|  | Page 1 |  | Page 3 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | September 20, 2021 | 1 | there is Louise Bradley. She has been assisting |
| 2 |  | 2 | us from the very beginning, particularly last |
| 3 | THE CLERK: | 3 | week when we were in Makkovik, as well as in |
| 4 | All rise. This Commission of Inquiry is now | 4 | Hopedale, to speak and counsel anyone who feels |
| 5 | open. Commissioner James Igloliorte presiding as | 5 | that they need a moment to appreciate what is |
| 6 | Commissioner. Please be seated. | 6 | happening to them or what might be happening to |
| 7 | COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: | 7 | them, or the overall impacts of seeing what you |
| 8 | Good morning, everybody. I guess the first | 8 | see and finding out how you may well be able to |
| 9 | housekeeping task is to let you know that with | 9 | get some assistance. |
| 10 | the new protocol around the COVID rules, we're | 10 |  |
| 11 | all going to have to keep our masks on while | 11 | And Louise is quite happy for you to speak to her |
| 12 | we're seated. But you can remove them so that | 12 | any time you want to during these proceedings. |
| 13 | the transcription will be able to be picked up | 13 |  |
| 14 | properly and not be muffled. | 14 | So I think what we should do then is put a name |
| 15 |  | 15 | to a face. Just say who you are with respect to |
| 16 | I want to express our greatest welcome to the | 16 | the Inquiry. And we'll go around, starting with |
| 17 | members of the Deer Lake SAR Team here. I'm | 17 | Marcella. |
| 18 | really happy that Geoff and the rest of the team | 18 | THE CLERK: |
| 19 | have had a chance to speak with you to some | 19 | Hi. My name is Marcella Mulrooney, and I'm the |
| 20 | degree. | 20 | hearing clerk/administrative staff for the Ground |
| 21 |  | 21 | Search Rescue and Inquiry. |
| 22 | But we'll allow everyone to introduce themselves | 22 | RALPH, Q.C.: |
| 23 | so that you get to know who's sitting where and | 23 | Good morning. My name is Peter Ralph, and I'm |
| 24 | who's doing what. | 24 | Counsel for the Provincial Government. |
|  | Page 2 |  | Page 4 |
| 1 |  | 1 | MR. RUMBOLT: |
| 2 | Mr. Budden, of course, is Commission Inquiry | 2 | Good morning. My name is Mitch Rumbolt. I'm the |
| 3 | Counsel. And I'll be asking him to direct most | 3 | director of Emergency Services for the Province. |
| 4 | of the proceedings when we start. | 4 | So we provide air support to the ground search |
| 5 |  | 5 | and rescue teams throughout the province. |
| 6 | I think it's in our interest, as well, to | 6 | MS. BEDFORD: |
| 7 | recognize the work that you do and the impact you | 7 | Good morning. I'm Corinne Bedford. I'm the |
| 8 | have on people, to take a moment of silence to | 8 | Department of Justice Counsel. I'm representing |
| 9 | the search that's presently going on up in | 9 | DND -- or sorry, Canadian Armed Forces and RCMP |
| 10 | Labrador. | 10 | here at the hearing. |
| 11 |  | 11 | SERGEANT COOPER: |
| 12 | So if we would stand for one moment, please, and | 12 | Good morning. Sergeant Dave Cooper with the RCMP |
| 13 | let people know we respect their loss and the | 13 | Ops and CO, Northern Peninsula, Deer Lake |
| 14 | search as well. The search is going on. Thank | 14 | District. |
| 15 | you. (Moment of silence.) | 15 |  |
| 16 |  | 16 | At the time of the search, I was team leader |
| 17 | Thank you very much. In that regard, recognizing | 17 | corporal in Deer Lake Detachment. |
| 18 | the traumatic type of work that you do and the | 18 | LT.-COL MARSHALL: |
| 19 | way that your lives and others are impacted, the | 19 | Good morning. Lieutenant Colonel James Marshall |
| 20 | nature of this inquiry is to understand and | 20 | representing the Canadian Armed Forces. (Audio |
| 21 | appreciate that many people are affected by the | 21 | difficulties.) |
| 22 | long-term effects of such trauma. | 22 | MR. ANSTEY: |
| 23 |  | 23 | Good morning. Sheldon Anstey, volunteer with |
| 24 | And over on the side with the beige jacket on | 24 | Deer Lake Ground Search and Rescue Team; 33-year |

veteran with that team.
MR. CHAULK:
Hi. Good morning. Brian Chaulk, member of Deer Lake Search and Rescue. I've been there about 25 years.
MR. WILLIAMS:
Hi. My name is Darren Williams. I'm the coordinator for Deer Lake Search and Rescue. And I've been with the team since 1998.
MR. PARSONS:
Hello. My name is Wayne Parsons. I'm first assistant coordinator for Deer Lake Search and Rescue. Been with the team 17 years.
MR. GERMANI:
Good morning. My name is Doug Germani. I am assistant coordinator for Bonne Bay Search and Rescue, and also a volunteer with the Deer Lake CASARA unit.
MR. CARTER:
Good morning. My name is Paul Carter. I'm Executive Director with Department of Justice and Public Safety (audio difficulties).
MS. BRADLEY:
Hi. Louise Bradley, and Mr. Commissioner pointed

## Page 6

out, I'm -- (audio difficulties).
WILLIAMS, Q.C.:
Good morning, Commissioner, Tom Williams. I represent the family of the late Burton Winters, as well as providing legal consultation to the other families that may be involved in the Inquiry process.
MR. SMITH:
Good morning, Richard Smith, Search and Rescue consultant and also a member of Search and Rescue Alberta and Mountain View Search and Rescue.
MR. BUDDEN:
Good morning, Commissioner. My name is Geoff Budden. I'm a lawyer, and I'm commission counsel to this Inquiry.
COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE:
Thank you all very much. Geoff, you're free to take over now. Thank you.
MR. BUDDEN:
Thank you, Mr. Commissioner. A couple of housekeeping matters before we start today's evidence. Firstly, I would like to enter two further exhibits which have been provided by the counsel to the Government of Canada and our RCMP
records for the search we're doing this morning.

They consist of about 132 pages over the course of two exhibits, which would be Exhibits 170 and 171.

## EXHIBIT P-170 \& 171,

ENTERED AND MARKED ON INQUIRY

MR. BUDDEN:
We anticipate having another handful of exhibits to enter, perhaps this afternoon, or perhaps tomorrow morning. I just want to give them one final look.

It had also been recently received from the federal government and relate to the next search we are looking at, the Grand Falls search.

I further intend, later today, to enter a document generated by the Bay of Islands Search and Rescue team, who we will likely hear from on Wednesday, detailing a particular search that they were involved in.

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Also, I wish to inform the Commission, the two individuals who were lost and were the subject of today's search that we will be examining, their names were Wilfred Lovell (the gentleman who was rescued but died later that day) and Stan Rice.

Mr. Rice advised the Inquiry several months ago that he did not wish to take part, and he has also recently passed on himself.

Mr. Lovell: I met with his son. We had communications over the past several months and a meeting earlier today. And he reiterated that while he is following the work of the Public Inquiry, and, again, expresses his gratitude, particularly to the search and rescue volunteers, and also the other parties, the RCMP officers and so forth who were involved in the search, he does not personally wish to take part.

So he has been offered the opportunity, and he may yet avail of it over these three days. And I've undertaken to update him, but he will not be a participant today or anticipated for the rest

|  | Page 9 |  | Page 11 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | of the week. | 1 | So we look forward to sharing the experiences |
| 2 |  | 2 | that you may have from another portion of our |
| 3 | If it'll please the Commissioner, and I'm not | 3 | island and province so that we can learn, and |
| 4 | certain whether the parties wish to give opening | 4 | hopefully, we, through our recommendations and |
| 5 | statements as they have done on earlier sessions. | 5 | ports to the Commissioner, see if we can make |
| 6 |  | 6 | some recommendations to improve the existing |
| 7 | So perhaps, I'll just briefly offer the | 7 | system. |
| 8 | opportunity to other counsel if they wish to say | 8 |  |
| 9 | a few words at the beginning of this session, | 9 | So thank you for your participation. |
| 10 | which is, of course, an examination of a search | 10 | COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: |
| 11 | and rescue operation that took place from | 11 | Well, I'd like to just add as another |
| 12 | February 1st to February 4th, 2019, in the | 12 | housekeeping item that you see that Harry's |
| 13 | Jackson's Arm area of the Great Northern | 13 | issing. He's had an unfortunate experience with |
| 14 | Peninsula of Newfoundland. | 14 | s dinner from last night, and we're going to |
| 15 |  | 15 | allow him to try and recover a little bit and see |
| 16 | So perhaps, Mr. Ralph, if you wish to say | 16 | how he makes out. |
| 17 | anything? | 17 |  |
| 18 | RALPH, Q.C | 18 | he comes back down, then it's obviously quite |
| 19 | The Province certainly would like to thank | 19 | good. I mean, he's not in any kind of serious |
| 20 | everyone that's here today and participating. I | 20 | harm, just a bit of distress. And we wanted him |
| 21 | think this is a really important Inquiry. | 21 | to make sure that he was comfortable. |
| 22 |  | 22 | MR. BUDDEN: |
| 23 | The work that everyone in this room does that | 23 | Madam Clerk, perhaps, we can begin by calling up |
| 24 | actually involved in operations clearly can save | 24 | Exhibit... (technical difficulties). All right. |
|  | Page 10 |  | Page 12 |
| 1 | peoples' lives. | 1 | Perhaps we can begin by turning on our mics. |
| 2 |  | 2 |  |
| 3 | So this Inquiry is imp | 3 | Perhaps we can begin by calling up Exhibit 73, |
| 4 | And we'd like to thank everyone for coming and | 4 | which is entitled, "Deer Lake Search and Rescue |
| 5 | participating this week; especially, the | 5 | Report on Jackson's Arm Search of February 1 to |
| 6 | volunteers. Obviously, your efforts are often | 6 | 4, 2019." |
| 7 | heroic. And, again, thank you for coming. | 7 |  |
| 8 | MS. BEDFORD: | 8 | Thank you, Madam Clerk. That is the exhibit. |
| 9 | Hi. I would echo my colleague's words as | 9 | or the information of counsel and of anybody |
| 10 | earlier. Also, to say that my clients are here | 10 | that's following this Inquiry, all of these |
| 11 | to be as cooperative and as helpful as possible, | 11 | exhibits are posted on our web page, which, |
| 12 | and hope that there are some improvements that | 12 | perhaps, Madam Clerk, you can just give the |
| 13 | will come from this Inquiry and trust that it | 13 | address of our webpage. |
| 14 | will. And thank you all very much for coming. | 14 | HE CLERK: |
| 15 | WILLIAMS, Q.C.: | 15 | Www.nlgsarinquiry.ca. |
| 16 | Thank you. Again, not to repeat what has already | 16 | COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: |
| 17 | been stated. Everybody, I think it's obvious, is | 17 | Thank you. If you go the Menu bar of our |
| 18 | very grateful for the services provided. | 18 | webpage, you will see the label "Exhibits." If |
| 19 |  | 19 | you go to that link, you will see a numbered list |
| 20 | And part of this Inquiry process is to look at | 20 | of, now, 171 exhibits. |
| 21 | not only the unfortunate circumstances and some | 21 |  |
| 22 | of the losses that have been suffered, but, also, | 22 | At the end of that is a list of, essentially, |
| 23 | to review the policies and practices in place to | 23 | titles to the exhibits, which can be a bit of a |
| 24 | see if we can improve the system going forward. | 24 | guide to their contents. |


|  | Page 13 |  | Page 15 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | For these next three days, I would anticipate, we | 1 | team. Following that, eight years consecutive, I |
| 2 | will, at a minimum, be looking at Exhibit 73, | 2 | was the assistant coordinator for the team. And |
| 3 | which we just have up; Exhibit 97, which are | 3 | after that, I took over as coordinator of the |
| 4 | other federal government records, I believe, yes, | 4 | team. And I've been there ever since. |
| 5 | of this particular search; and Exhibits 125 to | 5 |  |
| 6 | 147, which are provincial government records | 6 | During my time with the team, we have a great |
| 7 | bearing on this search; and finally, the ones we | 7 | unch of members, dedicated members. And we do |
| 8 | entered this morning, 170 to 171. | 8 | hat we can to help out in our community and |
| 9 |  | 9 | body that are in distress and need help. |
| 10 | So other counsel may refer to other exhibits. | 10 | MR. BUDDEN: |
| 11 | And there are policy documents and so forth that | 11 | Q. What is the present territory of Deer Lake Search |
| 12 | touch on all searches. But those I just | 12 | and Rescue Team? What region of Newfoundland |
| 13 | specifically mentioned are the ones that I will | 13 | would you be responsible for? |
| 14 | be referring to and, I think, likely will be | 14 | MR. WILLIAMS: |
| 15 | referred to by other counsel. | 15 | A. Well, specifically, it's hard to do, but roughly, |
| 16 |  | 16 | the Park boundary, Gros Morne National Park, a |
| 17 | So what I propose to do now, Mr. Commissioner, is | 17 | little more than halfway up the Northern |
| 18 | to focus the rest of today's evidence on the five | 18 | Peninsula, all the way out to the coastline on |
| 19 | men present here today, who were actually part of | 19 | the east. We go as far as Springdale and as far |
| 20 | the search and rescue mission as ground search | 20 | as Pasadena |
| 21 | and rescue volunteers. | 21 |  |
| 22 |  | 22 | So north, we go halfway up the Peninsula. West, |
| 23 | You've already, in your introductions, spoke a | 23 | we go to the Park boundary. East, we go as far |
| 24 | little bit about yourselves. I'm going to ask | 24 | as Springdale, Bay de Verde area. And south, we |
|  | Page 14 |  | Page 16 |
| 1 | you, in each case, perhaps start with | 1 | go as far as Pasadena, Grand Lake area. |
| 2 | Mr. Williams, I'd like to know your background in | 2 | MR. BUDDEN: |
| 3 | search and rescue. You've already said how long | 3 | Q. Okay. And how many members do you presently |
| 4 | you've been involved | 4 | have? |
| 5 |  | 5 | MR. WILLIAMS: |
| 6 | Perhaps tell a little bit about how you came to | 6 | A. At present, we have 27 active members. |
| 7 | be involved, the training you've had, and your | 7 | MR. BUDDEN: |
| 8 | present role in Deer Lake Search and Rescue for | 8 | Q. Okay. And tell us a little bit, to a degree, |
| 9 | four of you and Bonne Bay Search and Rescue for | 9 | hat you understand about the origins of the Deer |
| 10 | Mr. Germani. | 10 | Lake Search and Rescue Association? |
| 11 |  | 11 | MR. WILLIAMS: |
| 12 | So perhaps, Mr. Williams, you could start? | 12 | A. It originally started as a bunch of gentlemen |
| 13 | Darren Williams? | 13 | that did it on their own, and originally started |
| 14 | MR. WILLIAMS: | 14 | as something to give back to the community. |
| 15 | Hi. My name is Darren Williams. I'm the present | 15 |  |
| 16 | coordinator for Deer Lake Ground Search and | 16 | It wasn't an association at that time. So I |
| 17 | Rescue. I've been with the team since 1998. | 17 | mean, the Deer Lake Ground Search and Rescue has |
| 18 |  | 18 | been around longer than the whole Newfoundland |
| 19 | Basically, I was wanting to give back to my | 19 | Search and Rescue has been. But it progressed |
| 20 | community through a volunteer organization, and I | 20 | into a provincial system, which we are a part of |
| 21 | chose ground search and rescue because of my love | 21 | that umbrella. |
| 22 | of the outdoors. | 22 | MR. BUDDEN: |
| 23 |  | 23 | Q. And what would your present resources be? I've |
| 24 | The first four years, I was just a member of the | 24 | been to your building. I've seen your equipment. |

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5 MR. WILLIAMS:
6 A. Immediate resources at our disposal in our
7 building: Right now, we have two buildings; a 8 main building and a four-bay warehouse.

In the warehouse, we house an 18 -foot Zodiac that we use for water rescue. Either Grand Lakes or any of the freshwater lakes around our area.

We have a fast response vehicle that is actually in the parking lot up there that we use that's fully equipped with trauma kits, backboards, ice rescue equipment, chainsaws. Everything we need for an immediate evac. in our immediate area, that's a quick response.

We have a three-tonne - I don't know what the exact size or length of here - Command Post, which is complete with computer systems, mapping systems, washrooms, and kitchen for our members
Page 18
But for somebody who hasn't been and hasn't seen your equipment, perhaps just give me a little bit of an overview of what resources you have, what facilities you have.
when they're out in the field.

We also have at our disposal, we have a side-by-side and in that we have what's known as a MetaLight system for transporting either casualties or victims that's completely enclosed if need be.

We have several quads, and we have an Argo at our disposal. That's our immediate building.

We have a secondary building where we carry, as we call it, our seasonal products. We have a 25-foot Silver Dolphin, because we are the underwater recovery team for Newfoundland.

So basically, if the RCMP needs assistance of someone in water that may have drowned, we actually got a side (phonetic) scanner that we go out in teams that are trained on that, using that equipment.

We also have our snowmobiles in that bay. And we also have a hovercraft in that bay. Most of that

24
equipment is for winter use.

So we keep our stuff that is at our immediate disposal close to us in our main building, and stuff that is not as immediate or urgent, in a secondary bay, as we can actually get at it within an hour or so.
MR. BUDDEN:
Q. And what do you have in terms of equipment? Like communications equipment, navigational equipment, those kind of things?
MR. WILLIAMS:
A. We have the Arc Mapping System that was provided by Newfoundland Search and Rescue. Excuse me, I refer to Wayne. How many radios do we have?
MR. PARSONS:
A. Thirteen radios, and they're all digital and analog.
MR. WILLIAMS:
A. Digital and analog radios. So with regards to that, the 80 to 90 percent of our team have their own personal communication system. InReaches, ZOLEOs.

Page 20
I don't know if you're familiar with them. It's, basically, a two-way communication where you're in the area where you don't have any cell coverage or you don't have the RCMP with their repeater system to communicate with Command Post, people in the field, or anybody that needs to be contacted.
MR. BUDDEN:
Q. So tell me, how would that work? Like, give me sort of an example of when you might need that?
MR. WILLIAMS:
A. Well, this search, in particular, the area is very, very remote and zero, zero cell coverage. So the only way we could communicate is we had a system that runs off satellite, Iridium Satellite System, that links to the satellite that is designated with a specific number or an e-mail address.

Our members have similar systems. So when they're in the country, where they can't actually contact us or call, they use machine and text. So basically, we text through each other. Because they were up in the county anywhere

## Page 21

between 50 and 120 kilometres away from the Command Post. And the Command Post had no cell coverage whatsoever where we were located, our staging area.

So the only way to communicate back and forth to people in the field and us to keep track of them, any progress reports, anything they may have found, anything needs to be relayed, this was the only way to do it, through a two-way communication system.

So what we do is we'll open up a line between us and our members in the field that have InReach. Each of them got their own designated address in either a number or an e-mail address. If we need to send them a message, we would text it out to them. Send it to them. They would receive.

They were instructed to stop at a certain time of the day and search for messages or updates, or briefings.

MR. BUDDEN:
Q. So even out of cell phone range and very remote

Page 22
locations, the team can communicate with each other?
MR. WILLIAMS:
A. Yes, correct.

MR. BUDDEN:
Q. Okay. And you spoke about an Arc Mapping System or something. I didn't quite get that reference. Can you explain that, please?
MR. WILLIAMS:
A. Probably I'll pass it over to Wayne Parsons because he's our technical guy. He's the one that's done the training on it, and he will be able to probably give you a little more in-depth description of it.
MR. BUDDEN:
Okay.
MR. PARSONS:
A. Hello. My name is Wayne Parsons. I'm with the Deer Lake Search and Rescue Team. Like Darren said, I'm their techie. So the Arc map system is something we got from Harry about three years ago.
MR. BUDDEN:
Q. That'd be Harry Blackmore who is the head of

|  | Page 25 |  | Page 27 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | has from progression to where it's to now. We | 1 | MR. BUDDEN: |
| 2 | did Searcher Level 1, which is your basic; | 2 | Q. Yeah, you. I'll ask it of everybody. But you, |
| 3 | Searcher Level 2, which is your little more | 3 | personally? |
| 4 | in-depth course of survival techniques and so on | 4 | MR. WILLIAMS: |
| 5 | and so forth. | 5 | A. Well, I can only attest to last year. I think |
| 6 |  | 6 | last year, I had a total of over $600-$ no, |
| 7 | And then you get into your Searcher Level 3, | 7 | sorry, almost 800 hours myself last year. |
| 8 | which is specialty issues, which is high angle, | 8 | MR. BUDDEN: |
| 9 | helicopter repel teams, ice rescue technicians | 9 | Q. Okay. You personally volunteered 800 hours in |
| 10 | and teams. Operations on all the different | 10 | this past year? |
| 11 | aspects and different resources that we have. | 11 | MR. WILLIAMS: |
| 12 |  | 12 | A. Yes. That includes meetings, directors' |
| 13 | So that aligned with, we don't use our basic | 13 | meetings, training, searches, community events, |
| 14 | first aid. We do what's called a Wilderness | 14 | and so on and so forth. |
| 15 | Remote First Aid and Advanced Wilderness Remote | 15 | MR. BUDDEN: |
| 16 | First Aid. So we can give long-term care to | 16 | Q. Okay. And finally, one question I should have |
| 17 | people if we're actually in the field and can't | 17 | asked a moment ago. We all know, those of us who |
| 18 | extract them for a day or so. | 18 | have been doing this inquiry, how a search and |
| 19 |  | 19 | rescue team becomes engaged in the first place, |
| 20 | So I mean, all of our members are up-to-date on | 20 | how you get called out to a mission. |
| 21 | that. And we do that. That needs to be renewed | 21 |  |
| 22 | every three years. | 22 | Perhaps can you just explain it for the record |
| 23 |  | 23 | and for anybody who's following the inquiry, how |
| 24 | So constantly, every Tuesday night we have a | 24 | a search and rescue team, like your team, |
|  | Page 26 |  | Page 28 |
| 1 | training night. Brian Chaulk is our training | 1 | actually gets engaged in a search? |
| 2 | coordinator, and he arranges training for | 2 | MR. WILLIAMS: |
| 3 | different members on different aspects: map and | 3 | A. Most of the time it's through the RCMP. We're |
| 4 | compass, GPS, basic survival skills, our thermal | 4 | dispatched through the RCMP. So they'll call us, |
| 5 | imaging TIC 40 camera that we've got. | 5 | tell us they have a certain situation. I'll do a |
| 6 |  | 6 | brief explanation of what's going on. |
| 7 | So we do several different things, and we try and | 7 |  |
| 8 | rotate it throughout the month so that it doesn't | 8 | At that point, we have a system known as Who's |
| 9 | get monotonous and you're not doing the same | 9 | Responding that we use for all of our members. |
| 10 | thing. But we keep doing it until our members | 10 | All of our members are logged on to this. So |
| 11 | are what we classify as proficient in using all | 11 | basically, I don't have to be calling everybody. |
| 12 | of the equipment that they have that we need at | 12 |  |
| 13 | our disposal. | 13 | Who's Responding is an app you use through your |
| 14 | MR. BUDDEN: | 14 | phone, that I'll send out an alert that we have a |
| 15 | Q. Okay. In a typical month -- I know there's no | 15 | search with a brief message. Either meet at the |
| 16 | such thing, but say an average month, how many | 16 | building in half an hour. Be prepared to go out |
| 17 | hours would you personally volunteer? | 17 | in the woods with your snowmobiles. We've got a |
| 18 |  | 18 | ground search. Be prepared to be out in the |
| 19 | I'm thinking of searches, fundraising, and | 19 | ground. We have a water search. We could be |
| 20 | training? Everything that comes with wearing the | 20 | gone overnight. Make sure you take enough food |
| 21 | Deer Lake SAR jacket? | 21 | for at least a night's stay. |
| 22 | MR. WILLIAMS: | 22 |  |
| 23 | A. Me personally? | 23 | It goes out to all of our members. I, |
| 24 |  | 24 | unfortunately, don't like it because I got an |

A. Yeah. No one in particular. It's whoever is on duty at the time. And I mean, they come and go

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through the Detachment quite often.

So I mean, this year, we could get to know them through several searches. And then next year, it could be another batch of different RCMP officers. So it rotates from officer to officer from time to time.
MR. BUDDEN:
Q. Okay. Thank you. And I now basically plan to ask some of these personal questions of the other members, just so we can get a sense of you individuals and what you're bringing to Deer Lake Search and Rescue.

I guess left to right. Mr. Anstey, could you tell us again, just repeat how long you've been involved in search and rescue, your particular training, the length of your volunteer commitment? And the same questions I asked Mr. Williams, basically.
MR. ANSTEY:
A. Thank you. Again, my name is Sheldon Anstey. I'm a volunteer with the Deer Lake Search and Rescue Team. I've been volunteering there for 33
years. I started when I was 10. You have to have humour.

I'm a career Wildlife Enforcement Officer. Various titles. Conservation Officer, currently Resource Enforcement Officer. I hold the rank of Superintendent. I've been so employed for 32 years.

So my interest in joining and being involved with search and rescue at the time, young in my career, it sort of went hand and hand.

Wildlife Officers: We spend our lives out in the country. We're aware of conditions at any given time of the year, locations of cabins, and any other thing that basic knowledge would provide to aid in a search.

And our officers are often the first ones called, or the second or third ones called on a search to assist because we have that knowledge of the country. Where could a lost person hold up? Are you aware of a cabin in this area? So that
knowledge that we possess sort of went hand in hand with search and rescue.

So I joined, roughly, at the same time I started my career, and I've been there ever since. Just to add to what Darren spoke to with respect to history of search and rescue, I joined in 1988.

In 1984, my understanding is that search and rescue teams were established throughout the province.

Before that, I don't believe there was any organized search and rescue effort. The RCMP and RNC, whatever police of jurisdiction a lost person was in, that police of jurisdiction will take control of the search.

Speaking specifically to Deer Lake, we do fall under the RCMP jurisdiction. And my original training as a member was, I believe, by the RCMP standard. I do possess a certification, basic searcher training. I don't know the exact title of the certification.

|  | Page 33 |  | Page 35 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | So that was in 1984. There were numerous teams | 1 | MR. ANSTEY: |
| 2 | established throughout the province to assist in | 2 | A. I believe my volunteer hours last year were in |
| 3 | an organized way to search for lost or people in | 3 | the area of 300, give or take. In the past 33 |
| 4 | distress. | 4 | years, I've held various positions with the team. |
| 5 |  | 5 | I neglected to give that piece of information, I |
| 6 | Prior to that, I do believe it was somewhat ad | 6 | guess. |
| 7 | hoc. There would be a lost person. The police | 7 |  |
| 8 | would scramble for hunters and woodsmen and women | 8 | Starting as a volunteer searcher, I've held |
| 9 | who knew the country and could go on a search. | 9 | positions of assistant coordinator, coordinator, |
| 10 | So since '84, it's more coordinated. | 10 | training coordinator and various roles. |
| 11 |  | 11 |  |
| 12 | A lot of the teams that sprang up in 1984 have | 12 | I now sit, in my old age, as a regular member |
| 13 | since dissolved. There were teams in various | 13 | with less responsibilities. Most of our members |
| 14 | communities around Newfoundland and Labrador that | 14 | will put in a minimum of 200 to 300, 350 hours |
| 15 | no longer exist. | 15 | annually. |
| 16 |  | 16 | MR. BUDDEN: |
| 17 | And the larger, I suppose, better-grounded teams | 17 | Q. So at the present time, you no longer have some |
| 18 | with more resources seemed to have stood the test | 18 | of the administrative responsibilities you once |
| 19 | of time and have expanded their boundaries to | 19 | had. |
| 20 | include the areas that those other smaller teams | 20 |  |
| 21 | are responsible for. | 21 | So your time commitment is perhaps a little less |
| 22 |  | 22 | than it would have been or, say, Mr. Williams's |
| 23 | And I'll speak specifically to Deer Lake. The | 23 | presently is? |
| 24 | Springdale team, which was one of the original | 24 |  |
|  | Page 34 |  | Page 36 |
| 1 | teams, recently dissolved in the last three or | 1 | MR. ANSTEY: |
| 2 | four years. And NLSAR, under Harry Blackmore, | 2 | A. That's correct. |
| 3 | has asked us to expand our boundary further east | 3 | MR. BUDDEN: |
| 4 | to include Baie Verte Peninsula up to Springdale | 4 | Q. Okay. Thank you. |
| 5 | and meet Grand Falls halfway. | 5 | COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: |
| 6 |  | 6 | Q. Not bad for a 43-year-old. |
| 7 | So essentially, Grand Falls and Deer Lake now is | 7 | MR. BUDDEN: |
| 8 | the only team between that piece of country. So | 8 | Q. Not too bad at all. |
| 9 | that's what it's evolved to in today's standard. | 9 | MR. ANSTEY: |
| 10 | . BUDDEN: | 10 | A. Thank you, Your Honour. |
| 11 | And your own level of volunteerism with the Deer | 11 | MR. BUDDEN: |
| 12 | Lake Search and Rescue -- (audio difficulties). | 12 | Q. Next, Mr. Chaulk, perhaps, you can answer these |
| 13 | I'll be doing this on and off all day. I | 13 | similar questions about yourself. |
| 14 | apologize. | 14 | MR. CHAULK: |
| 15 |  | 15 | A. Hi, good morning. My name is Brian Chaulk. I've |
| 16 | Your own level, Mr. Anstey, of volunteerism with | 16 | been involved with the team for about 25 years. |
| 17 | the Deer Lake Search and Rescue, as we've heard | 17 | MR. BUDDEN: |
| 18 | from Mr. Williams, what would your own level be, | 18 | Q. Perhaps you could move a tiny bit closer. These |
| 19 | say, over the past year? | 19 | mics sometimes... Thank you. |
| 20 | . ANSTEY: | 20 | MR. CHAULK: |
| 21 | With respect to time? | 21 | A. Hi. I've been involved for about 25 years. I |
| 22 | BUDDEN: | 22 | started off wanting to give back to my community, |
| 23 | Yes. | 23 | and I felt that with a passion for the outdoors - |
| 24 |  | 24 | fishing, hunting, and things like that, hiking - |

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my way to give back was to join the search and rescue team.

