                   André Bissonnette was there. André  
13                                   told me that homosexual relationship  
14                                   occurred between him and Larry, and I  
15                                   also heard from other people that."

16                   I take it from your evidence earlier, you  
17 disagree with that version of events that's contained in  
18 the record. Is that right?

19                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes, I disagree with that.

20                   **MR. CHISHOLM:** If I could take you please to  
21 Exhibit 438, the second page of that document; the second  
22 page, sir, and the second paragraph.

23                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** Which paragraph?

24                   **MR. CHISHOLM:** The second paragraph, sir,  
25 starting, "On March 5, 1964..."

1                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** Yes.

2                   **MR. CHISHOLM:** Do you have that, Mr.  
3 Bissonnette?

4                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** Is that one of the  
5 documents that we didn't have, Madam Clerk, 438, do we have  
6 that?

7                   **MR. CHISHOLM:** Yes, I have it.

8                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** Okay. Thank you. Oh,  
9 yes, okay. I better give that back to you before I -- go  
10 ahead.

11                   **MR. CHISHOLM:** And I will just read that  
12 first sentence:

13                                 "On March 5, 1964, André appeared in  
14 Juvenile Court. On our request, Judge  
15 Baker agreed to give him a chance so  
16 that we might try another placement."

17                   Is that a fair characterization, in your  
18 view, of what happened on March 5<sup>th</sup>, 1964, Mr. Bissonnette?

19                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** That is possible.

20                   **MR. CHISHOLM:** That's possible?

21                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes.

22                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** Let's help out a little  
23 more. So what he is saying is the judge would have given  
24 you a chance. You would have gone to a detention home for  
25 a month and a half. And then you went to a farm near



1 Alexandria, which would have been -- whose farm would that  
2 have been? Do you know?

3 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Lamarche; another  
4 Lamarche.

5 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Another Lamarche. Okay,  
6 right. And then, after a few days, he said that you had to  
7 go. Do you remember all of that?

8 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** That's why I stated  
9 earlier. I don't know. All I remember is leaving for  
10 Alfred from the detention home.

11 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Right.

12 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** They say I went to the  
13 detention home, I was taken out of the detention home and  
14 went to this place for four days and went back to the  
15 detention home. That is very possible.

16 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Okay.

17 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** But not to my  
18 recollection.

19 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Okay.

20 **MR. CHISHOLM:** So you don't have a  
21 recollection of it, sir, but it's possible that you went  
22 from the Brunet detention home to the farm in Alexandria?

23 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** That is possible, yes.

24 **MR. CHISHOLM:** And with respect to the third  
25 paragraph on that page, I will start three lines in:

1 "So we did, on April 3<sup>rd</sup>, on a farm near  
2 Alexandria. However, three days later,  
3 the farmer requested that we move André  
4 from his home on account of his  
5 disturbance. André did not want to  
6 stay on a farm. He said he did not  
7 like it anymore, refused to work,  
8 smoked in the garage although was  
9 strictly forbidden. Was caught with  
10 petty stealing and even threatened to  
11 put fire to the barn. Consequently,  
12 André was moved back to the detention  
13 home on April 6<sup>th</sup>, 1964."

14 Do you have a recollection of -- does that  
15 help you remember any of the events on a farm in  
16 Alexandria?

17 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes, that's true.

18 **MR. CHISHOLM:** And the way it's set out  
19 there, sir, is that an accurate depiction of what happened?

20 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** They couldn't get anymore  
21 accurate. That's the frame of mind I was in. They're  
22 right.

23 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Now, you remember that  
24 you went out of the detention home and went over to this  
25 Lamarche place for three days?

1                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes.

2                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** No, no. That's what's  
3 written here, but I want to know if you remember that.

4                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** I still don't recall.

5                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** That's fine.

6                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Which came first or  
7 between that ---

8                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** Oh, okay. So what you're  
9 telling me is that you do remember going there and talking  
10 about putting fire to the barn and all of that?

11                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** I remember the home, yes.

12                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** Okay, all right. You  
13 just don't remember in which order it was in?

14                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** No, I don't.

15                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** Okay. Thank you.

16                   **MR. CHISHOLM:** Mr. Bissonnette, with respect  
17 to the last paragraph on that page, it states:

18                                    "In our opinion, André is in need of a  
19 special treatment in an institution for  
20 disturbed children. However, we are  
21 unaware of any such institution that  
22 would accept a 15 year-old boy."

