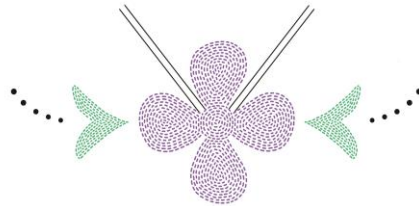


National Inquiry into  
Missing and Murdered  
Indigenous Women and Girls



Enquête nationale  
sur les femmes et les filles  
autochtones disparues et assassinées

**National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered  
Indigenous Women and Girls  
Truth-Gathering Process – Part 1 Public Hearings  
Best Western Nor'wester Hotel,  
McGillivray / Kaministiquia Rooms  
Thunder Bay, Ontario**



**PUBLIC**

**Monday December 4, 2017**

**Public Volume 37:**

**Anita Ross, In relation to Delaine Copenace;**

**Crystal Davey, In relation to Ruby Hardy Galloway;**

**Carol Quagon, Mary Natawance, Bonnie Shapwaykeesic, Diane Geissler, Chief  
Janice Henderson, James Henderson, Micah Henderson, Raven Kasper, Jody  
Kabatay & Stewart Henderson, In relation to Edith Quagon, Kathleen  
McGinnis & Sarah Mason**

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**INTERNATIONAL REPORTING INC.**

## II

### APPEARANCES

Aboriginal Legal Services	Non-appearance
Aboriginal Shelters of Ontario	Non-appearance
Animakee Wazhing #37, Eagle Lake First Nation, ANAFN/Grassy Narrows First Nation, Obashkaanda-gaang, Ojibway Nation of Saugeen	Non-appearance
Assembly of First Nations	Non-appearance
Association of Native Child Family Services Association of Ontario (ANCFSAO)	Katherine Hensel (Legal Counsel)
Government of Canada	Anne Turley, Sarah Churchill-Joly (Legal Counsel), Jennifer Clarke (Paralegal)
Government of Ontario	Catherine Rhineland Emma Haydon (Legal Counsel)
Independent First Nations	Katherine Hensel (Legal Counsel) Deanna Keeshig (Representative)
London Abused Women's Centre	Non-appearance
Mishkeegogamaang First Nation	Non-appearance
Ontario Native Womens' Association	Robert C. Edwards (Legal Counsel) Christina Comacchio (Legal Counsel) Courtney Skye (Representative)

**III**  
**APPEARANCES**

Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada, Saturviit Inuit Women's Association of Nunavik, AnânuKatiget Tumingit Regional Inuit Women's Association Inc., Ottawa Inuit Children's Centre, Manitoba Inuit Association	Non-appearance
Sioux Lookout Collective	Non-appearance
Thunder Bay Police Services	Tiffany O'Hearn Davies (Legal Counsel) Edward Marrocco (Legal Counsel)
Toronto Police Services	Non-appearance
Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak /Women of the Métis Nation	Non-appearance

**Note:** For the purpose of establishing this record of attendance, counsel and representatives are considered present whether they attended one or all of the public hearings held over the course of the day at the Best Western Nor'wester Hotel McGillivray & Kaministiquia rooms.

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Thunder Bay, Ontario

--- Upon commencing on Monday, December 4, 2017 at 10:30  
a.m.

--- OPENING SONG

Hearing # 1

Witness: Anita Ross

In Relation to Delaine Copenace

Heard by Commissioners Brian Eyolfson and Michèle Audette

**MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Good morning,  
Commissioner Eyolfson and Commissioner Audette. I would  
like to introduce you to the first family that we'll be  
presenting to you in public, this Anita Ross. She will be  
talking about her daughter Delainie [sic].

**MS. ANITA ROSS:** Delaine.

**MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Delaine. And one of  
the first things I was going to ask you before she makes  
the promises to tell -- tell us about the Feather you're  
holding.

**MS. ANITA ROSS:** This Feather was gifted to  
me by an Elder near -- near my community. He said, "Take  
care of it." And he said, "Think of it as your daughter."  
It was gifted to me through ceremony, we were -- during the  
search. So I just want to say, *migwetch*, for him gifting  
this to me.

**MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Thank you. I'd ask

1 that Anita make a promise on the Feather she's holding,  
2 please.

3 **MR. REGISTRAR:** Good morning, Anita.

4 **MS. ANITA ROSS:** Good morning.

5 **ANITA ROSS, Affirmed:**

6 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Anita, can you start  
7 by telling us a little bit about Delaine? Oh, sorry,  
8 and -- sorry, can you actually just tell us why -- who  
9 you're going to talk to about today. Tell us about your  
10 daughter and about her growing up.

11 **MS. ANITA ROSS:** Well, I was -- my daughter  
12 Laurie (ph) was just born. She was still a newborn, so I  
13 got pregnant quite quick after I had her. I was quite  
14 shocked actually, so I had to go in and find out how many  
15 weeks I actually was. I didn't know I was having twins.  
16 So I went in for an ultrasound to determine how many weeks  
17 I was. That's when I found out I was having twins. I was  
18 in shock.

19 So fast-forwarding to when -- when I gave  
20 birth to them. It was a cold, bright, sunny day. I had to  
21 get induced because I carried them for 40 weeks. My twins  
22 were born April 8th of 1999. Delaine came out first. She  
23 came out at 12:14 p.m. she instantly became a big sister,  
24 five minutes later. That was Dana (ph). It was hard  
25 considering that I also had a three-year-old, a one year



1 old.

2 She was a very happy child, always giggling,  
3 making fun of people. Her earlier years she seemed to be  
4 pretty outgoing. At first she was very artistic, very  
5 loving. When she started getting into her pre-teens, she  
6 started getting more shy. She became very timid around the  
7 age of 11, even though she was one of the twins she would  
8 be very protective of her sisters. All my daughters were  
9 very close. Especially the -- her twin. They called each  
10 other "womb mates." They really loved each other, the  
11 twins.

12 She was starting to slowly come out of her  
13 shell, in the last year, probably. She wasn't really  
14 girly- girl, or anything like that. She would always wear  
15 baggy clothes and big hoodies and she loved to collect  
16 things. She loved my music. She says, "80's bombed, mom."  
17 She loved listening to Guns N' Roses, and Nirvana, and  
18 Johnny Cash. She was a very unique girl. She was always  
19 home. Her bedroom was her safe haven. I never honestly  
20 had to worry about her because I knew she was always there.

21 I loved how she used to take care of her  
22 things. She was always well organized, opposed to her  
23 other sisters were pretty messy. She would get mad. She'd  
24 say, "Mom, they're bothering my things." And she would  
25 tattletale on them. She says, "All my Pokeman cards are

1 everywhere." She'd start collecting those when she was  
2 about seven years old. She was still buying them even days  
3 before she went missing. I was so blessed to have her.

4 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** I see this -- a  
5 beautiful picture beside you. Can you tell me a little bit  
6 about the picture, and the shirt she's wearing in it?

7 **MS. ANITA ROSS:** One of her favorite T-  
8 shirts. She always wore it. It was -- was nice and black  
9 when she first got it. It's a Bullet for my Valentine.  
10 She loved to wear plaid. Her favorite colours were black  
11 and red. She had tons of T-shirts, but she always seemed  
12 to wear that one. That T-shirt was the last T-shirt she  
13 wore. She died in that T-shirt.

14 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Anita, can you tell  
15 me a little bit about what first happened when you realized  
16 Delaine was missing. Can you, please, tell the  
17 Commissioners what you recall, and what you remember?

18 **MS. ANITA ROSS:** Teenagers were being  
19 teenagers in the house. Listening to music. I was up in  
20 my room, not knowing that she went for a walk with these  
21 other teens, mutual friends of her sisters, she didn't know  
22 them, but they were friends of my other daughters. I  
23 didn't know that she was gone right away. But I knew that  
24 two of my girls weren't in the house. This was probably  
25 about six o'clock in the evening. I wasn't too worried

1 because I knew she was with her big sister.

2 So a few hours went by, it was about 8:30,  
3 she wasn't back yet because her sister Laurie told me that  
4 she went for a walk and that she'd be back right away, but  
5 she never returned. My daughter always told us where she  
6 would be and who she'd be with. We always knew. So it was  
7 kind of odd for her not to notify where she was after three  
8 hours because she's never left the house even longer than  
9 the length of a movie. Or she never went anywhere, but I  
10 tried not to worry just because I knew she was with her big  
11 sister.