And starting off as a member back then, I was an average member just doing what I was told to do.
And as my time progressed and I got more involved, I wanted to take a larger role. And to be more active, I took on the role as treasurer. And I done that role for ten years.

And during that time, I was instrumental in raising $\$ 150,000$ to purchase a new Command Centre. The one that you've seen at our building yesterday. Back before that - and I think we started probably back in the early 2000s - we had an old Command Centre that was not very reliable and seemed like every time we went on a search, we were either towed to the search or towed back or whatever, but we had mechanical problems.

And I can remember back then, the town manager in Deer Lake, his son was lost, and we found him. We found him shortly after the call came in. And we had to have a meeting with the Town of Deer

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Lake a short time later. And the father was also the town manager. And he asked me, he said, "What can we do as a town to help search and rescue?" And I said, "Get us a new Command Centre." And from there, it snowballed.

And Darren and I, we took on the role back then. And we thought it was going to be a five- to ten-year project, and I think in two years we raised enough money, $\$ 152,000$, to purchase a new Command Centre. The one that we have today.

Like I said, I was treasurer for ten years. When I left, I also, with -- and when I say, I, I mean, as a team, we left $\$ 55,000$ in trust there to purchase our fast rescue vehicle, which we have parked outside today.

My training with the search and rescue -- I'm sorry there. My training with the search and rescue, I've done the Searcher 1, Searcher 2, and Searcher 3 programs, as was required by Newfoundland Labrador Search and Rescue Association.




1
A. I would think last year, I had between 3- and 400. And that's probably an average year for me.

MR. BUDDER:
Q. Okay. So basically, six to eight hours a week?

MR. CHALK:
A. Definitely. One thing I did forget to say, and I apologize. But in raising the funds for the Command Centre, I got to say, hats off to the Lions International Club.

I approached a member of the Lions Club. And he

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got me involved with Lions International. And the Lions International came on stream and they funded, really, half of our vehicle.

And hats off to these guys. They're a really good organization, and we appreciate what they've done for us.
MR. BURDEN:
Q. We'll return to the topic of fundraising before the day is out because I know that's an area of concern to all of the search and rescue teams we've spoken to. But thanks for that and that acknowledgement.
MR. CHALK:
A. Thank you.

MR. BUDDEN:
Q. Have you anything further to say at this point, Mr. Chaulk?
MR. CHALK:
A. No, I'm good. Thanks so much.

MR. BUDDER:
Q. Thank you. Mr. Parsons? Wayne Parsons, perhaps, you know by now the kind of questions I'm looking for. Perhaps, you can speak.

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## MR. PARSONS:

A. Hi. My name is Wayne Parsons. I've been a member of Deer Lake Search and Rescue now for 17 years.

The first seven years, I was just a regular ground pounder, as we call them. The last ten years, I've sat on the Executive either as the first assistant or second assistant.

As for training, I've got the Search Management's course, which is recognized right across Canada. Me and Darren Williams did it two years ago.

So essentially, we can be taken anywhere in Canada and be dropped in and take over a search and run it.

Also, I got various computer courses. Like Darren said earlier, I am the tech guy for the team. So all these new radio systems, all the new inReach systems, all the new mapping systems, everything comes through me first. And then I've got to give instructions to our team members on

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how to use it.

And now, if you look here, what's here, this is the average age for our team. A lot of these guys aren't techie. They don't understand the apps. They don't know how to log into them. So I literally got to sit down with, like, one and two of them at a time, show them what app that we're using, show them how to log into the app, how the app works, how they interact with the apps.

And then guaranteed, as soon as we get that figured out, there's another new app that comes out, and I got to do it all over again. But I enjoy it.

I joined search and rescue, well, like everyone here, to give back to my community. And it just seemed like a good fit for me.

Darren will tell you, my hours? I average between 3- and 350 a year. That's on the book. I'm bad for not recording my hours.

So I'll get a new system, and I might spend 25, 30 hours on it on my own time. And Darren will ask me, "Well, how many hours did you spend on that?" And I'll say, "I don't know. Don't know. Four or five." Right?

I get involved in it, and I got to understand how -- I'm a little bit of OCD, as well, so I got to understand how stuff works. And what I find, if I get a good handle on it, I can give it to them a lot easier and try to break it down easier for them to understand it.
MR. BUDDEN:
Q. Thank you. That was really helpful.

And finally, Mr. Germani, on the end of the row, your circumstances are a little different. You're not a member primarily of the Deer Lake Search and Rescue Team; though you were involved in the search, I understand.

But perhaps you can tell us about Bonne Bay Search and Rescue. And you mentioned CASARA, as well, which we'll get to more later in these

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hearings.

You have the floor. Tell us a little bit.
Answer the same questions, if you could, but also inform us as to Bonne Bay Search and Rescue.
MR. GERMANI:
A. Good morning. My name is Doug Germani. I am the assistant coordinator for the Bonne Bay Search and Rescue. Also, training officer.

I've been with Bonne Bay Search and Rescue for about five years. I retired from a career as a pilot five years ago. And I found that there were a lot of spillover interests, most specifically navigation. So I also enjoy the outdoors; the hiking and skiing, water activities.

Bonne Bay Search and Rescue. On the coast is a fairly mountainous area. The Bonne Bay Search and Rescue Team has been around for, I'm thinking, well over 30 years. Some of our more experienced members have over 30 years on the team.

|  | Page 45 |  | Page 47 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | Because our territory encompasses the entire Gros | 1 | met yearly for spotters, navigators, pilots, and |
| 2 | Morne National Park and a little bit of area | 2 | ground homing specialists. And it's quite |
| 3 | north and south of the boundaries, most of our | 3 | specific. |
| 4 | search and rescue responses are done in | 4 |  |
| 5 | cooperation with Parks. However, we're still | 5 | Because of my background in aviation, I was |
| 6 | required to be activated by the RCMP. So I think | 6 | fairly quickly designated as the chief |
| 7 | you could call it a multi-agency response when | 7 | navigator/trainer. |
| 8 | BBSAR is actually activated and active in the | 8 |  |
| 9 | Park. | 9 | This winter, for example, I put together a |
| 10 |  | 10 | five-part navigator training webinar for our |
| 11 | We have about 18 members and, personally, I've | 11 | team. And when the spring came, and we were able |
| 12 | been trained by NLSARA as a search manager. I | 12 | to resume training in the aircraft, I was able to |
| 13 | did the older Searcher Levels 1 and 2 before they | 13 | help train the new navigators. With CASARA, I |
| 14 | were phased out. | 14 | put in about 100 hours a year. |
| 15 |  | 15 |  |
| 16 | I've also taken training as a high-angle rope | 16 | I'm also a new drone operator, and I'm training |
| 17 | rescue person, ice water rescue -- sorry, | 17 | two members of the CASARA team how to operate |
| 18 | high-angle rope rescue and ice water rescue | 18 | drones for search and rescue purposes. I also |
| 19 | technician. | 19 | took training as a search coordinator with |
| 20 |  | 20 | CASARA. |
| 21 | I put in about 500 hours a year through various | 21 |  |
| 22 | activities as an AdventureSmart presenter, which | 22 | And our contribution on the -- I don't know if |
| 23 | is an education program to try and educate the | 23 | this is quite what you're looking for, but |
| 24 | public on best practices when they're out in the | 24 | continuing on the Jackson's Arm Search, Bonne Bay |
|  | Page 46 |  | Page 48 |
| 1 | outdoors. That includes general maintenance | 1 | Search and Rescue's contribution was to supply a |
| 2 | around the BBSAR building, equipment cleaning, | 2 | two-man snowmobile team. And they were, if you |
| 3 | organizing, repairing, fundraising. | 3 | like, given to Deer Lake to fit in with their |
| 4 |  | 4 | operation as they saw fit. |
| 5 | And that's typical of all the members. If | 5 |  |
| 6 | there's a job that has to be done, it doesn't | 6 | So once they were supplied, my role in that |
| 7 | matter what hat you're wearing, we join together | 7 | operation was limited to just monitoring their |
| 8 | and get things done. | 8 | progress through use of an inReach communications |
| 9 |  | 9 | device, which I gave to the team when they left |
| 10 | I'm also a volunteer with CASARA in Deer Lake. | 10 | our station. And I was able to track them |
| 11 | I've been with them -- | 11 | throughout the day and communicate with them |
| 12 | MR. BUDDEN: | 12 | until they finished their day's work at about |
| 13 | Q. Tell us, for those who aren't familiar with the | 13 | 7:00 in the evening of the third day of the |
| 14 | acronyms, perhaps, what CASARA is? | 14 | search. |
| 15 | MR. GERMANI: | 15 | R. BUDDEN: |
| 16 | A. CASARA is Civil Air Search and Rescue in Deer | 16 | Q. Thank you. I just have a couple of follow-up |
| 17 | Lake. It's civilians who are trained in-house, | 17 | questions to that very informative talk you just |
| 18 | but we enjoy a relationship with the Air Force. | 18 | gave. |
| 19 | We have a liaison officer who meets with us about | 19 |  |
| 20 | once a year or 18 months, and we do either | 20 | Your own volunteer commitment, you spoke about |
| 21 | training or an evaluation. | 21 | 100 hours a year with CASARA. How about with |
| 22 |  | 22 | Bonne Bay Search and Rescue? |
| 23 | There are standards that have to be maintained | 23 | MR. GERMANI: |
| 24 | and recurrent training standards that have to be | 24 | A. Well, it's a bit like Wayne says. There's |


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| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | probably a fair bit of time that goes unrecorded, | 1 | of stuff, don't hesitate. |
| 2 | but I put in about 500 hours a year. | 2 |  |
| 3 | MR. BUDDEN: | 3 | I think some of it will emerge naturally through |
| 4 | Q. Okay. We've heard a bit about Deer Lake Search | 4 | the evidence, but it's not rigid here. If you |
| 5 | and Rescue's resources, membership. You spoke to | 5 | remember some aspect of training or something |
| 6 | the membership of Bonne Bay. But perhaps, you | 6 | that you want to speak to, you'll be given the |
| 7 | could tell us a little bit about its equipment, | 7 | opportunity. |
| 8 | its facilities, community support? | 8 |  |
| 9 | MR. GERMANI: | 9 | Commissioner, I do plan to move into more -- |
| 10 | A. We have about 18 active members. For equipment, | 10 | COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: |
| 11 | we have a Command Post trailer. We have a large | 11 | Oh, sorry. So keeping in mind Mr. Williams' |
| 12 | utility trailer which houses pretty much all the | 12 | comment from Makkovik, that maybe to keep |
| 13 | equipment that we're likely to use for any | 13 | everything fresh in a particular topic, we do a |
| 14 | conceivable rescue. | 14 | round of questioning from the counsel? |
| 15 |  | 15 | MR. BUDDEN: |
| 16 | We have rope rescue gear, ice water rescue suits. | 16 | I thought you might wish to do that. So this |
| 17 | We have a Rescue Boggan, stretchers. We have | 17 | seemed the logical place if counsel wished to |
| 18 | hypothermia response equipment, clothing, | 18 | speak to what we've heard so far. |
| 19 | backpacks. | 19 |  |
| 20 |  | 20 | Mr. Ralph, have you any questions? |
| 21 | We also have a four-wheel drive truck with a | 21 | RALPH, Q.C.: |
| 22 | Zodiac on trailer. And that's about it for | 22 | I have no questions at this point. Thank you |
| 23 | equipment. | 23 | very much. |
| 24 |  | 24 |  |
|  | Page 50 |  | Page 52 |
| 1 | We have VHF radios for communication, inReach | 1 | MR. BUDDEN: |
| 2 | devices. Some members have their own inReach. | 2 | Okay. Ms. Bedford? |
| 3 | Everybody has a GPS. The team has GPS units. | 3 | MS. BEDFORD: |
| 4 |  | 4 | I have no questions. Thank you. |
| 5 | The actual equipment and clothing is supplied | 5 | MR. BUDDEN: |
| 6 | personally. So I would come to a search with my | 6 | All right. Mr. Williams? |
| 7 | own personally purchased and chosen clothing: | 7 | WILLIAMS, Q.C.: |
| 8 | backpacks, boots, etcetera. | 8 | Yes, I do have questions. Yeah, I do have a |
| 9 | MR. BUDDEN: | 9 | couple questions. I'm just looking for the order |
| 10 | Q. Okay. What kind of facility do you have? I've | 10 | in which I wrote them down. |
| 11 | seen any number in the province now, and some are | 11 |  |
| 12 | bigger and more elaborate than others, but most | 12 | Excuse me while I get organized here. I'm not |
| 13 | teams seem to have a headquarters, for want of a | 13 | very well organized. |
| 14 | better word. | 14 | BY WILLIAMS, Q.C.: |
| 15 | MR. GERMANI: | 15 | Q. First of all, with respect to recruitment, I know |
| 16 | A. Our headquarters would be a two-bay building and | 16 | we spoke about this in Makkovik, as well, what |
| 17 | very small closet-sized office space where we | 17 | kind of numbers -- you've indicated how many are |
| 18 | store some of the equipment that could not | 18 | in your teams now, and I'm not sure who best to |
| 19 | otherwise be safely stored. Locked away. | 19 | answer this. |
| 20 | MR. BUDDEN: | 20 |  |
| 21 | Q. Thank you. Gentlemen, as we move through today's | 21 | How do you find efforts with respect to |
| 22 | evidence, I now plan to turn to the search | 22 | recruitment? And I'm not passing anything on |
| 23 | itself. But if something pops in your mind that | 23 | towards age. We're all around the same vintage. |
| 24 | you want to speak to around sort of this category | 24 | But I've yet to see what I'd call young pups |


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| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | sitting at the table. And there's been some | 1 | Thanksgiving weekend, which gives everybody four |
| 2 | expression from previous matters, that's an | 2 | or five weeks, usually, to look it up. |
| 3 | issue. | 3 |  |
| 4 |  | 4 | We've got an application on our website and on |
| 5 | Do you have any thoughts on issues you have | 5 | our Facebook page. So they can go in, look at |
| 6 | regarding recruitment of volunteers, and any | 6 | the application. It gives a criteria of what we |
| 7 | steps that could be made to try to facilitate | 7 | are looking for with regard to acts of training, |
| 8 | recruiting younger members? | 8 | like 70 percent of meetings. You've got to be |
| 9 |  | 9 | able to attend 50 percent of our searches. You |
| 10 | And one of the items, we've noticed that there | 10 | got to be able to attend 85 percent of the |
| 11 | has been a lot of reference to females being | 11 | training, so on and so forth. |
| 12 | involved in the search and rescue area. | 12 |  |
| 13 |  | 13 | So once we do get new recruits, we'll have, like, |
| 14 | I'm not sure who best to speak to that. If you | 14 | an orientation with our Executive. So we'll |
| 15 | could just speak to us on those issues? | 15 | bring them in. Other than a regular monthly |
| 16 | MR. WILLIAMS: | 16 | meeting, we'll discuss with them what we expect |
| 17 | A. Well, right now, we do have two females on the | 17 | of them. Ask them what do they expect of us. |
| 18 | team out of our 27 members. Our recruitment? We | 18 | And ask them what kind of commitment they can |
| 19 | haven't done much over the last two years due to | 19 | give. |
| 20 | the COVID issue, right? | 20 |  |
| 21 |  | 21 | Even though it's on the application, are you |
| 22 | I mean, we've tried to maintain what we got | 22 | available on nights, days, or weekends? Is your |
| 23 | rather than bringing in new recruits because with | 23 | employer able to release you during the day? And |
| 24 | the restrictions and everything, it's kind of | 24 | what type of assets do you have? Do you have |
|  | Page 54 |  | Page 56 |
| 1 | hard to do the training that you need to do to | 1 | your own snowmobile? Do you have your own ATV or |
| 2 | get them properly up to speed. | 2 | quad? Do you have snowshoes? Do you have rubber |
| 3 |  | 3 | clothes? Stuff like that. |
| 4 | So we do a recruitment drive when we get below | 4 | WILLIAMS, Q.C.: |
| 5 | our, usually, 30 contingent. We like to see 30 | 5 | Q. Okay. In terms of the recruitment drive itself, |
| 6 | in our area, 30 members. That way, if we get a | 6 | is there particular groups that you identify? |
| 7 | call, we usually get a strong showing of anywhere | 7 |  |
| 8 | between 18 and 24 members. That's what we like | 8 | Would you go into, let's say, a grade 12 group, |
| 9 | to see at every search, if it's a major search or | 9 | or would you go into a particular trades school |
| 10 | for out in the country. | 10 | area in terms of actively recruiting? |
| 11 |  | 11 |  |
| 12 | So we'll do what's called a recruitment drive. | 12 | And would we benefit, not only your organization |
| 13 | We start it off, soon as we go back -- by the | 13 | but, I mean, across the island and into Labrador, |
| 14 | way, we shut down in the summertime with regards | 14 | from identifying groups that may be more |
| 15 | to training and that. So July and August, we | 15 | susceptible to getting volunteers in, in terms of |
| 16 | usually don't do a lot of training that time a | 16 | an active formal recruitment program? |
| 17 | year, simply because people have lives. They | 17 | MR. WILLIAMS: |
| 18 | have families. They have other things they like | 18 | A. It would. But it's kind of hard because with |
| 19 | to do. So we kind of take it easy. Take a back | 19 | this generation now, I mean, a lot of people are |
| 20 | burner to the training in those two months. | 20 | doing, like, the fly-in/fly-out type of |
| 21 |  | 21 | scenarios, okay? |
| 22 | We dive into it again in September. So when | 22 |  |
| 23 | September rolls around, we'll usually do what's | 23 | So a lot of people are working away. There's not |
| 24 | called a recruitment drive. We'll have it run to | 24 | a lot of employment in Newfoundland for a lot of |


|  | Page 57 |  | Page 59 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | people. So they work out of Labrador. They work | 1 | to actually perform your duty, if you don't have |
| 2 | out of Alberta. So their scheduling is, to be | 2 | people that are able to attend. |
| 3 | honest, in conflict with our training schedules | 3 | WILLIAMS, Q.C.: |
| 4 | sometimes because we train every Tuesday night. | 4 | Q. And I can see the concern that you have with the |
| 5 | And they are only able to attend one Tuesday out | 5 | resources that you need to put into people to |
| 6 | of a month. Then it's kind of hard to have | 6 | ain them and have them up at the certain level. |
| 7 | confidence in someone that is not up to speed | 7 |  |
| 8 | with the rest of the members, right? | 8 | Well, you can't get a lifetime commitment from |
| 9 |  | 9 | nobody, I understand. |
| 10 | I mean, when we're in certain situations -- even | 10 | MR. WILLIAMS: |
| 11 | though we do have senior guys with us that run it | 11 | A. No. No. |
| 12 | and what we call team captains, that's who we | 12 | WILLIAMS, Q.C.: |
| 13 | usually put in charge. Someone that's senior. | 13 | Q. We haven't been everywhere, but, just, I get a |
| 14 | Got the experience. Got the knowledge of doing | 14 | sense that all search groups seem to have |
| 15 | it and they can instruct. It's still beneficial | 15 | concerns regarding an aging volunteer base. |
| 16 | to have a person that has all this training, and | 16 | MR. WILLIAMS: |
| 17 | that he's up to par with everybody else on | 17 | A. Yes. |
| 18 | training. | 18 | WILLIAMS, Q.C.: |
| 19 | WILLIAMS, Q.C.: | 19 | Q. And is there anything that you see that could be |
| 20 | Q. How many of your members would be, we'll say, in | 20 | done to incentivize younger people to get |
| 21 | percentages, between the 20-30 age group, 30-40, | 21 | involved? |
| 22 | or 40 above? Any idea? And I'm just looking for | 22 | MR. WILLIAMS: |
| 23 | rough numbers to get a feel for it. | 23 | A. Yeah, I think if it was mandated that a volunteer |
| 24 |  | 24 | organization, such as ours, that employers would |
|  | Page 58 |  | Page 60 |
| 1 | MR. WILLIAMS: | 1 | be more flexible. Like myself, I'm |
| 2 | A. I'd say we've got probably 60 to 75 percent of | 2 | self-employed. I own a building supplies. I've |
| 3 | our members are between 40 and 60, right? We got | 3 | got three of our members that work with us. |
| 4 | a few that are younger. But in the past ten | 4 | They're on the volunteer fire department. |
| 5 | years, we found that the younger generation are | 5 |  |
| 6 | there for a year, and then they don't come, then | 6 | And I basically give them carte blanche. If |
| 7 | they don't show up. Next thing, they're gone. | 7 | there's a fire, boys, you can go, right? And I |
| 8 |  | 8 | mean, that's a situation that we run into that a |
| 9 | Not to be discriminatory but, I mean, it's hard | 9 | lot of people aren't granted that. |
| 10 | when you invest time into someone training, and | 10 |  |
| 11 | you do call out, and you don't get them to show | 11 | Government employees usually are capable of |
| 12 | up, or they're not available, or they're gone | 12 | getting away, but people that aren't, they |
| 13 | away to work. | 13 | usually have a tough time. They can't just up |
| 14 |  | 14 | and leave in a moment's notice and take off on a |
| 15 | I mean, you got to look at the situations you're | 15 | search. |
| 16 | in. I mean, if someone's in dire need. And I | 16 |  |
| 17 | mean, we're not talking a ten-minute drive for | 17 | And I mean, you might as well face it, it doesn't |
| 18 | us. We're probably talking hours to get to a | 18 | always happen in the night. It doesn't always |
| 19 | situation. | 19 | happen on the weekend, right? Like, now, |
| 20 |  | 20 | sometimes it's in the middle of the week, in the |
| 21 | So I mean, if someone's up with a back injury up | 21 | middle of the day. |
| 22 | in the country and I do a callout, and I can't | 22 | WILLIAMS, Q.C.: |
| 23 | get enough members to support, then it's hard. | 23 | Q. Okay. And excuse me, I'm jumping around a little |
| 24 | It impacts the team and it impacts your ability | 24 | bit. And, again, whoever is best to answer |


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| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | these, feel free. | 1 | lot of the teams that aren't strongly supported. |
| 2 |  | 2 |  |
| 3 | With respect to the fundraising issues and, | 3 | We, like I say, are in a completely different |
| 4 | again, from background and preparation, we | 4 | scenario, just talking to the different members. |
| 5 | realized there's a big demand on all these groups | 5 | And we're so grateful that we have a really good |
| 6 | for fundraising. | 6 | rapport with our Town. They see the benefit of |
| 7 |  | 7 | what we do, and they support us accordingly. |
| 8 | How much strain and pressure is that putting on? | 8 | WILLIAMS, Q.C.: |
| 9 | I mean, you folks all outlined hundreds of hours | 9 | Q. Excellent. And I think it would be good for |
| 10 | that you volunteer. And I'm sure that's with | 10 | comparison of other jurisdictions that we visit |
| 11 | search missions, as well as other activities. | 11 | and speak to, and I'm sure that counsel have |
| 12 |  | 12 | spoken to. |
| 13 | How much time is tied up by your group in | 13 |  |
| 14 | volunteer efforts directed directly towards | 14 | In terms of your overall budget, if we could talk |
| 15 | fundraising? | 15 | -- again, I'm not trying to tie you to exact |
| 16 | MR. WILLIAMS: | 16 | numbers. But you speak of the Town being very |
| 17 | A. We're in a unique situation in Deer Lake where we | 17 | support, community groups being supportive. We |
| 18 | are strongly, strongly supported by our local | 18 | know you do fundraising efforts. |
| 19 | community with regards to the Town Council. | 19 |  |
| 20 |  | 20 | Do you get any government support directly to |
| 21 | In the past, prior to us having support of the | 21 | your group, or does that come to the provincial |
| 22 | community, we used to do several major | 22 | body as a whole? |
| 23 | fundraisers a year in order to support our | 23 | MR. WILLIAMS: |
| 24 | efforts and to purchase more equipment. | 24 | A. On time to time, when we were lucky enough to |
|  | Page 62 |  | Page 64 |
| 1 | In the past, probably, 15 years, our Town | 1 | have the premier in our jurisdiction, we could go |
| 2 | supports us tremendously. We can actually submit | 2 | from time to time. And every now and then, he |
| 3 | a budget to our Town, and they will see if they | 3 | may supply us with something. |
| 4 | got it in the budget to afford it to us. | 4 |  |
| 5 |  | 5 | Case in point, we purchased a new side-by-side |
| 6 | Plus, we also rent our building to Academy | 6 | there three or four years ago and we needed |
| 7 | Canada, where we have a monthly supplement coming | 7 | funding to purchase it. And the Town helped us, |
| 8 | in from them. | 8 | the provincial government helped us, and |
| 9 |  | 9 | fundraising helped us, right? |
| 10 | So we're in a little more of a unique situation. | 10 | WILLIAMS, Q.C.: |
| 11 | And I know that because when I go to our AGM | 11 | Q. Okay. All right. Are there any resources that, |
| 12 | Search and Rescue Meeting, our Annual General | 12 | if we could give you a wish list, say, we can |
| 13 | Meeting, you hear it going around the table that | 13 | give you what you need -- and I know there's |
| 14 | people are having trouble raising funds or | 14 | always demands. This is a bit of an open-ended |
| 15 | they're having trouble maintaining equipment and | 15 | question. I appreciate it. |
| 16 | so on and so forth. | 16 |  |
| 17 |  | 17 | But is there any serious resources that you think |
| 18 | Because it's not just purchasing equipment, it's | 18 | your group needs that you just don't have at this |
| 19 | maintenance. I mean, you take inReaches. | 19 | point in time that would really benefit your |
| 20 | There's subscriptions every month for those, | 20 | search and rescue missions? |
| 21 | right? I mean, there's upkeep on stuff. There's | 21 | MR. WILLIAMS: |
| 22 | maintenance. | 22 | A. Yeah, definitely. |
| 23 |  | 23 | WILLIAMS, Q.C.: |
| 24 | I mean, all these situations are very taxing on a | 24 | Q. What would they be? If you had to name the top |


