

# BEST NEWS STORY

## Dejaeger trial opens with tales of child rape, bestiality

*Witness said she defecated on accused priest to escape sexual abuse*

DAVID MURPHY

The Nunavut Court of Justice heard stories of child rape, bestiality and defecation as a means to escape sexual assault on Nov. 18, day one of the Eric Dejaeger trial in Iqaluit.

A lean Dejaeger, 66, showed up in court wearing a shaggy grey beard hanging down to his chest and blue standard-issue prison garb.

At the start of the day's sitting, Dejaeger pleaded guilty to eight charges of indecent assault.

That leaves 69 more charges, most of them sex-related allegations involving minors, to be tried before Justice Robert Kilpatrick, who is sitting alone without a jury.

Reporters and supporter witnesses packed the courtroom to hear from three witnesses whose evidence is related to nine of the 69 charges.

The trial began with a witness who testified about her experience with "Father Eric" inside the Catholic church in Igloolik between 1978 and 1982.

to do."

That's until she said she defecated on Dejaeger so that she could get away.

Afterwards, she said Dejaeger pulled her pants up, dragged her to a nearby river that was filled with slushy ice and threw her into it.

A friend found her in the river and took her home, where she lied to her mother, saying she defecated in her pants because she had a "stomach ache."

The witness said Dejaeger warned her and her friends that if they told anyone about what he did to them, they would be taken away from their parents and would never see them again.

The woman also described an incident when he grabbed her and a friend and took them upstairs to a bed. That's where she said Dejaeger forced the friend to put her mouth on his penis.

"He hit her and tell her not to cry. So I started to grab her, but he hit me instead," she said.

The witness refused to look at Dejaeger while being questioned by Crown prose-

with his arms crossed on the table while his face reddened.

The last witness of the day described a scene in a bedroom upstairs inside the church.

"When I think about it, I do my best to forgive," she told the court before telling her story.

She said Dejaeger asked her to get something from the room, but she fell into a trap.

Speaking mostly in Inuktitut, the witness said Dejaeger entered the room and strapped her legs and wrist to the bed with tape.

The witness said Dejaeger climbed on her back and painfully raped her in the rectum.

"It felt like a needle going through," she said through a translator.

She said she noticed fluid on her face afterwards which she thought had been sperm. The fluid also damaged her ear, she said.

After Dejaeger raped the witness said, she said she never allowed her to return to the church again.

She said Dejaeger told her never to tell anyone about the incident.

The witness described an incident at a nearby shed where she

1

DAVID MURPHY

*Nunatsiaq News*

A very well written and clearly presented piece about a horrific tale. The writer does a great job dealing with a complicated subject matter.

DANIEL ROWE

*The Eastern Door*

This coverage of a murder trial's preliminary hearing was interesting. It conveyed lots of emotion on both sides of the justice system.

2

## Local murder heading to trial

DANIEL J. ROWE  
THE EASTERN DOOR

"I knew when I shot him that my life was already over," said Derek Beauvais, the 32-year-old man accused of murdering Conrad Delisle, 56, on March 19, 2012.

Video testimony of Beauvais confessing multiple times to shooting Delisle in the head was introduced this week as part of the voir dire preliminary hearing in the first-degree murder trial at the Palais de Justice in Longueuil.

Beauvais took the stand yesterday.



"I have to live until I know that justice has prevailed," said Dolores Montour, the 81-year-old mother of Conrad Delisle, who was murdered last year. Conrad's brother Chad is also pictured here.

According to Beauvais, he had spent the day drinking between 24-32 bottles of beer with friends including Delisle before revving up their engines to do some burnouts on Route 207. The burnouts triggered a call to the Peacekeepers by a resident, which Landon Meloche investigated, Meloche testified Tuesday.

Beauvais said he backed into Delisle's brother's (Chad Montour) car, and decided to sign over Beauvais' blue Camaro for payment, as he couldn't afford the repairs. Beauvais said he went to find the registration, but couldn't, and, at some point, snapped, as the Camaro was the only thing of value he possessed.

Beauvais got a 12-gauge shotgun from his house and two bullets. He stormed out of the house, shot a round into the air outside the Stop-N-Shop cigarette store, and then shot Delisle

with the other round when the latter exited the store to check on the noise.

Chad Montour left the courtroom at one point during the video, visibly upset when Beauvais said that he hugged Delisle before shooting him with a shotgun slug.

"He didn't do anything to tick you off?" asked Prieur in the video.

"Nobody did nothing," replied Beauvais. "I don't know what the f\*\*\* I was doing."

The next morning, Chad admitted that seeing the video confession changed his attitude. For him, it was like therapy.

