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M. DONOVAN KING

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J'inviterais maintenant monsieur Donovan King à prendre la parole. Tout petit rappel, que vous disposez d'une période de 10 minutes pour exposer votre opinion. Ensuite, les commissaires disposeront également de 10 minutes pour échanger avec vous. Avez-vous une présentation PowerPoint ou des documents à partager?

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M. DONOVAN KING :

Oui, j'ai partagé deux documents.

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LA PRÉSIDENTE :

Parfait. Alors, nous vous écoutons.

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M. DONOVAN KING :

Okay. So, I am going to do this presentation in English.

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LA PRÉSIDENTE :

Fine. That's fine.

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M. DONOVAN KING :

Okay, and I would like to begin by just acknowledging that this public consultation and my presentation is happening on the unceded indigenous territory of Tiohtià:ke and that the Kanyen'kehà:ka or the Mohawk First Nation is the custodian from these lands and waters.

Now, my name is Donovan King and I'm a historian, a teacher and a tour guide, and I just wanted to mention that I run a company called Haunted Montréal. So, you can see, I'm wearing my t-shirt today.

105 And I didn't want to present as the company but it's very much intertwined with what I'm going to talk about today because about 10 years ago, one of the survivors of the Allan Memorial Institute approached me and she told me the story of, you know, unmarked graves being hidden, you know, behind the Allan Memorial Institute, and I just wanted to read a quote from her, of what she told us.

110 And she said : « *These unmarked graves are a big secret. There has been no physical proof that kids are buried there, but some would have been First Nations kids in Cameron's experiments between 1953 and 1964. Others came from broken homes or were orphans. Obviously, they are not laid out to attract attention, but we think 17 to 25 children were buried there.*

115 *Officially, though, it never happened. Many, many records were destroyed, however, and McGill has been very busy hiding the evidence and ensuring witnesses and survivors remained silent. »*

120 And so, when she told us this story, we decided to incorporate it into our haunted mountain ghost walk, and so for the last 10 years, we've been telling this story to our clients and, you know, hoping that this would eventually come out in the public, which, of course, it has very recently with the submission of the Mohawk mothers, which I watched, and it was a very powerful submission.

125 And so, that's why I submitted a document called « *Hidden No Longer : Genocide in Canada Past and Present* », by Keven D. Annett. That was in 2010, and so you know, something I've been following for quite a long time. You can see, Kevin has prepared quite a lot of documentation about genocide in Canada before even the Truth and Reconciliation Commission began its work.

130 And on page 348 of his document, it says Québec and Montréal, and he's listing all of the burial grounds of indigenous children (inaudible), and so, it says : « *Montréal: Allan Memorial Institute, McGill University, still in operation since opening in 1940. MKULTRA experimental centre. Mass grave of children killed there, north of the building, on southern slopes of Mount Royal behind stone wall. »*

135 And so, this information, you know, has been out there for quite a long time until someone goes to the site and begins investigating with things like ground-penetrating radar, we won't know 100 % certain whether or not this is true, but certainly, it is a very important topic because of (inaudible). The Government of Canada has also recognized the genocide has occurred, and so I

140 just wanted to draw upon the calls for justice from the National Inquiry on Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women and Girls, and they have a call for justice for all Canadians, 15.5, which is :
« *Confront and speak out against racism, sexism, ignorance, homophobia and transphobia, and
teach or encourage others to do the same, wherever it occurs: in your home, in your workplace,
or in social settings.* »

145 And so, this is very... one of the things that drives me as a supporter of the victims and
survivors of the Allan Memorial Institute.

I also submitted the class action lawsuit application by the Consumer Law group on behalf
of the victims and survivors of the Allan Memorial Institute.

150 And so, essentially, what we have here is a case where, you know, over half a century ago,
over 300 families were utterly destroyed by Doctor Ewen Cameron and his unethical experiment at
the Allan Memorial Institute.

155 And so, just in a nutshell what he did is he was approached by the CIA who were looking
for brainwashing experiments, they were reaching out to talk to psychologists, psychiatrists and
other types of medical professionals.

160 They managed to recruit Doctor Ewen Cameron of the Allan Memorial Institute and he
started with 22 paid student volunteers, put them into a sort of apparatus, he called it « sensory
isolation » whereby their ears were covered, the eyes were covered, you know, cardboard
handcuffs. It very much immobilized them.

