



NATIONAL CITIZENS INQUIRY

**EVIDENCE
OTTAWA HEARINGS**

NCI | CeNC

**Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
May 17 to 19, 2023**

ABOUT THESE TRANSCRIPTS

The evidence offered in these transcripts is a true and faithful record of witness testimony given during the National Citizens Inquiry (NCI) hearings. These hearings took place in eight Canadian cities from coast to coast from March through May 2023.

Raw transcripts were initially produced from the audio-video recordings of witness testimony and legal and commissioner questions using Open AI's Whisper speech recognition software. From May to August 2023, a team of volunteers assessed the AI transcripts against the recordings to edit, review, format, and finalize all NCI witness transcripts.

With utmost respect for the witnesses, the volunteers worked to the best of their skills and abilities to ensure that the transcripts would be as clear, accurate, and accessible as possible. Edits were made using the "intelligent verbatim" transcription method, which removes filler words and other throat-clearing, false starts, and repetitions that could distract from the testimony content.

Many testimonies were accompanied by slide show presentations or other exhibits. The NCI team recommends that transcripts be read together with the video recordings and any corresponding exhibits.

We are grateful to all our volunteers for the countless hours committed to this project, and hope that this evidence will prove to be a useful resource for many in future. For a complete library of the over 300 testimonies at the NCI, please visit our website at <https://nationalcitizensinquiry.ca>.

TRANSCRIPT TEAM (English)

Managing Editor
Jodi Bruhn

Transcript Coordinators
Debbie Palmer, Erin Thiessen

Formatting and Analysis Leads
Veronica Bush, Melissa Neville

Whisper AI Transcript Creation
Madison Lowe

First Review

Anjum Ahmad-Donovan, Bill Allwright, Lisa Aschenbrenner, Anne Marie Baxter, Vanessa Behrens-Nicholls, Pamela Boese, Yvonne Cunnington, Michael Darmody, Teresa Dockstader, Heather Domik, Rita Mae Ewanchuk, Chantal Gutfriend, Monika Harynuk, Michelle Hughes, Karen Kimmet, Kathy Ladd, Lori Morrison, Ronald Mucklestone, Melissa Neville, Debbie Palmer, Joanne Plamondon, Susan Reh-Bosch, Elisa Rolston, Tanja Shields, Ronald Simpson, Elizabeth Sleight, Al Smigelski, Darlene Smigelski, Barbara Spencer, Dawn Sutherland Dort, Christine Taylor, Evelyne Therrien, Erin Thiessen, Ada VandenBerg, Rich VandenBerg, Sally Williams

Second Review

Veronica Bush, Elizabeth van Dreunen, Brigitte Hamilton, Rosalee Krahn, Val Sprott

Final Review

Jodi Bruhn, Anna Cairns, Margaret Phillips



NATIONAL CITIZENS INQUIRY

Ottawa, ON

Day 1

May 17, 2023

EVIDENCE

Opening Statement: Shawn Buckley

Full Day 1 Timestamp: 00:13:40–00:40:20

Source URL: <https://rumble.com/v2oackw-national-citizens-inquiry-ottawa-day-1.html>

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Shawn Buckley

Welcome to the National Citizens Inquiry as we begin Day 1 of three days of hearing in the nation's capital, Ottawa, Ontario. Commissioners, for the record, my name is Buckley, initial S. I am attending this morning as agent for the Inquiry Administrator, the Honourable Ches Crosbie.

I'd like to begin, for those that are watching online that are not familiar with the NCI, to give a brief description. We are a volunteer-organized and -run group that really just decided that there had to be an independent inquiry into how all levels of government dealt with COVID-19. And so with this ambitious goal of appointing commissioners and marching them across the land, we now find ourselves in our eighth city and our twenty-second day of hearings. I think we've heard over 250 witnesses, both expert and lay witnesses.

And I have to say that we're quite amazed that this has happened; because it's happened only because you have volunteered. You have poured yourselves out in many ways to make this happen. And you've supported us financially. Each set of three-day hearings costs us approximately \$35,000. I'm always instructed, because of the necessity, to encourage you to go to our website, nationalcitizensinquiry.ca. Sign our petition. We want you to sign our petition, so that it's obvious that we have public support for this initiative. And we also want you to donate to help participate in funding these hearings, as we've been marching forward and basically taking action.