23                   Do you recall ever hearing of any opinions  
24 put forth by the CAS that you belonged in an institution  
25 for disturbed children?

1                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** I don't ---

2                   **MR. CHISHOLM:** No?

3                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** --- remember hearing  
4 anything.

5                   **MR. CHISHOLM:** You don't recall hearing  
6 that?

7                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** No.

8                   **MR. CHISHOLM:** It's possible that -- is it  
9 possible that was put to you?

10                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** That is possible it was  
11 put to me. I don't remember having it put to me directly.  
12 Maybe it's something Mr. Dubuc wrote down, but I was, yes,  
13 I was very abnormal by then. I was -- but I don't recall  
14 it being put to me directly. I don't. Sorry.

15                   **MR. CHISHOLM:** But did you hear it discussed  
16 in court or anywhere else? Do you recall hearing it  
17 discussed in the courtroom?

18                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** No, I remember appearing  
19 in court two or three times. I hardly don't remember  
20 anything that I heard. I didn't care anymore.

21                   **MR. CHISHOLM:** That's fair. That's fair.  
22 It was a long time ago, sir. You would agree with me?

23                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yeah.

24                   **MR. CHISHOLM:** When you got out of the  
25 Alfred Training School, if I understand your evidence

1           correctly, you went to your mother's for a couple of weeks?  
2           Is that right?

3                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** After?

4                   **MR. CHISHOLM:** After, right.

5                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes, that's correct.

6                   **MR. CHISHOLM:** And then on to your father's;  
7           right?

8                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Later on, yes. After ---

9                   **MR. CHISHOLM:** Any stops in between, between  
10          your mother's and your father's?

11                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** I think when I left my  
12          mother's, I went to my sister, Theresa, the oldest one; the  
13          oldest of the girls. She was never placed. I think I went  
14          there for a couple of weeks and then I went to -- from my  
15          mother's to Theresa and then to my dad's.

16                   **MR. CHISHOLM:** And you mentioned that the  
17          CAS made a telephone call to you offering to pay for your  
18          education. Do you recall giving that evidence?

19                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** I'm not certain who it  
20          was. I think it was Pierre Dubuc, but I do remember them  
21          offering to pay for an education for me until the age of  
22          18, and I told them to stick it.

23                   **MR. CHISHOLM:** Where were you, sir, when you  
24          received that or when you had that conversation with the  
25          CAS?

1 MR. BISSONNETTE: My mother's.

2 MR. CHISHOLM: Your mother's?

3 MR. BISSONNETTE: Yes.

4 MR. CHISHOLM: So they knew to find you  
5 there?

6 MR. BISSONNETTE: Pardon me?

7 MR. CHISHOLM: The CAS knew to find you at  
8 your mother's?

9 MR. BISSONNETTE: Yes.

10 MR. CHISHOLM: She was living with Mr.  
11 Waters at the time? Is that right?

12 MR. BISSONNETTE: Yes.

13 MR. CHISHOLM: Is that in the St. Andrews  
14 area?

15 MR. BISSONNETTE: No, at that time, it was  
16 on Eleventh Street, right in front of the cemetery.

17 MR. CHISHOLM: In Cornwall?

18 MR. BISSONNETTE: In Cornwall.

19 MR. CHISHOLM: The CAS did not prevent you  
20 from contacting Mr. and Mrs. Bourgon once you got out of  
21 the Alfred Training School? Is that right?

22 MR. BISSONNETTE: They didn't warn me about  
23 anything.

24 MR. CHISHOLM: I'm sorry?

25 MR. BISSONNETTE: When I came out of Alfred,

1 my days of CAS were over. They didn't tell me anything.

2 MR. CHISHOLM: So they didn't prevent you  
3 from you establishing contact with Mr. and Mrs. Bourgon, if  
4 you so desired?

5 MR. BISSONNETTE: No, but I never even  
6 thought of it.

7 MR. CHISHOLM: How did you get along with  
8 Mr. Dubuc, Pierre Dubuc, sir?

9 MR. BISSONNETTE: I could talk to him about  
10 certain things, but I didn't think he was too bad. I  
11 thought he was a decent guy.