12 So I'd tried to contact her through  
13 Facebook, but they were inactive; both of them. So of  
14 course, I'm -- that's when I start naturally worrying  
15 again. So we went out driving around. Trying to search  
16 for them. No success. Her sisters went out for walks.  
17 Her other sister -- her twin sister. So when I got back to  
18 the house I remember trying to rest and you know, "Oh,  
19 they're just being kids."

20 I -- it was about 11 o'clock that night, my  
21 -- I just starting worrying even more. So I called the  
22 hospital thinking maybe one of them hurt themselves, but  
23 they weren't there. So I contacted Treaty 3 police first  
24 to see maybe -- maybe they were -- maybe one of them was in  
25 trouble or -- so I contacted a friend through Facebook and

1 he suggested for me to call OPP, so I called OPP probably  
2 about like a quarter after 11:00 that night. She'd been  
3 missing five hours already at that point.

4 When I called OPP it was a female operator.  
5 I'd asked if they had Darian (ph) or Delaine Copenace in  
6 custody. She put me on hold. She came back on line. She  
7 goes, "Yes, we have Delaine Copenace." Oh, my heart, I was  
8 happy, but I still worried about the older one. I was  
9 like, "Okay, well, how come she's in there," you know. So  
10 I asked the operator -- I said, "Can I come and get her?"  
11 And she said, "No." She said, "We have to keep them a  
12 minimum of eight hours," because she was -- she -- they  
13 were saying she was intoxicated.

14 So I said, "She's only 16." I said, "Can I  
15 come and get her?" And I know the rule is -- because I  
16 remember my girl -- my other daughter previously, and they  
17 had to bring her home because she was under 18. And so she  
18 put me on hold again. She came back onto the phone and she  
19 says, "Yes, you can come and get her." And then --  
20 originally, she told me that I couldn't get her until 2:00  
21 a.m., but this OPP operator said that I could come and get  
22 her.

23 So right away like they told me which  
24 detachment to pick her up, which -- which is only like, a  
25 five minute drive from my house. So we went there. I

1 waited outside because the doors are locked so you have to  
2 call through this phone thing that they have outside their  
3 doors. I waited at least a good five minutes. I seen an  
4 officer -- an officer coming out with what looked like  
5 Delaine, but it was my daughter, Darian. So we sat in our  
6 van. I was happy to see her.

7                   So I asked her big sister, I said -- I was  
8 kind of shocked because why did they say they had Delaine?  
9 So I talked to my daughter and she said -- she goes,  
10 "Because I thought they would bring me home right away."  
11 Because she is older. And so I told her, "Well your  
12 sister's not home yet." And I remember being angry too, at  
13 the same time. I was like, "You should be taking care of  
14 her." She goes, "I'm sorry, Mom," she said.

15                   But right away we start searching, looking  
16 around downtown. I also messaged two of the teen -- teen-  
17 age boys that were there -- that I knew that she was  
18 hanging out with. The first one said -- only one actually  
19 replied and said that, "Oh, Delaine went home hours ago."  
20 And I said, "Well, what time was that?" And then he -- she  
21 -- then he said, "At six o'clock." And I said, "Well, it's  
22 almost midnight," and then I said, "Where was this? Where  
23 did you last see her?" He said, "In front of Sears, right  
24 across from Jubilee Church," which is only a four minute  
25 walk from my house.

1                   **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** And that's in  
2 Kenora, right?

3                   **MS. ANITA ROSS:** M'hm. You could visibly  
4 see that building, and he said, "I saw her walking in that  
5 direction, so she should be home." And I was like, "No,  
6 she's not home." And that was it.

7                   We kept looking; me and my family, my  
8 daughters. We drove all night. About 2:00 a.m. I called  
9 OPP, and that's when I reported her missing. She was  
10 missing exactly eight hours at that point. So I made that  
11 report. At the same -- "Oh, this report was already made."  
12 I didn't know that my oldest daughter had already reported  
13 her missing, just literally minutes before I had called.  
14 So there was two missing persons report made at 2:00 a.m.  
15 We kept looking. I tried hard not to worry, thinking, "Oh  
16 maybe she's just being rebellious." You know, maybe she  
17 just trying to be with the crowd and...

18                   So I remember sitting at the Tim Hortons, 17  
19 East, with two of my daughters, and we're having breakfast  
20 in the morning because we're -- we looked all night. We  
21 were stopping random people asking if they seen her. And  
22 nobody seen her. OPP didn't even come to the house until  
23 like, 3:00 the next day. So I made another report. I  
24 didn't like the way she talked to me, especially being an  
25 officer, she's like, "Oh, she's probably just drunk. She's

1 probably just partying." And I said, "No, it's not normal  
2 for her not to contact anybody." I didn't like that she  
3 labelled my daughter that way.

4 Several more hours passed, we were out and  
5 about again, what disheartened me is I didn't see no police  
6 looking, or help.

7 Thank you.

8 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** There's Kleenex.

9 **MS. ANITA ROSS:** Another -- another police  
10 officer showed up probably about midnight, late Sunday  
11 night. My daughter was already missing 33 hours. I didn't  
12 sleep. I also -- she was only missing 12 hours when I put  
13 out a -- a missing -- I put her picture out on the  
14 Facebook.

15 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** So if we can hold  
16 this poster that's up here. I noticed the bottom has a  
17 paragraph taken from your Facebook page about two days  
18 since is Delaine had been missing, but you had already  
19 turned to social media right, before then? Can you tell us  
20 a little bit about that?

21 **MS. ANITA ROSS:** Well --

22 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Were her sisters  
23 also using --

24 **MS. ANITA ROSS:** Yeah.

25 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** -- Facebook and

1 social media to reach out?

2 **MS. ANITA ROSS:** Yes. They did. A lot of  
3 people started sharing it. I remember writing that early  
4 in the morning. But I don't know what was -- I was -- I  
5 was trying to be optimistic. So I wrote, "Please, help me  
6 find my daughter. Her name is Delaine  
7 Copenace. It's been almost two days  
8 since she left home to go for a walk  
9 with friends and went missing. It's  
10 very out of character for her. She's a  
11 shy girl, but when she gets comfortable  
12 she comes out of her shell. There has  
13 been no contact with me, or her  
14 sisters, or family or her close  
15 friends. She was last seen downtown  
16 Kenora, Ontario, February 27th, about  
17 6:00 p.m. She was wearing all black  
18 clothing, black skater Etnie runners,  
19 black jeans with zippered pockets, a  
20 Bullet for my Valentine T-shirt." I  
21 was unsure of what type of jacket she  
22 was wearing.  
23 "She wears her hair down, long black  
24 hair, almost to her waist, fair  
25 skinned. Clear complexion. She stands



1                   about 5'9", about 190 pounds. If  
2                   anyone knows anything or where we can  
3                   find her, any leads or info, please  
4                   notify the police or contact anyone of  
5                   her family members. I just want my  
6                   baby to be home."

7                   **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** So within two days,  
8                   and as you're talking to the Commissioners I can't help but  
9                   notice how meticulously you've like tracked time. You've  
10                  taken all these steps. So within two days you're already  
11                  posting stuff and -- and I also noticed you have a fairly  
12                  full description. What -- how did you know to put such  
13                  important details into a description, and what -- what made  
14                  you do all of the outreach you were doing?

15                  **MS. ANITA ROSS:** Well, with the help of her  
16                  sisters, I had asked what she was wearing too. My daughter  
17                  was always with me. At first we thought she was wearing  
18                  black Timberland boots that I had bought her for Christmas,  
19                  but we realized her -- her boots were home, so originally  
20                  the post did say black Timberland boots, but we later found  
21                  out it was actually her runners that she was wearing; last  
22                  seen wearing. I bought all my daughter's clothes, so  
23                  that's how I know.

24                  **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** And in terms of the  
25                  -- but the outreach that you immediately did, and the fact

1 I mean -- of course, you're a mother looking for her  
2 daughter, so it's understandable, but the outreach that you  
3 and the girls did was pretty extensive considering she was  
4 gone only two days. Can you tell me more following the two  
5 days what other steps you took in looking for your daughter  
6 and trying to get information out about her?

7 **MS. ANITA ROSS:** I contacted all my friends.  
8 They were there Monday, and they all came and we started  
9 looking on our own. There was a lot of apartment buildings  
10 in the area where she was last seen. We even -- we  
11 couldn't get into those buildings because you had to be  
12 rung in, so we would stand around, wait for somebody to  
13 actually come out and then we'd make our way in.