|  | Page 65 |  | Page 67 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | three, what would they be and the costs related | 1 | out. He was not too bad, but we didn't really |
| 2 | to those? | 2 | want to take the chance to try and transport him. |
| 3 | MR. WILLIAMS: | 3 | So we relayed a message out to the RCMP, to the |
| 4 | A. I would say number one would be communications. | 4 | 103 Squadron Cormorant. They came in and |
| 5 | Right now, our geographic area is so vast and | 5 | actually extracted him. |
| 6 | so... We have no communications with cell | 6 |  |
| 7 | phones, radio. | 7 | So I mean, but if we had radios, our guys on the |
| 8 |  | 8 | ground could have called him and would have |
| 9 | Take Jackson's Arm search, in particular, the | 9 | probably cut off anywhere between probably half |
| 10 | only way for us to liaison between us and Air | 10 | an hour and a hour time frame to actually |
| 11 | Support was through the RCMP. | 11 | retrieve them, right? |
| 12 |  | 12 |  |
| 13 | So we'd relay to the RCMP statuses, what your | 13 | So I mean, communications is a big thing. |
| 14 | plans are. They'd have to relay it to their | 14 | WILLIAMS, Q.C.: |
| 15 | people. Then they'd have to relay it to either | 15 | Q. Okay. Just two more areas I'd like to touch on. |
| 16 | JRCC or someone directly. And then it'd have to | 16 | One is something that we're looking at here is |
| 17 | return the same way. | 17 | policy issues. And with respect to psychological |
| 18 |  | 18 | and mental health training. |
| 19 | Whereas, if we had a radio system that was | 19 |  |
| 20 | capable of doing island wide, right? I mean, | 20 | And I speak to that from two perspectives: |
| 21 | that would be perfect. | 21 | One, obviously, I represented the Winters family |
| 22 | WILLIAMS, Q.C.: | 22 | and it was a very traumatic event. |
| 23 | Q. What kind of equipment would be required? What | 23 |  |
| 24 | kind of expenditures are we talking? | 24 | But we also got to see, while we were in |
|  | Page 66 |  | Page 68 |
| 1 | Is that something that can be done here is or is | 1 | Makkovik, the impact that those operations had on |
| 2 | that something that needs to be provincially | 2 | the searchers and the people who were involved in |
| 3 | coordinated through your provincial body? | 3 | these operations? |
| 4 | MR. WILLIAMS: | 4 |  |
| 5 | A. That would have to be done provincially. I mean, | 5 | Can you speak to the level of training that you |
| 6 | we're not unique in that situation. There are | 6 | may get or assistance that you may get in terms |
| 7 | other people on the island that have that same | 7 | of both those groups, both the family-related or |
| 8 | situation. And it needs to be done one end of | 8 | the individual-related groups? |
| 9 | the coast to the other. | 9 |  |
| 10 | WILLIAMS, Q.C.: | 10 | Obviously, every mission involves a family group, |
| 11 | Q. We heard it in Makkovik. | 11 | I would think, as well as every mission involves |
| 12 | MR. WILLIAMS: | 12 | a search team. |
| 13 | A. Yes. | 13 |  |
| 14 | WILLIAMS, Q.C.: | 14 | What present supports are there from that side, |
| 15 | Q. That was one of their top complaints, as well, is | 15 | and do you think there's a need for increased |
| 16 | communications. | 16 | training or focus in this area? |
| 17 | MR. WILLIAMS: | 17 | MR. WILLIAMS: |
| 18 | A. Exactly. Exactly. And you find that any search | 18 | A. Well, there's always need for more training. |
| 19 | and rescue team, communications is a big key | 19 | With focus in regards to after-action and |
| 20 | point to anything. To formulating a plan, | 20 | counselling, I really think that we need a |
| 21 | formulating search areas, getting resources in. | 21 | stronger presence. |
| 22 |  | 22 |  |
| 23 | I mean, you take it when we found Mr. Lovell -- | 23 | Years ago the RCMP used to call us in for |
| 24 | or Mr. Rice, sorry, I mean, he was a long ways | 24 | briefings, and if anyone needed assistance. |


|  | Page 69 |  | Page 71 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | Like, I'll back up a bit. Any time I go on a | 1 | MR. WILLIAMS: |
| 2 | search, the first thing I do is I assess who's | 2 | A. Exactly. Exactly. |
| 3 | there, who's probably been in on certain | 3 | WILLIAMS, Q.C.: |
| 4 | situations and are capable of handling it. And I | 4 | Q. Okay. All right. Okay. The last area, and |
| 5 | basically lay it out. Okay, guys, like, you've | 5 | again, it's jumping -- |
| 6 | never been in this situation. Look, no | 6 | MR. BUDDEN: |
| 7 | finger-pointing. Don't feel bad. If you're not | 7 | Sorry to interrupt you, Mr. Williams, but |
| 8 | comfortable with this, tell me now. And no hard | 8 | Mr. Germani wanted to make a comment. |
| 9 | feelings. We'll find something for you to do, | 9 | MR. GERMANI: |
| 10 | right? | 10 | A. On the subject of getting counselling. Through |
| 11 |  | 11 | CASARA, we have an individual who is a |
| 12 | But with regards to someone coming to me because | 12 | professional psychiatrist. So her services are |
| 13 | they're having an issue? We had a situation, I | 13 | available to CASARA members. And I'm quite sure |
| 14 | think it was this year, actually. It wasn't one | 14 | that if CASARA was approached by NLSARA that some |
| 15 | of our members but it was a person that actually | 15 | kind of arrangement could be made. |
| 16 | participated in a rescue recovery. And the | 16 | WILLIAMS, Q.C.: |
| 17 | gentleman was having a tough time of it. | 17 | Q. Okay. My last question would be to you, |
| 18 |  | 18 | Mr. Germani, in terms of CASARA. Maybe if you |
| 19 | So I tried to find out how to do it, and we | 19 | could hold the mic there. |
| 20 | couldn't direct him. He had to be directed to | 20 |  |
| 21 | Western Health to actually find someone that he | 21 | Can you just elaborate a little about CASARA'S |
| 22 | could counsel with. | 22 | involvement in search missions? How do it get |
| 23 |  | 23 | triggered to be brought into missions? |
| 24 | We couldn't do it directly. So it had to be | 24 |  |
|  | Page 70 |  | Page 72 |
| 1 | passed along the line and passed down the chain. | 1 | How frequently are they brought in, and the level |
| 2 | You knows what it's like. I mean, if someone's | 2 | of resources that they can supply in search |
| 3 | like that, some people are embarrassed to talk | 3 | missions? |
| 4 | about it. Some people aren't comfortable talking | 4 | MR. GERMANI: |
| 5 | about it | 5 | A. I've been with CASARA for almost five years. And |
| 6 |  | 6 | to my understanding, the Deer Lake team hasn't |
| 7 | If he tells me and I can go directly to the | 7 | been involved in any actual searches. We do a |
| 8 | source that's going to help him, it would be a | 8 | lot of training with the military. Probably half |
| 9 | lot more beneficial to that person. | 9 | a dozen training missions per year where we would |
| 10 |  | 10 | activate an emergency locator beacon. |
| 11 | And the same thing for our team members. If we | 11 |  |
| 12 | need counselling, I can say, yeah, I can arrange | 12 | And military aircraft would come in, locate the |
| 13 | that for you. I can get this done. Rather than, | 13 | beacon, and sometimes they would drop search and |
| 14 | okay, I go to the RCMP. RCMP, I don't think, has | 14 | rescue technicians with equipment. And we would |
| 15 | any resources like that now. Harry tells me that | 15 | return them to the airport. |
| 16 | if this happens, contact him. They'll try and | 16 |  |
| 17 | arrange something, so on and so forth. But it's | 17 | But for actual searching, no. I guess, |
| 18 | not readily available at my fingertips. | 18 | fortunately, there haven't been any aircraft that |
| 19 | WILLIAMS, Q.C.: | 19 | have gone down that have required CASARA use. |
| 20 | Q. So someone you could call to say, look, I got an | 20 | WILLIAMS, Q.C.: |
| 21 | issue with a member of my team, or we got a | 21 | Okay. Thank you. That's all the questions I |
| 22 | family member here in a high level of distress. | 22 | have. Thank you, Mr. Commissioner. |
| 23 | We need to call this individual? | 23 | MR. BUDDEN: |
| 24 |  | 24 | Just before we move on, some of the issues, |

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Some issues around recruitment will be addressed Wednesday when we hear from Bay of Islands. Some interesting information will come from them.

And we, also, likely, will hold a session devoted entirely to recruitment when we get to the policy roundtables. But thank you. There's some foreshadowing there of some of the issues that will emerge later.

I'm not sure, Mr. Commissioner, if you have any questions or if you feel this is an appropriate time to break?

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE:
Yeah. So, Louise, would you like to ask any questions based on what you heard with respect to mental health questions and issues or offer any comment to the gentlemen.
MS. BRADLEY:
Thank you very much, Commissioner. I guess I'm just wondering. You talked about the need to

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have counselling services.

I'm particularly interested in seeing great results in terms of other groups, not search and rescue, involved in peer support, which can be more acceptable to people in terms of, number one, the stigma of going to a counsellor. But being able to help each other, but being trained.

And I'm wondering if you have any thoughts as to whether you would see that as being helpful?
MR. WILLIAMS:
I definitely would like to see something like that for the simple fact as, like you say, sometimes they're not comfortable with going somewhere else.

And we're not all equipped to handle those types of situations, right? We are ground search and rescue. We do a lot of training, but we don't do a lot in mental health, which should be put as a priority on top of everything.

I mean, every situation is different. Everybody
handles the situations different. And it would be nice for us to be able to recognize symptoms of something and be able to assist and help and train and get people through that, right, as part of our training.
MS. BRADLEY:
Thank you.

## COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE:

Q. Thank you. This question is directed to Mr. Germani. Well, no, it might be to any one of you. But somebody raised the point about your request from Parks Canada for volunteer support, and then you said it reverts back to the RCMP.

So I'm just wondering how that flow goes. So you're called by Parks Canada, but then the RCMP takes over and runs the search? Is that how it works?
MR. GERMANI:
A. Not quite. It's close. If there is an incident in the Park, usually Parks Canada will attempt to handle that incident, whether it's a search for just a rescue of a person in a known location.

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If they don't have the resources, then they will go the RCMP and request that Bonne Bay Search and Rescue be activated.

So I could be contacted by either Parks Canada or the RCMP, or both. If Parks Canada gets to me first, then I will ask if the RCMP has requested that we be activated. So we do have to have the RCMP activated.

But most of our activity is in cooperation with Parks. So there could be a Parks Canada employee and a Bonne Bay Search and Rescue volunteer on the same team. That's quite common.
COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE:
Q. Yes, please. Go right ahead.

MR. WILLIAMS:
A. Yes, sir. We've had situations where we have been contacted with Parks Canada to do --
COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE:
Q. Say your name again, just for the record.

MR. WILLIAMS:
A. Oh, sorry. Darren Williams from Deer Lake Search and Rescue.

|  | Page 77 |  | Page 79 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | We have had situations where Parks Canada have | 1 | somebody? |
| 2 | called us and asked us to assist in injured | 2 | MR. WILLIAMS: |
| 3 | persons, and stuff like that, without the RCMP | 3 | A. Darren Williams here again. That's usually |
| 4 | being involved. | 4 | covered by the Newfoundland Search and Rescue |
| 5 |  | 5 | ssociation, travel expenses and hotel. |
| 6 | And my understanding, through Harry, is when that | 6 | COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: |
| 7 | happens, the jurisdiction is Parks Canada. And | 7 | Q. Thank you. So in looking at a search team, 18 to |
| 8 | they do contact us directly from time to time. | 8 | 24 people, anybody have any idea of the total |
| 9 |  | 9 | cost of the equipment? A global number? So that |
| 10 | Not as frequently as they probably would with | 10 | when we look across the island, we can say you're |
| 11 | Rocky Harbour team, but on our end of the Park, | 11 | looking at $X$ number of dollars if you want to set |
| 12 | we've had snowmobilers in there injured, and for | 12 | up, say, a minimal to medium support search and |
| 13 | them to get into the Park is probably twice to | 13 | rescue program? |
| 14 | three times as long as us to be dispatched. So | 14 |  |
| 15 | they will dispatch us. | 15 | It must be very hard to figure out, but just a |
| 16 |  | 16 | rough number? |
| 17 | And it is our understanding that Parks Canada, | 17 | MR. WILLIAMS: |
| 18 | RCMP, or RNC are one of the three -- we are | 18 | A. Darren Williams here. The only thing I can |
| 19 | capable of being dispatched by all or any three | 19 | attest to is our situation. And we've had to do |
| 20 | of those. | 20 | it for the Town because the Town likes to know |
| 21 | COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: | 21 | what kind of assets we've got. And we've got |
| 22 | Thank you very much | 22 | anywhere between 600 and \$750,000 in assets at |
| 23 | MR. BUDDEN: | 23 | any given time. |
| 24 | Q. Just for clarity of the record. When you say | 24 |  |
|  | Page 78 |  | Page 80 |
| 1 | Rocky Harbour SAR, you're referring to Bonne Bay | 1 | I can't attest to the other teams but, like I |
| 2 | SAR? | 2 | say, we are fortunate. |
| 3 | MR. WILLIAMS | 3 | MR. BUDDEN: |
| 4 | A. Sorry. Yes, | 4 | Q. Does that include your building, as well, or is |
| 5 | MR. BUDDEN | 5 | that the building and the chattels or is it -- |
| 6 | Q. No worries. Just so when we're read | 6 | not to get all legal, but is it just the |
| 7 | transcripts months later, then here's a new | 7 | equipment? |
| 8 | organization we hadn't heard about. So we want | 8 | R. WILLIAMS: |
| 9 | to make sure that it's all clear | 9 | A. That would be the building, land, and equipment. |
| 10 | COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: | 10 | MR. BUDDEN: |
| 11 | Thank you. Well, I remember Mr. Parsons | 11 | Q. Okay. Thank you. And perhaps that same question |
| 12 | mentioned something about OCD. We have a lot of | 12 | to the Bonne Bay representative. |
| 13 | experience with OCD in this group because three | 13 |  |
| 14 | men took on the three women in a game of 120, and | 14 | Mr. Germani, do you have any idea? Again, |
| 15 | we were half an hour convincing them that slam | 15 | ballpark? |
| 16 | was only a Placentia Bay bid. And we had a great | 16 | MR. GERMANI: |
| 17 | time with that one. | 17 | A. No, I'm sorry. I wouldn't even be able to hazard |
| 18 | BY COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: | 18 | a guess. But if I could just backtrack a little. |
| 19 | Q. The other question I have is about attending an | 19 | There was a question raised about women in ground |
| 20 | AGM. So how is that paid for, and who pays for | 20 | search and rescue. Our coordinator, Bettina |
| 21 | your attendance there? | 21 | Lori, is a very experienced search and rescue |
| 22 |  | 22 | lady. She's been active for decades; has a |
| 23 | How does that work? Do you have to raise your | 23 | wealth of knowledge and experience. |
| 24 | own money for that or is that covered by | 24 |  |


|  | Page 81 |  | Page 83 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | And we also have three other ladies on the team | 1 | and we had 16 to 18 snowmobiles going out there |
| 2 | who are also Parks Canada employees. They also, | 2 | at a time. |
| 3 | partly because of their activity with the Park, | 3 | MR. BUDDEN: |
| 4 | they bring some really valuable skillsets to the |  | Q. Okay. We'll return to some of that, perhaps, |
| 5 | team. | 5 | later. That's all I have now. |
| 6 | MR. BUDDEN: | 6 | RALPH, Q.C.: |
| 7 | Q. Eighteen or so members, at least four of your | 7 | Q. Commissioner, if I could just make one point? |
| 8 | members are female? | 8 | Searchers, I'm sure you're aware that -- |
| 9 | MR. GERMANI: | 9 | COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: |
| 10 | A. Yes, that's true. And when we interact with | 10 | Your name? |
| 11 | Parks Canada, it's usually through another lady, | 11 | RALPH, Q.C.: |
| 12 | Jennifer Hoffman. She also has a wealth of | 12 | Q. I'm sorry. Peter Ralph. I'm sure you're aware |
| 13 | experience and knowledge through her search and | 13 | that when you're doing a search that you are |
| 14 | rescue activities with Parks. | 14 | given, I guess, coverage under workers' |
| 15 | MR. BUDDEN: | 15 | compensation. You're aware of that? |
| 16 | Q. Thank you. Just following up, if I may, | 16 |  |
| 17 | Mr. Commissioner. We've heard references not to | 17 | And just to Mr. Germani's point, it's interesting |
| 18 | just the equipment of the associations but | 18 | because the legislation actually requires in |
| 19 | personal equipment that you guys are expected to | 19 | order to get coverage, you have to be tasked by |
| 20 | have, or at least it's considered valuable to | 20 | the RCMP or RNC. |
| 21 | have. And some of them are pretty big-ticket | 21 |  |
| 22 | items: snowmobiles, quads, and so forth. | 22 | And so it'd be questionable whether that coverage |
| 23 |  | 23 | would be triggered if you're tasked by Parks |
| 24 | Is there any sort of basic equipment that | 24 | without the involvement of the RCMP? I just |
|  | Page 82 |  | Page 84 |
| 1 | everybody's required to have? Winter wear? | 1 | wanted to point that out. |
| 2 | Rainwear, so on? | 2 | MR. GERMANI: |
| 3 | MR. WILLIAMS: | 3 | A. Darren's comments about equipment. We have a |
| 4 | A. We don't really require it. We supply rain | 4 | smaller team. And each individual is required to |
| 5 | clothes to all of our members and backpacks to | 5 | provide their own equipment. And with |
| 6 | all of our members with basic essentials: saws, | 6 | Newfoundland's challenging environmental |
| 7 | ropes, first-aid kids, so on and so forth. | 7 | conditions, it's essential that you have the |
| 8 |  | 8 | proper footwear, the proper rain gear, and |
| 9 | Basically, we require that they're physically fit | 9 | thermal protection. |
| 10 | to endure outdoors and that they're capable of | 10 |  |
| 11 | doing it, right? And that would come through | 11 | You can't send somebody off into the woods if |
| 12 | training. | 12 | they're not properly clothed. And the expense of |
| 13 |  | 13 | providing yourself with suitable clothing, it's a |
| 14 | But with regards to the big-ticket items, we like | 14 | big expense. |
| 15 | to see them with their own snowmobile, their own | 15 |  |
| 16 | ATV. And naturally, they would need a vehicle to | 16 | And a GPS? Team members are generally expected |
| 17 | tow it or carry it because we don't have the | 17 | to have their own GPS. We do have a couple of |
| 18 | assets to tow everybody's vehicle or equipment on | 18 | team GPSs, but there's 18 people on the team, and |
| 19 | site. | 19 | there's two GPSs. Not enough to go around. |
| 20 |  | 20 |  |
| 21 | As you can see in the Jackson's Arm search, we | 21 | So well over \$1,000 just to get started in basic |
| 22 | were going 1300, 1500 kilometres every day. And | 22 | equipment. You have to buy your own backpack. |
| 23 | there's no way to... We do have two trailers, | 23 | So it's not a cheap undertaking for a volunteer. |
| 24 | but we can only carry a maximum of 4 snowmobiles, | 24 |  |



|  | Page 89 |  | Page 91 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | Because it's so good to have different eyes and | 1 | MS. BEDFORD: |
| 2 | different perspectives because then some of the | 2 | Q. Is that correct? |
| 3 | things that you think you know, you realize that | 3 | MR. BLACKMORE: |
| 4 | there are others who actually know. | 4 | A. Yeah. CASARA nationally has roughly 4400 |
| 5 |  | 5 | members. Coast Guard Auxiliary has 68. And we |
| 6 | So it's a good time to check on Harry, make sure | 6 | have 9,000 volunteers across the country. |
| 7 | that he's okay or he wants to come down. And | 7 | MS. BEDFORD: |
| 8 | we'll be back in 15 minutes there. | 8 | Q. Thank you. And roughly, can either one of you |
| 9 | THE CLERK: | 9 | speak to the assets that CASARA has? |
| 10 | All rise. | 10 | MR. GERMANI: |
| 11 |  | 11 | A. The Deer Lake Team has privately owned aircraft. |
| 12 | (Recess) | 12 | So CASARA doesn't own those aircraft, but the |
| 13 |  | 13 | costs of operating them for CASARA purposes is |
| 14 | THE CLERK: | 14 | reimbursed. |
| 15 | All rise. This Commission of Inquiry is now in | 15 |  |
| 16 | session. Please be seated. | 16 | Equipment-wise, we use iPads, for example, for |
| 17 | COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: | 17 | navigation. There are about five or six iPads. |
| 18 | Go ahead, sir. | 18 | We have handheld VHF radios. We have a couple of |
| 19 | MR. BUDDEN: | 19 | inReach devices. We have homing devices, two or |
| 20 | Thank you, Commissioner. Geoff Budden speaking | 20 | three of those, which are used to short distance |
| 21 | again. Before we move on to the search, I | 21 | locate an emergency locator beacon. |
| 22 | understand that Ms. Bedford has a question or two | 22 |  |
| 23 | that she would like to put to Mr. Germani about | 23 | We are provided with some articles of clothing: |
| 24 | CASARA. | 24 | jackets, hats, safety vests. That would be about |
|  | Page 90 |  | Page 92 |
| 1 | After speaking to you, I understand that it's | 1 | it for equipment. |
| 2 | okay for her to do so. So I would ask | 2 | MS. BEDFORD: |
| 3 | Ms. Bedford to now ask those questions. | 3 | Q. Okay. Thank you very much. |
| 4 | MS. BEDFORD: | 4 | MR. BUDDEN: |
| 5 | Q. Hi, Mr. Germani. I actually am not sure if these | 5 | Just not to offer evidence, but there will be |
| 6 | questions are best directed to you or to your | 6 | evidence later at the Inquiry. And I'm doing |
| 7 | colleague. | 7 | this from memory, but I believe there are 51 |
| 8 |  | 8 | CASARA members in the province, and they have |
| 9 | However, you did discuss how your team has, I | 9 | access to nine fixed-wing aircraft. |
| 10 | think you said, 18 members? | 10 |  |
| 11 | MR. GERMANI: | 11 | And that evidence will probably emerge through |
| 12 | A. Yes, we do. | 12 | Brian Bishop, who is the President of CASARA |
| 13 | MS. BEDFORD: | 13 | Newfoundland at the policy roundtable. |
| 14 | Q. How many members are in all of CASARA? | 14 |  |
| 15 | MR. GERMANI: | 15 | So these issues are important issues and will be |
| 16 | A. Oh, gosh. Nationwide? I have no idea. We've | 16 | returned to later on in the hearings. |
| 17 | got about a dozen members in Deer Lake. | 17 |  |
| 18 | MS. BEDFORD: | 18 | Commissioner, if this pleases you, we can now |
| 19 | Q. And would you maybe know the number in | 19 | return to Mr. Williams. And this relates |
| 20 | Newfoundland? | 20 | directly to Exhibit 73, which is on the screen |
| 21 | MR. GERMANI: | 21 | or, at least, was on the screen a moment ago. |
| 22 | A. Probably another 25 or 30 in St. John's, and | 22 |  |
| 23 | that's it. | 23 | I understand there may be some technological |
| 24 |  | 24 | problems with our feed that may delay bringing up |

1 some of the exhibits.
BY MR. BUDDEN:
Q. But this particular one is, I believe, a
five-page report, which is two pages of narrative and three pages of mapping.

And I understand, Mr. Williams, that you wrote this report?
MR. WILLIAMS:
A. Darren Williams here. Yes, I did.

MR. BUDDEN:
Q. Okay, thanks. Perhaps we'll take this fairly slow, a day at a time. Please feel free to refer to a map. And when you do, just indicate what page it is and give Madam Clerk a moment to bring it up on the big screen.

So perhaps, you can just start with February 1st, and how the Deer Lake SAR Team came to be involved in this search and what information was relayed to you at the time of that first outreach.
MR. WILLIAMS:
A. Basically, it started out like any of our

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searches. We were contacted by the RCMP, Deer Lake Detachment, that we had a five-party snowmobile party that were heading from Jackson's Arm to Harbour Deep for the night.

Due to bad weather and stuff, they ended up losing two of their members, and they actually didn't know where they were to. And they were searching for hours at that point and still couldn't find them.

So they said, well, we better get more reinforcements out here. So their next call, I guess, was to the RCMP to dispatch us.
MR. BUDDEN:
Q. And just for the record, the names will come up. They would be a Mr. Stan Rice and, is it, Wilbur Lovell? Not Wilbur. What's Mr. Lovell's --
MR. WILLIAMS:
A. Wilfred Lovell.

MR. BUDDEN:
Q. Wilfred Lovell. That's right. Those are the two individuals that had become separated from the larger group?

MR. WILLIAMS:
A. Yes.

MR. BUDDEN:
Q. Okay. Thank you. Resume, please.

MR. WILLIAMS:
A. When we assembled at the building with RCMP, it was late afternoon -- actually, more in the evening. We realized that the weather was really, really detrimental out there to any members. It was stormy. Visibility was very low. They had searched all day.

The guys that were out there actually said, well, they're going to continue searching as long as they can and then call it off.

So I figured by the time we got our members assembled and out on site, it was going to be late in the night or early in the next morning.

And for safety reasons, I wouldn't allow our members to go in the dead of night due to weather.

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MR. BUDDEN:
Q. So just to set the scene a little more. You say you assembled. That was at the Deer Lake SAR Headquarters there on ...? What's the name of the road again?
MR. WILLIAMS:
A. 5 Squires Road, Deer Lake.

MR. BUDDEN:
Q. 5 Squires Road, Deer Lake. And about what time of day would the team have assembled there?
MR. WILLIAMS:
A. That would have been probably, Brian, what?

MR. PARSONS:
A. Was it 8:00?

MR. WILLIAMS:
A. Around 8:00 p.m.

MR. BUDDEN:
Q. Okay. 8:00 p.m. So 8:00 p.m., February 1st was obviously full darkness?
MR. WILLIAMS:
A. Yes.

MR. BUDDEN:
Q. And just give me a bit more detail about the weather, precipitation, wind speed, those kind of

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things. Visibility.
MR. WILLIAMS:
A. Well, we were looking at the weather. It was gusting, and I know this because Wayne works at the airport, my first assistant. And he said the wind speeds were sustained at about 80, 82 kilometres an hour. Gusts of 100 to 110 kilometres an hour.
MR. BUDDEN:
Q. Sustained 80, gusting 110 kilometres an hour?

MR. WILLIAMS:
A. Right. Yeah.

MR. BUDDEN:
Q. Okay. And was there any precipitation?

MR. WILLIAMS:
A. Well, with that, you do get snow.

MR. BUDDEN:
Q. Of course, yeah.

So the decision was made that it would imperil the safety of the members to depart at that point. So the decision was then made to do what?
MR. WILLIAMS:
A. Well, basically, we found out what members are

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going? What assets they were taking with them? What time we were going to assemble at our building? What time we were going to leave?

We wanted to leave in a group because the weather was still not nice, even out of the Deer Lake area. So we travelled as a group.

So we wanted to depart our building at 5:00 a.m. in the morning so that we could be on scene by 6:00, 6:30 and dispatch the teams shortly after.
MR. BUDDEN:
Q. Okay. And I'll just read the paragraph here for everybody's benefit, and then you can elaborate a bit.
"February 10th, 2019, 16 DLSAR team members with their personal snowmobiles, trucks, and trailers, along with DLSAR's Command Post, Rapid Response vehicle, snowmobile, and medical evacuation equipment, snowbulance, arrived at the staging area, Cat Arm Road, at approximately 6:30."

So you assembled at 5:00 a.m., and all of these

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people and equipment arrived onsite at 6:30?
MR. WILLIAMS:
A. Yes. This was our staging area, which is a road off the main drag into Jackson's Arm and the beginning of what we call Cat Arm Reservoir Road.

It's a road that takes you up to the country where the actual trailheads start.
MR. BUDDEN:
Q. And what's a snowbulance?

MR. WILLIAMS:
A. A snowbulance is an enclosed encapsulated rescue unit that we have. It's got a heater in it, and we've since moved on to different equipment. But at the time we had it, it was approximately 12-feet long, four skis on it. It's towed behind a snowmobile. It's got a battery-operated heater and everything in it.

We equipped it with backboards, trauma kits, hypothermic bags, everything it needed to assist in someone that could be injured or hypothermic and get them out to be transported by medevac or by ambulance.

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MR. BUDDEN:
Q. So it's a fairly sophisticated piece of equipment?
MR. WILLIAMS:
A. Yes. Yeah, it is.

MR. BUDDEN:
Q. Okay. Move on, please.

MR. WILLIAMS:
A. So at that time, we arrived on scene. We brought our captains into the Command Post. Did a briefing with the team captains where we think they should go. We knew that the other three participants on the five-man group that were in the country, that were heading to Harbour Deep, were up on scene already.

We were told at that point that these two gentlemen that were lost, it's not the first time this has happened, and that they are familiar with it.

And their protocol was to stay where they're to, hunker in or bury in or find a snow cave or sit up until someone comes and finds them.

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So they were adamant that they weren't far from the last known position. So our goal, that first day, was to search approximately a two-kilometre radius from the last known position to hopefully locate them.
MR. BUDDEN:
Q. What conditions were you working with? Weather conditions?
MR. WILLIAMS:
A. Well, to say miserable is an understatement. We had visibility from five to ten feet most of the day. So people in front of you with snowmobiles. We had a four-man crew. Everybody had to be very careful that they didn't bang into each other.

We did have incidents up there where the weather conditions were bad that snowmobiles were falling over snowdrifts, up against trees and breaking windshields and mirrors, and so on and so forth.
MR. BUDDEN:
Q. You actually had equipment damaged in the course of this search?
MR. WILLIAMS:
A. Yes, we did. Yeah.

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MR. BUDDEN:
Q. Okay. So if we're comparing it to the previous day, gusting 80, gusting above that and snow, or blowing snow, would it have been roughly similar? MR. WILLIAMS:
A. Yes.

MR. BUDDEN:
Q. Okay. I see a reference in the note to the term "LKP," last known position. And in this case, you've sort of explained already, but again, what's the significance of LKP, last known position?
MR. WILLIAMS:
A. Basically, his last known position is the last place that they could physically put the person before they became lost.

So that is the general area where you start your search from and work from that point out, right?

You know that they were there. You're not assuming they were there. You actually physically know that they were at that position.

MR. BUDDEN:
Q. And this really repeats what you've already said. "But due to poor weather conditions and extremely limited visibility, the search was slow and time-consuming." You stand behind those words?
MR. WILLIAMS:
A. Oh, definitely.

MR. BUDDEN:
Q. Okay. It moves on in the next paragraph. There's a term there. I'll read the sentence. "All DLSAR Teams (Deer Lake Search and Rescue Teams) continued to perform search patterns and check all commonly used trails and snowmobile routes until dark that day."