12 MR. CHISHOLM: Decent guy?

13 MR. BISSONNETTE: Yeah. Average going guy.

14 MR. CHISHOLM: Sir, once again, I'm finished  
15 asking you questions. I'd like to thank you for coming,  
16 once again, and good luck to you, sir.

17 MR. BISSONNETTE: I want to thank you.

18 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you. Ms. did you  
19 have any questions of your client? Thank you.

20 (SHORT PAUSE/COURTE PAUSE)

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

22 HARREMAN:

23 MS. HARREMAN: Hi André.

24 MR. BISSONNETTE: Hi.

25 MS. HARREMAN: André, I'd just like to talk

1 a little bit more about the second Lamarche home that you  
2 have agreed you were only in for a very brief period of  
3 time. But we didn't really hear what life was like for you  
4 there. I'm wondering if you could just elaborate a little  
5 bit.

6 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** When I got to the  
7 Lamarche's home, let's just say I didn't have the right  
8 attitude. I guess she could see there was something wrong  
9 with me. Anyways, she told me to go in this room, and  
10 spend the afternoon in this room. I didn't like that, but  
11 I went in the room. I seen some studs there. I had the  
12 whole afternoon in the room, I started putting them on my  
13 belt, and then she came in and told me I shouldn't have  
14 touched that. And I think that's where the petty thefts is  
15 coming in. So I put it all back.

16 I guess I went outside. I had a cigarette.  
17 And I was -- she start giving me shit and whatever. I told  
18 her I wasn't going to work on the farm anymore. I wasn't  
19 going to do much of anything anymore. And she didn't like  
20 my attitude. I told her if I had to stay here, I was going  
21 to burn the barn down. I was just fed up with life.

22 **MS. HARREMAN:** And André, why was it again  
23 that you were fed up with life, as you put it, at that  
24 time?

25 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Because of the sex abuse



1 that I took at the Meuniers.

2 **MS. HARREMAN:** Okay. You also stated in  
3 your evidence that later in life you reencountered Mr.  
4 Bourgon. And that he stated to you, that at one time they  
5 had tried to find you. Is that correct?

6 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** That's correct.

7 **MS. HARREMAN:** And that CAS had not told  
8 them where you were. Is that also correct?

9 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** That is correct.

10 **MS. HARREMAN:** And you also indicated that  
11 the Bourgons did come to see you at Alfred.

12 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** That's correct.

13 **MS. HARREMAN:** Okay. Indicating they still  
14 cared, I'm not putting words in your mouth, but I would  
15 suggest that indicating they cared about you, at the time  
16 that you went to Alfred.

17 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes.

18 **MS. HARREMAN:** And that somebody would have  
19 had to tell them where you were.

20 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** That's correct.

21 **MS. HARREMAN:** And, forgive me at this point  
22 if I get the document number wrong, but I believe my  
23 friend, Mr. Chisholm, was referring to Document 436 --  
24 Exhibit 436, which was the record of attendance at school.

25 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Well, it's -- no, it's

1 the "Child Care Face Sheet." I'm sorry, but that's what  
2 it's called. So what -- yes?

3 **MS. HARREMAN:** Is that the document that had  
4 the list of schools attended ---

5 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Yes.

6 **MS. HARREMAN:** --- and ---

7 **THE COMMISSIONER:** It's on the screen now.

8 **MS. HARREMAN:** --- what happened there.

9 Thank you.

10 **THE COMMISSIONER:** It's on the screen, Mr.  
11 Bissonnette, if you want to look at it there?

12 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes.

13 **MS. HARREMAN:** André, just to follow up on  
14 some of my friend's questions to you, specifically around  
15 your attendance at the Moose Creek School.

16 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Page 2, Madam Clerk.  
17 Okay. Can you bring it down? There you go. Okay. Good.

18 **MS. HARREMAN:** So, in August of '62, you  
19 would have just left the Lamarche home. Is that correct?

20 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** I think so, yes.

21 **MS. HARREMAN:** Okay. And your evidence was  
22 that you did not receive any counselling, or medical care  
23 after you left the Lamarche home. Is that correct?

24 **MR. BISSONNETTE:** That's correct.

25 **(SHORT PAUSE/COURTE PAUSE)**

1                   **MS. HARREMAN:** And your evidence, again, was  
2 that after you were expelled, and were allowed to return to  
3 Moose Creek, that your studies improved, your marks  
4 improved, and you were doing well.