I have also been encouraging all of you— We have had literally crickets from the mainstream media. We've had one CBC story. And even media that we would expect to be extremely friendly and covering what is an historic event have been obvious by their absence in most cases. And yet the word is getting out, and it's getting out solely because you have been taking the initiative. You've been sharing our tweets. You've been sharing us on social media. And we're still being, as far as I can tell— Excuse me, I always get a frog in my throat in the morning just before I do my morning opening. And today is no exception, but we'll power through.

We've actually had just an incredible reach on social media. And it's solely because you have been sharing us. We're still being search-banned on Twitter. So most of us, because of the Twitter files, have just assumed that Twitter is not censored; but I don't know about Twitter Canada. So we're still inviting you to tweet Elon Musk and hashtag #NCI and ask why, when searches are done, basically, we're not always showing up. And we ask, every single time you send a tweet on anything connected to COVID or government response to COVID, that you add the hashtag #NCI so that we rise in the algorithms. Together we can get the word out.

And I can share that within my own family, there have been members who, it wouldn't matter who it was—Robert McCullough, whatever, like big names, credible people — there's no way I could get them watching a video or anything like that if I was to send it or share a paper. But there's willingness to watch these proceedings. And there's willingness because witnesses being put under oath, led by lawyers that have volunteered but are professional counsel done in a professional way, before commissioners that are independent and who also question the witnesses, resonate. And it resonates because of what judges refer to as the "ring of truth." If a judge believes a witness, sometimes you'll hear in a decision, "that witness had the ring of truth." And the NCI is about getting to the truth and promoting the truth. So I thank you for participating.

Now, I wanted to talk this morning. I actually wanted to share something with you. I'm not going to share it yet. I'm going to hold you in suspense.

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But I want to give you a different understanding about something that you've experienced. Everyone hearing this will have experienced what I'm going to refer to. And defining it differently, naming it for what it is, will change you. Because when we understand something differently, our mind actually changes. Our neurons are wired differently. We change our mind. And language, and how we define things, is extremely important.

I don't know if everyone has read George Orwell's book *1984*, which I think was written in '49. It's quite prescient. But if you haven't read it, you should read it. One of the things that comes out in that book, in his uncanny prediction of how we would move into an authoritative state, is the control of language with the Ministry of Truth and what's called "newspeak." Where new terms are used and—listen carefully—old words are erased from the language because we communicate our ideas and we hold our beliefs in language. You think in language. And so, if the government can control our language, they literally can control how we think. And so, for generations going forward that will not have the use of words that we are now banning, they will not be able to think the same way we think. And so, when I define something for you differently today, understand that that's important. And when you read news stories about universities and other institutions banning words from use, understand what is happening as it's part of this movement to gain control of our minds and how we think. And we need to take that very seriously.

Now before I continue, I wanted to thank everyone. We had a bit of a scare at the NCI earlier this week. We had one of our team members fall ill and the NCI family became very concerned. This person doesn't know, but— I was getting emails from even the commissioners like, "How is this person doing?" All of this. There was extreme worry. And the NCI is not a religious organization, it's a group of volunteers of different beliefs. But I want to thank the NCI because I asked for a call for prayer to go out, and the NCI allowed that to happen. And people did pray and God responded.

And what touched me is, a lot of you communicated to us. And it was touching actually—I'm choking up, sorry. But it was touching to hear that you were praying and that you were concerned. And it was a beautiful experience. And I'm sharing this because all of us can call to mind times where we've basically experienced love. Because that's what this was. It was a collective expression of love towards one of our team members. And what we experience when we experience love is we have a sense of joy. And you all know what I'm talking about. And we have a sense of peace.

I want you to call that feeling to mind right now. Because we've all had those feelings where we have felt touched, where we have been literally choked up because we've experienced somebody else loving or we've participated in loving someone else. And I want you to understand that that is a state of freedom. That is a state of mental freedom when you're experiencing peace,

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and when you're experiencing joy. And I want to contrast that to a different state.