14 Me and one of my good friends, her name is  
15 Clorissa (ph), we looked in this one building -- I don't  
16 know how many apartment doors I knocked on hoping maybe  
17 she'd be in one of them. Some people didn't open the  
18 doors. Told us to get lost. There was a lot of shady  
19 people in those buildings. What hurt was -- was I felt  
20 like I was just alone even though I had all these people  
21 around me, but I was adamant to find her.

22 I called a few other friends too. One of my  
23 co-workers, her name's Amanda (ph), so she helped organize  
24 the search parties and we did a call out on social media,  
25 asking for volunteers. This was Monday, so she was only

1 missing two days. March -- March 1st was the -- when  
2 police came -- became involved, was three days. And that's  
3 when ERT was pulled in and all other resources, like police  
4 dogs, helicopters. I believe there was about 100  
5 volunteers from the community that came and helped. I'm  
6 just guessimating on that, but there was a lot of people.  
7 It was pretty cold those days.

8                   What broke my heart is seeing that her  
9 grandpa looked through garbage bins. I tried hard not  
10 to -- I was so scared. It really hurt not knowing where  
11 she was. But I kept, we kept going, we kept looking.  
12 Really hurts not knowing where your baby was.

13                   **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** So during the search  
14 -- when you were searching -- this started a couple of days  
15 after and -- and went on for some time and you've talked  
16 about there being, you know, volunteers. I understand in  
17 the community one of the churches also started to help with  
18 the search. Can you tell us a little bit about that?

19                   **MS. ANITA ROSS:** Well, we needed a search  
20 headquarters. I don't one day Jubilee Church offered to  
21 open its doors, so I know for the one day we did use that  
22 as search headquarters. Then Knox United Church opened its  
23 doors and offered to -- offered for us to use it as our  
24 headquarter. They didn't ask for anything. I was so  
25 grateful for the love and compassion that they opened their

1 doors to us. I guess the church members there -- they were  
2 so loving.

3 That's not my way of life, I guess, I prefer  
4 my culture, but I respected their love and where they came  
5 from. They would make soup and sandwiches for us, for all  
6 the searchers, for when people were cold. But very  
7 thankful for -- her name is Minister Meg Illman-White.

8 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** That's Meg Illman-  
9 White?

10 **MS. ANITA ROSS:** Illman-White, yeah.

11 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Illman-White. And  
12 the -- the minister and -- and the church kept, as you  
13 said, meals for -- provided meals and kept a warm space.  
14 And you -- you all seemed to work collectively together  
15 despite potential cultural differences, and -- and -- did  
16 they do that for a while, or was it for a short time?

17 **MS. ANITA ROSS:** Apparently it was their  
18 first time that they actually you know, were open about it  
19 too. So they allowed us to smudge, and do our ceremonies  
20 because there is -- it's a church, but they also had a  
21 gymnasium attached to that building, so that's where we did  
22 all our ceremonies and stuff. Our drumming.

23 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** So it sounds like,  
24 you know -- it sounds like there some relationships built  
25 there that didn't exist before. And I understand that they

1 also -- like, that they didn't just have the doors open for  
2 a few days, they -- they helped for a while; didn't they?

3 **MS. ANITA ROSS:** Yeah. We -- she let us  
4 stay there 24/7 pretty much. We also had my daughter's  
5 celebration of life there. Yeah.

6 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** (Indiscernible) so  
7 if -- did you want to talk it the celebration of life, or  
8 did you want to talk a bit more about the search, and --  
9 and when Delaine was found?

10 **MS. ANITA ROSS:** I'd like to talk more about  
11 the search.

12 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** (Indiscernible).

13 **MS. ANITA ROSS:** No, I'm -- I'm okay. We  
14 searched back alleys. We searched the bush. The shores.  
15 I also did a lot of driving through all the back roads of  
16 Kenora. I went as far as 20 kilometres out. Back and  
17 forth. I wouldn't just drive -- we wouldn't just drive  
18 just from one time. We kept over and over and over --  
19 several times. We'd even peek into abandoned houses.

20 We had a Search and Rescue team who were  
21 doing a lot of ground searches for (indiscernible) and hard  
22 core terrain, I would call it. So one of -- the one day I  
23 asked them, "Well, I want to come." They -- they didn't --  
24 of course, they were hesitant, they said, "It's pretty  
25 tough out there." I said, "I don't care. I want to go out

1       there." A tip came in -- a tip came in that somebody had  
2       said that there was a body dumped 20 miles up -- up the  
3       road. So I told them, "I want -- I want to come there,  
4       like I want to go with you."

5                 So we went out there, and I joined the team,  
6       and we did the -- I forgot what they call it, but you had  
7       to have arms length of people all across in a line, and  
8       then we had snow. I walked through snow about -- it was  
9       about up to the height of my thighs, walking through the  
10      snow, through the trees. I walked down a 100 foot ravine,  
11      and across it, then up another hundred feet up. It was  
12      hard. I turned to the searchers and I said, "My daughter's  
13      not here."

14                And we had Elder there with us too. He has  
15      experience working, searching for people, his name is  
16      Garnet (ph). And then he asked me, "Is that how you feel?"  
17      And I said, "Yes." I said, "I see no tracks out here. Why  
18      would she be out here?" So we built a fire and we sat  
19      there for a while and we had our -- we had our water and  
20      snacks, and I said, "All right, let's go head back to  
21      headquarters." I had no cell phone service out there.

22                But when I got back to our vehicle -- I was  
23      with my brother, and I started getting text messages and  
24      "Oh, it was reported there's an ident unit up that road."  
25      My heart sank. I was thinking, "Oh, my God." So me and my

1 brother rushed there. Because you know, hearing the rumor  
2 that there was a tip that somebody had dumped a body up  
3 that way. So we went there, and I know we're not supposed  
4 to cross lines, or whatever, but we walked up that way  
5 anyway. And there was like slush all along the road. I  
6 remember walking through it, and I kept walking and walking  
7 and then I seen some ident -- identification unit officers  
8 carrying a bunch of little bags.

9 And I said, "What are you guys doing out  
10 here?" He asked me, "Well, what are you doing out here?"  
11 I said, "I'm looking for my daughter." And he goes, "Oh,  
12 we're just collecting evidence." And I'm like, "Well, what  
13 kind of evidence?" And he didn't really specify why, but  
14 apparently that's what they were going on too, was some  
15 tips, but they didn't find a body that day. So I -- I felt  
16 good about it that there was no body found there.

17 So we all went back to search headquarters.  
18 We searched those areas repeatedly. Sometimes ten times a  
19 day. My uncle walked up and down those shores, all along,  
20 in front of the hospital, all the way to -- near the M&R  
21 Landing (ph). He told me every day he walked, even though  
22 he was on -- it was private property, he still walked.

23 So every day I -- I didn't get much sleep,  
24 two hours a night maybe. There was times where I'd be up  
25 44 hours straight. Where I wasn't eating. I wasn't taking

1 care of myself.

2 I didn't eat because I didn't know if she  
3 was eating. Even when I slept on a bed, or tried to sleep,  
4 I didn't want to be warm because I didn't know if she was  
5 warm. I felt guilty drinking water because I didn't know  
6 if she had any.

7 Every night I -- after the search parties  
8 would be done, I'd walk outside and -- or if I went in my  
9 home, I'd scream her name. Every night I did that. I  
10 yelled for her.

11 I remember on the 11th day we were still  
12 searching. I asked an Elder to come into my home and do a  
13 ceremony. So he did his meditating in her bedroom, and he  
14 sat there -- I don't how long, we all sat quietly waiting.  
15 I wanted to know if she was alive or if she was gone. To  
16 me, I felt she was still alive. That Elder came down. And  
17 he looked at me and he smiled, he said, "She's still alive.  
18 I could feel her heart beat. It's still on top of the  
19 earth." But he said, "You're running out of time. You  
20 have to find her now." This was 11 days she was missing.

21 We did another ceremony the next day to get  
22 answers from the Spirit. They gave us directions where her  
23 body would be. Not her body, but where she could be. So  
24 we focused -- focused on that area, looking through the  
25 bushes, through the roads, ditches, no sign of her at all.



1                   I was thinking, "Where could she be?" Like,  
2                   "How could this happen?" And, "Why is she missing?" But I  
3                   still remained optimistic that I would find her alive.  
4                   Because that Elder gave me hope when he said he still felt  
5                   her heart beat, but he said it was very weak. Put me in a  
6                   panic. I tried hard to be strong. But then I was prepared  
7                   for the worse too at the same time.