5                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** That's correct.

6                   **MS. HARREMAN:** Okay. And, again, forgive me  
7 if I get the document number wrong, but I believe it was  
8 Exhibit Number 440? There was an entry from Mr Dubuc.

9                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** What page?

10                  **MS. HARREMAN:** I'm not sure.

11                  **THE COMMISSIONER:** Okay. So what is it  
12 about?

13                  **MS. HARREMAN:** It was referring to Mr.  
14 Dubuc's recognition of the fact that André had improved.

15                  **THE COMMISSIONER:** Okay.

16                  **MS. HARREMAN:** While at that school.

17                  **THE COMMISSIONER:** Yes.

18                  **MS. HARREMAN:** And was doing well, was doing  
19 well particularly in art. And there is a reference, indeed  
20 that he should be sent to some kind of a school where his  
21 artistic abilities could be developed. And it's either  
22 document 440 or 438.

23                                   **(SHORT PAUSE/COURTE PAUSE)**

24                  **THE COMMISSIONER:** Four thirty eight (438)  
25 is the document that went to the court.

1                   **MS. HARREMAN:** Yes.

2                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** Is that the one?

3                   **MS. HARREMAN:** And I -- yes, it was one of  
4 the documents that my friend, Mr. Chisholm referred to.  
5 Yes, it is Document 438.

6                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** Yes. So Exhibit 438,  
7 Monsieur Bissonnette. It's on the screen now. With what  
8 paragraph?

9                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** What is the paragraph?

10                   **(SHORT PAUSE/COURTE PAUSE)**

11                   **MS. HARREMAN:** It -- I'm sorry, sir, but it  
12 was the document, particularly where Mr. Chisholm made  
13 reference to the comment that André be sent to an  
14 institution for disturbed children. It was one of the  
15 previous paragraphs in that document that I just saw  
16 scanned through.

17                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** So, have we established  
18 where it is?

19                   **MR. CHISHOLM:** Sorry, it's Exhibit 438, and  
20 the --

21                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** Four thirty eight (438)  
22 is the Summary of report for Juvenile Court. Oh, I get it.

23                   **(SHORT PAUSE/COURTE PAUSE)**

24                   So maybe, can you do it without the  
25 document?

1                   **MS. HARREMAN:** Yes, I think I could.

2                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** Okay.

3                   **MS. HARREMAN:** André, it is your  
4 recollection, however, that you were improving at school  
5 after you had been with the Bourgons; as you say, had been  
6 receiving positive treatment by them.

7                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes.

8                   **MS. HARREMAN:** Okay, and it's your  
9 understanding that Mr. Dubuc recognized this improvement?

10                  **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes, they did.

11                  **MS. HARREMAN:** And is it your recollection,  
12 in terms of your review of the documents, that that was  
13 recorded in the documents?

14                  **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes, it has been.

15                  **MS. HARREMAN:** Okay. And that his  
16 intention, at that time, was to try and provide further  
17 opportunities for you.

18                  **MR. BISSONNETTE:** That's correct. He wanted  
19 to put me in an art class and I had all kinds of sketches  
20 and he was very interested, kind of.

21                  **MS. HARREMAN:** In other words, he saw  
22 potential in you.

23                  **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes, he did.

24                               **(SHORT PAUSE/COURTE PAUSE)**

25                  **MS. HARREMAN:** Okay. I'm sorry for the

1 confusion, Mr. Commissioner, but I'm not -- I don't have  
2 standing, formally, at the Inquiry and I'm doing this on  
3 recollection so bear with me.

4 **MR. CHISHOLM:** It's Document 120975, I'm not  
5 sure if that's been entered as an exhibit.

6 **MR. ENGELMANN:** Four fifty seven (457).

7 **MS. HARREMAN:** Four fifty seven (457).

8 Thank you, to all. And I have no further questions. Thank  
9 you.

10 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Thank you. Mr.  
11 Engelmann, do you have any redirect?

12 --- RE-EXAMINATION BY/RÉ-INTERROGATOIRE PAR MR. ENGELMANN:

13 **MR. ENGELMANN:** A couple of my questions  
14 have been covered. I just had one more.

15 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Yes.