And to illustrate part of that, I want to speak about a witness that testified last week in Quebec City: François Amalega. And for those of you who are not familiar with François, he resisted the mandates. All of the mandates—masking, curfew, vaccination—he resisted. Quebec was under a curfew; I think it was an 8 o'clock curfew. That's what the government called it. Remember, language is important. We could use other terms, like "martial law." Because what's the difference if, at a certain time, you have to be in your homes or face the consequences of the state?

So I'm told, on Valentine's Day, when Quebec was under martial law and had a mask mandate, that he went to the police station after the curfew, not wearing a mask: basically, announcing that his love, Freedom, was being held in the jail. And he was clearly making a political protest. So understand, he's attending at the police station after the curfew, not wearing a mask. Now the police at this point have a decision. They have a choice. Because they could have made the choice, they could have said, "Okay, this guy's making a political statement. We're just going to ignore him. We're just going to carry on our business. And sooner or later, he's going to get tired, and he's going to go home." They could have made that choice. But rather they made a choice to exercise power and to arrest him. And I don't know how long through all of his mandate resistance he spent in jail. But my understanding is it was a number of months. And I view him as—and he was—a political prisoner. There's no question he was resisting to make a political statement because he disagreed.

François was a political prisoner. And we have political prosecutions in Canada in 2023. I just expected, growing up, that they would be few and far between. I mean even liberal Western democracies, which I thought we were, has the odd political criminal proceeding.

But I hadn't anticipated that I would watch truckers, who were clearly engaging in a constitutional right to protest, being subject to criminal proceedings and civil proceedings, and having bank accounts frozen with the intent of setting an example for the rest of us: so that we will not do what they did and put ourselves on the line and subject ourselves to political prosecutions—basically criminal charges, civil proceedings, and having our bank accounts frozen.

And I have to say that it's really starting to bother me: that we are not supporting the truckers; that we are not creating a political uproar over what's happened. That we are not ensuring that their defences are financed. That we're basically not ensuring that they're

taken care of. I'm mindful of— We had a witness in Red Deer, Regina, who had come from Poland, and she had been at the start of the Solidarity movement. And they were small in numbers. And their leadership was— I keep forgetting the words she used. It wasn't "arrested," it was some other term which basically communicated that the state had separated them from their families. And they were no longer able to be leaders in the movement. And what the remnant did was took care of the families.

And we need to take care of our truckers. I'm having trouble today, so forgive me.

So let's get back to François Amalega

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because a couple of days ago, he was attacked on the street in Quebec City. And after he was attacked, he started the video on his phone. And the video he took you can see: he was kind of basically attacked a second time. He just made an attempt to catch the people who had attacked him on camera. And what you see is, is you see around five, it looks like males all in black, hooded, wearing masks so you can't see their faces. So you can't tell who the attackers are in any way. Now, this would not be a race attack upon François. We can't speculate about the motivation. My understanding is, he's thinking that this particular attack might be because of his activities in resisting having transvestites attend at schools and do story time. But that's just speculation.

And isn't it curious that he has been a visible, basically freedom fighter, standing up to challenge the government narrative peacefully. He attended as a witness at the NCI in Quebec City last week. And this week there is a rather alarming video of him being physically attacked, in Canada. And if that happened to any of us, we would be afraid. We would truly be afraid to have five or six hooded and masked people physically assault us. And as I was thinking about how I would be afraid, something else happened in Quebec City.

So basically, we got visited by somebody that I knew personally, and that person brought a friend with them. I was having a conversation with them, and they were talking about the very beginning of the pandemic. And they were talking about part of the experience I had forgotten about, where at the very beginning, literally it was changing so fast, you didn't know day to day what was happening. I remember I was living in Alberta and I happened to be in B.C. at the time. And I was wondering: Do I have to get back soon? Are they going to close the border? And they were saying, "Oh yeah, well, the announcement would be at noon every day." That's when you would learn what new restrictions were being imposed because it was just happening so fast. We were just, you know, "What freedom am I losing today?" And that got me kind of back into the experience.

