



## NATIONAL CITIZENS INQUIRY

Regina, SK

Day 3

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### EVIDENCE

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**Witness 8: Andre Boucher**

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**Wayne Lenhardt**

Our next witness is Andre Boucher. So, Andre, if you could give us your full name and spell it for us, and then I'll do an oath with you.

**Andre Boucher**

Sure. My name is Andre Boucher. It's A-N-D-R-E B-O-U-C-H-E-R.

**Wayne Lenhardt**

Let me start you off in January of 2020, we'll start this story. What were you doing at that point? Where were you living and what kind of job did you—

**Commissioner Drysdale**

Wayne, you didn't swear in the witness

**Wayne Lenhardt**

You're right. I'm having a bad day here. Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth in your testimony today?

**Andre Boucher**

I do.

**Wayne Lenhardt**

Thank you. Okay, back to 2020. You were working where and in what province and in which city?

**Andre Boucher**

So in 2020, I was working for Cameco Corporation in Saskatoon. I was running a department within the company called alphaNUCLEAR that made safety monitoring equipment for the mine sites. So when the pandemic was declared in 2020, I was

considered an essential worker, so I kept working and had to go into the office every day. Cameco had a policy where the majority of the people stayed home, but I was one of the ones that went in to work.

**Wayne Lenhardt**

Okay. And you'd worked for them for quite a few years, correct?

**Andre Boucher**

Yeah, I'd already been working there for 21 years, I believe, at that time.

**Wayne Lenhardt**

So in 2020, there would not have been any mandates right off the bat in 2020 so—

**Andre Boucher**

No.

**Wayne Lenhardt**

When did they start talking about them and did they implement them?

**Andre Boucher**

Well the talk about mandates began probably around the time that the vaccine, supposed vaccine, was announced. So yeah, one of the first, in February of 2021, our CEO, Tim Gitzel, he had sent a communiqué to everyone on his personal blog that he has on our website. And he went through, you know, talking about safety and all this kind of stuff, but he did make a clear statement that Cameco won't be enforcing a vaccine protocol. He says he believes it's important that you get vaccinated when the time comes, but there would be no enforcement. So that was fine, but I was a little leery.

And he did mention, you know, if you had any anxiety or concerns, which I had—the word choice of anxiety made me feel a little paranoid—about getting the shot, he says, “I encourage you to educate yourself, talk to your family doctor, and seek out trusted sources of information to learn about the science.” And I took that to heart, you know. The whole time I worked there for 20-some years we were always told, *always question the status quo*, you know. There's better ways to do things always.

Anyway, I took that to heart, and I spent a good year researching everything I could, listening to everybody that I could find on the Internet that wasn't being censored. And I came to my own conclusion about this experimental gene therapy. I wasn't impressed, so I said, no, that's not for me. And I had made my choice at that point. So then the rest was how it rolled out within the corporation: how they went about, you know, they started out with a request.

If you wanted to volunteer your information on your vaccine status, that was okay. But if you didn't want to tell them, you didn't have to. You could just say, “Prefer not to say.” And that evolved over time to where it was, “Yeah, we'd like you to tell us, and we're going to demand it.” So at one point, it became a demand. And at that point, I had to let them know I

wasn't vaccinated. And they had passed a policy, I guess, in early September of 2021 that everyone would have to be vaccinated to work there.

I was informed later that if I didn't get vaccinated by November 15th, then I would be terminated. So that's exactly what happened. I did not go to get vaccinated. And on November 15th, I was given a letter saying that I would no longer have a job. I was placed on unpaid leave for, oh I think it was something like eight or ten weeks, which just happened to coincide with my date of termination, which would be December 30th.

**Wayne Lenhardt**

I think it was 27th.

**Andre Boucher**

Oh, 27th. Okay, yeah, you looked over the documents. Anyway, it worked out so that I'd be fired just so I couldn't get a bonus for that year. So, well, whatever. I guess they've got to save whatever they can. So yeah, that's basically my story. And then I had applied for EI after that, and was told because of my misconduct I would be denied EI. And I asked them—I did appeal it, and it was kind of just a waste of time—but I asked the lady that took the appeal who said I wasn't going to get EI, I said, "Well, could I at least have my premiums back?" And she just laughed. I paid for 40 years. I figured I should get the premiums.

**Wayne Lenhardt**

Exactly. Did you try to get another job or did you look or—?

**Andre Boucher**

Yeah, well it did take its toll on me, to say the least. You know, I was there 23 and a half years, and then nobody even said goodbye to me. Like it was a Friday and it's, "Go home. Don't come back." If I had showed up, security would have escorted me off the property, so I didn't bother showing up. But, yeah, I probably took a month, a month and a half off. And well first I applied for EI in January and was denied, and then started looking around. I did eventually end up getting another job working for a company that makes radiation equipment. And kind of funny in a way, the work that I do is for Cameco, so I still work for them indirectly through another company, because I guess they still needed my services but—

**Wayne Lenhardt**

Okay. Is there anything else you'd like to tell us before I turn you over to the commissioners?

**Andre Boucher**

The one year, you know, it was an interesting place to work for the year, because there was no other story. There was only one story. It was the official story, and you weren't even allowed to speak of anything that could be considered negative towards the vaccine. One time, a lady that I worked with, she knew I had been researching it. She asked me some questions and I gave her the truth. I said, "You know, you should really listen to this doctor, and you should look at this." And I didn't tell her what to believe. I said, "Just get yourself informed. You know, look into this stuff. These people, they have nothing to gain by what they were telling people," I said, "They're people that seemed trustworthy."

So anyway, I told the story, and a couple of days later, my direct supervisor came to me and he said, “You can’t talk to people about this at work. That lady was scared after you talked to her. You can’t talk to them anymore.” So I was banned from talking.

**Wayne Lenhardt**

Wow.

**Andre Boucher**

Yeah.

**Wayne Lenhardt**

Okay. Are there any questions from the commissioners?

**Commissioner Kaikkonen**

I just want to know. You were told in September that by November that you would have to have a vaccination. Wasn’t the company a little bit concerned in that two-month period that there might be issues with staff and COVID?

**Andre Boucher**

Possibly, I don’t know. I know before I left, I was asked to contact a former employee that had worked for me to see if he would come in when they fired me. So I found them a replacement for me.

**Commissioner Kaikkonen**

Thank you.

**Andre Boucher**

You’re welcome.

**Wayne Lenhardt**

Are there any other questions? On behalf of the National Citizens Inquiry, I want to thank you very much for your testimony today, Andre.