16 **MR. ENGELMANN:** And it was a question that -  
17 - it was an exchange with the Commissioner and Mr. Chisholm  
18 about a reference to -- and I believe the reference, sir,  
19 was in Exhibit 443. And you were asking, at the time, an  
20 exchange with Mr. Chisholm about: "It does not say he ran  
21 away."

22 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Yes.

23 **MR. ENGELMANN:** And this was after the  
24 discussion about the alleged sexual abuse.

25 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Right.

1                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** And I simply wanted to take  
2 Mr. Bissonnette to Exhibit 437 for a minute.

3                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** Four thirty seven (437),  
4 yes.

5                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** Yes. Page 11. These are  
6 again -- appear to be notes of Mr. Dubuc. If you could  
7 look at the bottom of the page, Madam Clerk. You'll see  
8 there is a caption, sir, that says:

9                                 "The child worker Pierre Dubuc. Pierre  
10                                 had summarized June '63 to March '64."

11                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** Yes.

12                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** Do you see that, Mr.  
13 Bissonnette?

14                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** The bottom paragraph?

15                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** Yes.

16                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes.

17                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** Is there a reference to your  
18 running away from the Meunier residence in that paragraph?

19                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes, I see it.

20                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** Okay. So it explains what  
21 happens after -- I believe you told us -- what happens  
22 after your report to Mrs. Meunier about what happened to  
23 you; the fact that you'd run away; that you spent a few  
24 days at your mother's home.

25                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes.

1                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** And then a few days at the  
2 Bourgon's home, etcetera.

3                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Yes.

4                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** Okay. Thanks very much and  
5 thanks again for coming in and giving evidence at this  
6 Inquiry.

7                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Thank you.

8                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** Thank you, very much.

9                   Mr. Bissonnette, I also want to echo  
10 everyone elses thanks and congratulations for you to coming  
11 here. It's important that I hear what people like you have  
12 to say and I will certainly consider that when I make my  
13 recommendations.

14                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Thank you, sir.

15                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** Thank you very much.

16                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Thank you.

17                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** Mr. Engelmann ---

18                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** Just before we break for the  
19 day, sir, Ms. Harreman wanted to address you briefly on a  
20 related issue, and I should indicate to all counsel that  
21 we'll be getting a letter out to them about additional  
22 hearing days tomorrow and just having them confirmed. But  
23 we are back next -- not next week, but not until the week  
24 of -- I don't want to get the date wrong -- May 28<sup>th</sup>.

25                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** All right. Thank you.



1                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** We'll be here for the full  
2 week and we'll be giving notice to everyone as to the list  
3 of witnesses we'll have for that full week.

4                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** Thank you. Mr.  
5 Bissonnette, you can step down if you wish.

6                   **---SUBMISSIONS BY/REPRÉSENTATIONS PAR MS. HARREMAN:**

7                   **MR. BISSONNETTE:** Thank you, very much.

8                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** Yes?

9                   **MS. HARREMAN:** Thank you. I just wanted to  
10 bring to your attention the fact that during the course of  
11 our interaction with Commission counsel ---

12                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** Yes.

13                   **MS. HARREMAN:** --- in preparing Mr.  
14 Bissonnette for his testimony here today, ---

15                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** Yes?

16                   **MS. HARREMAN:** --- we had brought to the  
17 attention of the Commission counsel ---

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

19                   **MS. HARREMAN:** --- passages from a book  
20 called *Boys Don't Cry*, which is a book written about the  
21 Alfred experiences. And in particular, passages there that  
22 refer to a woman at the detention home at Martintown, who  
23 we suggest and believe may be Mrs. Brunet and who  
24 witnessed, in the Martintown yard, according to this book,  
25 the physical abuse of wards at Alfred, who had escaped and

1           who were being held until they were picked up by Christian  
2           brothers from Alfred at the Martintown detention home.

3                       This was in approximately 1960. After  
4           witnessing this abuse, Mrs. Brunet allegedly reported this  
5           incident to a Mr. Ralph Ross, who was then President of the  
6           Cornwall Juvenile Court Committee.

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

8                       **MS. HARREMAN:** I understand this was a  
9           civilian organization of people interested in working with  
10          youth justice.

11                      **THE COMMISSIONER:** Can I stop you there?

12                      **MS. HARREMAN:** M'hm.

13                      **THE COMMISSIONER:** I just want to know where  
14          you coming -- I don't -- this isn't evidence, obviously, so  
15          ---

16                      **MS. HARREMAN:** I understand that. I am  
17          giving this information simply by way of context, and to  
18          describe why we -- well, I will get to why ---

19                      **THE COMMISSIONER:** All right.