165 And after less than 20 minutes, all of the students quit the experiment, saying it felt like a
form of torture.

And so, Doctor Cameron decided to move his experiment into phase 2, where the people
could not leave the experiment, and he began hand-selecting people against their knowledge,
people with mostly minor psychological issues, anxiety disorders, postpartum depression, et cetera.

170 And without their knowledge, he enrolled them into the experiment, and this involved three
particular techniques. The first, essentially a type of electroshock therapy called « depatterning ».
In durations, voltages, et cetera, they were by far beyond the norm.

175 And once he had performed this horrific electroshock therapy, he would put those people into the sensory isolation that I mentioned earlier, but in this case, they couldn't leave, and so sometimes, they were left there for weeks, and indeed, it did cause a disintegration of the personality.

180 And his final technique was called « psychic driving », whereby he would put them into a sleep-induced coma, using all sorts of drugs like barbiturates, LSD, et cetera. He would make them listen to a pre-recorded loop for up to 16 hours a day, designed to implant the new personality.

185 Needless to say, he did manage to destroy the personalities of over 300 people; he was unsuccessful in implanting new personalities.

And so, this happened in the 1950's and 60's and there still hasn't been any compensation for the majority of the victims of the Allan Memorial. There hasn't been an apology from McGill University or the Royal Victoria Hospital or the Canadian Government or CIA for that matter.

190 And so, this is something that's still going on, and of course, as we heard in the presentation from the Mohawk mothers, they interviewed Lana Ponting, who's one of the last surviving members of this so-called experiment, and according to Lana Ponting in the testimony, she witnessed several indigenous children on the site and she also witnessed mysterious activity happening at night, which (inaudible) was the burial of children on the site, and this corroborates with the residential schools as well.

195 And she believes that the swimming pool that was built there was actually built possibly to hide some of those buried children.

200 And so you know, as someone who's an activist against all forms of oppression, but especially, you know, someone who supports Truth and Reconciliation and is looking to support, both the Mohawk mothers and the survivors of the Allan Memorial Institute, I have three recommendations today.

205 And the first one would be to put indigenous people, especially people like the Mohawk mothers and the victims of the Allan Memorial Institute, very much in charge of the gravesite investigation with full support from the authorities.

210 And so, it should be led by indigenous people and survivors and not some sort of a top-down approach, for example, an archeological study from McGill University, which is sort of a conflict of interest given that they're, you know, potentially implicated in this story. I mean, they're definitely 100 % implicated in the brainwashing experiments, but they might also be implicated in the burial of indigenous and other children on the site.

215 And the second recommendation I have is to ensure McGill University settles the class action lawsuit and compensate the victims of the Allan Memorial Institute before it can be involved in any redevelopment of the old Royal Vic site.

220 In other words, they need to come clean with this before they can have any participation in the site. For example, I know they want to redevelop. A lot of it is part of a new campus, but they should not be allowed to develop until the class action is settled and some justice is brought to the survivors.

225 And the last recommendation I have is to plan to create a monument on the site to the victims of the Allan Memorial Institute; the victims and the Mohawk mothers being in charge of all major decisions once again.

230 This is one of the most horrific tragedies in the history of Montréal and some of the most unethical things that has ever happened in the case of medicine.

235 And so, I think it would be only appropriate to acknowledge that and to eventually create some sort of monument that pays, you know, respect to these people that went through all these horrors. Not only to the particular victims, it's also their family members. You know, so they would have their mother suddenly come home as a different person, everyone thinks they're crazy and, you know, it would embarrass children who would only later realize) in their adulthood what had happened, that it wasn't the fault of their mother or father.

240 And so, this has really ripped families apart, thousands of people are affected, and, you know, in a nutshell, it does need to be addressed, rectified with the full compensation and apologies before the project should move forward.

So, that's essentially what I would like to present today, so thank you for having me.

LA PRÉSIDENTE :

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Alors, merci beaucoup, monsieur King. Juste avant qu'on entreprenne un dialogue avec vous pour poser quelques questions, je vous demanderais de communiquer avec Élise Naud, qui est une de nos analystes, pour convenir avec elle de ce que vous déposez comme mémoire, si je peux dire, et ce que vous déposez comme document d'information.

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Vous avez déposé beaucoup de pièces et il faudrait qu'on fasse un petit départage sur ce qui va aller dans les documents d'information pour tout le monde, et en, même temps ce qui est votre... entre autres, ce qui est ce que vous nous dites en ce moment.