8                   So the OPP liaison unit -- we bumped heads  
9                   every day, but you know, like, if I felt so -- sort of  
10                  frustration, I would set my foot down and say, "No, you  
11                  can't talk to me that way." "Oh, so, I can only share  
12                  information with you if you share information back to me."  
13                  I said, "We have to work together. This is my daughter."  
14                  And then I even told them, "This is your daughter now." I  
15                  even gave them tobacco. And I told them, "Please, help me  
16                  find my daughter."

17                  There's a few officers I grew quite close  
18                  with. And to be honest I only -- out of all of the  
19                  officers I met during the search I could honestly say I  
20                  only trusted two. I felt -- I felt I couldn't trust the  
21                  rest. But I thought it was a start being able to trust two  
22                  of them. I gave them all nicknames. I called one Scooby-  
23                  Doo (ph), and I believe he's here in somewhere. But I also  
24                  called -- because there's -- they're pretty big guys,  
25                  musclely, called them the Three Bears (ph).

1           I tried to set my frustrations aside. I  
2 know they were just doing their job too, but I told them --  
3 I invited them to my house and I said, "You know what, you  
4 have to listen. Don't make assumptions." And you know,  
5 honest -- honestly the police would -- when they first --  
6 especially the first week, they would stand there like  
7 stone cold soldiers, you know. But after a couple of weeks  
8 -- like, after I told them, "It's okay to show compassion."  
9 And they became more laid back. So those are the ones I  
10 became close with.

11           I honestly thought I would find her alive.  
12 I remember March 10th, like every other day, the police  
13 used to come to my house at nine o'clock in the morning.  
14 They would give me their updates, what they were following  
15 up on, tips, where they looked. So that morning, on the  
16 tenth day, they said, or March 10th, I should say, my  
17 daughter was always missing 13 days almost, but they told  
18 me that they were -- "Don't be alarmed, but we're going to  
19 search the waters now. We got state of the art sonar  
20 equipment. Some kind of photo radar that's supposed to  
21 catch every angle at 360 degrees. And they said, "Yeah,  
22 state of the art. It's one of a kind."

23           We watched those divers -- we watched those  
24 divers right at the very docks where her body was found  
25 later. Four whole days we saw -- saw them diving in and

1 out of there in their scuba gear. That very sonar  
2 machine, or whatever they were using to put underneath the  
3 water was able to locate a dead deer a kilometre away.  
4 Four days they searched all along those shores.

5 March 14th detectives came to pick me up,  
6 take me to their offices, or whatever, the detachment.  
7 That's when they told me that day, that they were calling  
8 off the search. That broke my heart. They only searched  
9 for her for 14 days. It's like they gave up on her. I was  
10 so angry and hurt, but you know what? We didn't give up.  
11 We kept looking.

12 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** (Indiscernible)

13 Commissioners, may we please, have a -- a five minute  
14 break? Thank you. So we will break and commence in about  
15 five minutes, thank you.

16 **(SHORT PAUSE)**

17 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Commissioners, if --  
18 if we can continue. I would just like to ask Anita a  
19 question.

20 When we had the break you were talking  
21 about, you had just explained that the Provincial Police  
22 had called off their ground search, but that you continued  
23 and the volunteers continued in --

24 **MS. ANITA ROSS:** Yeah.

25 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** -- in doing the

1 search. Do you want to tell us a little bit more about  
2 that, up to when Delaine was found?

3 **MS. ANITA ROSS:** So we continued  
4 searching -- looking for her. I remember standing out  
5 outside my house with my daughter, Laurie, must have been  
6 about -- it was pretty late like, midnight or something,  
7 and we're standing out there having our smoke, and it was  
8 really clear night sky, full moon, I think it was a full  
9 moon, the moon was out. I remember my daughter looking up.  
10 She's like, "Mom, look," she says -- there was a ring  
11 around the moon. And she says, "See that star?" And I  
12 said, "Yeah." There was a star beside the moon. And then  
13 I said, "What is that supposed to mean?" And she says,  
14 "You know what they say when -- when with you see that?"  
15 And I says, "No." She goes, "It means death." And I said  
16 -- of course, I naturally got upset by it. I said, "You  
17 shouldn't be saying that when -- when your sister's not  
18 home yet."

19 I remember it was March 21st, we searched  
20 all day. I was pretty tired, so my partner and I went to  
21 try to take a nap. I remember it was around four o'clock  
22 in the afternoon and -- but I couldn't sleep, but I felt  
23 really cold -- like deep within inside my soul cold. He  
24 tried to cover me up in blankets and nothing was getting me  
25 warm, or whatever, but I felt pretty weak that day.

1                   I felt like I was going to give up. But I  
2                   tried hard to not to, so we went back out again and started  
3                   looking, kept looking. We would check on our searchers.  
4                   And I'd give each other updates where they looked.

5                   So I went home, I remember it was pretty  
6                   late. I had my brothers and my mom staying with me. So I  
7                   was up -- I remember falling asleep -- because I didn't  
8                   sleep very much so, I woke up that morning, and it was  
9                   roughly around 8:30, March 22nd, and of course, I naturally  
10                  hear the door -- doorbell, like every other morning the  
11                  police came there just to give updates. It was a different  
12                  sounding way they came there, but as if I could see dread  
13                  in their face.

14                  But in a way I was thinking, "Okay, well,  
15                  it's either going to be good news or bad news." I -- my  
16                  brother came running up the stairs, I remember him, "The  
17                  police are here." So I sat there and I listened to what  
18                  they had to say to me. They said they wanted to come see  
19                  me before they -- before I'd -- before I woke up and seen  
20                  anything -- because naturally I used to check my Facebook  
21                  as soon as I woke up, but that morning for some reason I  
22                  didn't. But they want to contact me before it was all on  
23                  Facebook or social media.

24                  So they told me that they had found a body.  
25                  At that point I didn't know where. They eventually said,

1 "Okay, well -- they said Water Street. Water Street  
2 docks." And it's weird because I didn't know where that  
3 was. But I've searched there. We all searched there.

4 I asked them right away, "Is it my  
5 daughter?" The police -- they said they didn't know yet.  
6 That she -- she had still be identified -- or they -- they  
7 didn't know whether it was female or male yet. And then --  
8 but I think they knew already. I tried hard not to cry,  
9 thinking, "Oh, that can't be her. It's not her."

10 So we got ready, and we took off over there.  
11 There was already a group of spectators out there. And  
12 they already had all their police line put up, and ident  
13 unit was there, a bunch of officers. And they told me they  
14 were waiting for a coroner to show up.

15 I was anxious. I wanted to know who it was,  
16 but deep in my heart I didn't want it to be her.

17 So the coroner finally showed up. And she  
18 was down there -- it was a -- a local coroner. And she was  
19 trying to make small talk. But all I wanted to know was,  
20 "Okay, is it either her or isn't it?"

21 So the lead detective -- I remember they sat  
22 us in the coroner's vehicle, myself and my -- Delaine's  
23 father. They sat us in the back seat, but they had the  
24 doors open. The lead detective, his name was Detective  
25 Randy Heida. He kneeled down and he told me, "It's

1 Delaine." I started to scream. I was like, "No." I  
2 remember trying to run out of that vehicle. And I tried to  
3 run towards where her body was, but I was stopped. I still  
4 didn't want to believe it was her.

5 So the police took me inside the detachment  
6 because the police detachment is just right there, at the  
7 dock where her body was is just right -- literally right at  
8 the front door step. Missing 24 days, and she -- it just  
9 didn't make any sense to me.

10 I told them I wasn't going to leave until I  
11 knew it was her. Because I was so hysterical they said  
12 they wouldn't let me see her until I was calmed down. So I  
13 eventually calmed down, so me and my partner, Eric (ph). I  
14 don't know where I'd be if it weren't for him. Such a  
15 strong supporter, but me and him, and Delaine's father and  
16 his partner, we all walked towards where Delaine's body  
17 was. They already had her body on a stretcher.

18 Really hurt to see her in a body bag. I was  
19 scared of what I was going to see. Considering she was  
20 missing about 24 days. I thought I was going to see a  
21 gruesome sight.

22 But when I looked down at her it just looked  
23 like she was sleeping. She wasn't blue. She still had her  
24 pale skin like that. She still had pink in her lips. She  
25 wasn't blue. She wasn't bloated. She had a bruise right

1 on her forehead, right here. It's so hard seeing your  
2 child dead. I wanted her to wake up. My world's not the  
3 same anymore.

4 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** So Anita, following  
5 this your -- your family had the opportunity to -- to bury  
6 and -- and celebrate Delaine's life.

7 What were the next things that happened?  
8 Like you know, were you continuing to talk to coroner's  
9 offices, or find out if there would be an Inquest? Like,  
10 what were the next steps?