You say more, but I'll stop at that point. Search patterns, tell me a little bit about that and in some detail, if you could.
MR. WILLIAMS:
A. Well, we do different search techniques by using natural barriers or some grid patterns, depending on the situation.

Open country where you can't see anything, it's
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kind of hard to do visual, right? So I mean, basically, your visibility is ten feet.

So, first off, we do what's called a hasty search where the normal trails that they used to get to Harbour Deep were utilized.

So going to Harbour Deep, there's four or five main trails that people that know the way there usually stay on and maintain because they're trouble-free or they're easily accessible.

So we had our four teams start doing the trails. We didn't go past two to three kilometres the first day for the simple reason that the three gentlemen that were in this party were adamant that they would not travel any farther than they would. And they don't panic. They don't stress. So more than likely, we'll find them somewhere dug into a snow shelter.

So we started doing all the different trails that they would take. And when that didn't work, we come to the last known position and start doing

|  | Page 105 |  | Page 107 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | some grid patterns where we set up a line of | 1 | Basically, what we'd do, every two hours, we get |
| 2 | three or four skidoos in a line from the last | 2 | whoever's in charge of communication on that |
| 3 | known position, take a bearing of which way we're | 3 | specific team -- so each team had an inReach or |
| 4 | heading, which is controlled by the team captain, | 4 | communications officer. |
| 5 | and they slowly proceed in different areas. | 5 |  |
| 6 |  | 6 | At the top of every two hours, they would stop, |
| 7 | Covering off areas, like doing block patterns, | 7 | verybody would stop with them. They would take |
| 8 | basically, to try to eliminate the fact that you | 8 | ut their inReach, text to command, this is our |
| 9 | could have walked right by them or passed by | 9 | location. We would plot it where they were to. |
| 10 | them. But with the visibility and the weather | 10 | Nothing seen so far. Awaiting further |
| 11 | conditions, that was extremely hard to do. | 11 | instructions or continue on grid search. |
| 12 | MR. BUDDEN: | 12 |  |
| 13 | Q. So if you're doing these patterns, how far apart | 13 | So we would affirm one or the other. Either |
| 14 | would the machines be? | 14 | continue on. Nothing sighted. Continue search, |
| 15 | MR. WILLIAMS: | 15 | right? |
| 16 | A. Well, the snow machines couldn't get any farther | 16 |  |
| 17 | than maximum ten feet apart, or they'd lose sight | 17 | So we would do that so that we could keep track |
| 18 | of each other. | 18 | of our members. Safety reasons. You don't know |
| 19 | MR. BUDDEN: | 19 | hat could happen to them. They could get |
| 20 | Q. Okay. And would records be kept of these | 20 | injured themselves. Very poor visibility. So we |
| 21 | searches to avoid some areas being done three | 21 | anted, for safety reasons, for them to check in |
| 22 | times; others not at all? | 22 | at least every two hours. |
| 23 | MR. WILLIAMS: | 23 | MR. BUDDEN: |
| 24 | A. Yeah. We would come back and download our GPS | 24 | Q. Okay. And so this might be a good time just to |
|  | Page 106 |  | Page 108 |
| 1 | coordinates so that we could tell and plot them | 1 | make, I guess, or speak to a certain point. |
| 2 | where they were to, right? | 2 | You're doing dangerous work out here. Obviously, |
| 3 | MR. BUDDEN: | 3 | it goes without saying that one cannot avoid |
| 4 | Q. Okay. And there's a reference there, as | 4 | danger entirely in conditions such as this, but |
| 5 | I'll read the rest of that sentence. "Checking | 5 | one has to be measured in how much, I guess, |
| 6 | in every two hours on inReach systems and | 6 | danger you put each other in. |
| 7 | satellite phones." Tell me a bit about that. | 7 |  |
| 8 | MR. WILLIAMS: | 8 | How do you sort of make those calculations? |
| 9 | A. Well, satellite phones, some of the members got | 9 | R. WILLIAMS: |
| 10 | their own private phones. They weren't as | 10 | A. There's several aspects of it. First off, I |
| 11 | effective because we really had no way to contact | 11 | guess, we look at safety of our members. |
| 12 | back to the Command Post at the staging area. | 12 |  |
| 13 |  | 13 | Is it a life-and-death situation that they could |
| 14 | The staging area was put right at the beginning | 14 | be putting themselves in, right? Is it a |
| 15 | of Cat Arm Road, and that's where everything was | 15 | manageable situation? Is it safe? Can they do |
| 16 | orchestrated from there. | 16 | it a reasonable speed and reasonable progression? |
| 17 |  | 17 |  |
| 18 | They used to call back to the RCMP Detachment | 18 | If not, then I mean, I've got to look after |
| 19 | Deer Lake, and they would relay through their | 19 | safety of my guys in the country, right? |
| 20 | officer that was onsite to us things that were | 20 | MR. BUDDEN: |
| 21 | happening out there. | 21 | Q. Okay. So it's a balancing, like so many things |
| 22 |  | 22 | are? |
| 23 | We found that very ineffective, so we started | 23 | MR. WILLIAMS: |
| 24 | getting everybody to use their inReach. | 24 | A. Exactly. There's a lot of factors to weigh out. |


|  | Page 109 |  | Page 111 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | I mean, sometimes you look at it that the person, | 1 | If not, there's only three of them. So we'll |
| 2 | in particular, right? It could be a child. It | 2 | scan around until we find it. |
| 3 | could be maybe an autistic child. It could be an | 3 |  |
| 4 | older person with dementia. | 4 | Is that helpful? |
| 5 |  | 5 | MR. WILLIAMS: |
| 6 | Every one of those situations are a little | 6 | A. Can that one be moved, the map be moved up? |
| 7 | different, and they're all handled a little | 7 | Okay. Do you see where she got "staging area," |
| 8 | different, right? | 8 | in purple at the bottom? |
| 9 |  | 9 | MR. BUDDEN: |
| 10 | Priority levels, right, is a big factor in it, | 10 | Q. Yes. |
| 11 | too. If they're young, they're healthy, and it's | 11 | MR. WILLIAMS: |
| 12 | harmful for our members to be out searching for | 12 | A. That's where we set up. That's right on the main |
| 13 | them, we do a risk assessment for our members. | 13 | road going into Jackson's Arm, right on the side. |
| 14 | Risk versus reward, right? | 14 | That's the staging area. |
| 15 |  | 15 |  |
| 16 | So I mean, that's one of the things you got to | 16 | Now, if you zoom down, down more. Okay. You'll |
| 17 | look at when you send your guys out in the | 17 | see there where it says last known position, |
| 18 | country. | 18 | "KLP," right there. |
| 19 | MR. BUDDEN: | 19 | MR. BUDDEN: |
| 20 | Q. So if you're dealing, say, with experienced | 20 | Q. Got you. How long did it take your team to cover |
| 21 | snowmobilers who presumably have a fair bit of | 21 | that 52 kilometres? |
| 22 | equipment on them, that would be an urgency | 22 | MR. WILLIAMS: |
| 23 | factor. | 23 | A. Oh, it would take probably, I'd say, close to an |
| 24 |  | 24 | hour to get in there at that point. It's not a |
|  | Page 110 |  | Page 112 |
| 1 | If you're dealing with a seven-year-old who had | 1 | groomed trail. It's maintained in so far to the |
| 2 | wandered away from a cabin or something, totally | 2 | Cat Arm Reservoir, but that's only about probably |
| 3 | utterly vulnerable, you would factor that in in a | 3 | 40 percent of the way in. The other is left -- |
| 4 | different way? | 4 | and so I mean, you're talking ten-foot drifts and |
| 5 | MR. WILLIAMS: | 5 | wind-driven areas because as you're going in, |
| 6 | A. All those factors are taken in consideration when | 6 | you're going up, as well, in elevation. |
| 7 | we formulate a plan, right? | 7 | MR. BUDDEN: |
| 8 | MR. BUDDEN: | 8 | Q. So you could move fairly fast through the groomed |
| 9 | Q. Okay. And I skipped over this point, but the | 9 | portion, but then you'd have to really slow down? |
| 10 | last known position was 52 kilometres north of | 10 | MR. WILLIAMS: |
| 11 | the staging area, north of where you drove to, I | 11 | A. Yes. Correct, yeah. |
| 12 | guess? | 12 | MR. BUDDEN: |
| 13 | MR. WILLIAMS: | 13 | Q. Okay. And then the grid search pattern, you |
| 14 | A. Yes. It's on one of our maps, actually, our | 14 | spoke to that. The commonly used trail, the |
| 15 | staging area and the last known position. | 15 | hasty search. |
| 16 | MR.BUDDEN: | 16 |  |
| 17 | Q. Okay. Perhaps we call that up now. Which | 17 | Then you end that day's activity with, "Due to |
| 18 | picture map would that be? There are three here. | 18 | the stormy weather, lack of visibility, and |
| 19 | MR.WILLIAMS: | 19 | safety concerns, all teams were instructed to |
| 20 | A. I never downloaded mine, to be honest with you, | 20 | return to staging areas shortly after dark, |
| 21 | so I don't know which one it is. Pardon? Number | 21 | approximately 1930 hours," which is 7:30 p.m. |
| 22 | 3. | 22 |  |
| 23 | MR. BUDDEN: | 23 | Anything to add to that? |
| 24 | Q. Okay. That would be the final page, Madam Clerk. | 24 |  |



|  | Page 117 |  | Page 119 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | And when we got the last known position, there | 1 | headlight. |
| 2 | was one spot on sort of the corner of a pond. | 2 |  |
| 3 | Like a little bit of woods came out, small woods, | 3 | Visibility, as Darren stated, was five to ten |
| 4 | and we had a fire going there. | 4 | feet. That's not exaggeration there. Most of |
| 5 |  | 5 | that day on that country, I would not be able to |
| 6 | And as a searcher, it's very frustrating when you | 6 | see those cameras. You're snowmobiling in the |
| 7 | can't search. If you can't see, you can't search | 7 | centre of a snowball. That's how bad it was. |
| 8 | safely. And we spent most of Friday attempting | 8 |  |
| 9 | to leave our fire area and search, only to be | 9 | So search efforts on Friday -- |
| 10 | turned back. | 10 | MR. BUDDEN: |
| 11 |  | 11 | Q. You're referring to the cameras that are maybe 10 |
| 12 | And I'll give you one specific example. | 12 | or 15 feet in front of you now? |
| 13 | Sometimes people throw around risk and injury to | 13 | MR. ANSTEY: |
| 14 | your searchers a bit flippantly. I felt, as a | 14 | A. Yes, correct. Yeah. Search efforts on the first |
| 15 | 33-year veteran game warden, I don't know if I've | 15 | day were very frustrating. We did not get out |
| 16 | been out in circumstances as bad. And I've been | 16 | very far to only have to come back. And we were |
| 17 | out many times on that country. I felt we were | 17 | at real risk of losing our own members. So that |
| 18 | at risk of losing lives in our own searchers. | 18 | was Friday. |
| 19 |  | 19 |  |
| 20 | We left in groups of four. There were times when | 20 | And even to make a satellite phone call involved |
| 21 | -- I remember one time we tried to get out and | 21 | taking off your helmet, your goggles, your hats |
| 22 | search. I was number two in our string of four. | 22 | and mitts. And then that would fill full of |
| 23 | And I said to the search members behind me, if | 23 | snow, and your fingers would be freezing. Your |
| 24 | you lose my taillight and you can't see it, you | 24 | skin on your cheeks would freeze, just to make a |
|  | Page 118 |  | Page 120 |
| 1 | stop. You don't move. You don't even turn | 1 | phone call. It was very extreme and debatable |
| 2 | around your snowmobile. Don't veer left or | 2 | whether or not we should have been there at all, |
| 3 | right. Don't look for me. Don't try to find me | 3 | I suppose. But that's, by nature, what we do. |
| 4 | because our tracks are being swept away as fast | 4 | RALPH, Q.C.: |
| 5 | as we're making them. | 5 | Q. I'm sorry, Mr. Budden. You said the first day |
| 6 |  | 6 | that you were on the country was Friday; is that |
| 7 | And there were times when I could not see the | 7 | correct? |
| 8 | skis of my own snowmobile. And we got out on a | 8 | MR. ANSTEY: |
| 9 | pond or a steady where it was the last known | 9 | A. Sorry. It was Saturday. Day 2, I believe |
| 10 | position. It was right where these guys got | 10 | (technical difficulties) of Day 1, correct. |
| 11 | lost. And I turned around, and I didn't see a | 11 | Thank you. |
| 12 | headlight. | 12 | MR. BUDDEN: |
| 13 |  | 13 | Q. So would it be fair to say that you really were |
| 14 | And I had given instructions to the guys, you | 14 | on the cusp of being able to operate at all? |
| 15 | stay put because you can die. If you get off | 15 | MR. ANSTEY: |
| 16 | it's going to be rough. | 16 | A. Absolutely. Yeah, without question. The first |
| 17 |  | 17 | day was frustrating in the sense that we didn't |
| 18 | So we stopped, and we waited, and after three or | 18 | cover much ground. |
| 19 | four minutes, we didn't turn our snow machines | 19 |  |
| 20 | around and get back on our track. We got off, | 20 | The gentlemen who were lost, their accomplices |
| 21 | and we lifted them around so that our skis were | 21 | were adamant that they were not gone very far |
| 22 | back on our skis marks. And zoom your GPS right | 22 | because of the instructions they had given them. |
| 23 | next to a huge screen and just crawl, crawl, | 23 | If we get separated, you stay put. Do not go |
| 24 | crawl. We didn't go 50 feet, and I ran into a | 24 | anywhere. |


|  | Page 121 |  | Page 123 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | So they were adamant that they were in that | 1 | MR. BUDDEN: |
| 2 | little valley, that area that we were in. And | 2 | Okay. That's the first day, February -- the |
| 3 | they wanted us to search exhaustively right in | 3 | first full day, Saturday, February 2nd. I know |
| 4 | that area. | 4 | in Makkovik, Mr. Commissioner, you thought it |
| 5 |  | 5 | most effective to have questioning follow each |
| 6 | And of course, we have to weigh that with what we | 6 | particular day. |
| 7 | know and experienced in the past of whether or | 7 |  |
| 8 | not they may have moved on. | 8 | Do you wish to do the same thing here or to move |
| 9 | MR. BUDDEN: | 9 | on to the next day? |
| 10 | Q. No, that's very helpful. | 10 | COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: |
| 11 | MR. ANSTEY: | 11 | Yeah. Well, let's ask counsel. |
| 12 | A. But I just wanted to give you visuals of how | 12 | RALPH, Q.C.: |
| 13 | nasty it was on that country. | 13 | That's fine. And perhaps, my questions can be |
| 14 | MR. BUDDEN: | 14 | directed to -- |
| 15 | Q. Sure. And we'll hear other evidence on this over | 15 | MR. BUDDEN: |
| 16 | the next couple of days. But from your | 16 | Sorry, I made a mistake here. I didn't ask if |
| 17 | perspective on the ground, as an experienced | 17 | any other team members had anything to add to the |
| 18 | search and rescue volunteer and experienced | 18 | experience of the first day. If so, I apologize |
| 19 | person in the woods, are you able to speculate at | 19 | for that. That was my oversight. |
| 20 | all as to what degree, if at all, an air search | 20 | MR. CHAULK: |
| 21 | would have been effective that day? | 21 | A. Brian Chaulk. The first day, I wasn't in the |
| 22 | MR. ANSTEY: | 22 | bush with the guys. I was in the staging area. |
| 23 | A. Well, oftentimes, on high, flat country in | 23 | And just back at the staging area, I was very |
| 24 | blizzard conditions, it's what we call ground | 24 | concerned for the guys that were in the bush. |
|  | Page 122 |  | Page 124 |
| 1 | drift. It's wind picking up the snow that's | 1 | The weather conditions and the temperatures that |
| 2 | already fallen. And it may be 6, 8, 10 feet, 20 | 2 | they left in, and I knew looking at the maps that |
| 3 | feet high, just blizzard conditions. Above that, | 3 | every foot they moved, they were going in higher |
| 4 | you may have blue sky. You may have patches of | 4 | altitude. And the higher you go, the worst the |
| 5 | weather, varying cloud or low ceiling. | 5 | weather gets. Everything just deteriorates. |
| 6 |  | 6 |  |
| 7 | I recall hearing a search aircraft many times | 7 | And back at the staging area with the extreme |
| 8 | overhead. Could not see it, but you could hear | 8 | cold temperatures and the high winds, I was very |
| 9 | the engines and back and forth. | 9 | concerned for our guys in the bush. Very |
| 10 |  | 10 | concerned. |
| 11 | So air search with respect to visibility at | 11 |  |
| 12 | ground level would have been pretty much nil, I | 12 | And I had the inReach set up outside, and I would |
| 13 | would suspect, for the majority of the day. | 13 | be waiting. I was looking at my watch, okay. |
| 14 | MR. BUDDEN: | 14 | Two hours, the boys should be calling in. I |
| 15 | Q. So you were up there. You could hear them but | 15 | would wait for a message to know that they were |
| 16 | couldn't see them? | 16 | okay. |
| 17 | MR. ANSTEY: | 17 |  |
| 18 | A. That's correct. | 18 | But just being back in the staging area, I was |
| 19 | MR. BUDDEN: | 19 | extremely concerned because of the cold |
| 20 | Q. And you can't say whether they could see you, but | 20 | temperatures and the very, very poor visibility. |
| 21 | you can say you couldn't see them? | 21 |  |
| 22 | MR. ANSTEY: | 22 | Back there, it was basically zero visibility back |
| 23 | A. That's correct. | 23 | in the staging area. |
| 24 |  | 24 |  |

MR. BUDDEN:
Thank you. And you, Mr. Parsons, have you anything to add? Okay. Or you, Mr. Germani? Okay. Thank you. Sorry, Mr. Ralph. It was my fault there.

RALPH, Q.C.:
Q. Mr. Williams and, I guess, Mr. Chaulk, you two gentlemen were at the Command Post; is that correct? (No audible answer.)

And so perhaps, you can describe that? So how many people would be at that post at that time?
MR. WILLIAMS:
A. The first day, we had four at the Command Post. We had a map person, we had a scroll, and Brian was doing communications. And I was coordinating.
RALPH, Q.C.:
Q. Right. And so in terms of documenting what's happening, I guess, in terms of communication and in terms of what territory they're searching, how is that recorded?

MR. WILLIAMS:
A. It's hard to do at that specific time. The only

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thing we could do is when they call in, we would have a coordinate that would accompany their inReach text. So we would take it, at that time, and plot it on the map. So we could keep track of the teams every two hours.
RALPH, Q.C.:
Q. Right. So you couldn't actually keep track of what territory they covered? You would keep track of where they were when they sent messages to you?
MR. WILLIAMS:
A. Yes.

RALPH, Q.C.:
Q. Is that right? So you wouldn't know, okay, that they've gone from Point A to Point B, but you knew they were at Point $A$ and you knew their Point $B$; is that right?

MR. WILLIAMS:
A. Yeah. There is a way to do it. It's called a tracking on each, but not everybody's got it on their own personal inReach. There's a tracking system where you can do it, but you've got to have access to the internet and stuff like that to do it.

RALPH, Q.C.:
Q. It won't work in that setting?

MR. WILLIAMS:
A. No.

RALPH, Q.C.:
Q. And so the information, then, that -- so they're sending you messages every two hours telling you where they are. And where is that information recorded?

In that instance, was someone recording that information on a piece of paper?
MR. WILLIAMS:
A. Yes. At that time, the scroll would have a book set up for the search, and he would have what team called in, who's the actual communicator that you're talking to, what time they sent it in, and what the message was, and their location.

So when that was finished, we would take it, and he would relay the coordinates to the map person. They would confirm them and plot where they were to.

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RALPH, Q.C.:
Q. Right. So in terms of the organization of the search in the Command Post, so was an RCMP officer with you at that point?
MR. WILLIAMS:
A. Yes.

RALPH, Q.C.:
Q. And that person would be considered the incident commander; is that correct? How are those positions defined?
MR. WILLIAMS:
A. Typically, on a search, we run the search. We're the incident commander at the time.
RALPH, Q.C.:
Q. So you would have been the incident commander at that time?
MR. WILLIAMS:
A. Well, basically, the RCMP assists us with everything we need. So if I say, okay, we need to get more support, they start working on getting more air support. Stuff like that.

With regards to orchestrating our teams and stuff like that in the field, that would be my

|  | Page 129 |  | Page 131 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | responsibility or the coordinator's | 1 | RALPH, Q.C.: |
| 2 | responsibility of the team. Typically, that's | 2 | Q. Right. |
| 3 | the way it works for us. | 3 | MR. CHAULK: |
| 4 | RALPH, Q.C.: | 4 | A. I mean, a lot of times we have younger officers |
| 5 | Q. Right. | 5 | that just come in that are scene that haven't |
| 6 | MR. WILLIAMS: | 6 | experienced a lot of searches and aren't |
| 7 | A. Right? Now, if an RCMP officer come in, he's got | 7 | qualified. So they don't mind. |
| 8 | more qualifications than I got, I'd have no | 8 |  |
| 9 | problems relinquishing it to him and letting him | 9 | We don't try and step on their toes, but I mean |
| 10 | run it. That's not an issue, right? | 10 | if they're more than willing to take it over if |
| 11 | RALPH, Q.C.: | 11 | they wanted to, but it seems like, for the most |
| 12 | Q. Okay. And sorry, Mr. Chaulk? | 12 | part, they're willing to assist the best they can |
| 13 | MR. CHAULK: | 13 | and do what they can for us, to get what |
| 14 | A. Yes, sir. And also, the RCMP, there are times | 14 | resources we need. |
| 15 | our members in the field would call to the RCMP | 15 | RALPH, Q.C.: |
| 16 | via satellite phone and then they would relay the | 16 | Q. Right. So the decisions in terms of what |
| 17 | message to us. | 17 | resources or what members do in terms of |
| 18 | RALPH, Q.C.: | 18 | searching and how that's organized, that's your |
| 19 | Q. Right. So in this instance, when you first | 19 | decision; is that right? |
| 20 | arrived, I guess it would have been February the | 20 | MR. CHAULK: |
| 21 | 2nd - Saturday, February the 2nd - you met at Cat | 21 | A. Correct, yes. Yeah. Now, resources? It's done |
| 22 | Arm. You set up the Command Post. | 22 | collaboratively between us and the RCMP. |
| 23 |  | 23 |  |
| 24 | Would you have a discussion right away in terms | 24 | Like, that first day, we talked about when the |
|  | Page 130 |  | Page 132 |
| 1 | of what positions people will have in terms of, | 1 | day progressed on we weren't having any success, |
| 2 | you be the incident commander? Will you be | 2 | we started talking about, okay. We need air |
| 3 | search coordinator? Does that discussion take | 3 | assets now, right? Can we see if we can get the |
| 4 | place when you arrive? | 4 | 103 Cormorant to come in? |
| 5 | MR. CHAULK: | 5 | RALPH, Q.C.: |
| 6 | A. That's not really discussion we have. They kind | 6 | Q. Right. |
| 7 | of say, what can we do to assist you? What do | 7 | MR. CHAULK: |
| 8 | you need, right? | 8 | A. That's when they came in and said, okay. Well, |
| 9 |  | 9 | we can also offer you the RCMP plane. And we'd |
| 10 | So basically, we have our plan formulating the | 10 | get that down from -- I think she was in Nova |
| 11 | night before, before we actually went out, right? | 11 | Scotia at the time. He said, we can have her |
| 12 |  | 12 | down here today. As long as you can get spotters |
| 13 | So when we get out there, we just confirm the | 13 | in the plan and go from there, right. |
| 14 | teams. The scroll writes down who's on each | 14 | RALPH, Q.C.: |
| 15 | team. And at that time, then they proceed, | 15 | Q. Right. And so how is that done? How is the |
| 16 | right? | 16 | request for air support done? Is the RCMP |
| 17 | RALPH, Q.C.: | 17 | responsible for doing that, for arranging that? |
| 18 | Q. Right. | 18 | MR. CHAULK: |
| 19 | MR. CHAULK: | 19 | A. The RCMP looks after that, yes. I have no |
| 20 | A. Typically, the RCMP, like, kind of give us a | 20 | communications with them, unless someone, like, |
| 21 | little more leeway into running the search, | 21 | from JRCC wants to know communication numbers or |
| 22 | right? And that's typically the way it's been | 22 | inReach numbers, so that they can do |
| 23 | for years with us, right? | 23 | air-to-ground contact. |
| 24 |  | 24 |  |

RALPH, Q.C.:
Q. Right.

MR. CHAULK:
A. But for the most part, the RCMP manages all air assets.
RALPH, Q.C.:
Q. And I'm sure Mr. Budden will probably get to that now in just a while when we start talking about air support.

So in terms of the decision to take the searchers off or end the search that day, whose decision would that be?
MR. CHAULK:
A. Mine.

RALPH, Q.C.:
Q. That'd be your decision?

MR. CHAULK:
A. Mine.

RALPH, Q.C.:
Q. I have no further questions. Thank you.

MR. BUDDEN:
Ms. Bedford?

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MS. BEDFORD:
No questions. Thank you.
MR. BUDDEN:
Mr. Williams?
WILLIAMS, Q.C.:
No, thank you.
MR. BUDDEN:
Okay. (Technical difficulties) I should have this down pat.
RALPH, Q.C.:
Q. I'm sorry, Mr. Budden. I'm sorry. There's one thing I meant to ask. So the document that you use to record where people were and the messages, what happens to those documents at the end of the search?

Because I don't see any documents here that were made at the time. It seems the report that you had was made subsequent to the search; is that right?
MR. WILLIAMS:
A. Typically, those reports are filed in a file
cabinet in our office, right? Under searches, right? We take them, compile them, and put them

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in the search.

Now, I haven't looked for them. This was done on the Summary Report that I'd done up for them. I didn't know we were going to get in-depth with that aspect, so I didn't really look for the handwritten notes and stuff like that.
RALPH, Q.C.:
Q. But those documents are in your office?

MR. WILLIAMS:
A. They should be in a file in our office.

RALPH, Q.C.:
Q. Would you be able to get those fairly quickly? Or that would take some time to get those documents?
MR. WILLIAMS:
A. That would probably take some time for those, right?
RALPH, Q.C.:
Q. Okay.

MR. BUDDEN:
That's something we can talk about later, Mr. Ralph, if you wish.

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BY MR. BUDDEN:
Q. So the next day, after getting back from this very lengthy day, you reassembled the next morning at 5:00 a.m. You mustered the next morning at 5:00 a.m?
MR. WILLIAMS:
A. That's correct, yes.

MR. BUDDEN:
Q. Okay. And perhaps, you could just walk us through the day from there? This would be Sunday, February 3rd.
MR. WILLIAMS:
A. It'd be Sunday, yes. So basically, we knew that our hasty searches, our close searches to the last known position, weren't really fulfilling anything.

So we questioned the other three gentlemen. Okay. Like, they got GPSs. Do they have tracks of where you're going? He said, yes, they got tracks on. I said, are they capable of reading them? He said, yes. I said, okay.

With that understanding, I think what I'll do is

|  | Page 137 |  | Page 139 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | I'll start sending teams on the tracks that you | 1 | MR. BUDDEN: |
| 2 | have on your GPS towards Harbour Deep, in the | 2 | Q. Okay. What were the weather conditions like that |
| 3 | thought that, okay, if they did continue on and | 3 | second day? |
| 4 | not stop as they were supposed to, they may have | 4 | MR. WILLIAMS: |
| 5 | tried to proceed onto Harbour Deep. | 5 | A. They were the same thing. They were just as bad. |
| 6 |  | 6 | I mean, I was talking to our guys on the ground. |
| 7 | Now, whether or not something happened on the | 7 | They said they could hear planes going over. |
| 8 | way, we couldn't tell, but our next progression | 8 |  |
| 9 | was okay. This is our next step in widening the | 9 | At that time, I think the Cormorant 103 was |
| 10 | search. Let's do the trails. | 10 | there. I think we had the RCMP plane with five |
| 11 |  | 11 | spotters aboard, and we also had the Provincial |
| 12 | See, what you got to understand, there's | 12 | Airlines flight with their FLIR unit |
| 13 | basically like a turn point, which is called | 13 | (forward-infrared unit) going the same time, |
| 14 | Sam's Pond, which is on top of the hills before | 14 | right? |
| 15 | you enter Harbour Deep. And that's where | 15 |  |
| 16 | everybody usually gathers and stops and takes a | 16 | So at that time, that Sunday, I actually went up |
| 17 | break or whatever. | 17 | on the land with our guys just to get a feel for |
| 18 |  | 18 | it, see what they're dealing with, see where |
| 19 | There's a cabin there, an outfitter's cabin | 19 | they're to. |
| 20 | there. So we usually stop there and just talk. | 20 |  |
| 21 | Okay, guys. We're going down. Whatever we're | 21 | And Sheldon was not exaggerating, not one ounce |
| 22 | doing. Take a break. Have a snack or something | 22 | was he exaggerating, about the weather state |
| 23 | like that. | 23 | again. |
| 24 |  | 24 |  |
|  | Page 138 |  | Page 140 |
| 1 | So what I started to do was start sending guys' | 1 | And while I was up there, same thing. You could |
| 2 | teams down the different trails that headed to | 2 | hear planes flying over. You couldn't see a |
| 3 | Sam's Pond, which was the convergent point before | 3 | thing. |
| 4 | you went to Harbour Deep | 4 | MR. BUDDEN: |
| 5 | MR. BUDDEN: | 5 | Q. Okay. I want to break that down a bit because |
| 6 | Q. So is it fair to say that there's sort of a | 6 | there's some interesting stuff there. |
| 7 | probability analysis going on throughout a | 7 |  |
| 8 | search? | 8 | Firstly, how many members from your team, the |
| 9 | MR. WILLIAMS: | 9 | Deer Lake team, were present on Sunday, February |
| 10 | A. Correct. | 10 | 3rd? |
| 11 | MR. BUDDEN: | 11 | MR. WILLIAMS: |
| 12 | Q. The first thing you do, the first day, you're | 12 | A. We still had 16 members. |
| 13 | told, look, the understanding is if they get | 13 | MR. BUDDEN: |
| 14 | lost, they'll just hunker down. So your search | 14 | Q. Okay. So 16 of your own or 16 plus the Bay of |
| 15 | focused, really, on the last known position and | 15 | Islands guys? |
| 16 | immediate area around there. | 16 | MR. WILLIAMS: |
| 17 | MR. WILLIAMS | 17 | A. I think the Bay of Islands were called in on the |
| 18 | A. Yes, that's correct. | 18 | ext day, I think. Monday. Bay of Islands and |
| 19 | MR. BUDDEN: | 19 | the -- |
| 20 | Q. You now were looking at what you previously would | 20 | MR. BUDDEN: |
| 21 | have regarded as less probable places where they | 21 | Q. I think, actually, if you read that second |
| 22 | might be? | 22 | paragraph, it talks about their -- I'm probably |
| 23 | MR. WILLIAMS: | 23 | confusing you when we talk about Day 1, Day 2, |
| 24 | A. Yeah. | 24 | Day 3, so let's stick to the dates. We're now |

A. Yes, correct.

MR. BUDDEN:
Q. Now, we've talked about this already, but this might be a time to drill down a little bit on what exactly a spotter is. And what training, if any, that these particular spotters might have had.