"It was like a weight off me," he said. "We both lost, but life goes on. We have to deal with it. We can't hate each other. We can't get anybody back. Unfortunately things happen, but life has to go on."

In the video, Prieur repeatedly asks Beauvais why he decided to get a gun and shoot Delisle.

"I don't know why I did that," Beauvais said a number of times.

Prieur also noted that the Camaro's registration was found on Beauvais when arrested and seized by the SQ.

Seeing himself recounting the shooting caused Beauvais to breakdown in the courtroom. Up to that point, Beauvais remained mostly straight-faced concentrating while handcuffed in the accused's box listening to expert testimony on the case.

PKs Meloche and Horn testified that Beauvais confessed to shooting Delisle when they picked him up for a separate breaking and entering and assault charge at Peter Montour

*Continued on page 4*

news

## Poisoning the buffalo Natives join labour and social groups to fight Harper's destructive agenda

by Lyle Stewart

Don't eat the buffalo given to you by an oil company. This was one telling lesson learned during an address given by Crystal Lameman, a member of the Beaver Lake Cree Nation in northern Alberta near the province's massive tar sands developments, during a remarkable event hosted by the civil society organization Common Causes November 1 in Calgary.

Lameman, also a climate and energy campaigner for the Sierra Club, recounted a story of how corporate and government reassurances about reclaiming tar sands sites amount to empty propaganda.

One such site has been populated with a bison herd over the past few years. Seeking to generate a positive publicity event, the oil company donated several harvested animals to local Elders to fill their freezers.

"Instead of eating the meat, the Elders took it for testing," Lameman recounted. "They discovered it was unfit for human consumption."

For Lameman, the anecdote illustrates the reality that reclamation projects do not repair the poisoning of the water and land that results from unbridled resource development, particularly in the tar sands.

It was a story that riveted audiences during several days of grassroots protest surrounding the Conservative Party convention in Calgary October 31 to November 2.

First Nations activists, including many from Idle No More, joined labour and social groups during the convention to protest a hard political turn to the right by the governing party and to build a strong movement with a view toward the next federal election in 2015.

Many expressed the view that, with the Harper government's increasingly successful offensive against civil society, environmental organizations and the

current attack on the labour movement, First Nations often stand as the last line of defense to the Conservative effort to submit Canada to corporate rule.

For Lameman and the Beaver Lake Cree, these political choices have life-and-death consequences, resulting in an epidemic of rare cancers and community water supplies that are unsafe to drink.

Her First Nation has documented more than 17,000 treaty violations. "We have every major oil company in our traditional hunting territory," she said. "And none with permission to be there."

Lameman is part of the effort to sue the Canadian government over the treaty violations. In May 2008, the Beaver Lake Cree Nation filed a Statement of Claim in Alberta's Court of Queen's Bench. In March 2012, they were granted a trial, which could become a precedent for other rights violations related to resource extraction.

"As an Indigenous person of Canada I have constitutionally protected rights, as do my children, and it is my responsibility to ensure that I, my children, my future generations will always have that ability to go to the land to hunt, fish and forage. My goal is to preserve and revitalize our rights as Indigenous people."

Every day, she noted, 1.7 billion barrels of fresh water are used in tar-sands operations. Last year in Canada, there were 2.5 million lakes and rivers protected by federal environmental legislation. Now, after the passage of Navigation Protection Act by the Harper government, there are only 97 lakes and 62 rivers that are protected from industrial degradation.

"Who gave this government the right to destroy our fresh-water system?" Lameman asked. "We are economic hostages in our own country."

Lameman and other speakers at the Common Causes event, including David



Suzuki and the Council of Canadians' Maude Barlow, raised alarms over the push for unrestricted natural-resource extraction with no concern for social, economic or environmental consequences.

Lameman listed off a number of multi-billion dollar operations that have the potential to devastate communities while sending most of the resulting profits out of the country to multinational corporations.

They include the Keystone XL and Northern Gateway pipelines, frenetic development of the dirty oil of the tar sands, the push for more uranium and potash mines, unrestricted hydroelectric development, and the growing fracking operations for shale gas.

In the end, Lameman asked prophetically, "Can you drink your oil? Can you eat your money?"

But there is hope in cooperation, and coalitions between communities and peoples across Canada have the power to fight for a more promising future, Lameman emphasized: "We are here, we exist and we are not going anywhere."

Lameman invited those interested to learn more about the tar-sands lawsuits to visit [www.tarsandtrial.ca](http://www.tarsandtrial.ca)

3

LYLE STEWART

*the Nation*

Well written piece.