20                      **MS. HARREMAN:** --- we're bringing this to  
21          the attention of our Commission counsel, and particularly  
22          why we ask them to seek production of certain documents  
23          from corrections ---

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

25                      **MS. HARREMAN:** --- in respect of this

1 incident. And if I just may continue, I think it will  
2 become clear why we are going to suggest it is relevant to  
3 the mandate of this Inquiry.

4 **THE COMMISSIONER:** All right.

5 **MS. HARREMAN:** So I gather this Mr. Ross had  
6 already been hearing rumours about events at Alfred,  
7 particularly the reports of both physical and sexual abuse  
8 there, from people who had been living in Cornwall; had  
9 been sent there. And he, prior to receiving Mrs. Brunet's  
10 comment -- he had gone to Alfred with a probation officer,  
11 again from the Cornwall area, a Mr. Maurice Eagan. And  
12 they had seen there and heard there stories that made them  
13 believe what Mrs. Brunet was telling them.

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

15 **MS. HARREMAN:** And made them think it was  
16 sufficiently important that they wrote a letter to the then  
17 Chair -- sorry, then Minister of Reform Institutions of  
18 Ontario, a Mr. George Wardrope, who, upon learning of the  
19 information, requested an investigation into Alfred.

20 Apparently, that was conducted by a Mr.  
21 Donald Sinclair and over that year -- the year 1960,  
22 apparently there were four separate reports and four  
23 investigations into Alfred, conducted by Mr. Sinclair at  
24 the request of either the Minister or the Deputy Minister  
25 of Reform Institutions at the time.

1 THE COMMISSIONER: M'hm.

2 MS. HARREMAN: We understand reports were  
3 generated by Mr. Sinclair corroborating the reports of the  
4 abuse. And that those reports were circulated to the  
5 Ministry of Reform Institutions and potentially were  
6 circulated to other institutions at the time ---

7 THE COMMISSIONER: Yes.

8 MS. HARREMAN: -- including CAS.

9 And for that reason, we are of the belief  
10 that representatives of institutions in the Cornwall area  
11 that, at one time or another, were in positions of  
12 authority over my client, Mr. Bissonnette, knew or ought to  
13 have known about abuse at Alfred.

14 THE COMMISSIONER: Okay.

15 MS. HARREMAN: And we would suggest, and we  
16 would ask for disclosure of those documents on the basis  
17 that any knowledge of the abuse at Alfred, at the time that  
18 Mr. Bissonnette was sent there, is relevant to the  
19 institutional response of his having reported sexual abuse,  
20 and of his having been a ward at the time. Of his having  
21 very little say, at the time, over where he went. In other  
22 words, we're not seeking to re-open Alfred. We understand  
23 that that is far beyond what the mandate of the inquiry is,  
24 ---

25 THE COMMISSIONER: M'hm.

1                   **MS. HARREMAN:** --- but we do say that any  
2 knowledge in the community of Cornwall, particularly  
3 knowledge by members of institutions that are represented  
4 here, today, as to abuse at Alfred -- that my client, and  
5 perhaps others, might be exposed to if they were sent there  
6 -- goes to knowledge of risk of harm, at Alfred. That they  
7 are either knowingly, or recklessly, or negligently putting  
8 these wards -- at the time ---

9                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** M'hm. At risk.

10                  **MS. HARREMAN:** Exposed to. Yes.

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

12                  **MS. HARREMAN:** So, my understanding is that  
13 Commission counsel did request these documents and other  
14 related documents mentioned in this book. I'm not sure  
15 where that process is at, at the moment and, frankly, I'm  
16 not sure at this time whether it will be necessary for me  
17 to seek standing ---

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

19                  **MS. HARREMAN:** --- in order to ensure that  
20 the argument I've just presented to you, in an informal  
21 manner, be made more strenuously and under more formal  
22 circumstances. But I wanted to alert you to the fact that  
23 I may feel it is necessary to ---

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

25                  **MS. HARREMAN:** --- apply for standing for

1 that limited purpose, ---

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

3 **MS. HARREMAN:** --- and I wanted to get your  
4 suggestions, as to the proper procedure to follow in that  
5 situation.