Is there anything you can speak to, Mr. Williams? I believe Mr. Germani might be able to speak to this, too, but can you speak to this?
MR. WILLIAMS:
A. Yes. Yes. Mr. Germani might be able to put a little more light on that than me.
MR. GERMANI:
Doug Germani. CASARA trains spotters. They require some ground academic training every year. And in the airplane, I think it's a minimum of
two hours. I'd have to check the book to be sure, but every year there is required training.

Some of it is done via simulator on the ground, but the bulk of it is done in the aircraft. And we'll typically go out and fly a grid pattern. We'll tell the spotter what the simulated search visibility is, and typically, somewhere between half a mile and a mile.

And there are techniques that you can use to effectively search. We have a four-place, a Cessna 177, at our disposal at CASARA.

So two spotters would sit in the back of the airplane. The spotter on the left would focus on his search visibility distance, and he would start at the farthest distance and search small pockets, gradually getting closer and closer and closer to the aircraft. And move back out to the search distance and then move in close to the aircraft again. And repeat that process over and over again.

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So it's a systematic search. The spotter on the right-hand side does the same thing. And when you've come to the end of the gridline as announced by the navigator, that's a chance for the spotter to rest his eyes or her eyes. And the aircraft maneuvers to get on the next gridline, and you repeat the process.

That can go on for an hour and a half. In turbulent conditions, it can be challenging. Air sickness is a possibility. And if you have a crew member who is suffering from air sickness, then that person's capabilities as a spotter decreases.

Typically, a spotter will lose effectiveness after about 20 or 30 minutes. So at that point, you take a break from searching.

There's no sense continuing a search with a spotter who is compromised by the length of time on duty, 20 to 30 minutes, or if he or she is suffering from nausea. So you take a few minutes' break, and then you resume your search

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1 pattern again.

But I probably best let Harry answer the question about how spotter training is done for NLSARA crews.
MR. BUDDEN:
Q. Just before we turn to Harry, just as a follow-up from what you're saying. So spotting is a lot more sophisticated than just looking out the window?

MR. GERMANI:
A. Oh, absolutely. It's a structured discipline. CASARA spotters have to go through some fairly rigorous training.
MR. BUDDEN:
Q. And my understanding, at least from talking to various individuals, that these five individuals were trained spotters; is that your understanding as well?

MR. GERMANI:
A. That's what I've been told, yes. It's my understanding that one of them was a CASARA-trained spotter. And I'm told that the other four were trained spotters, but I don't

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believe they were CASARA spotters.
MR. BUDDEN:
Q. I see. Perhaps, Mr. Blackmore, you could speak at this point to the training, what NLSARA offers in terms of training for spotters?
MR. BLACKMORE:
A. Harry Blackmore. Training for spotters for our association is done, I'll say, haphazard. It's the same as we were told in Makkovik. That the guys up there have a lot of experience in flying and looking for things themselves.

Most teams or some teams that are around people or areas that have CASARA people there, they may come in and train them.

I can speak to my own team. We have 20 people trained. But as far as being recertified and all that stuff is, that's never done. There's nobody got any money from our association to be able to get a helicopter or a plane or anything else to go do it.

Everything that Doug is talking about is paid for
by the federal government. So we don't recertify or nothing else.

And things are missed. Like, the best spotters in the world, in my opinion, are the 103 people. They're SAR techs. You can't beat them, but they miss too. So things do get missed.

A lot of our team members are trained to look for things because they've been at it so long, and the amount of air time that they have incurred in searches with helicopters is where they mainly get their training.

But, like, I was trained in as a spotter eons ago. I would say a good 25,30 years ago. I've never recertified because we don't have a plane to be able to hire to be able to go up and do it. Nobody's got the money. It's as simple as that.

If we take the money to set up, rent out a plane to go for training, that means I can't send inReach machines out to some of our teams. So that part of it is there. So we don't do

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training that way.
MR. BUDDEN:
Q. Would it be fair to say that you regard it as a valuable technique, but the resources simply aren't there to train to the extent you wished? MR. BLACKMORE:
A. It's a valuable technique. We do them to the best we can. And through Brian Bishop, the CASARA Association President, he lines up certain courses across the province for us that we can do.

But there's other training that has to be done on volunteer time, so we don't punch a lot of time into it.

RALPH, Q.C.:
Q. Mr. Budden, I'm just wondering, can we get a sense of how often CASARA spotters are used in ground search and rescue operations? Do you have any kind of --
MR. BLACKMORE:
A. We don't deal with anybody that's known as CASARA. What we do is we have trained spotters in our own teams that are there. So they got

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| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | their training. That's what we put up. | 1 | And as well, they also had a resource -- RCMP |
| 2 |  | 2 | also arranged that I think, which was Provincial |
| 3 | If we were to call on spotters from a particular | 3 | Airlines with their forward infrared system. |
| 4 | group, like Doug, we may have to wait two and a | 4 | That was on scene, as well. |
| 5 | half hours for them to get there because they're | 5 | MR. BUDDEN: |
| 6 | not even in our area. | 6 | Q. And just briefly, we've heard other evidence of |
| 7 |  | 7 | this, and we will again, but for the benefit of |
| 8 | There's only 51 of them in the province. There's | 8 | anybody who's just tuning in today, what is the |
| 9 | a little over 800 of us. So that's the way we do | 9 | FLIR, F-L-I-R, which stands for forward-looking |
| 10 | it. And you do it to the best of your ability, | 10 | infrared? What is that? |
| 11 | and you keep looking the best you can. | 11 | MR. WILLIAMS: |
| 12 |  | 12 | A. It's basically something that picks up a heat |
| 13 | But we bring in people, like I say, 103 and them, | 13 | signature. So I mean, if they're alive or if |
| 14 | they help us out, too, training over the years. | 14 | there are animals down there and it's giving off |
| 15 | But there's no recurrence. | 15 | a fairly substantial heat signature, you should |
| 16 | MR. BUDDEN: | 16 | be able to read it through the snow and stuff |
| 17 | Q. And, again, we'll turn to CASARA issues in due | 17 | like that, right? |
| 18 | course. They're certainly important. Thank you, | 18 | MR. BUDDEN: |
| 19 | Mr. Germani. | 19 | Q. Okay. We will, again, hear over the next couple |
| 20 |  | 20 | of days much more specific evidence about how |
| 21 | Mr. Williams, just getting back to the events of | 21 | those resources were deployed when we get to some |
| 22 | Sunday, February 3rd. I understand, as well, | 22 | of the other witnesses. |
| 23 | that in addition to the RCMP spotter plane with | 23 |  |
| 24 | the Bay of Islands' spotters on it, there was a | 24 | But from your knowledge or perspective, were the |
|  | Page 150 |  | Page 152 |
| 1 | 103 Squadron, dispatched by JRCC and a Cormorant, | 1 | conditions there that day ideal or suitable or at |
| 2 | I presume, that would have been in the air, as | 2 | all useful for engaging these air resources? |
| 3 | well. | 3 | MR. WILLIAMS: |
| 4 |  | 4 | A. It was terrible, but we were hoping that maybe |
| 5 | Can you tell me anything about that? | 5 | outside the perimeter of what we were searching, |
| 6 | R. WILLIAMS: | 6 | maybe it wasn't as bad. |
| 7 | A. Yes. Like I said, after Saturday turned up | 7 |  |
| 8 | nothing, we said we should try and get some more | 8 | I mean, that area is so temperamental that you |
| 9 | assets here that can cover more ground than what | 9 | could be in a raging snowstorm one minute, and |
| 10 | we're covering due to weather. | 10 | you could drive half a kilometre and could get |
| 11 |  | 11 | blue skies for a minute, right? |
| 12 | We didn't know what they would be able to see up | 12 |  |
| 13 | there, and we figured with the 103 with their | 13 | So any hope at all. I mean, if something like |
| 14 | infrared technology and stuff, they would be able | 14 | that did transpire and they got a break in the |
| 15 | to get up there and probably do a little bigger | 15 | weather, and they're there looking, it's better |
| 16 | area than what we were covering at the time. | 16 | to have them on scene than say, okay, we got to |
| 17 |  | 17 | break for ten minutes and wait for an hour or two |
| 18 | So we asked them to dispatch. The RCMP person | 18 | for them to show up. |
| 19 | said, we got an RCMP plane here that you can use, | 19 | MR. BUDDEN: |
| 20 | if you want. That's great. And we said, yes, go | 20 | Q. Sure. And 11:00 in the morning of February 3rd, |
| 21 | for it. So I ended up calling Shawn. Told him | 21 | a discovery was made? |
| 22 | that we needed five trained spotters to assist in | 22 | MR. WILLIAMS: |
| 23 | that. | 23 | A. Yes. |
| 24 |  | 24 |  |


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| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | MR. BUDDEN: | 1 | MR. WILLIAMS: |
| 2 | Q. Can you tell me about that? | 2 | A. Basically, they go into a hover. They got SAR |
| 3 | MR. WILLIAMS: | 3 | techs that deploy from the fuselage. They assess |
| 4 | A. Basically, where we started to extend our search | 4 | the situation. If they deem that they can take |
| 5 | to different areas, one of the trails that | 5 | him to strap board, they need to put him on a |
| 6 | actually led to Harbour Deep is on a river | 6 | litter. They'll take him up. |
| 7 | system. | 7 |  |
| 8 |  | 8 | Now, I don't know how they got him aboard because |
| 9 | As we started to proceed there, Mr. Rice was | 9 | I wasn't there and I never talked to the SAR |
| 10 | actually found there. And when we found him, the | 10 | techs after. All I know is they had him aboard |
| 11 | front of his snowmobile was actually breaking | 11 | they were proceeding to the hospital with him. |
| 12 | through a section of the river. And where his | 12 | MR. BUDDEN: |
| 13 | snowmobile was to, he couldn't get out. So | 13 | Q. Okay. Do any of the other gentlemen have |
| 14 | that's where he stayed. | 14 | anything to add to what we've heard so far of the |
| 15 |  | 15 | events of that day? |
| 16 | He set up a snow shelter, and that's where his | 16 | MR. ANSTEY: |
| 17 | skidoo was to. And our guys banged into him on | 17 | A. Yes. Sheldon Anstey, Deer Lake SAR. Just |
| 18 | the way to what we call Sam's Pond, covering off | 18 | briefly, some of you may be wondering if |
| 19 | one of the trails that are commonly used trails. | 19 | conditions were as bad as we stated, and skin |
| 20 | MR. BUDDEN: | 20 | freezes almost instantly, how does someone |
| 21 | Q. Do you happen to recall who the individuals were | 21 | survive two days and two nights? |
| 22 | who may have found him? | 22 |  |
| 23 | MR. WILLIAMS: | 23 | I was going to say, quite simply. It's not |
| 24 | A. Not off the top of my head, I don't. | 24 | simple, I suppose. But on that country, the |
|  | Page 154 |  | Page 156 |
| 1 | MR. BUDDEN: | 1 | constant drifting and snowing creates conditions |
| 2 | Q. Okay. No problem. And what condition was | 2 | underneath the snow which are survivable. |
| 3 | Mr. Rice in when he was discovered? | 3 |  |
| 4 | MR. WILLIAMS: | 4 | Snow is often 10 to 15 to 20 feet deep, and you |
| 5 | A. He was hungry. He was cold. He was mildly | 5 | get what we refer to them colloquially as snow |
| 6 | hypothermic. He told us he wouldn't have made it | 6 | ghosts, but you'll get huge fern spruce trees |
| 7 | another night. But I mean, I think he was doing | 7 | that are completely covered. They're just a |
| 8 | reasonably well for spending two nights in the | 8 | white cone. There's no green showing whatsoever. |
| 9 | country and where he was to. | 9 |  |
| 10 |  | 10 | And from the level of the ground that you're |
| 11 | At that time, he wasn't really the best to | 11 | standing on, it could be 10 or 15 feet down to |
| 12 | transport. That's when we got the Cormorant to | 12 | the actual terrain. |
| 13 | actually pick him up and transport him. | 13 |  |
| 14 | MR. BUDDEN: | 14 | So if you dig down into these big trees and work |
| 15 | Q. Okay. And so continue to say there. So the | 15 | your way in towards the trunk, you can actually |
| 16 | Cormorant landed and brought him to hospital. | 16 | have a survivable capsule in which to live. A |
| 17 | And we understand that he received some | 17 | snow cave or whatever you want to call it. |
| 18 | outpatient treatment and was discharged and was | 18 |  |
| 19 | fine? | 19 | The temperature inside that would be considerably |
| 20 | MR. WILLIAMS: | 20 | warmer given windshield factors outside. |
| 21 | A. Yeah. I don't think they landed. I think they | 21 |  |
| 22 | hoisted him because of the conditions. | 22 | I was near the area where Mr. Rice was found when |
| 23 | MR. BUDDEN: | 23 | he was found. I wasn't actually on scene; |
| 24 | Q. Oh, I see. Okay. Yeah. How did that work? | 24 | probably half a kilometre away. But our team |

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There may be more could have been done, but given he had no source of heat or food, his survival was somewhat remarkable. But at the same time, he did the right thing by crawling in where he crawled in.

MR. BUDDEN:
Q. Once the snow machine became disabled, he didn't try to walk out or get anywhere. He just hunkered down?
MR. ANSTEY:
A. That's correct. The machine broke through some river ice. So there was not a lot of water but it was tipped down amongst the rocks enough that he could not get it out. And he crawled in under a big tree relatively close to where he broke down.
MR. BUDDEN:
Q. Okay.

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE:
I'm suggesting a lunch break soon. So if you could just clear up the last part of this.

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MR. BUDDEN:
Yeah. I don't think I'm going to have very much more for that day, but perhaps we'll continue for another moment.
BY MR. BUDDEN:
Q. Mr. Rice has now been discovered. You discovered one of the missing snowmobilers. What information gained from him or from the location that he was found in influenced the search going forward from that point, 11:00 on the 3rd?

And I guess I'll put it to Mr. Williams, but anybody, really, who has knowledge can speak to that?
MR. WILLIAMS:
A. We couldn't question right away, but someone did, one of our members or someone, or the RCMP, I think, questioned him at the time in the hospital. And they found out that he was following them.

Two of them actually stopped the same time, and two of them actually left the same time after they thought they were separated from their
group.

So basically, Mr. Rice said, yes, he was behind me. He was coming. We were going, right? No problems.

He said after he got so far, he said he couldn't see him. He lost sight of him. So he said he proceeded on, hoping that they would all meet up at Sam's Pond, the area that enters Harbour Deep.

He never got that much farther before he broke through the ice himself. And that's exactly where he stayed. His snowmobile was here. His snow shelter was six, eight feet away, just off the river and around a tree.

So we knew that he, in all likelihood, could be between Mr. Rice and the last known position, unless he got around somehow. We didn't know.
MR. BUDDEN:
Q. If Mr. Rice was in the lead, presumably Mr. Lovell would not have passed him by. He would have seen him and stopped. And so that was

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your rationale, I assume?
MR. WILLIAMS:
A. That was our rationale behind it, yes.

MR. BUDDEN:
Q. Okay. So we've heard from other searches and comments made earlier today that natural barriers influence search patterns. Information gained from fellow travellers, such as the individuals who are part of this group of five and so on.

So is this an example where, I guess, such information or such a barrier influences the direction of the search?
MR. WILLIAMS:
A. I guess there wouldn't be such a barrier up there because where there weren't a lot up there. The rivers were mainly all frozen.

So I mean, if a river wasn't frozen, you could use it as a barrier saying, okay, he wouldn't cross the river. So in all likelihood, he could be on this side of the river or that side of the river. But there was no definition.

|  | Page 161 |  | Page 163 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | The only thing we knew is that the terrain was | 1 | out. |
| 2 | elevations, hills jetting up 50 and 60 feet. And | 2 |  |
| 3 | basically, you still couldn't tell any definition | 3 | Thank you very much. Mr. Budden. |
| 4 | because of the weather. So we were still going | 4 | MR. BUDDEN: |
| 5 | blind at that point. We couldn't say, okay, | 5 | Q. Thank you, Mr. Commissioner. Mr. Williams, we'll |
| 6 | there's a hill over there. All likelihood he's | 6 | perhaps pick up where we left off, which was near |
| 7 | not gone over that hill. All you could look at | 7 | the end of Sunday, February 3rd. |
| 8 | was topography on your GPS and on our mapping. | 8 |  |
| 9 |  | 9 | You had found Mr. Rice. You had gained |
| 10 | And when you're on a snowmobile, it's a little | 10 | information from Mr. Rice that was directing your |
| 11 | different than walking. You can take a | 11 | search forward. And at the moment we broke, |
| 12 | snowmobile sometimes and point it, and it'll go | 12 | basically you confirmed the weather was still |
| 13 | up the hill just as easily as it would go down a | 13 | quite difficult. And I think you were about to |
| 14 | hill. When you're walking, it's a little | 14 | say that the search is about to shut down for the |
| 15 | different scenario. | 15 | evening. |
| 16 |  | 16 |  |
| 17 | So it was kind of hard to say that, you know, | 17 | So perhaps just pick up from there? |
| 18 | there was a natural barrier that stopped him from | 18 | MR. WILLIAMS: |
| 19 | going in a certain direction. But all we know | 19 | A. Okay. Darren Williams here again, Deer Lake |
| 20 | from talking to Mr. Rice was that he didn't pass | 20 | GSAR. Yeah, the weather sustained the same on |
| 21 | him at the time. | 21 | Sunday evening as it was throughout the day. |
| 22 |  | 22 |  |
| 23 | So we started to expand our search the next day | 23 | So that evening instructed all of our members to |
| 24 | out from between where Mr. Rice was found and, | 24 | return to the staging area before dark. Around |
|  | Page 162 |  | Page 164 |
| 1 | well, the last known position. | 1 | 7:00, 7:30. |
| 2 | MR. BUDDEN: | 2 |  |
| 3 | Got you. This might be as good a place as any to | 3 | At that point then we held a debrief, because I |
| 4 | break. | 4 | wanted to find out who was going to be returning |
| 5 | COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: | 5 | the next day, and who wouldn't be, and what |
| 6 | Thank you. Let's have a break for about an hour, | 6 | assets we had. |
| 7 | but we'll assemble back around that time. If | 7 |  |
| 8 | people are still trying to get some lunch, no big | 8 | We realized that we were going to lose the RCMP |
| 9 | deal. | 9 | aircraft and we were going to lose the Provincial |
| 10 | THE CLERK: | 10 | Airlines aircraft that were out. |
| 11 | All rise. | 11 |  |
| 12 |  | 12 | We had the 103 Squadron Cormorant in the air. So |
| 13 | (Recess) | 13 | we also asked for Universal to assist us if the |
| 14 |  | 14 | weather cleared the next day. |
| 15 | THE CLERK: | 15 | MR. BUDDEN: |
| 16 | This Commission of Inquiry is now in session. | 16 | Q. And again, we all know this, but just for the |
| 17 | Please be seated. | 17 | record and for anybody following, Universal is a |
| 18 | COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: | 18 | provincially contracted helicopter search and |
| 19 | Thank you. Mr. Budden, before you begin, just | 19 | rescue resource that, I believe at that time, and |
| 20 | one housekeeping item. I think Ruth has already | 20 | correct me if I'm wrong, was available for |
| 21 | indicated that we may be able to speed up the | 21 | daylight hours, but not for night flying; was |
| 22 | process for lunch tomorrow, anybody who wishes to | 22 | that correct? |
| 23 | pre-order. And maybe the following day we may | 23 | MR. WILLIAMS: |
| 24 | try a soup and sandwich and see how that works | 24 | A. That's correct. And I was reminded by Brian at |


|  | Page 165 |  | Page 167 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | the time, because Brian was in the Command Post, | 1 | MR. WILLIAMS: |
| 2 | is that we did try and get Universal to fly every | 2 | A. So after we had our debrief and I realized that |
| 3 | day, but due to weather conditions they wouldn't | 3 | we weren't going to have as many members from our |
| 4 | fly. | 4 | team, that's when I called the Bay of Islands |
| 5 | MR. BUDDEN: | 5 | team and the Rocky Harbour/Bonne Bay Search and |
| 6 | Q. Okay, and again we'll hear about that from other | 6 | Rescue team to ask for more assets to accompany |
| 7 | witnesses, but that was certainly your sense on | 7 | us the next day. |
| 8 | the ground and as, I guess, the search | 8 | MR. BUDDEN: |
| 9 | coordinator? | 9 | Q. Okay. So following the debrief, by this point |
| 10 | MR. WILLIAMS: | 10 | you're completing the end of or nearing the end |
| 11 | A. Yeah. | 11 | of another 16-plus-hour day? |
| 12 | MR. BUDDEN: | 12 | MR. WILLIAMS: |
| 13 | Q. And what was your sense of the availability going | 13 | A. Correct. |
| 14 | forward of the federal resource, the Cormorant, | 14 | MR. BUDDEN: |
| 15 | the 103 Squadron? | 15 | Q. What impact does that have on the resources |
| 16 | MR. WILLIAMS: | 16 | available from your own team? |
| 17 | A. Pardon, what was the question again? | 17 | MR. WILLIAMS: |
| 18 | MR. BUDDEN: | 18 | A. Well, I mean, you're doing two 16-hour days. |
| 19 | Q. The question is, what was your sense as to that | 19 | You're getting three and four hours' sleep in the |
| 20 | availability of the Cormorant, which is the | 20 | night. I mean, it wears on some people. |
| 21 | federal resource out of 103 Squadron? | 21 |  |
| 22 | MR. WILLIAMS: | 22 | Some people had to go back for work commitments. |
| 23 | A. They were readily available. They actually | 23 | We were starting first day of a week, so I mean |
| 24 | searched, as far as I understand, longer into the | 24 | it was a workday for a lot of people. |
|  | Page 166 |  | Page 168 |
| 1 | night than we did, right? And I mean, that was | 1 | So we lost about six members, six or seven |
| 2 | their call. | 2 | members at that time. So I deemed it necessary |
| 3 |  | 3 | to bring in more. In order to maintain the teams |
| 4 | I mean, they're in charge of their section. So | 4 | that we had, we needed at least another six or |
| 5 | if they deem that they could do it and safely, | 5 | eight people. |
| 6 | they could do it, right? | 6 | MR. BUDDEN: |
| 7 | MR. BUDDEN: | 7 | Q. So going back to work Monday morning, after 30, |
| 8 | Q. Okay. Yes, you have something to say? | 8 | some cases, over 30 hours of volunteer work over |
| 9 | MR. CHAULK: | 9 | the weekend? |
| 10 | A. Brian Chaulk, Deer Lake SAR. On Sunday night | 10 | MR. WILLIAMS: |
| 11 | after we got back to Deer Lake, I talked to the | 11 | A. Yes. |
| 12 | pilot with Squadron 103 from Gander and he | 12 | MR. BUDDEN: |
| 13 | informed me that there was showing that there was | 13 | Q. Okay. So you made the decision that a certain |
| 14 | going to be a clearing in the weather at 12:00 | 14 | level of resources was necessary and you reached |
| 15 | that night and they were going to head back that | 15 | out to the other SAR teams for help? |
| 16 | night and do another quick search. That was | 16 | MR. WILLIAMS: |
| 17 | Sunday night. | 17 | A. Yes. I contacted Shawn Street, the coordinator |
| 18 | MR. BUDDEN: | 18 | with the Deer Lake Ground Search -- or the Bay of |
| 19 | Q. Okay. So there's clearly a certain commitment of | 19 | Islands Ground Search and Rescue, and I contacted |
| 20 | Department of National Defence resources to this | 20 | Bettina Lori of the Rocky Harbour or, what are |
| 21 | search? | 21 | they classified? Rocky Harbour. Bonne Bay |
| 22 |  | 22 | Search and Rescue team. Sorry. |
| 23 | (No audible answer.) Okay, thank you. | 23 | MR. BUDDEN: |
| 24 | Mr. Williams? | 24 | Q. Those names were Shawn Street and I missed the |


|  | Page 169 |  | Page 171 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | second name? | 1 | MR. BUDDEN: |
| 2 | MR. WILLIAMS: | 2 | Q. Okay, and take me forward from there, please? |
| 3 | A. Bettina Lori. | 3 | MR. WILLIAMS: |
| 4 | MR. BUDDEN: | 4 | A. Well, 5:00 a.m. we assembled at our building. We |
| 5 | Q. Pettina? | 5 | arranged for the members that were coming out on |
| 6 | MR. WILLIAMS: | 6 | site with us to link up with some of our members |
| 7 | A. Bettina, with a B. | 7 | to make full contingent teams. Once we got on |
| 8 | MR. BUDDEN: | 8 | site, they were dispatched and gone again. |
| 9 | Q. Can you spell that for me? | 9 |  |
| 10 | MR. WILLIAMS: | 10 | The weather was still bad that morning, but there |
| 11 | A. No. | 11 | was talks of a clearing. So they proceeded with |
| 12 | MR. BUDDEN: | 12 | the search. Started to expand the search once |
| 13 | Q. Anybody want to try at least? | 13 | again. |
| 14 | UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: | 14 |  |
| 15 | A. Bettina, B-e-t-t-i-n-a. | 15 | The weather started to lift -- oh, sorry, prior |
| 16 | MR. BUDDEN: | 16 | to the weather lifting I think the 103 were |
| 17 | Q. And I believe you gave evidence earlier that she | 17 | called away on another rescue, so they told us |
| 18 | is the coordinator of the Bay of Islands Search | 18 | they had to leave the search, because there was |
| 19 | and Rescue? | 19 | an imminent rescue and I don't know what it was. |
| 20 | UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: | 20 | I wouldn't be able to go into it. |
| 21 | A. Yes, she is. | 21 |  |
| 22 | MR. BUDDEN: | 22 | So they left, but we managed to get Universal to |
| 23 | Q. A very experienced search and rescue volunteer. | 23 | come up. |
| 24 |  | 24 |  |
|  | Page 170 |  | Page 172 |
| 1 | UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: | 1 | MR. BUDDEN: |
| 2 | A. Very experienced and very knowledgeable. Very | 2 | Q. So you lost one helicopter resource but it was |
| 3 | competent. | 3 | replaced how soon afterwards by another? |
| 4 | MR. BUDDEN: | 4 | MR. WILLIAMS: |
| 5 | Q. Okay, thank you. So you told me when we met | 5 | A. Well, I'd say Universal got there. The weather |
| 6 | before this, but perhaps you can just repeat on | 6 | started to clear, I would say, a couple of hours |
| 7 | the record, how many volunteers did turn up | 7 | after we got in on site. |
| 8 | pursuant to those requests? | 8 |  |
| 9 | MR. WILLIAMS: | 9 | So I haven't got the exact time, but I'm assuming |
| 10 | A. Four members from the Bay of Islands Search and | 10 | they showed up roughly around 10:00 a.m. in the |
| 11 | Rescue team show up and we had two from the Rocky | 11 | morning. |
| 12 | Harbour Ground Search and Rescue team show up. | 12 | MR. BUDDEN: |
| 13 | MR. BUDDEN: | 13 | Q. Okay. And other records will speak to that. |
| 14 | Q. Okay. And that was all arranged the night | 14 | That's your broad recollection? |
| 15 | before? | 15 | MR. WILLIAMS: |
| 16 | MR. WILLIAMS: | 16 | A. Yes. |
| 17 | A. Yes, that was arranged on Sunday night. | 17 | MR. BUDDEN: |
| 18 | MR. BUDDEN: | 18 | Q. Okay. |
| 19 | Q. Okay. So now bring us to Monday morning, | 19 | MR. WILLIAMS: |
| 20 | February 4th. You again mustered at the same | 20 | A. You got to remember, there's a lag time between |
| 21 | time, 5:00 a.m.? | 21 | us getting exact information of what's going on |
| 22 | MR. WILLIAMS: | 22 | because it was being relayed from the RCMP to us. |
| 23 | A. That's correct. | 23 | Right? |
| 24 |  | 24 |  |

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So from helicopter, back to JRCC, or to the RCMP representatives to us, and then we put it out in the field, right?