And I want to take you back there because I actually want you to get back into that emotional fear and confusion that we experienced because we did cower in our houses. Do you remember that? Do you remember being told to stay home? And we stayed home. In the audience, I see people nodding their heads. We wore masks when we didn't want to, after we realized that they were of no benefit. We closed down schools, and dramatically, dramatically, affected our children in a negative way — and in ways that, for some of them, they will carry for the rest of their lives as a burden. We participated in police state rituals such as showing identity papers to be granted permission to participate in privileges being granted to us by our master, the state. We were in actual fear of our government. And you remember that. And worst of all—and our true shame—was our children watched this.

Our children watched us react in fear, live in fear, and participate.

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And we did it because we were afraid. I was afraid. I felt real fear.

You know, at one point I was worried—and this was before Rachel Notley in Alberta was talking about sending people to the doors of the unvaccinated—but I was concerned that the government was going to go door to door. And I see people nodding their heads. They understand. And we felt helpless. We felt like we had completely lost control over our lives. Now, do you feel that again? I want you to feel that again. I want you to feel that darkness again. And the reason why is I want to name it. Because you will call it fear. And I call it the “spirit of slavery,” which is a very different thing. Because that feeling that you felt, that is what slavery feels like.

I’ll say that again: that feeling that you felt is what slavery feels like. Because it is slavery. When you have the experience of slavery, you can’t go against the wishes of your master. Because in your mind you’re enslaved, you’re afraid to go against your master.

So let’s call a spade a spade. Let’s call slavery, “slavery.” And do you understand? Even just me now naming it differently, it should have a different feeling. Because when it’s fear, you feel afraid. When it’s slavery, you feel angry.

Now, you consented and you participated because you were afraid of the cost of freedom. And most of us are still consenting and we’re still participating because we are afraid to pay the price for our freedom. So we cower in obedience, even now. I mean, we don’t have mandates now. We’re not told to wear a mask. We don’t have a curfew. There’s still vaccine mandates. There are still places where you have to wear a mask if you have to go into a hospital or a medical clinic. And why are we allowing that? Why are we allowing that lie to continue? We’re still cowering. We’re not taking care of our people subject to political prosecutions. We are still cowering in fear.

So let’s go back to François Amalega. Because remember, he spent months and months in jail because he refused to cower in fear. I want to read to you something he wrote. And I think I’m going to read it to you twice, because it’s too important not to sink in. He said, “I feel more free within the four walls of a jail cell, with a clean conscience, than I would standing outside while respecting the measures and collaborating with the lie.”

I’m going to read that again: “I feel more free within the four walls of a jail cell, with a clean conscience, than I would standing outside while respecting the measures and collaborating with the lie.”

François, in a cell, actually experiences freedom because he has peace of mind. He is freeing his mind. He does not have the spirit of slavery in his mind. So he actually will willingly take a jail cell to have that peace that comes from standing for your convictions in your mind, because he’s going to reject the spirit of slavery.

Let’s contrast that with you and me submitting to a curfew, wearing a mask,

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while showing our ID papers with a mind of fear and slavery. So who is freer in that scenario: François in a jail cell or you eating caviar after you show your identification papers at a fancy restaurant?

And more importantly, whose children are seeing the example that is going to enable them to live like free and dignified human beings going forward? And I hope for all those listening that that is a rhetorical question.

Now, I will advise the audience, or those participating online, that at the present time we are still waiting for one of our four commissioners to arrive, and she should be here shortly. Our rules permit us to proceed with three commissioners and then there will be a responsibility on the commissioner that is not yet here to watch the evidence.

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Final Review and Approval: Jodi Bruhn, September 6, 2023.

The evidence offered in this transcript is a true and faithful record of witness testimony given during the National Citizens Inquiry (NCI) hearings. The transcript was prepared by members of a team of volunteers using an “intelligent verbatim” transcription method.

For further information on the transcription process, method, and team, see the NCI website: <https://nationalcitizensinquiry.ca/about-these-transcripts/>