6 **THE COMMISSIONER:** The proper procedure to  
7 apply for standing?

8 **MS. HARREMAN:** Well, and in terms of  
9 notifying parties, and what kinds of timelines are  
10 required, and given that the production has been requested  
11 and we would certainly want to be able to see this document  
12 before institutional witnesses are called.

13 **THE COMMISSIONER:** M'hm. Okay. Thank you.

14 **MS. HARREMAN:** Okay.

15 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Mr. Engelmann?

16 ---REPLY BY/RÉPLIQUE PAR MR. ENGELMANN:

17 **MR. ENGELMANN:** I've certainly informed Ms.  
18 Harreman of precedents for standing and funding, and your  
19 decisions from the fall of 2005 ---

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

21 **MR. ENGELMANN:** And advised her that, if she  
22 was seeking some form of limited standing that she would  
23 have to prepare some kind of written submission, at this  
24 stage.

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

1                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** Also, and oral submission  
2 and parties withstanding would have some input and be  
3 allowed to make some submissions with respect to her  
4 application.

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

6                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** With respect to the issue of  
7 the document request, we have requested some documents of  
8 the Ministry of Correctional Services. In fact, I believe,  
9 a day or two ago, some documents were provided to us, but -  
10 - if I say this incorrectly, I'm sure Mr. Rose will correct  
11 me -- I believe, reserving the right to object to their  
12 relevance to our mandate and they were provided -- and I  
13 can't honestly say, sir, if members of the staff have had  
14 an opportunity to review them --

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

16                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** --- to see where we're going  
17 to go with this. Ms. Harreman, representing a witness, is  
18 not presently in a position as a party withstanding ---

19                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** Yes.

20                   **MR. ENGELMAN:** --- so she's not entitled to  
21 receive the documents in a normal course.

22                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** Right.

23                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** I -- and of course, if she  
24 is to receive documents, whether through some informal  
25 agreement, or as a result of a successful application ---

1                   **THE COMMISSIONER:**

2                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** --- for some form of  
3 standing, there would no doubt be undertakings involved ---

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

5                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** --- whether we use one or  
6 the other method, that might be something to discuss with  
7 counsel.

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

9                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** At this stage, we haven't  
10 had an opportunity to review what we have received.

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

12                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** We will do so in the very  
13 near future; we'll have some discussions with counsel for  
14 the Ministry -- we've had good discussions and good  
15 relations with them throughout this process -- to see  
16 whether or not these can be put in the normal disclosure  
17 and disclosed, at least to our parties.

18                   We'll have some discussion about that. If  
19 we can't come to an agreement, no doubt we'll be back  
20 before you ---

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

22                   **MR. ENGELMANN:** --- on that very point.

23                   I don't know what else to say, other than we  
24 can informally keep Ms. Harreman apprised of where that's  
25 at and then she can make a decision as to whether or not



1 she wishes to make an application.

2 **THE COMMISSIONER:** M'hm. Yeah, so if I get  
3 it straight, it really isn't to reopen the Alfred matter,  
4 it's to see what investigations had been done, and what  
5 knowledge that one could impute or -- let's assume, the  
6 Children's Aid Society had, at the time when they had the  
7 request to send Mr. Bissonnette to Alfred. Is that ---

8 **MR. ENGELMANN:** That's what I understood.  
9 And I certainly understood, through the evidence of Mr.  
10 Bissonnette, that, at least, the woman running the  
11 detention home just prior to his being sent to Alfred, Mrs.  
12 Brunet, certainly -- I shouldn't say certainly, but it  
13 appears she had some knowledge of something there and  
14 didn't want him being sent there.

15 Ms Harreman's referred to a novel or a book  
16 -- I shouldn't say -- it's a book, that I've not yet had an  
17 opportunity to read, but I look forward to reading -- but  
18 this has to be explored a little further. But, as I  
19 understand it, the concern is that officials were working  
20 for public institutions in the city of Cornwall, or in the  
21 surrounding area, knew or ought to have known of certain  
22 matters, happening at Alfred ---

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

24 **MR. ENGELMANN:** --- and therefore, that  
25 should have informed their institutional response in

1 dealing with individuals like Mr. Bissonnette.