11 **MS. ANITA ROSS:** Well, after my daughter was  
12 found, and all that stuff, then they -- the police came to  
13 see me and said that they were flying her body to Toronto  
14 for a post-mortem. They were already saying that there was  
15 no foul play, and all this stuff.

16 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** So, sorry, can I  
17 just clarify that. When you say, "They were already saying  
18 there was no foul play," was that like the media?

19 **MS. ANITA ROSS:** Yeah.

20 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** The police? The  
21 coroner's office?

22 **MS. ANITA ROSS:** The media. But I believe  
23 it was always the police that said that too, on the news.  
24 That -- at that point there was no suspicious (sic) of --  
25 or suspicion of foul play. So I remember they came and



1 told me that her body was on route to Toronto.

2 And all the searchers and everything, they  
3 all still stayed at the -- all the searchers still stayed  
4 behind and so the -- it was a really sad day for everyone.

5 I remember the day following after the  
6 discovery of her body the coroner came by the house, first  
7 it was the police telling me that, "Oh, they started --  
8 they started the post-mortem."

9 Then I remember it was probably about nine  
10 o'clock in the morning -- after they left the coroner came  
11 over to the house and she -- she say, "Oh" -- she -- I  
12 guess she was just there for support, and then she said she  
13 would wait till it was done. We were -- she was only there  
14 for like maybe 15 minutes. She got a phone call, so she  
15 left abruptly.

16 So from the time the police came to notify  
17 me that the post-mortem had started -- from the time that I  
18 spent with the coroner was roughly about 20 minutes.

19 They later contacted me that day and said,  
20 "Okay, well, we want to have a meeting tomorrow at the  
21 police station." So it was me, Delaine's father, and the  
22 detective team, I guess, and the coroner. And they said  
23 that her death was an accident.

24 I don't believe it. I don't believe she was  
25 -- I said, "Explain to me how her body was there for 24

1 days?" And then I asked the coroner, "Explain to me why  
2 she -- like why -- why did she die?" And then she said,  
3 "Oh, maybe she was upset." "Maybe she walked out to the  
4 ice." And I looked at her and I thought, "Wow. So that's  
5 your determination on what happened?" She goes, "No -- no  
6 -- no," like, she changed her story on me. I didn't really  
7 want to listen to what they had to say.

8 And she said, "Well, when I got that phone  
9 call yesterday when I was at your house they were done the  
10 post-mortem." And I'm like -- I kind of found it odd that  
11 the -- the timing from the time when the police came and  
12 told me that when they started the post-mortem on my  
13 daughter -- from the time she entered my house and the time  
14 she left was 20 minutes; that's it. In my mind a post-  
15 mortem should've taken more time. More thorough. So they  
16 said that she had drowned.

17 I didn't get my daughter's body back till  
18 March -- I remember it was a Monday, that's all I remember.  
19 The funeral home called me and said that her body was  
20 there.

21 So me and my daughters went there right  
22 away. And she was lying in her coffin covered in a white  
23 sheet. I started looking at her arms. I started rubbing  
24 her hair. I felt so sad because when I was rubbing her  
25 hair, her hair started coming out in clumps. I remember

1 looking at her wrists. She had abrasions here and right  
2 here. To me they looked like ligature marks on her wrists,  
3 both. Not just one side, it was both sides. What they say  
4 when drowning victims have the washer woman hands, hers  
5 wasn't bad at all. Like it was a little bit wrinkly. Her  
6 nails were always naturally short because she chewed on  
7 them.

8 But seeing your daughter, and they're saying  
9 that this was an accident, to me it wasn't. Something more  
10 serious happened to her.

11 So I kept examining her body myself. She  
12 was such a private girl, so I made sure that her, you know,  
13 her breasts were covered, so I would kind of lift the  
14 blanket around and see. What really hurt me was that my  
15 daughter's body was covered in black plastic and taped up  
16 from her waist down. It disturbed me, so I asked the  
17 funeral director, "Why -- why her body -- or why was she  
18 covered in plastic from the waist down?" And she said --  
19 she goes, "That's how she was brought back." And I'm like,  
20 "Why, though?" "Like, why does she need to be covered?"  
21 "Oh, her body needs to thaw."

22 Well, I've done my search with drownings.  
23 Bodies don't freeze when they're in the water. You can --  
24 I asked the cold water immersion specialist, who I've  
25 looked up, and he's actually based out of the University of

1 Manitoba. He goes, "That's -- that's kind of strange if  
2 she was a drowning victim. Why would she be frozen?" He  
3 says, "Bodies don't freeze when they're under water." So  
4 that kind of threw a red flag up for me and, like, okay,  
5 well, just made me have discrepancies on her death. Of how  
6 she really passed on.

7 I asked the police about it. They didn't  
8 have answer for it. But she also had bruises on her  
9 ankles. She had bruises on her shins. Her ankles, her  
10 shins, I think behind her -- one of her calves on the side.  
11 I also found a cut on top of her head right here about this  
12 long, which is unaccounted for in -- in the coroner's  
13 report. It's not accounted for.

14 I asked the forensic pathologist who did  
15 that -- who I met briefly back in April why it wasn't  
16 recorded. He goes, "No, there wasn't." And I said, "Don't  
17 say what I see. Because I know what I saw. I examined my  
18 daughter myself." I said, "Why isn't it recorded? It  
19 should be recorded." So I met with the regional coroner,  
20 Michael Wilson, briefly too.

21 I hate when people say, "I can't imagine --  
22 I can't imagine being you." Like, especially hearing it  
23 from authorities. And I look -- I would always look at the  
24 them and say, "You know what, I need you to imagine being  
25 in my shoes because otherwise it's just going to be

1       pointless if you're not listening." I told him, "You need  
2       to imagine being me in order to understand me because if  
3       you don't then there's no point talking to me." And I  
4       remember, "Well, I'll give you my decision for an inquest  
5       in a few weeks."

6                       Sadly, so I seen something, a clip, in the  
7       KenoraOnline saying he made a statement saying something  
8       about it's his decision -- that he would make that  
9       decision. So an inquest was denied.

10                      **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** There's -- there's  
11       just a brief news article, the T Bay (sic) NewsWatch that  
12       just describes that there will be no inquest for the Kenora  
13       teen's death. And it's very short, but it's around the  
14       same time you're talking about, when you were advised that  
15       there would be none.

16                      **MS. ANITA ROSS:** M'hm.

17                      **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** And I note that it's  
18       the media that's -- the media says that -- says there no  
19       foul play. So the media was reporting at the time that the  
20       coroner's office said there's no foul play, but can you  
21       tell us a little bit about when that was coming out in the  
22       news. How -- how that felt, or what you thought? So in  
23       terms of like reading things like that in the media.

24                      **MS. ANITA ROSS:** I felt angry. Heartbroken.  
25       I don't know how they can determine no foul play with all

1 the discrepancies that I have, that what I've seen.

2 My daughter wasn't the typical drowning  
3 victim. All the bruising that was found on her. If I  
4 could draw a graph of the body, I can mark all the Xs of  
5 where all -- most of her injuries occurred were on the  
6 right side of her body; ankles, wrists, forearms.

7 When I had asked the coroner, "How did she  
8 sustain those injuries?" She says, "Oh, she was pretty  
9 intoxicated, and she -- she was probably falling and  
10 stumbling and banging into objects." That's what they said  
11 -- that's what she had said. She even took the liberty of  
12 walk -- standing up and giving me a demonstration and  
13 kicking a little trash can.

14 I told her, "Explain to me if she was  
15 stumbling, falling -- why wasn't there no injuries to her  
16 knees?" "Why?" When they're telling me, and giving me  
17 that reason doesn't make sense to me at all.

18 If they're telling me that she was heavily  
19 intoxicated and falling, you'd find injuries to the knees,  
20 to the hands, probably on the palms. There was no injuries  
21 there.

22 My theory is -- also the bruising was caused  
23 antemortem, meaning she sustained all these fresh bruising  
24 just before her death. To me that doesn't give -- make any  
25 sense to me. My theory is I believe somebody hurt my baby.

1       When I -- when -- when they were showing me the graph of --  
2       and the pictures of my daughter's body, when you look at  
3       it, you're like, thinking, "Why is it she sustained all her  
4       injuries on one side of her body?" "Why?" So I was  
5       thinking, "What if she was laying on her left side,  
6       defending herself from whoever was hurting her?" Their  
7       findings don't match what -- what I've researched.