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Alors, je passerais peut-être la parole à mon collègue David Hanna pour une première question.

LE COMMISSAIRE HANNA :

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Yes, thank you very much and thanks for your testimony. It certainly corresponds with what I've read and known about the site.

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I have just one question because I think what you said was clear. You did submit to the commission the class action suit that you referred to in your brief. However, the first page was missing, and the first page is the one that gives the inscription and so on to do with the case and the date, more specifically.

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Would you be kind enough to send us that first page that includes the actual date for that class action suit that is ongoing? It would complete the dossier, or it would complete the brief or the documentation.

M. DONOVAN KING :

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Yes, I can definitely do that, no problem. I'm just pulling it out here.

LE COMMISSAIRE HANNA :

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And what would that date be, by the way, when the suit was launched?

M. DONOVAN KING :

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Okay, I'm just checking here. Yes, it doesn't say on this document, but I can definitely try to get that information from the lawyers from the Consumer Law Group.

LE COMMISSAIRE HANNA :

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Okay, yes, because as you're aware, all suits that are duly launched in the Court come with a cover page that has, you know, so and so versus so and so, such and such date, such and such number, and it's that date that is missing for us.

M. DONOVAN KING :

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Okay, so I'll try to find that, for sure. Yes.

LE COMMISSAIRE HANNA :

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It would be appreciated. All right, thank you.

M. DONOVAN KING :

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My pleasure. Good to see you, David.

LE COMMISSAIRE HANNA :

Yes.

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LA PRÉSIDENTE :

Radouan Torkmani, une question, oui?

LE COMMISSAIRE TORKMANI :

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Oui. Oui. Bonjour, monsieur King, merci. Merci pour votre présentation.

Plus tôt dans les auditions des participants qui ont émis l'idée de mettre en place un musée qui rappelle l'histoire du Royal Victoria, est-ce que vous pensez que ça serait approprié aussi pour commémorer ce qui s'est malheureusement passé aussi à l'Institut Allan Memorial?

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M. DONOVAN KING :

Pardon, encore?

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LE COMMISSAIRE TORKMANI :

Est-ce que je recommence du début ma question ou...?

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LA PRÉSIDENTE :

Oui.

M. DONOVAN KING :

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Oui.

LE COMMISSAIRE TORKMANI :

Il y a des participants qui ont souhaité qu'un musée soit implanté sur le site du Royal Victoria pour commémorer l'histoire du site; est-ce que vous pensez que c'est approprié que ce musée, aussi, raconte ce qui s'est passé à l'Institut Allan Memorial?

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M. DONOVAN KING :

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Oui, absolument, parce que c'est une partie de notre histoire et si on visite le musée McCord aujourd'hui, par exemple, il y a comme une exposition sur les Premières Nations, deux parties. La première partie, c'est l'histoire avant la colonisation, et après, la deuxième partie, c'est les écoles

350 résidentielles, et tout ça, alors c'est très important d'avoir des choses comme ça dans les musées,
oui. C'est une bonne idée.

LE COMMISSAIRE TORKMANI :

355 Merci beaucoup.

M. DONOVAN KING :

De rien.

360 **LA PRÉSIDENTE :**

Autre question, David? Non?

LE COMMISSAIRE HANNA :

365 Non, non. Pour moi, c'est complet, c'est bien.

LA PRÉSIDENTE :

370 Ça va aller?

LE COMMISSAIRE HANNA :

375 C'était très clair et j'ai pris note des recommandations que vous proposez, merci.

M. DONOVAN KING :

380 Merci beaucoup.

LA PRÉSIDENTE :

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Alors, on vous remercie, monsieur King, et vous communiquez avec madame Naud pour scanner des documents et on sera prêt, comme demandé par monsieur Hanna, avoir la première page du class action dont vous avez parlé tout à l'heure.

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M. DONOVAN KING :

O.K.

LA PRÉSIDENTE :

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Alors, merci beaucoup de votre témoignage et de votre présentation.

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PAUSE

M. SAMUEL HELGUERO ET ALEX HANYOK
Our Royal Vic Consultation Committee

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LA PRÉSIDENTE :

Alors, bonjour, good afternoon. La commission reprend ses travaux qui ont été suspendus notamment parce qu'une participante s'est déclarée incapable de venir présenter son mémoire.

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Alors, on passerait maintenant à Samuel Helguero et à Alex Hanyok. Bonjour.

ALEX HANYOK :

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Bonjour.