2 **THE COMMISSIONER:**

3 **MR. ENGELMANN:** So that's an area we will  
4 look at, ---

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

6 **MR. ENGELMANN:** --- we will, no doubt,  
7 discuss it with the parties who have standing, and  
8 certainly with the Ministry of Corrections. And I  
9 certainly undertake to Ms. Harreman to keep her informed of  
10 those discussions and if she's not satisfied, or her  
11 client's not satisfied, they can bring an application for  
12 some form of limited standing before this Commission  
13 Inquiry.

14 **THE COMMISSIONER:** All right, well, I don't  
15 know that -- I think it's premature for me to express any  
16 opinion with respect to this matter.

17 **MR. ENGELMANN:** And sir, I don't know if Mr.  
18 Rose wished to comment today or not, on ---

19 **MR. ROSE:** (Off mic) ...I will.

20 **MR. ENGELMANN:** Yes.

21 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Okay.

22 ---REPLY BY/RÉPLIQUE PAR MR. ROSE:

23 **MR. ROSE:** Good afternoon, Mr. Commissioner.

24 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Good afternoon, sir.

25 **MR. ROSE:** I'm certainly aware -- and

1       there's been discussions between Commission staff and  
2       myself or others who represent the Ministry -- about the --  
3       if I can call it -- the Alfred issue.

4               I was a little surprised that, at the end of  
5       the day, Ms. Harreman stood up and started to describe to  
6       you what was in this book. I almost feel -- almost as if I  
7       was in the hot seat. But I don't.

8               In any event, Mr. Commissioner, the issue  
9       about the institutional response, vis-à-vis Alfred and  
10      other institutions of that type, is a very large issue, and  
11      we are only too happy to comply with requests from  
12      Commission counsel, as we're able to. But at the same time  
13      I think that we're all very cognizant that the Alfred issue  
14      -- first of all, the institutional response has been  
15      addressed by the government in a number of different forms,  
16      and certainly you're aware, because people who are involved  
17      in this inquiry, in phase two, were directly involved in  
18      the institutional response to Alfred as, I'm sure you're  
19      aware. So, there is, if I can call it that, an  
20      institutional knowledge of what the institutional response  
21      was in Alfred.

22              So certainly the role of Alfred training  
23      school and the government's response is a new issue for us,  
24      and in terms of applying for standing, I'd simply suggest  
25      that -- if I can reiterate through you, Mr. Commissioner,

1       that applications for standing should be made in the  
2       appropriate way. The rules are on the website, available  
3       publicly, and I don't believe that they countenance people  
4       simply reading into the record what might be in another  
5       publication in support of a pre-application for standing,  
6       if it might be, if I can put it that way, Mr. Commissioner.

7                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** No, we are just going to  
8       say that the description we had was just to give me some  
9       context as to what you -- what Mrs. -- wanted to say, but  
10      it certainly isn't in the evidence. And really, I don't  
11      know that as a pre-ruling that this whole Alfred thing has  
12      been dealt with.

13                   I think that the issue simply is to say what  
14      was in the minds and knowledge of, let's assume the  
15      Children's Aid Society, when they made the recommendation  
16      to the judge to send him to Alfred.

17                   **MR. ROSE:** Yes, and that's a matter for  
18      evidence as disclosed in the documents and from the witness  
19      in the witness box, and once the witness leaves the box,  
20      then I am wondering where we are.

21                   **THE COMMISSIONER:** Where we are? Well, we  
22      are about to leave for the day. We know that on the  
23      horizon there may be this issue and, in the meantime, it  
24      will all be discussed between all of you and then I'm sure  
25      that it will all come up nice and neat and bundled for me

1 the next time we come back or at some later time, and we'll  
2 deal with it in the fullness of time.

3 **MR. ROSE:** Thank you, Mr. Commissioner, I  
4 wish you a good evening.

5 **THE COMMISSIONER:** All right, thank you very  
6 much.

7 Let's adjourn. Thank you.

8 **THE REGISTRAR:** Order. All rise.

9 À l'ordre. Veuillez vous lever.

10 This hearing is adjourned until May 28<sup>th</sup> at  
11 2:00 p.m.

12 --- Upon adjourning at 4:24 p.m./

13 L'audience est ajournée à 16h24

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C E R T I F I C A T I O N

I, Marc Demers a certified court reporter in the 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-hauts sont une transcription conforme de mes notes/enregistrements au meilleur de mes capacités, et je le jure.



---

Marc Demers, CVR-CM