8                       I'm very thankful -- I was very -- quite  
9       fortunate to have an open -- an open casket for my  
10      daughter. She wasn't bloated. She wasn't decayed. My  
11      daughter's body was in pristine shape. Her twin sister put  
12      make-up on her the way she liked it. I know we buried her  
13      in her most favorite -- she had a Johnny Cash sweater that  
14      I bought for her, had a cool guitar on front of it. She  
15      loved black. So I buried her in black and white.

16                      And I'm thankful I was able to have a --  
17      even the community members were pretty shocked because  
18      honestly everybody thought we were only go to have a -- a  
19      closed casket, considering that the police -- authorities  
20      want me to believe my daughter was in that water for 24  
21      whole days. Not an ounce of bloating. So it kind of  
22      struck me as odd.

23                      The day they also found my daughter too, was  
24      she was found without one shoe. They found her shoe the  
25      same day her body was found, but about maybe 40 feet away

1 from her. Close to the land. What struck me as odd was  
2 that nobody ever found that shoe. It was in plain sight,  
3 plain view.

4 And throughout the search the police  
5 indicated to us if we found any articles of clothing  
6 throughout that search was nobody was supposed to touch it,  
7 take a photo of it, and contain the area, and call the  
8 police. What bothers me is that nobody didn't notice that  
9 shoe there all those days.

10 Nine days before her body was discovered it  
11 rained, so a lot of snow had melted. Like I said, before  
12 my uncle searched those shores. Those -- I can't even say  
13 shores, every day and he said, "That's BS," he goes, "Her  
14 shoe was not there." "Where did it come from?"

15 Why would her body just all of a sudden be  
16 discovered, and her shoe the same day? That's another sign  
17 for me that screamed foul play. I don't believe my  
18 daughter's body was in there the entire time she was  
19 missing. Because if she was there they should have found  
20 her during that underwater search.

21 I'm not an expert, but I've made myself  
22 sick, or I'd be up till all hours of the night searching  
23 drowning. Trying to make sense, but also trying to make  
24 sense coming from the authorities. I too, like, "Oh, maybe  
25 this would have happened," or maybe when they -- but it



1 didn't. Just all the characteristics that she had. There  
2 was just no way she was in that water for all that time.

3 I believe my daughter was abducted and held  
4 against her will.

5 I even took the liberty of contacting  
6 experts out of the country. I've also contacted -- I've  
7 also been in contact with a lot of reporters. I've shared  
8 the coroner's report, which is another heartbreak, is that  
9 when I look at that coroner's report it's a piece of  
10 garbage to me because half of it's falsified information.

11 What they see as Delaine. Like no, that's  
12 not -- you're not even talking about my daughter in there.  
13 It's just a template they use and they just slap on you  
14 know bits and pieces of information. They did a sloppy,  
15 poor, job putting that together.

16 I remember receiving the coroner's report in  
17 regular mail. I was home by myself. I was unaware I was  
18 going to get it. I wasn't informed. It wasn't even  
19 couriered to me to warn me what I was about to. I -- I was  
20 -- it was just another heart -- heartbreak for me.

21 Of course, I got naturally mad and I called  
22 them. "Is this how you guys deal with all your deaths?"  
23 And that quote that they use on there that -- I can't  
24 remember the exact words, but the coroner -- about speaking  
25 for the dead because they can't speak, it's just a lie.

1 They didn't try hard enough in my daughter's case.

2 And every time I talk to each coroner or  
3 police officer that was involved in my daughter's case  
4 seemed like they were just working against me. Like they  
5 wouldn't give the thought of listening to what I -- what my  
6 theories were. I remember talking to one of the detectives  
7 and he says to me, he goes, "Oh, we won't look into it  
8 until new evidence comes out." And -- or new information.

9 "Well, has there been any new information?"  
10 He says, "No." "Well, are you looking for that  
11 information?" "No." "Well, evidence and information isn't  
12 just going to fall into your lap. You have to go out there  
13 and look for it."

14 They say that they questioned over 200  
15 people. They seen my daughter and those individuals she  
16 was with that night go into that area. Everybody made it  
17 home except my daughter. They even stated that she didn't  
18 leave that apartment building.

19 Well, you got to find out how she went  
20 unnoticed and all of sudden appear in the lake 24 days  
21 later. You guys have to fill that gap.

22 I go out there and I talk to people. The  
23 police should be doing that. It's their job. It's like  
24 they just gave up on her just because she's six feet under.  
25 For me I have to go sit at her grave to talk to her. I

1 talk to her all the time, you know what I mean, and it's  
2 hard knowing my daughter's body is underneath the ground.  
3 She was only 16 years old. She hadn't even begun to enjoy  
4 life yet, or experience it.

5 But it's been nothing but heartbreak after  
6 heartbreak after heartbreak with these authorities, and  
7 they're not trying hard enough. Especially for our girls.

8 I -- I sent a picture to a forensic engineer  
9 based out of California. We sent her -- sent him pictures  
10 of her wrists on both sides left, right, we even labelled  
11 everything. And he even stated, "This is not a normal  
12 basis of drowning. It has to be re-looked at." His  
13 career, he's seen well over 4,000 different drownings,  
14 including homicidal drownings. So when I have an expert  
15 telling me that it makes you think, "Okay, well, why don't  
16 our Canadian, or Canadian forensic, that worked on my  
17 daughter's case, not catch that? But they were able to  
18 catch that?"

19 It's not normal what happened to my  
20 daughter. I don't think it was an accident what happened  
21 to her. And right now there's still no justice for my  
22 daughter. My poor daughter lies in a grave and our  
23 family's suffering -- still grieving -- everyone, for her.  
24 Especially her twin sister. Her twin sister is taking it  
25 the hardest.

1                   I recently became a grandma. His name is  
2                   Aries Delaine (ph). He's four months now. He brought joy  
3                   into our -- our house again. It's not the same. But we  
4                   believe that Delaine sent him to us. I had all daughters  
5                   so I was -- I'm so glad I have a little grandson. He's the  
6                   like the cutest little thing ever, I've ever seen. He's  
7                   always so happy.

8                   My oldest daughter is the one that gave me  
9                   the grandson, and her name is Darian. She said she was  
10                  having a smoke outside the house, just a few days ago, and  
11                  she literally heard wings -- like, the sound of wings. So  
12                  she went inside -- and I have a son-in-law who is a gifted  
13                  -- he's -- he's going to be a gifted Elder, he's going to  
14                  be a healer when he grows up. Well, he's already grown up,  
15                  but I mean like when he gets older. But he sees and hears  
16                  things, and he said, "Delaine was visiting and baby was  
17                  talking for like a good ten minutes at the air," so he said  
18                  that was the Delaine talking to him, so I believe she comes  
19                  to visit him a lot. She really loved kids. So I'm pretty  
20                  sure she watches him from up there.

21                  **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** So, sorry, just we  
22                  are cognizant of the time, but of course, we want to hear  
23                  what Anita has to share. And I just want to make sure we  
24                  haven't missed anything.

25                  And so my question is to take the time to

1 check with you to make sure we haven't overlooked or missed  
2 anything, or if there were recommendations and ideas that  
3 you want to provide to the Commissioner, that you get the  
4 opportunity to do so.

5 **MS. ANITA ROSS:** I want justice for my  
6 daughter. I want the authorities to do proper  
7 investigating to all cases. Even if it is suicide, find  
8 out why. You know. If they fell off a two storey  
9 building, find out why they fell out a two storey building.  
10 They need to do thorough investigations. It's not a one  
11 sided thing. You got to think about the families involved.

12 My recommendations to you would be to give  
13 the ability for families to hire their own experts, like I  
14 have. I didn't hire one, but I've looked into it, but  
15 providing the resources.

16 Hiring our investigators. Or having our own  
17 police body.

18 Closed cases, they shouldn't be left closed.  
19 Otherwise this going to keep happening with all the missing  
20 and murdered men, women, it's not going to stop.

21 They have to take time to listen, and it's  
22 okay to have compassion for families. Like I've said  
23 before, what I did with the police, I said, "You guys don't  
24 have to stand here like you guys are toy soldiers. It's  
25 okay to hug me." And they did after a while. They started

1 being laid back and joking around. We need to know that  
2 they care too. I know you guys have a job to do, you don't  
3 are to, you know, give off a cold shoulder, or anything  
4 like that.

5 But -- yeah, that's -- my one recommendation  
6 is that -- yes, that give the families the ability, or  
7 provide the resources to hire their -- hire their own  
8 experts, such as in my daughter's case. I'd like to -- I  
9 would like to hire that forensic engineer and have him --  
10 re-enact what happened to my daughter. What were the  
11 possible things that happened to her before, because like  
12 he stated, he's seen over 4,000 drownings, anywhere from  
13 accidental to homicides. And he finds it's suspicious what  
14 happened to her.