## MR. BUDDEN:

Q. Yeah. That's right. You've made that point, and it's an excellent one to repeat. I notice as well from your report there's a reference here to "along with some locals to assist our teams in the field."

I guess, I'd like you to tell me a little bit about that process. You've explained how you reached out to other organized SAR teams. Tell me about the utilization of some locals?
MR. WILLIAMS:
A. We had one local with us that knew the area and the reason for calling him in was some of our members that couldn't make it the next day were guys that were familiar with the land and the area and routes that we were doing.

So we wanted to bring someone in so that we knew we had someone competent with one of the teams that knew their way around up there, because,

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like I said, you're going blind in the weather. You really don't know where you're to other than your GPS.

So we needed someone that could take a full team and go with them and be confident with them and so they were going to be looked after and brought back as well.
MR. BUDDEN:
Q. Okay. And I've heard the term "spontaneous volunteers," can you tell me about that term and whether it's applicable in this situation?
MR. WILLIAMS:
A. Spontaneous. Like, basically, when you go on scene sometimes we don't know the area, even though it is our area of operation where we do our searches and stuff like that and we're responsible for it. We don't always know all the woods roads, all the ponds, all the lakes, shortcuts, places people go. So we rely on local knowledge for that stuff.

So if we deem it necessary to have someone to show us, they're called spontaneous asset. So

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basically to bring them on, we get authorization from the RCMP to bring them on. If they authorize it, we bring them on and they help us out.

## MR. BUDDEN:

Q. I assume you choose with care who you take on and what task you assign them?
MR. WILLIAMS:
A. Yes, extremely. Yeah.

MR. BUDDEN:
Q. Okay, and perhaps you could just speak a tiny bit more about that: the kind of factors you look at, the kind of things that go into those decisions?
MR. WILLIAMS:
A. Yeah, well, basically with this one asset one of our members had vouched for him. That they knew him. He was a guide. He's taken him up there several times.

Someone that I'm fairly familiar with and trust from Jackson's Arm told me about the same gentleman.

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I made a few phone calls that night, that Sunday night, and he was available to go out with us the next day. Right?
MR. BUDDEN:
Q. So there's a term we often use in life called "vetting." I guess just making sure that this choice is a good choice.

Is that sort of what you were doing here I would assume?
MR. WILLIAMS:
A. Yeah. Well, if someone comes up and says I can help out and go, we don't just take that at face value. Because, I mean, a lot of people want to help out and they all have good intentions, but sometimes they may not gel with the way we're running things.

So we have a strict criteria of how we usually run things and we don't like to duplicate stuff. And we like to make sure when we do it and cover it off that it's done, right?
MR. BUDDEN:
Q. And I've also heard it said in other search and

|  | Page 177 |  | Page 179 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | rescue contexts, that there's always a role to be | 1 | party of five snowmobilers? |
| 2 | played, even if the role is running messages back | 2 | MR. WILLIAMS: |
| 3 | and forth to the local store or something like | 3 | A. Correct, original five. Three of the original |
| 4 | that. There's many ways of helping without being | 4 | five. Yes, that's correct. The helicopter |
| 5 | in the field. | 5 | nded and one of them, Eric Park, insisted on |
| 6 | MR. WILLIAMS: | 6 | going aboard the helicopter to look for them |
| 7 | A. Yes. We got members that don't necessarily like | 7 | because it was his friend. He felt guilty about |
| 8 | going out in the field. Some of them are | 8 | it, and he wanted to have a look. |
| 9 | elderly. Some of them have health issues with | 9 | MR. BUDDEN: |
| 10 | regards to knees and hips and stuff and not | 10 | Q. He was also familiar with the area? |
| 11 | comfortable out. So I mean, we carry them with | 11 | MR. WILLIAMS: |
| 12 | us as well. | 12 | A. He was, yes. |
| 13 |  | 13 | MR. BUDDEN: |
| 14 | I mean, there's a lot of things that need to be | 14 | Q. Yes. |
| 15 | done. I mean, we've got like what they call a | 15 | MR. WILLIAMS: |
| 16 | prospector tent, which is a canvass tent, 12 by | 16 | A. So he took off with the chopper and they weren't |
| 17 | 14, that's got a stove capability in it. | 17 | no time. I wouldn't say they weren't 20 minutes |
| 18 |  | 18 | before they actually spotted something of |
| 19 | I mean, our local guys or guys that aren't going | 19 | interest. And what they spotted was a red bag |
| 20 | to be out in the field can set that up. Get it | 20 | at Mr. Lovell had hung outside his shelter on a |
| 21 | going. Get firewood for it. So when our members | 21 | branch at the highest point that he could find |
| 22 | come in out of the fields, Sheldon can attest to | 22 | right next to where he actually was to. |
| 23 | it, they were freezing and perishing and couldn't | 23 | MR. BUDDEN: |
| 24 | hardly get warm. | 24 | Q. A red bag? So something that would be visible |
|  | Page 178 |  | Page 180 |
| 1 | You can utilize this asset to help your members | 1 | against the white snow? |
| 2 | and assist in the search and make our guys more | 2 | MR. WILLIAMS: |
| 3 | comfortable. | 3 | A. Yes, exactly. |
| 4 | MR. BUDDEN: | 4 | MR. BUDDEN: |
| 5 | Q. Got you. The report goes on to really get to | 5 | Q. And I understand, as well, in the helicopter, |
| 6 | actually, I guess, the climax of this whole | 6 | at another individual who was associated with |
| 7 | report. | 7 | GSAR was present? I believe a Mr. Legge? |
| 8 |  | 8 | MR. WILLIAMS: |
| 9 | Around noon of that day - meaning Monday, | 9 | A. Yes, Luke Legge. He's a CASARA. I think he's a |
| 10 | February 4th - the remaining lost snowmobiler was | 10 | CASARA spotter as well? |
| 11 | spotted from the air by the Universal helicopter | 11 | UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: |
| 12 | crew at approximately... And the coordinates are | 12 | Since then. |
| 13 | given. | 13 | MR. WILLIAMS: |
| 14 |  | 14 | A. Since then he is, okay. But he was with |
| 15 | Can you tell me about that? I guess, who was in | 15 | Universal Helicopters. He's a mechanic. That's |
| 16 | the plane? What role your team played at that | 16 | why he was in with the pilot as well, right? |
| 17 | point? | 17 | MR. BUDDEN: |
| 18 | MR. WILLIAMS: | 18 | Q. Okay. And then I understand that Mr. Lovell was |
| 19 | A. Yeah. Well, Universal showed up with their | 19 | in a very bad state? He was non-responsive and |
| 20 | helicopter and some of the guys, not our guys, | 20 | severely hypothermic, but believed to be alive at |
| 21 | but the other three of the party were at where | 21 | that point? |
| 22 | the fire was to and they flagged Universal. | 22 | MR. WILLIAMS: |
| 23 | MR. BUDDEN: | 23 | A. Yes. From our understanding and just questioning |
| 24 | Q. Three of the party? You mean of the original | 24 | the people that were there, I wasn't there, and |


|  | Page 181 |  | Page 183 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | our guys weren't there at the exact time, he was | 1 | MR. WILLIAMS: |
| 2 | out on the snow laid down. | 2 | A. Definitely. Definitely. |
| 3 | MR. BUDDEN: | 3 | MR. BUDDEN: |
| 4 | Q. Okay. And I understand that he was brought by | 4 | Q. Okay. And he had made a shelter for himself? |
| 5 | helicopter ultimately to hospital and that he did | 5 | MR. WILLIAMS: |
| 6 | not survive the ordeal? | 6 | A. He had made a shelter something similar to what |
| 7 | MR. WILLIAMS: | 7 | Mr. Rice had done. I mean, it was well done. It |
| 8 | A. That's correct. | 8 | was built. He had food and stuff, provisions |
| 9 | MR. BUDDEN: | 9 | with him. |
| 10 | Q. Okay. I also understand that he made certain | 10 |  |
| 11 | conscious efforts to cope with his surroundings | 11 | It looked like he was having small, just burning |
| 12 | and made a number of good choices, such as | 12 | refuge in trash inside the shelter to try and |
| 13 | hanging the red bag to make himself visible. | 13 | stay warm. But I mean, up there with that wind, |
| 14 |  | 14 | I mean it was impossible to generate any heat |
| 15 | Can you tell me a little bit about what you do | 15 | there. |
| 16 | know about the circumstances of where he was and | 16 | MR. BUDDEN: |
| 17 | what efforts he had made? | 17 | Q. And I understand, I asked, I believe, a question |
| 18 | MR. WILLIAMS: | 18 | in our preparations why was it difficult for him |
| 19 | A. Well, basically he had overturned his snowmobile. | 19 | to start a fire. And you had an answer or |
| 20 | Basically where we found him, he was on top of a | 20 | somebody had an answer. Do you remember that? |
| 21 | knob or a hill, I would say, that's probably | 21 | MR. WILLIAMS: |
| 22 | elevated from the main level, probably 50, 60 | 22 | A. Yeah. Basically up there you're talking anywhere |
| 23 | feet. So it was hard for us when we were | 23 | between 10, 15, 20 feet of snowfall. Trees are |
| 24 | searching down to find him. | 24 | non-existent. You find them, they're very |
|  | Page 182 |  | Page 184 |
| 1 | So first off, he was up higher than your field of | 1 | sparse. |
| 2 | vision. When we found the snowmobile, the | 2 |  |
| 3 | snowmobile was completely upside down. | 3 | There was none around where he was to. Just tops |
| 4 |  | 4 | and twigs coming out and that was it. Wind |
| 5 | From what we can gather and looking at the scene, | 5 | blowing anywhere between 80 and 110 kilometres an |
| 6 | he drove up, flipped over on a snowdrift and he | 6 | hour. |
| 7 | tried to upright her because he had a rope tied | 7 |  |
| 8 | on it with a stick on one side almost like he was | 8 | I mean, it's practically impossible to get a fire |
| 9 | trying to use a tourniquet and torque to try and | 9 | going and sustain it up there with no fuel, no |
| 10 | upright his snowmobile. | 10 | wood, no way to keep it from blowing out. So he |
| 11 | MR. BUDDEN: | 11 | was kind of helpless when it come to creating a |
| 12 | Q. And I understand that when the snowmobile | 12 | fire. |
| 13 | ultimately was uprighted, it took several men to | 13 | MR. BUDDEN: |
| 14 | accomplish the task? | 14 | Q. So is it fair to say that he would have been out |
| 15 | MR. WILLIAMS: | 15 | in these very difficult conditions, through the |
| 16 | A. Actually I was there on scene. It took six of us | 16 | events, ended up being by himself? |
| 17 | to upright the snowmobile, to actually get the | 17 |  |
| 18 | machine up out of the hole that she was in and | 18 | The snowmobile would have been very difficult to |
| 19 | uprighted. | 19 | manoeuvre in such conditions with limited |
| 20 | MR. BUDDEN: | 20 | visibility and perhaps an obscure trail leading |
| 21 | Q. So he was attempting to do, through, I guess, | 21 | to it being tipped over and marooning him in this |
| 22 | ingenuity, what would have otherwise been an | 22 | very difficult place? |
| 23 | impossible task for him to do? | 23 | MR. WILLIAMS: |
| 24 |  | 24 | A. Um-hmm. Definitely. |

1 MR. BUDDEN:

So it's a difficult conundrum, isn't it?
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MR. WILLIAMS:
A. Yeah. From our recollections of where he was to and that, if he left to walk or if he was there for another day, we probably wouldn't have found him until next spring.

Everything would have been buried with the drifting snow and the wind and stuff like that.
MR. BUDDEN:
Q. Okay. Before we move on to some other questions, do any of you other gentlemen have anything to add about what Mr. Williams has said here in this session since lunch?
MR. ANSTEY:
A. Just very briefly. Sheldon Anstey, Deer Lake SAR. I think the difference in the survival situations or possibilities between Mr. Lovell and Mr. Rice were the location they were in.

Mr. Lovell found himself halfway through a place known as Snowy Valley. And as Darren indicated, there's not a tree in sight. It's just pure white.

So his ability to dig into a snow cave was very limited. He was probably sitting on low spruce scrub, locally known as tuckamore, with not much depth.

Mr. Rice was fortunate enough to be another kilometre or so towards Little Harbour Deep Brook where you did have some big spruce and fir trees that were turned into these big snow caves. I think that's the difference in the two circumstances right there.
MR. BUDDEN:
Q. Thank you. That was helpful.

MR. ANSTEY:
A. Again, where Mr. Lovell was, being close to the surface, the temperature would have been not a great lot warmer than it was outside his little hole that he had created.

Whereas, Mr. Rice crawling in significantly deeper, significantly farther, would have had a drastic temperature contrast in the outside environment where he was.

MR. BUDDEN:
Q. And that was an option that was simply unavailable to Mr. Lovell?

MR. ANSTEY:
A. Precisely.

MR. BUDDEN:
Q. Okay. I understand as well, without going into
it, Mr. Lovell had some significant health issues that perhaps may have been a factor as well in his ability to withstand a lengthy period of being out like that?

MR. ANSTEY:
A. That was our understanding as well.

MR. BUDDEN:
Q. Okay. I'm going to ask some questions now. We noted throughout, that two other search and rescue teams were active participants in this search. And that would be the Bay of Islands team out of Corner Brook here under Mr. Street, and the Bonne Bay team, as we've already heard, under Ms. Bettina. And I forget her last name again. Perhaps you could...
UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER:
A. Lori. L-O-r-i.

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MR. BUDDEN:
Q. L-o-r-i?

## UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER:

A. Lori.

MR. BUDDEN:
Q. Thank you. The integration of multiple teams for this particular effort, firstly, how does that come about and is it effective?

You're all autonomous to some degree with NLSARA. But when it comes to working together like this, you've sort of spoke to it here, but can you just say more generally how that comes about? How common it is? How effective it is?
MR. WILLIAMS:
A. With the smaller teams it is common, I mean. And if a search actually extends past a day or two, it's very common.

For the most part, we're all pretty well trained on par, but that's one of the things we are lacking in, which is training. In that, we need designated people that can go around to every team and make sure that every team has the same

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qualifications. They're all on the same. Par, they're all doing the same training. And they're all qualified under the same banner, right?

It's left up to each individual team. And I mean, if you don't have large teams, or even us with a large team, sometimes you find that you don't get everybody out to training.

So in that type of situation you're wondering sometimes are the other teams on par so that when you go out you don't have to - excuse my language - babysit them and hold their hand, right? They should be able to fit into every team and mesh very well, right?

We've been trying to do that and set the standards and stuff like that, but it's hard without designated people to actually come around and pretty much make sure that every team is on par. Right?

Like we might feel we're on par, but another team might say, well, you're lacking in this training
or that training, because we may not do it.

But if we had designated trainers going around, they could make sure that all the teams are actually on par, up to the same standards and equivalent in every aspect that's needed. Right?

## MR. BUDDEN:

Q. Okay. So in this instance you were able or, I gather from your evidence, you found teams that integrated well with yours. That there were no issues there. But it's a concern that you might have in another context?
MR. WILLIAMS:
A. Yeah, we do. I don't like talking bad about people. I mean, a couple of members that come on the team, like we were talking about it lunchtime. I mean, they come up. Their snowmobiles weren't full. We had to fill them up for them before they left.

We asked them did you have your lunch for the day and buddy patted on his seat, yeah. He's got a sandwich and bottled water there.

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Before he got up to where the last known position was to his bottle of water was froze. So then we had to supply him with water from some other member, right?

So that's just some of the things you're dealing with when you bring in other teams, right?
MR. BUDDEN:
Q. You got your way of doing things, I guess, and they may not. So you were going to say something? Somebody else going to say something then?

Okay. Sorry. Is it true, as well, that I guess certain teams have certain specialties or skillsets or equipment that other teams may not have which in certain cases you need to reach out to another team?
MR. WILLIAMS:
A. Yes, that's a fact. In one case in particular, our helicopter propel team. We had, I think it was, Harry, eight teams across the island at one point?

|  | Page 193 |  | Page 195 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | MR. BLACKMORE: | 1 | MR. WILLIAMS: |
| 2 | A. Seven. | 2 | A. In respect to bringing on full-time trainers? |
| 3 | MR. WILLIAMS: | 3 | MR. BUDDEN: |
| 4 | A. Seven? I mean, Harry can probably talk to this | 4 | Q. Yeah. |
| 5 | more than I can. But I mean up in Gros Morne, I | 5 | MR. WILLIAMS: |
| 6 | mean we have mountainous areas up there that, I | 6 | A. I think you get more consistency throughout the |
| 7 | mean, if an incident happened up there now we're | 7 | whole Newfoundland Search and Rescue Association. |
| 8 | really not trained anymore to go up and actually | 8 |  |
| 9 | propel down from a helicopter or a long line to | 9 | Like we all try and stay on the same par, and we |
| 10 | retrieve someone, right? | 10 | all try and do the same training. But it's our |
| 11 |  | 11 | trainer vouching for him and saying that it's |
| 12 | And I mean that's a big factor for us. And I | 12 | done versus someone that actually is paid to come |
| 13 | mean, not all the teams across the island are | 13 | and look after everybody, and report back that, |
| 14 | trained in it, but I think what Harry was trying | 14 | yes, their team is up to par, these guys are |
| 15 | to was get teams that could service like the West | 15 | signed off on this and that, and they're |
| 16 | Coast, Central, Northern Peninsula, Labrador and | 16 | efficient in using it, right? |
| 17 | Eastern, and stuff like that. | 17 | MR. BUDDEN: |
| 18 |  | 18 | Q. Yes. |
| 19 | Now, like I said, that's kind of fallen by the | 19 | MR. WILLIAMS: |
| 20 | wayside to the funding and because Universal has | 20 | A. So I mean, it puts everybody on the same playing |
| 21 | gone under. But I mean that is another big asset | 21 | field and everybody with the same skillset is |
| 22 | that we are missing, because if someone goes over | 22 | what it does. |
| 23 | a cliff in Gros Morne on a snowmobile, and | 23 | MR. BUDDEN: |
| 24 | there's no access down to him, the first thing is | 24 | Q. When I read this, the search, it said, okay, |
|  | Page 194 |  | Page 196 |
| 1 | you got to get in there. | 1 | Friday night everybody goes home looking forward |
| 2 |  | 2 | to whatever you plan to do that weekend. |
| 3 | I mean, time to get up to the area, I mean, is | 3 |  |
| 4 | going to take hours. To have the equipment to | 4 | Between then and Monday morning, which is what, |
| 5 | get down to him, a high angle rescue, is going to | 5 | 60 or so hours, some of your members were well |
| 6 | take time to set up and rig. | 6 | over half that time engaged in a very physically |
| 7 |  | 7 | demanding search. |
| 8 | Some of the cliffs and the fjords up there | 8 |  |
| 9 | (inaudible) 300-foot lines are. So I mean, it's | 9 | What does that leave in terms of capacity for |
| 10 | not going to happen. So that's where helicopter | 10 | training, for fundraising, for those kind of |
| 11 | rescue and stuff comes into play. | 11 | things? |
| 12 |  | 12 | MR. WILLIAMS: |
| 13 | If the Cormorant is available, that's great, but | 13 | A. Burnout. Burnout is a key word to that stuff. I |
| 14 | they're not always available, the 103 Squadron. | 14 | mean, after doing that stuff after so long nobody |
| 15 | So I mean it falls back on us. Right? | 15 | wants to be doing training and going around with |
| 16 |  | 16 | their hand out asking for money and trying to |
| 17 | So I mean if we lose those types of assets as | 17 | bring in money like that. |
| 18 | well, it makes it harder to do a job and to be | 18 |  |
| 19 | efficient in it. | 19 | I mean, it takes a lot just to maintain a team. |
| 20 | MR. BUDDEN: | 20 | I mean, our team alone with just basic expenses. |
| 21 | Q. Sure. We're going to hear about training | 21 | Insurances and inReach subscriptions that got to |
| 22 | throughout the balance of this inquiry. But I | 22 | be maintained, because if they're not maintained, |
| 23 | guess just from your perspective how would that | 23 | you go out in the country, they don't work. Then |
| 24 | training be different from what you already have? | 24 | you're lost without it, right? |


|  | Page 197 |  | Page 199 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | MR. BUDDEN: | 1 | you can. |
| 2 | Q. You've talked about your own fundraising. We'll | 2 |  |
| 3 | hear from other teams, but I know for some teams | 3 | nd what happens is I'm going to train Team A, |
| 4 | at's a big deal to them | 4 | all, I got to get Team A, what weekend |
| 5 |  | 5 | e you available. Then I got to dig up a |
| 6 | They appreciate the community support and they | 6 | rainer, see what weekend he's available and try |
| 7 | certainly appreciate the community engagement. | 7 | to coordinate it together. |
| 8 | But they also feel that too much of their energy | 8 | MR. BUDDEN: |
| 9 | is devoted to fundraising projects of various | 9 | Q. And the trainer will be somebody, I presume, who |
| 10 | sorts. And some of them can be -- I think one of | 10 | is part of an active team already? |
| 11 | e teams told us one of their fundraisers | 11 | R. BLACKMORE: |
| 12 | cking up garbage along the highway, and they | 12 | A. Exactly. They're doing their own, plus now |
| 13 | got a certain amount of money as part of that | 13 | ey're going out to try to help somebody else. |
| 14 | campai | 14 |  |
| 15 | MR. WILLIAMS: | 15 | As when we were in Makkovik last week, I had two |
| 16 | A. Yes. I think Harry Blackmore wanted to comment | 16 | rainers. One from Barachois who is an expert in |
| 17 | on that, I thin | 17 | e GI mapping. I had another guy from the |
| 18 | MR. BUDDEN: | 18 | Rovers team who was an expert in the radio system |
| 19 | I'm sure he does. | 19 | we got. |
| 20 | MR. BLACKMORE: | 20 |  |
| 21 | A. Harry Blackmore here. Teams out the | 21 | So I had to coordinate the two of them, take two |
| 22 | Darren's team, like he said earlier this morning, | 22 | days off work to go down and train another team |
| 23 | they're fairly well off. They | 23 | ecause he went in our association. |
| 24 |  | 24 |  |
|  | Page 198 |  | Page 200 |
| 1 | We have an awful lot of smaller teams out there | 1 | MR. BUDDEN: |
| 2 | that we're trying to help. I had a team call me | 2 | Q. And that's on top of the work they might have to |
| 3 | this summer. They're taking their pickup off the | 3 | take off by doing |
| 4 | road, and I just figured it was rusted | 4 | MR. BLACKMORE |
| 5 | something. | 5 | A. Yes. |
| 6 |  | 6 | R. BUDDEN: |
| 7 | No, he said, we need two car batteries | 7 | Q. Okay. What's the alternative? What would you |
| 8 | haven't got \$700 to replace them. So they had to | 8 | like to see? |
| 9 | fundraise. So we picked up the money from the | 9 | MR. BLACKMORE: |
| 10 | association, and we buy them and put them back in | 10 | A. Alternative for us is to have a person that's |
| 11 | them. | 11 | ull time coordinating everything, and we need |
| 12 |  | 12 | two full-time trainers to be able to go around |
| 13 | But if these guys are not out doing their hotdog | 13 | nd keep everybody up to date. Because when |
| 14 | rolls or hamburgers, whatever, we're not all like | 14 | you're trying -- I can bring a person into a |
| 15 | Darren's team that got the town fully behind | 15 | am, it's a lot easier, especially when we're |
| 16 | them, because the tax base is not there. | 16 | talking the coast of Labrador, and other teams. |
| 17 |  | 17 |  |
| 18 | So the fundraising is a major, major part of what | 18 | ut if we can bring people into the community, it |
| 19 | keeps our association going. We, as an | 19 | makes it a bit easier, because we can't get the |
| 20 | association, gets a certain amount of the money | 20 | people to come out. And when we can't bring them |
| 21 | to the provincial government. Now, what we do is | 21 | out, would you like to bring your team out and |
| 22 | we try to do the training with that money to | 22 | help train them, you're only bringing one out to |
| 23 | bring everybody up to the CSA standard to make | 23 | become a trainer to hopefully learn him or her |
| 24 | sure that they're trained, but you do the best | 24 | how to do whatever we're doing. |

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MR. BUDDEN:
Q. Okay. And by full time, I assume you mean paid full-time employees, not volunteers?
MR. BLACKMORE:
A. Pardon?

MR. BUDDEN:
Q. By full time, you mean paid full-time employees?

MR. BLACKMORE:
A. Yes. What I mean is full-time volunteers from our association that are already into this, they know what we're talking about.

I don't want somebody that we go out and never talked search and rescue in their life. Now, oh, there's a job for me.

We got volunteers. Average volunteer is putting in many, many hours. Our association puts in around 150,000 man hours per year volunteer time, every year. The year before last we were 194,000.
MR. BUDDEN:
Q. You have an average of 150,000 hours a year?

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MR. BLACKMORE:
A. Yes. That's an average.

MR. BUDDEN:
Q. That would be like this team, plus all the other teams?
MR. BLACKMORE:
A. That's when I take all the teams and all the stats that we have, the best way we can, is we average 150,000.

Like I said, two years ago was 194,000. Then last year it went down to 120 because of COVID, because a lot of stuff was cancelled, and now we're back up again already this year.
MR. BUDDEN:
Q. Okay.

MR. BLACKMORE:
A. And it's all volunteer time. So you go to a search. Then you come home. You probably got training on the go for that weekend. So you say good-bye to your family again and hope you're back on Sunday for supper.
MR. BUDDEN:
Q. So the numbers we heard here this afternoon from

But once September kicks in, everything kicks in full swing. Training, etcetera. And searches and fundraising goes off the charts.

In the summertimes, we're doing control at parties for different things within towns, picking up garbage, flipping burgers, anything at all to make a dollar to keep it going. To keep

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this panel of Deer Lake Search and Rescue volunteers, or heard this morning, the significant hundreds of hours each of them commit a year to their search and rescue volunteerism, is that typical? Unusual?
What do you have to say in that regard with regard to how these men represent the search and rescue volunteer community generally?
MR. BLACKMORE:
A. That's very typical for our association. The only time we get a little bit of slack is in the summertime, because not too many people get lost on sunny days. Usually bad weather, as this one was.
this panel of Deer Lake Search and Rescue
significant hundreds of hours each of them commit
a year to their search and rescue volunteerism,
is that typical? Unusual?
*
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and fundraising goes off the charts.
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their own local team going.
MR. BUDDEN:
Q. Okay. Gentlemen, do any of the rest of you from the Deer Lake team or the Bonne Bay team have any comment or anything to add to what Mr. Blackmore just said?
MR. WILLIAMS:
A. Yes, Darren Williams here. I'd just like to make one more comment about it, is that we may not directly fundraise, but indirectly we do. The town supports us and, in turn, we support the town.

So if they have an event on the go or they have the festival on the go and they need someone to do first aid for them or security for them, like they ask us and we volunteer our time to do it, right?

So in that way, yes, we do volunteer a lot of hours like that as well, indirectly. But still, it comes from the same end.

