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NATIONAL CITIZENS INQUIRY

**EVIDENCE
QUEBEC HEARINGS**

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**Quebec City, Quebec, Canada
May 11 to 13, 2023**

ABOUT THESE TRANSLATIONS

The evidence offered in these translated transcripts is a true and faithful record of witness testimony given during the Quebec City hearings of the National Citizens Inquiry (NCI). 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 July to November 2023, a team of volunteers assessed the French AI transcripts against the recordings to edit, review, format, and finalize all NCI witness transcripts.

The testimonies in Quebec City were presented primarily in French. To provide greater public access, a small and dedicated team translated the transcripts into English, employing human resources with the aid of digital translation tools.

With utmost respect for the witnesses, the volunteers worked to the best of their skills and abilities to ensure that the translated transcripts would be as clear, accurate, and accessible as possible.

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>.

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NATIONAL CITIZENS INQUIRY

Quebec, QC

May 12, 2023

Day 2

EVIDENCE

(Translated from the French)

Opening Statement: Philippe Meloni

Full Day 2 Timestamp: 00:00:00–00:04:45

Source URL: <https://rumble.com/v2v90b6-quebec-jour-2-commission-denquete-nationale-citoyenne.html>

[00:00:00]

Philippe Meloni

Good morning, everyone. We're back for the second day of the National Citizens Inquiry. For those of you who were here yesterday, you know it's going to be a long day. I hope you had your cereal this morning because it's going to be intense. For those of you who weren't attending yesterday, you will see and hear some science, figures, and data, but you will also experience some very, very strong emotions. Many of you ended up with wet handkerchiefs yesterday and I'm guessing it'll be the same today.

I'm not going to talk for too long this morning. The first thing I'd like to say is that we are here at something that was undertaken by citizens—and so, it has been accomplished through the efforts of citizens at every level, from funding it to the actual work of putting it together.

So we have a first request: We need bilingual people. And I don't just mean the people in the room: I mean the people who are listening to us live and the people who are listening to the recorded version. We need people who are good at social media and who are bilingual. If that's you and you'd like to be part of this great adventure, please go to the Inquiry's website—nationalcitizensinquiry.ca—and sign up as a volunteer, specifying your skills: media and bilingual.

There is also the financial aspect. Those who are here can see the amount of equipment we have here and the quality of the place we're in. It's not free, and not a cent of it comes from the government or from taxes: it is all from citizens who help out, each in their own way. To put it into perspective, we estimate that these three days will cost around \$35,000. You might say, "Compared to the same thing done by the government, that's almost [like the amount given for] a tip," but it's still a lot of money.

So if you have the means, there are various ways to donate. On the website, when you register on Eventbrite, you'll also be given the opportunity to donate some money according to your own means. For all three days, we've also had paintings donated for a silent auction. And we have clothing you can purchase in the next room. So at the end of the

three days, we will take those who have donated the most. Anyway, we also take cash and cheques. Unfortunately, money is the lifeblood of the battle and we need it to carry on. So if you are able, please give a little.

I won't talk much longer. I'll hand it over to Samuel Bachand, who will begin Carole Avoine's testimony. This first testimony will show you that not everyone has emerged unscathed from this pandemic. And as I said yesterday, I've heard a lot of people say, "It's over. Get over it. Move on." I don't think those who have paid a high price in this pandemic will ever be able to think like that. Those who were here yesterday heard from people who will pay for the rest of their lives. We could give them all the money in the world. We have a young woman who can no longer hold her child in her arms, who can no longer touch her husband because she's in so much pain. I can't imagine any amount of money that could compensate for that. When we talk in law about irreparable damage, I think there's a lot of that. Today we're going to talk about it again. So I'll let you hear what people have really experienced.

Good day to you all.

[00:04:45]

Final Review and Approval: Erin Thiessen, November 14, 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, and further translated from the original French.

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

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