15 And the sad part is that our forensic  
16 pathologist here didn't catch that. They need to do better  
17 explanations. The coroner's -- that's all I -- I really...

18 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** I have one more for  
19 you only because you had mentioned it earlier too, and I  
20 know it's one of the recommendations you had suggested was  
21 whether it's coming from the media or the police's  
22 communication, or the coroner's communication departments,  
23 maybe they shouldn't so quickly, out of the gate, say  
24 things like no foul play.

25 **MS. ANITA ROSS:** M'hm, yeah.

1                   **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** What would your  
2 recommendation to the Commissioners be in respect to that?

3                   **MS. ANITA ROSS:** Without them doing -- well,  
4 they should do thorough investigating before they say, "No  
5 suspicious activities," things like that, you know, without  
6 properly investigating. Because to me -- like, with my  
7 daughter's case, they're telling -- like, I found out her  
8 case was closed last year. But I had to find out from the  
9 media about it.

10                   And, okay, well, I'll give them the chance  
11 to come see me and tell me themselves. This was back in  
12 August I believe, of last year. You know, when the police  
13 told me it was closed -- November of this year.

14                   **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** M'hm.

15                   **MS. ANITA ROSS:** So I had people coming to  
16 me, providing tips about what had happened to my daughter.  
17 And when I provide those tips to the police they don't  
18 follow up. Like, "You say my daughter's case is closed,  
19 but you will re-open it if new information comes along.  
20 Well, there's no information being provided to you, why  
21 aren't you re-opening it?"

22                   It's like they're lying. They're saying one  
23 thing to me and saying another to somebody else. I don't  
24 know if they're telling the truth. And I try very hard to  
25 -- you know what, I respect police officers, most of them,

1 not all of them. But you know what, I try hard to work  
2 with them too. I abide by the law.

3 It's just disheartens me that there's no  
4 communication at all. In the long run all they're doing is  
5 hurting the families even more, but they need to properly  
6 investigate before they -- before they determine  
7 accidental, or homicide, or. I'm tired of hearing that.  
8 There's too many suspicious circumstances at play,  
9 especially in my daughter's case.

10 To me, like, I -- I'm very a persistent  
11 girl, so I keep going. But then what drives me is the love  
12 I have for my daughters. Even though she's passed on, I  
13 still live for her. There's many times where I've -- I'm  
14 weak and, yeah, like, I've even thought about death just to  
15 be with her, but I realize I've got other daughters too  
16 that are still here. And I think about, "Well, who's going  
17 to be my daughter's voice because she doesn't have a  
18 voice." So as her mother I'm her voice. I love my  
19 daughter very much. I still love her.

20 She always called me mommy. All my girls  
21 call me mommy. All my girls are taller than me and bigger  
22 than me, so it looks kind of funny when they hug me and try  
23 to cuddle me because they're -- they're actually bigger  
24 than me. But they're my babies. Even when they're old  
25 ladies, they're still going to be my babies.



1                   But that's my fight right now, is to make  
2                   sure that justice is served for all missing and murdered,  
3                   not just only for Delaine. Proper investigations have to  
4                   happen. Can't just -- just because they're dead and gone,  
5                   just give up on them. And I know money's a -- always a  
6                   factor, "Oh, we don't have no money for it, so we'll put  
7                   the case aside."

8                   I also did an episode of *Taken*, for my  
9                   daughter. What bothers me is at the end it says her case  
10                  still remains open. That's what it says.

11                  **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Well, I know that  
12                  one other important thing was to acknowledge the people  
13                  that supported you today, and we didn't actually have them  
14                  introduce themselves, but maybe you can tell us the people  
15                  that supported you here today, because I know you want to  
16                  take the time to thank them.

17                  **MS. ANITA ROSS:** I want to thank you, Betty  
18                  (ph). I love you. She's always been there for me.

19                  Of course, my partner, Eric. I love him  
20                  very much, he's my -- he's the one that picks me up when I  
21                  fall down all the time.

22                  I want to thank Susan (ph) for coming into  
23                  my life recently. Maggie (ph). Sorry, if I forget names.  
24                  I know their faces. Priscilla (ph), and George Simard  
25                  (ph). So many people that I'd like to say, I'm sorry if I

1 forgot your names.

2 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** No, thank you very  
3 much.

4 **MS. ANITA ROSS:** Yeah.

5 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** I just want to give  
6 the Commissioners an opportunity to ask any questions or  
7 make comments as well.

8 **MS. ANITA ROSS:** Okay.

9 **COMMISSIONER BRIAN EYOLFSON:** Thank you.  
10 Thank you, Anita. I just have a few follow up questions,  
11 if you don't mind.

12 **MS. ANITA ROSS:** M'hm.

13 **COMMISSIONER BRIAN EYOLFSON:** Okay. I just  
14 want to kind of back up a little bit and talk about -- or  
15 ask you a few follow up questions about the time of the  
16 search.

17 **MS. ANITA ROSS:** Okay.

18 **COMMISSIONER BRIAN EYOLFSON:** And you said  
19 you were dealing with the police, and you referred to the  
20 OPP, was that the only police force you dealt with --

21 **MS. ANITA ROSS:** Yeah.

22 **COMMISSIONER BRIAN EYOLFSON:** -- during that  
23 time? Okay. You also talked about volunteers helping with  
24 the search, and that you had set up first in one church and  
25 then in the Knox United Church with people that were

1 helping you.

2 **MS. ANITA ROSS:** M'hm.

3 **COMMISSIONER BRIAN EYOLFSON:** Was that all  
4 volunteer driven or were the police involved in that?

5 **MS. ANITA ROSS:** That was volunteer driven.  
6 We did the call out on social media and through news --  
7 local news outlets, and stuff like that, yeah.

8 **COMMISSIONER BRIAN EYOLFSON:** And what were  
9 you aware of what the police were doing at the time in  
10 terms of...

11 **MS. ANITA ROSS:** Well, they would come and  
12 assist and giving us tips on how to -- on what to do and  
13 you know, always travel in twos, and things like that like,  
14 and keeping -- never to go out alone, so, yeah.

15 **COMMISSIONER BRIAN EYOLFSON:** Okay. You  
16 also referred to trust with respect to the police officers,  
17 and you said that you -- you only trusted wo officers.

18 **MS. ANITA ROSS:** Yeah.

19 **COMMISSIONER BRIAN EYOLFSON:** I'm wondering  
20 if you're able to comment a little bit more on what may  
21 have cause to you to lack trust, or what may have assisted  
22 with you having more trust. I know you did speak about  
23 compassion. I'm just wondering if you wanted to comment --

24 **MS. ANITA ROSS:** Just --

25 **COMMISSIONER BRIAN EYOLFSON:** -- any

1 further.

2 **MS. ANITA ROSS:** -- the sincerity -- or just  
3 so I can't even proper talk. Their sincerity -- I -- I  
4 don't know if I'm saying that right. You can tell which  
5 were sincere, and which weren't. It just -- it's just a  
6 natural gift that most women have.

7 **(LAUGHTER)**

8 **MS. ANITA ROSS:** So even just feeling the  
9 hugs from them I knew which one were so -- the ones that  
10 held you really tight, like Scooby-Doo.

11 **(LAUGHTER)**

12 **MS. ANITA ROSS:** I knew just by the way they  
13 talked to me. Like, I wasn't always like, you know -- you  
14 know, their professional words that they used, you know.  
15 These ones were more laid back, and that's how -- I don't  
16 know -- I could just tell. It wasn't just 'cause the way  
17 they said things, but it was just the way -- how they were  
18 able to interact with you.

19 **COMMISSIONER BRIAN EYOLFSON:** Thank you.  
20 And just a last question. I believe you said that you were  
21 told by the police that after 14 days they were calling off  
22 their search.

23 **MS. ANITA ROSS:** They didn't tell me that  
24 they were going to call off the search. When they did --  
25 when they brought in the ERT and police dogs and all that

1 was -- was March 1st, from what I recall. But March 1st to  
2 March 14th is when they did the search, or were active, I  
3 should say. The 14th day is when they brought me in, and  
4 that's when they told me that they were calling off the  
5 searches.

6 **COMMISSIONER BRIAN EYOLFSON:** And did they  
7 give you a reason, or an explanation for calling off the  
8 search at that point?