If we didn't do those type of volunteer things,

|  | Page 205 |  | Page 207 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | we probably wouldn't receive what we receive from | 1 | MR. BLACKMORE: |
| 2 | them, right? | 2 | A. Also, Mr. Budden, a lot of our stuff that we do, |
| 3 | MR. BUDDEN: | 3 | we're out there doing, we think we're insured. |
| 4 | Q. Okay. Anybody else got anything to add? I'm | 4 | We are right now told by the government that |
| 5 | largely done in my examination of you. I will | 5 | we're self-insured. Now what that means, I don't |
| 6 | end by asking Mr. Williams and the rest of you as | 6 | know. |
| 7 | you wish to add to it. | 7 |  |
| 8 |  | 8 | Luckily, we have never had to -- (technical |
| 9 | We've heard about training. Are there other | 9 | difficulties). But there is a policy that was |
| 10 | resources of any sort - financial, human | 10 | bought some ten years ago by, at that time, ADM |
| 11 | resources - that you believe would improve search | 11 | Noble. He suggested we buy this policy. |
| 12 | and rescue in your community, Deer Lake and the | 12 |  |
| 13 | area that you cover or more generally? | 13 | It was made for search and rescue across Canada. |
| 14 |  | 14 | And right now we're the only province and |
| 15 | I guess, put it this way, there's a bit of wish | 15 | territory in Canada that doesn't have it, our |
| 16 | list of things that you believe would make search | 16 | government didn't see it necessary to get it, |
| 17 | and rescue better. What would it be? | 17 | which is our general liability insurance, which |
| 18 | MR. WILLIAMS: | 18 | we're talking \$50,000 for Newfoundland. And that |
| 19 | A. I guess one thing would be communications, right? | 19 | protects people and lets them know exactly what's |
| 20 | If we had better communications. We are in a lot | 20 | there because it's written in black and white. |
| 21 | of dead zones. | 21 |  |
| 22 |  | 22 | All I have right now saying that we're insured is |
| 23 | If we had designated trainers coming by so to | 23 | a letter saying, yeah, we're self-indemnified. |
| 24 | take the pressure off our trainer. I mean, Brian | 24 | Now what it means or what we're getting I haven't |
|  | Page 206 |  | Page 208 |
| 1 | spends countless and countless hours just setting | 1 | got a clue. |
| 2 | up training events and stuff like that. So if we | 2 |  |
| 3 | had someone that was actually coming around doing | 3 | I'm not a lawyer. I don't understand it. We've |
| 4 | it, right, then we wouldn't have to worry about | 4 | had some clarification. Oh, they tell us, yeah, |
| 5 | it, right? | 5 | you're covered and all this stuff. But luckily, |
| 6 |  | 6 | knock on wood, we have never had to call on that. |
| 7 | I mean, all those things helps out and makes life | 7 |  |
| 8 | easier. We are volunteer. We all volunteer our | 8 | Our AD\&D insurance, we take out of the \$91,000 |
| 9 | own time. None of them are paid to do it. | 9 | that the provincial government gives us a year. |
| 10 |  | 10 |  |
| 11 | So I mean, you ask a lot of people and you expect | 11 | We buy AD\&D insurance for our own personnel |
| 12 | a lot of us. So in turn, it would be nice to get | 12 | because we got to have something for them to fall |
| 13 | the support when it comes to that stuff: | 13 | back on. |
| 14 | communications, training. | 14 |  |
| 15 |  | 15 | So you're talking about a wish list, we haven't |
| 16 | When some of our assets are taken away, i.e., the | 16 | got long enough here this afternoon to be able to |
| 17 | helicopter repelling stuff. If that kind of | 17 | do it, and that I can guarantee you. |
| 18 | stuff was put back on the table again, right? | 18 | MR. BUDDEN: |
| 19 |  | 19 | Q. Does anybody have anything more to add to that |
| 20 | Unfortunately, the association can't afford it | 20 | particular question? |
| 21 | but, I mean, that's something that needs to be | 21 | MR. ANSTEY: |
| 22 | looked at as a valuable asset that will be used | 22 | A. Sheldon Anstey, Deer Lake SAR. Just in the |
| 23 | and is used. | 23 | broader sense, it's not an item for a wish list |
| 24 |  | 24 | per se financially, but with respect to |


|  | Page 209 |  | Page 211 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | processes, when an incident happens and we get | 1 | MR. BUDDEN: |
| 2 | responded - and I raised this briefly yesterday - | 2 | Q. You're not referring to this particular search, |
| 3 | it sometimes gets frustrating. And this is not | 3 | he Jackson's Arm one? You're thinking more |
| 4 | about pointing fingers, because everyone has a | 4 | generally? |
| 5 | role, and I believe everyone does it well, but | 5 | MR. ANSTEY: |
| 6 | it's the process sometimes that frustrates the | 6 | A. That's correct. Not this search in particular, |
| 7 | system in getting assets when we need them in a | 7 | no. This is a general comment with respect to a |
| 8 | timely manner. | 8 | process that often plays out. It's not a |
| 9 |  | 9 | one-off. I've seen it many times. |
| 10 | And I'll refer specifically to most often it's | 10 |  |
| 11 | helicopter. When we want to make a decision and | 11 | And it's usually a situation where it's an |
| 12 | we believe it's the right one, we are sometimes | 12 | accident, a rescue as opposed to a search, and we |
| 13 | stymied with process. | 13 | know where the individual is. We know their |
| 14 |  | 14 | injuries because someone is calling us on a cell |
| 15 | So I make a call to Darren. Darren makes the | 15 | phone, and we know that we can get a local |
| 16 | call to the local police of jurisdiction. Go to | 16 | helicopter company with VFR capabilities, it's |
| 17 | JRC. It's often a half an hour, 45 minutes | 17 | daylight, and we can pop in and pick them out. |
| 18 | between phone calls. And then an hour turns to | 18 |  |
| 19 | three, turns to four, and we may have a person | 19 | I've seen circumstances where I knew there was a |
| 20 | lying on the snow with a broken femur. And we | 20 | helicopter in the air, in that area, and we could |
| 21 | know there's a local helicopter company that | 21 | not get clearance to have that machine pick them |
| 22 | could pop in and pick them up and get them out | 22 | up, which would have been very easily done with a |
| 23 | within an hour, and four hours later we have a | 23 | positive outcome. |
| 24 | Cormorant coming from Gander. | 24 |  |
|  | Page 210 |  | Page 212 |
| 1 | The reason we're here is we want to help people, | 1 | Instead, it's again phone call after phone call, |
| 2 | and as a trained searcher and rescuer, it gets | 2 | nd then two, three, four hours later you've got |
| 3 | frustrating sometimes to know that I could have | 3 | a machine coming from Gander. |
| 4 | had that person out in an hour, if I had the | 4 |  |
| 5 | latitude to a make these decisions. And instead, | 5 | think that could streamline things in certain |
| 6 | it's four or five hours later they're coming out | 6 | particular circumstances. Not all the time, of |
| 7 | with a broken femur. Can you imagine, lying on | 7 | course. |
| 8 | the snow that long? | 8 | MR. BUDDEN: |
| 9 |  | 9 | Q. Sure. |
| 10 | In my years involved with SAR, I've seen that | 10 | MR. ANSTEY: |
| 11 | play out many times. And again, it's not | 11 | A. If that makes sense. |
| 12 | pointing fingers at an organization, it's just | 12 | MR. BLACKMORE: |
| 13 | the process. | 13 | A. Well, since you brought up the helicopter part of |
| 14 |  | 14 | it, we need to have a recommendation go to this |
| 15 | The solution? I don't really have one, other | 15 | full inquiry, for sure, to deal with the |
| 16 | than maybe if we had the latitude on certain | 16 | helicopters. There's no difference between us |
| 17 | occasions with the right people making the | 17 | doing a search and rescue or a recovery. |
| 18 | decisions, we could expedite the process and call | 18 |  |
| 19 | a local helicopter in. | 19 | We don't know if it's a recovery when we go |
| 20 |  | 20 | there. Yes, we might have a suicide note saying |
| 21 | And it's usually aircraft I'm referring to. Not | 21 | they jumped over a cliff, but until I find them |
| 22 | necessarily boats or hovercrafts or anything | 22 | or whatever, it's still a search and rescue |
| 23 | else, because we have availability or have that | 23 | mission, just the same as JRCC they're doing this |
| 24 | stuff available to us. | 24 | week in Labrador. They finally called it off |


|  | Page 213 |  | Page 215 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | yesterday. Changed it a recovery. They're three | 1 | involved he can't recall an instance where a |
| 2 | days into it. | 2 | helicopter was denied for recovery; is that |
| 3 |  | 3 | right? |
| 4 | We need the same thing. And just different | 4 |  |
| 5 | years, different times, but now one big thing | 5 | I'm sorry, what's that? Yeah, sure. Perhaps |
| 6 | we'd like to see come out -- I know helicopters | 6 | Mr. Rumbolt can address it. |
| 7 | under are scrutiny right now. There's one | 7 | MR. RUMBOLT: |
| 8 | recommendation we'd like to see, that when we | 8 | A. Mitch Rumbolt from the Emergency Services |
| 9 | call for a helicopter to do a search, we don't | 9 | Division. So to my understanding, and Mr. Paul |
| 10 | have to spend 20 minutes on the phone debating | 10 | Peddle would have spoken to this in Makkovik, who |
| 11 | whether they're hurt and we know where they're | 11 | was around a long time prior to my arrival, our |
| 12 | at, or they're recovery, or are they actually | 12 | division has never denied a request for a |
| 13 | lost. That's not what we want. | 13 | helicopter. |
| 14 |  | 14 |  |
| 15 | We need the helicopter. We don't call for it for | 15 | I can't speak to the alleged amount of time that |
| 16 | the fun of it. So we do need that stuff. That's | 16 | it would take to seek such helicopter, but we |
| 17 | one recommendation we'd like to see go forward. | 17 | don't delay it |
| 18 | MR. BUDDEN: | 18 |  |
| 19 | Q. And I'll return to some of these issues later on | 19 | When a request comes in from a police agency of |
| 20 | in the inquiry. I know I've said that a number | 20 | jurisdiction, we presume that they have assessed |
| 21 | of times, but there will be a whole week at the | 21 | the situation. And when they make their request, |
| 22 | end devoted to sort of policies that aren't | 22 | we process it as actively and efficiently as we |
| 23 | linked to this search or that search. | 23 | can. There's no delay and we've never denied a |
| 24 |  | 24 | helicopter for such an incident. |
|  | Page 214 |  | Page 216 |
| 1 | And we see these searches, they're not only | 1 | MR. BLACKMORE: |
| 2 | important in of themselves to look at, but they | 2 | A. I bring up one incident we had this past week. |
| 3 | are a window into some of these larger issues as | 3 | We called for a helicopter to do a search. We |
| 4 | well. | 4 | were told by the lady we were speaking to, they |
| 5 | RALPH, Q.C.: | 5 | had to go to their superiors to figure out |
| 6 | So we'll circle back, I guess, during the policy | 6 | whether it was recovery or whether it was search. |
| 7 | roundtable and talk about these issues again. | 7 | And we waited two hours for that helicopter. And |
| 8 | We'll certainly look at that. | 8 | that was last Friday. |
| 9 | MR. BUDDEN: | 9 | MR. RUMBOLT: |
| 10 | We will, because there are broader issues about | 10 | A. Mitch Rumbolt again. And, Mr. Blackmore, I |
| 11 | responsibility. There are always funding | 11 | recall the situation. I was that superior and |
| 12 | considerations that are a legitimate part of | 12 | the helicopter was approved. |
| 13 | government and process. | 13 | MR. BLACKMORE: |
| 14 |  | 14 | Q. Sir, I'm not talking about not being approved. |
| 15 | So your comments certainly are heard and will be | 15 | I'm talking about the length of time to approve. |
| 16 | addressed deeper into the inquiry as well. | 16 | I'm not getting into a shouting match. |
| 17 | RALPH, Q.C.: | 17 | RALPH, Q.C.: |
| 18 | Q. I just want to be clear because I'm not sure. | 18 | I think there should be a deeper dive into these |
| 19 | I'm speaking to Mr. Rumbolt here. So I don't | 19 | issues. I mean, are the issues associated with |
| 20 | have direct experience with this, but I | 20 | what happens in the first instance. |
| 21 | understand that -- sorry, and Peter speaking. | 21 |  |
| 22 |  | 22 | So I understand, I mean, it is rather cumbersome |
| 23 | Mr. Rumbolt advised me, I guess, he hasn't been | 23 | how these things work, because I understand these |
| 24 | around forever but during the time that he's been | 24 | gentlemen here have to call the detachment, who |


|  | Page 217 |  | Page 219 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | then have to call B Division, if they're dealing | 1 | there's a request for a helicopter you should |
| 2 | with the RCMP, who then call Emergency Services | 2 | have documentation from these gentlemen, from the |
| 3 | Division, who then call Government Air Services | 3 | detachment, from B Division, exactly when these |
| 4 | in Gander, who then call the helicopter. | 4 | calls go in. |
| 5 |  | 5 |  |
| 6 | And I don't think we have the information at this | 6 | If we want to kind of make a recommendation with |
| 7 | point to identify where the delay is. Is the | 7 | egard to that, I suggest that we want to be |
| 8 | delay between the RCMP detachment and B Division? | 8 | clear about where those delays are. |
| 9 |  | 9 |  |
| 10 | Is the delay from B Division to FES-NL? | 10 | And I appreciate that it is rather cumbersome in |
| 11 |  | 11 | terms of the amount of people that it has to go |
| 12 | So I think it's very difficult to speak to these | 12 | through to get a helicopter, but I think it might |
| 13 | issues, unless we have the documentation. I | 13 | be -- if we're going to sort of make comments or |
| 14 | don't think -- certainly, I haven't seen anything | 14 | recommendations about the system right now, we |
| 15 | that's in the record that can help us identify | 15 | hould probably do a deeper dive to figure out |
| 16 | it. | 16 | exactly where those delays are happening. |
| 17 |  | 17 |  |
| 18 | If it's two hours, the helicopter getting to a | 18 | Are they happening at B Division? Are they |
| 19 | search or a recovery, whatever it may be, I don't | 19 | happening within FES-NL? Are they happening at |
| 20 | know if we're in a position at this point to | 20 | the helicopter company? |
| 21 | identify where the delay is. | 21 |  |
| 22 |  | 22 | And maybe there's issues about how long it's |
| 23 | And if we want to get into that, then I suspect | 23 | taking -- |
| 24 | that we should get to the documentation to sort | 24 |  |
|  | Page 218 |  | Page 220 |
| 1 | of be able to explore that. | 1 | MR. BUDDEN: |
| 2 | MR. BUDDEN: | 2 | Or is it a (technical difficulties) cumulative, |
| 3 | And it may be a question of not so much this | 3 | small delays that add up? |
| 4 | incident or that incident, because I don't think | 4 | RALPH, Q. C.: |
| 5 | there's necessarily a dispute here, a factual | 5 | Well, no, fair enough but I don't think you can |
| 6 | dispute. | 6 | answer that question right now. |
| 7 |  | 7 | MR. BUDDEN: |
| 8 | As I understand Mr. Rumbolt, he was saying that | 8 | No, we're not answering it right now. It's just |
| 9 | the decision was made. And if I understand | 9 | coming out. Yeah. |
| 10 | Mr. Blackmore, he's not disputing that. He was | 10 | COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: |
| 11 | more focused on the delay, which was the original | 11 | Did Mr. Anstey have a question or a point? |
| 12 | point that was made by Mr. Anstey. | 12 | MR. ANSTEY: |
| 13 | RALPH, Q.C.: | 13 | Sheldon Anstey, Deer Lake SAR. No, and sometimes |
| 14 | Yeah. No, I don't think Mr. Anstey has an | 14 | we get bogged down with specifics. But on your |
| 15 | explanation of why it would take an hour or two | 15 | note of where the delays are or the time frames, |
| 16 | hours. Maybe he does, but I suspect that if | 16 | I was going to give a specific example, but maybe |
| 17 | there's a delay there, it's not on the record | 17 | we're beyond specific examples, I don't know. |
| 18 | about why that's happening. | 18 |  |
| 19 |  | 19 | But very briefly, we did have an individual with |
| 20 | I think if the Commissioner wants to go down that | 20 | a bad stumble. Actually he had broken bones, and |
| 21 | road, then I suggest that we should get those | 21 | we were pushing daylight. |
| 22 | documents. | 22 |  |
| 23 |  | 23 | I personally called the hanger in Pasadena, |
| 24 | I mean, I think it's easy enough, because if | 24 | because I know the pilots, I know the managers |

there. We fly with them through work.

2
3

I said, "Look, if I could get you in the air now, have you got time to get to this location and back before dark under visual flight rules?"

He said: You call me in half an hour and I'm there. Beyond that, I can't go." He said, "I'll start fueling up." We didn't get permission to get that helicopter in the air.

We wound up at the end of it travelling to that area by snowmobile with our snowbulance, taking that individual with severe injuries, broken femur, blood loss, out by snowmobile to Bonne Bay.

He got to a hospital... That happened at four o'clock in the afternoon. I could have had him in the hospital by five. He wound up getting to the hospital after midnight that night, if I'm not mistaken with a broken femur.

And I want to give that example because it's
Page 222
real. With the latitude to pick up the phone, to Universal, Canadian, whatever company and say, look, can you pop up in there and go now. Yeah, we can go. Let's worry about the paperwork later.
That's very simplistic, I understand, in a complex world, but it's a real-life example of a frustrating evening.
RALPH, Q.C.:
Q. Because I don't think Mr. Anstey understands that in terms of helicopters that are actually on sort of standby to do that kind of work, it's not every helicopter in the province that can do that, because there are contracts with particular companies.

For example, I think right now it's with Canadian. And I don't know if that time was it with Canadian or Universal? But anyway, I'll just point that out.
MR. BUDDEN:
Q. When about was this, Mr. Anstey? Just approximately?

MR. ANSTEY:
A. I'm sorry, the question again?

MR. BUDDEN:
Q. I'm sorry about approximately how long ago was this incident?

MR. ANSTEY:
A. This particular incident was - Brian, you may remember - eight, ten years?
MR. CHAULK:
A. (Unintelligible).

MR. BUDDEN:
Q. Okay, yeah. I think, perhaps, as you're both saying, there's a process here that perhaps has to be followed rather than anybody being able -and I know you're not just anybody, but I guess there may be some need for some kind of safeguards or process, but perhaps one should be more sympathetic to an experienced person in the field.

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE:
Mr. Williams?
WILLIAMS, Q.C.:
Q. Yes, Mr. Commissioner, I'd kind of like to echo some of the sentiments that Mr. Ralph said, the

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discussion that's following here.

And that was one of the lines of questioning that I had raised in Makkovik about the flowchart as to when the call comes in that somebody is missing, as to where it goes. Who has approval levels? How far up the chain does it go? How far back down does it go? And the timing of all this?

Because I think what we're talking about right now is it's not so much who has control of the decision making, it's the amount of time.

And I think from a public perception perspective, that's what people have concerns over, is how long it takes when a person is reported to be missing to get the necessary resources, whether provincial or federal, in the air to look for them?

So I mean, I think during -- I know we can't answer those questions today, but we can certainly raise them. And I think that's an

|  | Page 225 |  | Page 227 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | important element that we should be looking at | 1 | Otherwise, it sounds to me like we follow |
| 2 | during the policy session, to really nail down | 2 | Mr. Ralph's advice in getting some details on |
| 3 | what is that chain of command up and down, and | 3 | some, but also consider the point just made. |
| 4 | how long does it take, and whether or not it | 4 | That there is a need to ensure that the shortest |
| 5 | should be some of the people on the ground here. | 5 | route is taken for an answer, plus other |
| 6 |  | 6 | circumstances as just pointed out where policy |
| 7 | Maybe it is the ground search and rescue people | 7 | may impact on what the action can be taken. |
| 8 | should have a more direct line when they think | 8 |  |
| 9 | it's necessary. | 9 | So we got time to get at that, but it certainly |
| 10 |  | 10 | won't be in this session. |
| 11 | I guess another point that Mr. Blackmore brought | 11 |  |
| 12 | up, and you use the language "search versus | 12 | Would you like to add any more for your witnesses |
| 13 | recovery," and again, I'm speaking probably from | 13 | about where we're going after this? |
| 14 | some ignorance here, but if I'm not mistaken a | 14 | MR. BUDDEN: |
| 15 | search would warrant a helicopter, where a | 15 | I have one or two more questions. Really just |
| 16 | recovery would not. | 16 | one that I should have brought up earlier, but I |
| 17 |  | 17 | overlooked. Is it possible, Madam Clerk, to call |
| 18 | And recovery, I think of an example only within | 18 | up Exhibit 170, P-170 entered this morning? And |
| 19 | the last year, and I'm going from memory here, of | 19 | if so, it's page 36 I 'm interested in. |
| 20 | a media story of a son who was with his father. | 20 | COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: |
| 21 | I don't know if they were hiking, fishing, | 21 | That point was whether or not you've apprised the |
| 22 | hunting, what the circumstances were. The father | 22 | searchers here where we're going with the policy |
| 23 | passed away while there. | 23 | session. |
| 24 |  | 24 |  |
|  | Page 226 |  | Page 228 |
| 1 | When he got in touch with authorities they | 1 | Are they aware of that? |
| 2 | couldn't take the remains out because they don't | 2 | MR. BUDDEN: |
| 3 | take out dead bodies. They take out live ones. | 3 | They are aware, certainly there is a policy |
| 4 | And unless it's not realized until the resources | 4 | session. That came up in our meeting, as did |
| 5 | get on site that the person is there. | 5 | Mr. Blackmore. |
| 6 |  | 6 |  |
| 7 | I think that's very troubling for the public. | 7 | It's page 36, Madam Clerk. Thank you. If you |
| 8 | I mean, these are pretty emotional circumstances, | 8 | can scroll down to just below the bold face word |
| 9 | whether you have a loved one lost or a loved one | 9 | "Report," the entry at 8:45. |
| 10 | who has passed under certain circumstances. | 10 |  |
| 11 |  | 11 | And this is, I believe, the morning of the 4th of |
| 12 | So I think that issue is worthy of further | 12 | February, though it's a little cryptic. |
| 13 | investigation as well, because I don't think | 13 | BY MR. BUDDEN: |
| 14 | people can appreciate or can justify how you | 14 | Q. What I'm interested in, and this is for you, |
| 15 | substantiate or justify one over the other. Just | 15 | Mr. Williams, although anybody can jump in, when |
| 16 | some thoughts. | 16 | we read down through there is a -- I'm reading |
| 17 | COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: | 17 | here. It says, "Sergeant Humber was acting as |
| 18 | No, that's right. And I think Mr. Smith, | 18 | Search IC," and then it goes on, "there was |
| 19 | particularly, will be very interested in delving | 19 | little cell phone and radio coverage in the |
| 20 | into that area at the policy sessions. Unless | 20 | Search Command Post area." |
| 21 | the searchers have been told about the process | 21 |  |
| 22 | where we get to policy sessions, then you can do | 22 | So firstly, tell us what you're understanding of |
| 23 | that for us. | 23 | "Search IC" was or is? |
| 24 |  | 24 |  |

1 MR. WILLIAMS:
A. Darren Williams here, Deer Lake SAR. My understanding of incident commander?
MR. BUDDEN:
Q. Yeah. Tell us what does Search IC mean?

MR. WILLIAMS:
A. Incident Commander is the person that's supposed to control everything that's going on and encompassing it in the search.
MR. BUDDEN:
Q. Okay. So as I understand, at least in theory, the model is that the search/incident commander is in charge of the search and you would be perhaps the search manager? Would that be correct?
MR. WILLIAMS:
A. That's typically the chain of command, yes.

MR. BUDDEN:
Q. Okay. And I see the name Sergeant Humber here. Was it your understanding at the time that Sergeant Humber was search/incident commander?
MR.WILLIAMS:
A. Yes. RCMP or the authority having jurisdiction usually is the IC.

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MR. BUDDEN:
Q. Yes. At that time you understood that Sergeant Humber is the IC?

MR. WILLIAMS:
A. Yes.

MR. BUDDEN:
Q. Were there other ICs in the course of the search?

MR. WILLIAMS:
A. Yes.

MR. BUDDEN:
Q. Okay. Who was the other or who were the other ICs, as best you recall?
MR. WILLIAMS:
A. Elizabeth Lodge, was one. Corporal Lodge one day. And Constable Paul Canning.
MR. BUDDEN:
Q. Paul?

MR. WILLIAMS:
A. Constable Paul Canning.

MR. BUDDEN:
Q. Okay. So you were the search manager throughout?

MR. WILLIAMS:
A. Yeah.

MR. BUDDEN:
Q. However, incident commanders --

MR. WILLIAMS:
A. Change from day to day.

MR. BUDDEN:
Q. From day to day? Okay. Does that leave -- I would suggest that in reality that left the search manager really running the ground components of the search?
MR. WILLIAMS:
A. Yes.

MR. BUDDEN:
Q. Does that seem fair?

MR. WILLIAMS:
A. Yes, that's correct.

MR. BUDDEN:
Q. Okay. I guess what direction did you take from the incident commanders? I mean, were they telling you what to do? Or were you sort of telling them what needed to be done and they were sort of accepting that?
MR. WILLIAMS:
A. It would be the latter.

MR. BUDDEN:
Q. Okay. Is that typical?

MR. WILLIAMS:
A. Yes.

MR. BUDDEN:
Q. For the searches you've been involved in?

MR. WILLIAMS:
A. Yes.

MR. BUDDEN:
Okay. That's really all the questions I have,
Mr. Commissioner. The other counsel, no doubt, will have or may have questions for these witnesses.
RALPH, Q.C.:
Q. Thank you, Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE:
Peter Ralph.
RALPH, Q.C.:
Q. Peter Ralph. Yes, thank you. Mr. Williams, in terms of the last known position and how far these gentleman were found, can you tell me what those distances were?
MR. WILLIAMS:
A. Darren Williams. Mr. Rice was found

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| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | approximately four to five kilometres from his | 1 | hour, about the documentation that you would have |
| 2 | last known position. And Mr. Lovell was a little | 2 | made at the time of the search? |
| 3 | less than that. He was between the three and | 3 | MR. WILLIAMS: |
| 4 | four kilometres. | 4 | A. Yes. |
| 5 |  | 5 | RALPH, Q.C.: |
| 6 | They were approximately one to one and a half | 6 | Q. And you had recorded information, for example, |
| 7 | kilometres apart from each other. As you can | 7 | the coordinates that were coming from your |
| 8 | see, if you bring up the maps, I don't know if | 8 | searches via inReach? |
| 9 | you can tell on that map because it's probably | 9 | MR. WILLIAMS: |
| 10 | not to scale. It's probably zoomed out, I think. | 10 | A. Yes. |
| 11 |  | 11 | RALPH, Q.C.: |
| 12 | When I was actually doing the maps, I zoomed out | 12 | Q. You would get those. And so at that time, what |
| 13 | to get a feature of it. But you can see that two | 13 | were you using in terms of how you were |
| 14 | of them were very close together there. But they | 14 | documenting information? |
| 15 | are, in fact, a kilometre to a kilometre and a | 15 |  |
| 16 | half apart. | 16 | Because I understand right now there's a new app, |
| 17 | RALPH, Q.C.: | 17 | an application that's being used? |
| 18 | Q. So that's Exhibit 73, page 5? | 18 | MR. WILLIAMS: |
| 19 | THE CLERK: | 19 | A. Yes. Yeah. |
| 20 | Page 5. | 20 | RALPH, Q.C.: |
| 21 | RALPH, Q.C.: | 21 | Q. But at that time the application wasn't being |
| 22 | Page 5. | 22 | used; is that right? |
| 23 | MR. WILLIAMS: | 23 | MR. WILLIAMS: |
| 24 | A. There's another on there that gives a little more | 24 | A. No, pen and paper. Typically we write it down. |
|  | Page 234 |  | Page 236 |
| 1 | detail of their separation. The third map. The | 1 | The way the system is set up now, the new Emwerx |
| 2 | very first one. Look, there you go. Right | 2 | system that the association has. |
| 3 | there. | 3 | RALPH, Q.C.: |
| 4 |  | 4 | Q. And what's that called again? |
| 5 | You can see the location of Stan Rice and you can | 5 | MR. WILLIAMS: |
| 6 | see the location of Mr. Wilson (sic) Lovell. The | 6 | A. Emwerx. |
| 7 | tracks going up through are one of the main | 7 | RALPH, Q.C.: |
| 8 | routes for going into Harbour Deep. So you can | 8 | Q. Any idea what that stands for? |
| 9 | tell they were on the main route, but they | 9 | MR. WILLIAMS: |
| 10 | weren't on the on (phonetic) route. | 10 | A. Harry, would you be able to say what Emwerx is |
| 11 | RALPH, Q.C.: | 11 | for? |
| 12 | Q. And I think their coordinates are in this report? | 12 | MR. BLACKMORE: |
| 13 | MR. WILLIAMS: | 13 | A. Emwerx is a system that we use for tracking |
| 14 | A. Yes. | 14 | times, tracking searches. All the information is |
| 15 | RALPH, Q.C.: | 15 | pumped into the machine. |
| 16 | Q. Where they were found. The coordinates for the | 16 |  |
| 17 | last known position, I don't think, are in that | 17 | It's a company out of Nova Scotia. Nova Scotia |
| 18 | report; do you recall? | 18 | Ground Search and Rescue uses the same one. New |
| 19 | MR. WILLIAMS: | 19 | Brunswick uses the same one. |
| 20 | A. I'm not sure. It was on Morris' Pond, which is a | 20 |  |
| 21 | pond there, right? | 21 | It is actually the company that takes care of all |
| 22 | RALPH, Q.C.: | 22 | offshore medical for JRCC across the country and |
| 23 | Q. Right, fair enough. And so you indicated | 23 | across the world in different spots. |
| 24 | earlier, when we were discussing during lunch | 24 |  |


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| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | So it's a search and rescue one that's done up. | 1 | RALPH, Q.C.: |
| 2 | And we have copies of it here on the computer, if | 2 | Q. Right. |
| 3 | you need to see one. | 3 | MR. WILLIAMS: |
| 4 | RALPH, Q.C.: | 4 | A. So you're going to have to still use the old pen |
| 5 | Q. Okay. Right. So in 2019, you weren't using that | 5 | and paper to write it down, because guys are |
| 6 | system. You were documenting it and taking notes | 6 | giving you coordinates. |
| 7 | of what was happening? | 7 |  |
| 8 | MR. WILLIAMS: | 8 | Once you get a lull or a slow time, what you do |
| 9 | A. Yes, pen and paper. | 9 | is you go in and you can log in and punch all the |
| 10 | RALPH, Q.C.: | 10 | formation in a search. Basically, a search |
| 11 | Q. Yes. And then, again, I think I asked if you | 11 | format. |
| 12 | would have access to those documents now, and | 12 | RALPH, Q.C.: |
| 13 | it's possible, I think Mr. Parsons? | 13 | Q. Right. |
| 14 | MR. WILLIAMS: | 14 | MR. WILLIAMS: |
| 15 | A. I think, yes. | 15 | A. Right? So it's all itemized. Days, times and |
| 16 | MR. PARSONS: | 16 | everything is entered. |
| 17 | A. I'm going to have a look. | 17 | RALPH, Q.C.: |
| 18 | RALPH, Q.C.: | 18 | Q. Right. |
| 19 | Q. He's going to have a look. But it may be that | 19 | MR. WILLIAMS: |
| 20 | those documents or a copy of those documents were | 20 | A. Right? The way it's designed now, we got what's |
| 21 | given to the RCMP; is that right? | 21 | called an off-site system where we can do it, and |
| 22 | MR. PARSONS: | 22 | if we got to go back in and change it, we can. |
| 23 | A. Wayne Parsons, Deer Lake SAR. | 23 |  |
| 24 |  | 24 | Once we come home, we log into the internet, and |
|  | Page 238 |  | Page 240 |
| 1 | RALPH, Q.C.: | 1 | we can download it to the Emwerx system, which is |
| 2 | Q. You might want to hold that microphone closer to | 2 | (inaudible) Newfoundland-based product. And |
| 3 | you. | 3 | anyone, Harry or anyone, can go in and look at |
| 4 | MR. PARSONS: | 4 | it, right? |
| 5 | A. I am thinking that a copy of the documents was | 5 | RALPH, Q.C.: |
| 6 | given to the RCMP, because that's been our normal | 6 | Q. Right. |
| 7 | traditional format. Like anything happened | 7 | MR. WILLIAMS: |
| 8 | during a search we've always turned it over to | 8 | A. Like I say, we're trying to get into that |
| 9 | the RCMP. | 9 | process. It's a time-consuming thing and it's a |
| 10 |  | 10 | work in progress all the time. |
| 11 | Again, I'm pretty confident in saying that we | 11 | RALPH, Q.C.: |
| 12 | have a copy back in our office, but I'd have to | 12 | Q. Right. Fair enough. I'm just curious. It seems |
| 13 | look for it. | 13 | interesting to me that if there had been a |
| 14 | RALPH, Q.C.: | 14 | tracking device on these snowmobiles, it would |
| 15 | Q. Right. So is that a requirement of every search, | 15 | have been a much easier sort of situation. |
| 16 | that you have to provide your documentation to | 16 |  |
| 17 | the RCMP? | 17 | And I guess, in terms of technology, what's |
| 18 | MR. WILLIAMS: | 18 | available out there? |
| 19 | A. Not really. It's for our own personal use. And | 19 | MR. WILLIAMS: |
| 20 | what we do right now with the new system, when we | 20 | A. Well, we've got several. I mean, more and more |
| 21 | have a search, we're trying to get into using it | 21 | people are getting educated to it and they're |
| 22 | as a regular tool, but it's hard because | 22 | getting different units called a Spot unit, |
| 23 | everything is moving so fast at the time. | 23 | inReach unit, ZOLEO unit, right? |
| 24 |  | 24 |  |


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| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | These are three more common units we use right | 1 | there, but we probably could have had them out |
| 2 | now. They've got several characteristics. Spot | 2 | that night. |
| 3 | has just a one-button push that you can check in. | 3 | RALPH, Q.C.: |
| 4 | I'm okay. Just running late. | 4 | Q. Right. |
| 5 |  | 5 | MR. BUDDEN: |
| 6 | It has an SOS button where you can activate it. | 6 | Q. Just a point, if I may jump in. The very, very |
| 7 | It goes through a national emergency centre that | 7 | same point was made by one of the searchers in |
| 8 | contacts the (inaudible) in that area, like Parks | 8 | Hopedale, and it is something that I've discussed |
| 9 | Canada or RCMP or RNC. And then, they'll contact | 9 | with Mr. Smith. And that issue will emerge again |
| 10 | us and they'll give us the coordinates, because | 10 | as we get into the policy roundtable. |
| 11 | it transmits a coordinate once the beacon is | 11 |  |
| 12 | activated. | 12 | And by that, I mean the issue of tracking devices |
| 13 |  | 13 | being in place on snowmobiles so that they can be |
| 14 | With regards to inReach and ZOLEO and the newer | 14 | activated and the searchers would have that. I |
| 15 | Spot units, it's a two-way communication. You | 15 | think they can get within 60 metres or something. |
| 16 | don't necessarily have to say, hey, I'm in | 16 | Something pretty impressive. |
| 17 | trouble. Send a cavalry in. Right? I'm ready | 17 | RALPH, Q.C.: |
| 18 | to die. I'm stuck. I can't get out. I got a | 18 | Q. Mr. Chaulk? |
| 19 | broken ankle. Can you please send someone to | 19 | MR. CHAULK: |
| 20 | help me? So you can actually send that to | 20 | A. Yes, Brian Chaulk. I think at least one or two |
| 21 | someone that you know. | 21 | of the guys in the five party had an inReach unit |
| 22 |  | 22 | on their machine, but it wasn't -- the ones that |
| 23 | You can set up several people that are automatic | 23 | had it weren't the ones that got separated. |
| 24 | contacts with these units. So that if Brian goes | 24 |  |
|  | Page 242 |  | Page 244 |
| 1 | out in the country and Brian gets stuck or breaks | 1 | RALPH, Q.C.: |
| 2 | down, he can send help and it will come to my | 2 | Q. Right. |
| 3 | phone with a coordinate so I'll know where he is | 3 | MR. CHAULK: |
| 4 | to. | 4 | A. But I think Eric Park, I think he had an inReach |
| 5 |  | 5 | because I know that he sent a message to the |
| 6 | I think it should be made mandatory for | 6 | RCMP. He pinged them and sent a message saying |
| 7 | recreational vehicle people to have this | 7 | that they were stranded. |
| 8 | automatically on their mac | 8 | RALPH, Q.C.: |
| 9 | RALPH, Q.C.: | 9 | Q. Right. And the JRC could track Mr. Park from |
| 10 | Q. Right. | 10 | Halifax; is that right? |
| 11 | MR. WILLIAMS: | 11 | MR. CHAULK: |
| 12 | A. So that, I mean, in any incidents, it would | 12 | A. Yes. |
| 13 | alleviate a lot, a lot of the problems of us | 13 | RALPH, Q.C.: |
| 14 | taking the guesswork out of stuff. | 14 | Q. Sorry. Mr. Germani? |
| 15 | RALPH, Q.C.: | 15 | MR. GERMANI: |
| 16 | Q. Right. | 16 | A. Doug Germani. We've been using inReach now for |
| 17 | MR. WILLIAMS: | 17 | about three or four years, and we've got a couple |
| 18 | A. If these guys had them and activated, we would | 18 | of different models, but they both allow tracking |
| 19 | probably have went out Friday night to get them. | 19 | of the unit. And you can program that tracking |
| 20 | Even though the weather was bad, we had a | 20 | interval, depending on the plan. If you have an |
| 21 | destination. We knew how we could get there and | 21 | expensive subscription, you can track at |
| 22 | we could get there safely. | 22 | two-minute intervals. |
| 23 |  | 23 |  |
| 24 | It may have took us a few extra hours to get | 24 | And what I mean by an interval is, the unit sends |


|  | Page 245 |  | Page 247 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | a ping to a satellite and down to Houston and | 1 | RALPH, Q.C.: |
| 2 | that's transmitted back to a user terminal. | 2 | Q. So if you went on your app now, would you be able |
| 3 |  | 3 | to go back and see your history in terms of the |
| 4 | So a search manager can be at home and follow the | 4 | searching that would have been done by the person |
| 5 | progress of the individual who is carrying the | 5 | that borrowed your inReach on that day when they |
| 6 | inReach. | 6 | were searching? |
| 7 |  | 7 | MR. GERMANI: |
| 8 | And on this particular search, I gave my personal | 8 | A. I wish. I don't have that track file. I just |
| 9 | inReach to one of the two snowmobile team | 9 | looked for it. I've got a dozen others, but I |
| 10 | members, and I set the tracking interval to 20 | 10 | don't have that particular one. |
| 11 | minutes, and I went home. | 11 | RALPH, Q.C.: |
| 12 |  | 12 | Q. Right. And did you have any other documentation |
| 13 | This was 3:30 in the morning. Off they went. | 13 | from that search, from Bonne Bay GSAR? |
| 14 | And from the comfort of my home I was able to | 14 | MR. GERMANI: |
| 15 | watch them throughout the whole day. I knew | 15 | A. I probably do, but I'd have to -- |
| 16 | where they were all the time. | 16 | RALPH, Q.C.: |
| 17 |  | 17 | Q. Perhaps you can have a look when you get home? |
| 18 | Now, when you set up a tracking interval, those | 18 | MR. GERMANI: |
| 19 | interval positions are joined by a solid blue | 19 | A. I'll dig it out, yeah. |
| 20 | line. So on a map you have a series of straight | 20 | RALPH, Q.C.: |
| 21 | lines. It's not a smooth track. | 21 | Q. Because I'm just curious. In terms of the search |
| 22 |  | 22 | the day before, in terms of Mr. Rice and then, I |
| 23 | When you complete your mission and you get the | 23 | guess, the next day for Mr. Lovell, any sense of |
| 24 | inReach unit back and you sync it to the inReach | 24 | how close you would have come to them in your |
|  | Page 246 |  | Page 248 |
| 1 | Garmin website, it will load the GPS pings which | 1 | previous searches? |
| 2 | typically happen every minute. | 2 | MR. WILLIAMS: |
| 3 |  | 3 | A. Too close. |
| 4 | And now that smooths out the tracks. So for a | 4 | RALPH, Q.C.: |
| 5 | debrief you can get a full track file, but in | 5 | Q. Really? Was it? |
| 6 | real time you'll get this straight line, jagged | 6 | MR. WILLIAMS: |
| 7 | line which will still follow your device. | 7 | A. Um-hmm. I mean, we looked at the map after and |
| 8 |  | 8 | we put plotted in where we actually found him on |
| 9 | If we're hiking, I'll typically set it to 20 | 9 | our coordinates. I mean, I'd say times we were |
| 10 | minutes. If I'm on a search it will be a | 10 | probably 50 metres from him. |
| 11 | ten-minute. | 11 | RALPH, Q.C.: |
| 12 |  | 12 | Q. From both Mr. Lovell and Mr. Rice? |
| 13 | There were several times this summer I got in the | 13 | MR. WILLIAMS: |
| 14 | helicopter, I turned on tracking, and I sent the | 14 | A. Not Mr. Rice, because we hadn't gotten down that |
| 15 | request for inReach to send a message to Harry | 15 | far, but Mr. Lovell, we passed him several times. |
| 16 | and our team coordinator, Bettina Lori, so they | 16 | Expanding out, right? |
| 17 | could follow along exactly where I was. And if | 17 |  |
| 18 | they had a question or a query they can contact | 18 | But like I said, weather? I mean, if you were at |
| 19 | me. | 19 | the end of this table talking to me up there, I |
| 20 |  | 20 | wouldn't have heard you anyway. |
| 21 | So it's two-way communication. Like Darren said, | 21 | RALPH, Q.C.: |
| 22 | it's a fabulous device. I wouldn't go anywhere | 22 | Q. Right. |
| 23 | in the back country without one. It's | 23 | MR. WILLIAMS: |
| 24 | reassuring. | 24 | A. Right? Now whether he would have heard anything, |

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RALPH, Q.C.:
Q. With Mr. Lovell, any sense of -- I understand the helicopter, even the helicopter saw the red bag, but any sense of -- he was found, I guess, unconscious?
MR. ANSTEY:
A. As I understand it. I was not there, I can't speak to it. But if you look at the map behind you and you see those lines, the red, the green, the blue, that whole line proceeds through an area known as Snowy Valley, and on Sunday we combed that back and forth, sideways, up and down.

We were up and down that stretch a hundred times and he was there, as you can see by the map there, very close to our line. I personally was probably 100 metres, 150 metres from him half the day on Sunday.
RALPH, Q.C.:
Q. Right.

MR. ANSTEY:
A. But again, you can't see. If you can't see, you can't search, right?

RALPH, Q.C.:
Q. Right. And is it possible -- I'm sorry, go
ahead, Mr. Chaulk?
MR. CHAULK:
A. Brian Chaulk, Deer Lake SAR. I actually talked to the pilot from 103 Squadron on, I think, Monday night, and I gave him coordinates of where Mr. Lovell was found. And he told me that he flew over him a couple of times, but could not see him.

RALPH, Q.C.:
Q. Right.

MR. CHAULK:
A. Right?

RALPH, Q.C.:
Q. So, Mr. Williams, on this occasion were you communicating directly with the pilots? I mean, so we've got several aircraft from different organizations conducting searches from the air.

What was your role in the air searches?
MR. WILLIAMS:
A. That's part of what I'm talking about, communications. Everything had to be relayed

Page 252 through the RCMP, through their headquarters, relayed back. So I mean it was going up the chain and then coming back the chain.

So like I said, everything wasn't done in real time, because by the time he got it, by the time they transmitted it out, by the time they got it (inaudible), then by the time they got it back to us and back through again, right? It was taking time, right, to do it.
RALPH, Q.C.:
Q. Right. But generally, that would be sort of your role, would be to direct where the air assets would search?
MR. WILLIAMS:
A. Yeah. Well, not necessarily where to search. But I mean, they may want to know where the last known position was. They may see something and want to transmit it to us.

Hey guys, we see something that looks funny down there. Can you go down and check it out? This stuff all takes time for relaying messages back and forth.

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| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | Now, with the 103, it's a little different. We | 1 | Mostly is it a breakdown in terms of hunters or |
| 2 | can communicate with them because we have radio | 2 | berry pickers or hikers? Any sense of how that |
| 3 | frequencies that ties with them. But we are | 3 | breaks down? |
| 4 | still limited in the range, right? | 4 | MR. WILLIAMS: |
| 5 | RALPH, Q.C.: | 5 | A. Darren Williams here, Deer Lake SAR. Most of |
| 6 | Q. Right. | 6 | ours are outdoors people that are back country |
| 7 | MR. WILLIAMS: | 7 | users. |
| 8 | A. I mean, if they're -- | 8 |  |
| 9 | RALPH, Q.C.: | 9 | I mean, typically most of ours are guys that are |
| 10 | Q. Any idea what the range is? Any idea what that | 10 | snowmobiling, ATVing, stuff like that, lost. |
| 11 | range is? | 11 | Right? |
| 12 | MR. WILLIAMS: | 12 |  |
| 13 | A. Wayne Parsons might be able to answer that one | 13 | You do get some water instances. Like we've had |
| 14 | better than me. | 14 | several recoveries, even this past year, people |
| 15 | MR. PARSONS: | 15 | drowning and stuff like that and stuff. And we |
| 16 | A. Don't have a clue, sir. Wayne Parsons, Deer Lake | 16 | end up bringing the bodies back and stuff like |
| 17 | SAR. I don't know how far our range is on our | 17 | that. |
| 18 | hand-held units. I don't know. | 18 |  |
| 19 | RALPH, Q.C.: | 19 | But for our searches, it's typically where our |
| 20 | Q. Right. But on this occasion you wouldn't have | 20 | country or where our geographic area we cover, |
| 21 | been able to communicate with a Universal | 21 | it's prime snowmobiling area and ATV riding. |
| 22 | helicopter directly? | 22 | That's what we find. |
| 23 | MR. WILLIAMS: | 23 |  |
| 24 | A. No. | 24 | And I would say out of those, probably 60 to 70 |
|  | Page 254 |  | Page 256 |
| 1 | RALPH, Q.C.: | 1 | percent of them are snowmobiles, because a lot of |
| 2 | Q. RCMP or PAL? | 2 | people get themselves in situations that they're |
| 3 | MR. WILLIAMS: | 3 | not familiar with, they haven't really |
| 4 | A. No. | 4 | experienced it before, or they're just not paying |
| 5 | MR. BLACKMORE: | 5 | attention sometimes too, right? |
| 6 | A. All that communication is done by VHF radio. So | 6 | RALPH, Q.C.: |
| 7 | a hill gets in the way, you're out of luck. | 7 | Right. Thank you. I have no further questions. |
| 8 | That's just the way it is, and that's what | 8 | Thank you. |
| 9 | hampers the communications part. | 9 | MR. BUDDEN: |
| 10 |  | 10 | Ms. Bedford? |
| 11 | Now, I know the provincial government is working | 11 | MS. BEDFORD: |
| 12 | on a new system that supposedly will take care of | 12 | Nothing from me. Thank you. |
| 13 | most of that for us. | 13 | MR. BUDDEN: |
| 14 | RALPH, Q.C.: | 14 | Pardon? |
| 15 | Q. Yes. | 15 | MS. BEDFORD: |
| 16 | MR. BLACKMORE: | 16 | Nothing from me. Thank you. |
| 17 | A. And that would be great stuff. | 17 | MR. BUDDEN: |
| 18 | RALPH, Q.C.: | 18 | Thank you. Mr. Williams? |
| 19 | Q. Right. The last couple of questions... I guess | 19 | WILLIAMS, Q.C.: |
| 20 | I'm trying to get a sense of the searches that | 20 | Q. Yes, just one question. I think Mr. Ralph hit |
| 21 | you do in the course of a year. | 21 | right on the point on the notes I wanted to speak |
| 22 |  | 22 | on. |
| 23 | Can you break down sort of what type of person | 23 |  |
| 24 | are you dealing with? | 24 | You mentioned about 60 to 70 percent would be |

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snowmobiles, that kind of thing. In terms of recommendations -- and again, I'm probably speaking outside of the realm of expertise here.

But if there was to be legislative mandates, provincial legislative mandates, obviously we're not going to get snowmobile manufacturers or ATV manufacturers to put this kind of equipment because it happens in too small a spectrum for the big market, the global market.

But from a provincial perspective, when we're talking numbers, and we're only talking your unit, and maybe Mr. Blackmore can speak to it a little more, is that how many numbers are we talking about?

When you say if there was to be a provincial requirement, regulation, that stated that recreational vehicles are to be equipped with -and I forget the name of the piece of technology that you were referring to?
MR. WILLIAMS:
A. InReach or Spot or ZOLEO.

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WILLIAMS, Q.C.:
Q. What are you talking about costs to have that installed on a machine? For starters, what would that be?
MR. WILLIAMS:
A. Well, I don't know if you would be able to get it installed on a machine, but if you made it mandatory that anybody who's doing any back country, that it be mandatory that they have one on their person.
WILLIAMS, Q.C.:
Q. Okay.

MR. WILLIAMS:
A. You can buy the simplest Spot for $\$ 100, \$ 120$.

WILLIAMS, Q.C.:
Q. Okay.

MR. WILLIAMS:
A. Right? And the problem is there's a yearly fee to it, right? So if you got a yearly fee of anywhere between $\$ 75$ and $\$ 110$ a year for Spot, some people cringe at that.

They don't once they use it, but up until that point they do. So if they had those units, I

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mean, and everyone carried one and they hit it, it would make our lives a lot easier for finding them, right?

Then you get into the step-up units, the ZOLEO units, which are around $\$ 250$ to purchase. Packages run anywhere from $\$ 30$ a month up to $\$ 50$ to $\$ 60$ a month.

And then you got the Garmin inReach system which is about $\$ 500$ a unit, which has some mapping systems to it. But the package runs the same, cost wise, for them as well.
WILLIAMS, Q.C.:
Q. And in terms of the actual number of searches, successful missions, etcetera, how many times would you guys be called out to, let's say, ATV or snowmobile search and rescue missions on an annual basis?
MR. WILLIAMS:
A. On an annual basis? It varies from year to year. I would say we'll do probably six to eight a year, of ATV and snowmobile combined.

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WILLIAMS, Q.C.:
Q. Okay, thank you. That's all.

MR. BLACKMORE:
A. There is another personal locator device out there. It's called PLB. They're around 300 bucks, but they are a one-time fee, registered with Trenton.

I think that's right, isn't it, Lieutenant? With Trenton? And there's no subscription to those. Once they are bought, they're yours.

You push that button, it goes to Trenton.
Trenton notifies whatever province, whatever RCMP district, goes down through the system. And it's constantly monitored.

That's about the best that you can get, if you're a person that wants to be rescued. That's the thing. But the inReach is so I can talk to you at home from my skidoo, which is great stuff. But the PLB is the answer to it all, which is registered with those guys.

MR. BUDDEN:
Q. Mr. Commissioner, if I may, I was going to ask Mr. Smith did he wish to comment on this. He and I have had a discussion about it following our Hopedale meeting. And he has information that might be helpful, along with the other helpful information we just heard from Mr. Blackmore and others.
MR. SMITH:
A. Thank you, counsel, Commissioner. And just to reiterate Harry Blackmore's comment. So the personal locator beacon on the 406 megahertz is a Canadian invention.

After the bench test, in 1992, I purchased one in 1995. They work very well. They take the search out of search and rescue. They've been a great success.

And now because they're on 406 megahertz, which is a lot more accurate than the old emergency locator transmitters or the old EPIRBs, they have about at least 135-metre accuracy.

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I was on the original bench testing and the original field testing by multiple agencies for multiple jurisdictions, back in 1992 to 1993, in the Rocky Mountains.

Also, I've used one myself for life and death emergency situations. And as Harry said, they're lightweight. About the same weight as you might have on a Smartphone. They work for 24 hours at 40 below transmission, and they are $\$ 305$.

And as mentioned before, because they work through Canadian Mission Control Centre, in Trenton, you have to register through Public Safety Canada. And it is a one-time deal when you do activate it, but it's for life and death.

The other devices such as Spot, inReach, ZOLEO, Bivy and sat phones, they all require monthly user fees from other nations, other countries that man those communications centres.

So the PLB is a very rugged device as well. Plus, it floats. And it started in Canada's

Arctic in 1995 and went forward from there. And the size is greatly reduced. And it's fairly indestructible. Even if the machine goes through the ice, if it's stuck in the ice, it can be activated.

So I would recommend the PLB program. They're a lot more inexpensive. The other programs take a little more savvy to be communications IT capable, as our teams will attest to.

But the Bivy is another device that just locks in. It's about the size of a thumb drive. It's also quite capable of turning your Smartphone into a satellite device.

So again, it's the size of a flash drive or a little thumb drive there. But it can be difficult to operate and also with the apps that are involved there.

So again, a KISS principle involved. It's been out there, used and Arctic-proven. Canadian invention would be the personal locator beacon by

ECR out of Fort Lauderdale in the U.S. They took over the contract from the Canadian company MPR Teltech, back in 2001.

And because it's managed by the Department of National Defence, it's 24/7 coverage at no cost. So that certainly would be an answer.

A lot of times people use it for working alone when you're in the back country all over Canada to meet the requirements of working-alone legislation provincially.

The inReach is $\$ 825$ now for the new 66i inReach. And then there's a Montana device after that where, again, it's about $\$ 1,000$. So when you're talking about the investment.

There are different search and rescue groups in Canada that have fundraised and picked up 10 to 12 different PLBs, and what they do is they lease them out or rent them out, as you would, to different back country users.

|  | Page 265 |  | Page 267 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | So now they can pick them up and they can use | 1 | MR. SMITH: |
| 2 | them. So you can use it for hiking, biking, | 2 | A. That's a good question, sir. We have dealt with |
| 3 | canoeing, kayaking, snowmobiling, off-highway | 3 | t now for about 25 years, that service |
| 4 | vehicle activities. | 4 | delivery. And it's always been turned down at |
| 5 |  | 5 | the political level. |
| 6 | And you sign it out from the SAR group. It's all | 6 |  |
| 7 | done and then you turn it in at the end of your | 7 | The executives have decided that's not where they |
| 8 | trip. Or you just go ahead and purchase it | 8 | want to go, is to have user fees for SAR. Unless |
| 9 | yourself. | 9 | you are a guide and outfitter in certain |
| 10 |  | 10 | jurisdictions and you pay for that through your |
| 11 | So it also gives exposure to SAR groups in | 11 | outfitters guide insurance, either through Parks |
| 12 | utilizing these little devices here. So there's | 12 | Canada and/or to the province per se. But as a |
| 13 | lots out there, but it's been around since '92 | 13 | normal taxpayer user, that's always been turned |
| 14 | and it's a well-tested and proven system. | 14 | down at the cabinet level. |
| 15 | MR. BUDDEN: | 15 |  |
| 16 | I'm not sure if anybody has any questions for | 16 | Not to say that it couldn't happen, but it has |
| 17 | Mr. Smith? | 17 | een brought before, broached, and it's always |
| 18 | RALPH, Q.C.: | 18 | been turned down. |
| 19 | Q. I guess, Mr. Smith, I suppose, the idea in part | 19 | MR. BUDDEN: |
| 20 | is that those who, I guess, are taking the risks | 20 | Mr. Commissioner, that's all the evidence I have |
| 21 | perhaps and ultimately may require search and | 21 | for today. We are at 3:30. I'm not sure if you |
| 22 | rescue resources, perhaps they should be, in | 22 | plan -- in fairness to Ms. Bedford, I advised her |
| 23 | part, paying for it through user fees and other | 23 | that we wouldn't be calling on her until |
| 24 | things, in terms of the rental of the equipment? | 24 | tomorrow. So that would seem to be fair perhaps |
|  | Page 266 |  | Page 268 |
| 1 | Sorry, maybe I'm not making myself clear. But I | 1 | to adjourn at this point, unless there's other |
| 2 | guess the question to me is, I understand there's | 2 | business? |
| 3 | places in the world where those who are engaging | 3 | COMMISSIONER IGLOLIORTE: |
| 4 | in those high risk activities are required in | 4 | Yeah, I'm satisfied to do that. We took a fair |
| 5 | some way to post bonds or something just in case | 5 | bit of time getting through lunch, started late. |
| 6 | they get lost, that they are covering the cost of | 6 | So there's no problem for us to pick up tomorrow |
| 7 | looking for them? | 7 | morning. |
| 8 | MR. SMITH: | 8 | You want to start at 9:00? |
| 9 | A. Presently in Canada, outside the National Parks, | 9 | MR. BUDDEN: |
| 10 | if you are a guide and outfitter, you do not pay | 10 | Nine o'clock works for me. As I believed we've |
| 11 | for SAR services. | 11 | discussed, Ms. Bedford, the federal witnesses |
| 12 |  | 12 | we're anticipating will be appearing as a panel. |
| 13 | It's paid for by the taxpayer and the people of | 13 | And that you will be leading them through their |
| 14 | Canada and/or your province. So it's a free | 14 | evidence in direct examination? |
| 15 | service. And again, that's GSAR and volunteer | 15 | MS. BEDFORD: |
| 16 | groups. | 16 | Yes, that's correct. That's our intention. |
| 17 |  | 17 | Thank you. |
| 18 | Is that what you're getting at, counsel? | 18 | MR. BUDDEN: |
| 19 | RALPH, Q.C.: | 19 | Yeah. That's what we did it in Makkovik and it |
| 20 | Q. I guess to me the interesting idea would be if | 20 | worked pretty well there. And we've had this |
| 21 | those who are engaging in activities that may | 21 | discussion. I'm just really putting it on the |
| 22 | require them to be found, then perhaps there | 22 | record. |
| 23 | should be some responsibility into the financial | 23 | MS. BEDFORD: |
| 24 | commitment on their behalf. | 24 | Yeah. Thank you. |

MR. BUDDEN:
Do you anticipate or have you any sense as to how long your direct examination will take, Ms. Bedford?
MS. BEDFORD:
I'm guesstimating two hours.
MR. BUDDEN:
Okay. Mr. Ralph, would you be ready to present your evidence tomorrow?
RALPH, Q.C.:
Yes, we would. Yes.
MR. BUDDEN:
Okay. What I'll perhaps do, then, is have the Corner Brook, the Bay of Islands team ready for Wednesday morning, with the understanding that all best-laid plans are all very well, but we may be running perhaps a little later in the day. But I'm sure they'd be happy to be here Wednesday morning.
THE CLERK:
All rise. This Commission of Inquiry is concluded for the day.

## (Inquiry is adjourned)

## CERTIFICATE

I, Beverly Guest, of Elite Transcription, of St. John's, in the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador, hereby certify that the foregoing, numbered 1 to 269, dated September 20, 2021, is a true and correct transcript of the proceedings which has been transcribed by me to the best of my knowledge, skill and ability.

Certified By:

Beverly $\quad$| Digitally signed by Beverly Guest |
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Beverly Guest,
Court Reporter


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