9 **MS. ANITA ROSS:** I don't know. They go --  
10 they do searches through -- I remember they showed me some  
11 kind of book, like say if a hunter goes missing, it's more  
12 -- more than likely that he only goes at least two  
13 kilometres, things like that, right, so. I guess they  
14 exhausted all their resources. I don't know. They didn't  
15 -- it was pretty cloudy. I was pretty upset that day. And  
16 I was very angry that they gave up on her just like that,  
17 so I don't remember the solid explanation why they stopped  
18 the searches.

19 **COMMISSIONER BRIAN EYOLFSON:** Thank you.

20 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** (Speaking  
21 native language). *Merci beaucoup.* For -- for you to come  
22 here and share and explain every details, there's many  
23 times I said, "Oh, I'm going to ask that question," and you  
24 came and said it, so there is that magic mom has with the  
25 daughter, or the twins have between themselves. I have two

1 girls, identical girls, and there's something that only  
2 them understand. But it's also teaching us as parent that  
3 there is something when we feel it that there's something  
4 good or wrong --

5 **MS. ANITA ROSS:** M'hm.

6 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** -- we know  
7 it.

8 **MS. ANITA ROSS:** Yes.

9 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** So I believe  
10 you. I believe you. The way you shared to us -- to the  
11 people in this room, and people who are listening, I say  
12 thank you.

13 **MS. ANITA ROSS:** (Indiscernible).

14 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** And of  
15 course, I have question. I have question, and I appreciate  
16 the -- the question of my colleague, Commissioner Eyolfson.  
17 We've heard at AFN a few years ago, when the RCMP came and  
18 apologized to the Assembly, the people in the room, I was  
19 there with family members, and former representative from  
20 NWAC, and what really brought me to -- it's not the first  
21 time that I hear this that -- but he said it very open,  
22 "The first 48 hours are the most important when somebody is  
23 missing." And we're crossing this country, named Canada.

24 **MS. ANITA ROSS:** M'hm.

25 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** And we hear

1 families say, "I called 9-1-1." "I called, my daughter's  
2 missing." "My sister." "Even my son." Some families  
3 share their truth about their son, and there's places, it's  
4 automatic, and it seemed, for you, it took three days --

5 **MS. ANITA ROSS:** Yes.

6 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** -- before it  
7 became...

8 **MS. ANITA ROSS:** Pretty active, yeah.

9 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Pretty  
10 active.

11 **MS. ANITA ROSS:** From them, yeah. But with  
12 us, we were active right within three hours we were looking  
13 for her.

14 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Exactly. So  
15 do you think one of the recommendations should be that when  
16 a parent call --

17 **MS. ANITA ROSS:** They should look  
18 regardless. Whether the child is a runaway, troubled in  
19 any way like that, or some kind of substance abuse, or you  
20 know.

21 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** M'hm.

22 **MS. ANITA ROSS:** Doesn't matter if there a  
23 history of them running away, you know.

24 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Right.

25 **MS. ANITA ROSS:** You need to find them.

1 It's better to find them alive than deceased. That 24 --  
2 like even the 48 hour time rule, that should be removed,  
3 you know, if a parent is worried, by all means go look for  
4 that child. And you know what --

5 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** M'hm.

6 **MS. ANITA ROSS:** -- recently my one daughter  
7 did go missing from the house there like, last weekend.

8 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** M'hm.

9 **MS. ANITA ROSS:** And I totally freaked out  
10 because I didn't like who the person she was hanging around  
11 with had some history of violence, so I called OPP, and  
12 they actually responded within an hour, so I was --

13 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Okay.

14 **MS. ANITA ROSS:** -- pretty grateful for  
15 that. But I had to say, "You know what, I'm the mother of  
16 Delaine Copenace and I don't want to wait."

17 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** M'hm.

18 **MS. ANITA ROSS:** I'm not going wait three  
19 days, or how many hours they want me to wait. You guys  
20 need to go find her right now. And even though my  
21 daughter's an adult, they were able --

22 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** M'hm.

23 **MS. ANITA ROSS:** -- I think that's probably  
24 why they jumped to it, because of what I said, "I'm  
25 Delaine's mom."



1                   **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Why --

2                   **MS. ANITA ROSS:** Yeah, so yeah, they do need  
3 to lift the 48 hour rule. Whether -- whether -- what their  
4 background is, maybe they are in care, or they do have  
5 troubles keeping --

6                   **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** M'hm.

7                   **MS. ANITA ROSS:** -- keeping these kids, or  
8 even -- yeah, not waiting 24 hours. If the call is made  
9 police should be on it right there. Like, no waiting  
10 because you'd rather find them alive than --

11                   **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** M'hm.

12                   **MS. ANITA ROSS:** -- hurt or gone.

13                   **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** There's  
14 places, because of the -- the pressure from family members  
15 in a specific area, or province they remove that.

16                   **MS. ANITA ROSS:** Yeah.

17                   **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Now, when we  
18 call they do the search right away.

19                   **MS. ANITA ROSS:** Yeah.

20                   **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** So, and I see  
21 you're -- you're thinking about your daughter, but also the  
22 other families --

23                   **MS. ANITA ROSS:** M'hm.

24                   **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** -- across  
25 Canada.

1                   **MS. ANITA ROSS:** Yes.

2                   **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** -- so, *merci*.

3                   When -- I'm not an expert, me too, but I -- there's many  
4                   times I've scratched my -- my head thinking -- you  
5                   mentioned that they used technology to go under water.

6                   **MS. ANITA ROSS:** Yeah, like...

7                   **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** It's very  
8                   high tech?

9                   **MS. ANITA ROSS:** Like some kind of sonar  
10                  equipment they put down there.

11                  **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Okay,  
12                  *sonar* --

13                  **MS. ANITA ROSS:** Yeah.

14                  **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** -- French  
15                  same thing. Did they went where your daughter  
16                  were -- was --

17                  **MS. ANITA ROSS:** Yeah. They were able to  
18                  locate a deer a kilometre away with that thing.

19                  **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** M'hm.

20                  **MS. ANITA ROSS:** They should have been able  
21                  to locate my daughter's body, but it didn't.

22                  **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Yeah, okay.

23                  **MS. ANITA ROSS:** And where the divers had  
24                  went -- like there's Main Street docks --

25                  **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** M'hm.

1                   **MS. ANITA ROSS:** -- but then there's a  
2 couple of little branch docks, and my daughter was at  
3 the -- where the police station dock was.

4                   **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** M'hm.

5                   **MS. ANITA ROSS:** So it just makes you think,  
6 like, we saw them diving in there. Like, why didn't they  
7 find her during those searches? Every day was up and down  
8 those docks, why didn't they find her shoe there?

9                   **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Right.

10                  **MS. ANITA ROSS:** You know, it just doesn't  
11 make sense. Like, for four whole days they were in and out  
12 of there scuba diving. That doesn't make sense to me so  
13 that's -- to me that's suspicious. Why wasn't my  
14 daughter's body there? I believe it's a second scene. She  
15 might have died elsewhere, but I don't know. I'm not an  
16 expert, like I'm saying.

17                  **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Yeah.

18                  **MS. ANITA ROSS:** But all these theories play  
19 in my head.

20                               Oh, I forgot to mention my daughter left --  
21 she had a -- before she left the house she had a full meal  
22 when she left -- before she left the house that day. And  
23 forensics stated there was only fluid in her stomach, so if  
24 they want me to believe that she was in fact, dead the day  
25 she disappeared why was there no food in her stomach?

1                   **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** And you  
2 mentioned that?

3                   **MS. ANITA ROSS:** Yeah.

4                   **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Okay.

5                   **MS. ANITA ROSS:** I mentioned that to -- when  
6 I met Kris Cunningham.

7                   **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** M'hm.

8                   **MS. ANITA ROSS:** He's the forensic  
9 pathologist who did the post-mortem on my daughter, so.

10                  **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** So --

11                  **MS. ANITA ROSS:** And little minor --

12                  **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Okay.

13                  **MS. ANITA ROSS:** -- things like that, yeah.

14                  **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** So when you  
15 add it, it brings you where you -- so -- just so I  
16 understand -- just so I understand you mentioned an  
17 Indigenous police force also? That you call? So during --

18                  **MS. ANITA ROSS:** Well -- well, I got --

19                  **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** So I can  
20 understand.

21                  **MS. ANITA ROSS:** Treaty 3 Police.

22                  **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Okay.

23                  **MS. ANITA ROSS:** Yeah, so I have friends in  
24 there because I grew up with them, right.

25                  **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Okay. Thank

1       you.

2                   **MS. ANITA ROSS:** So there's -- like, it  
3       wasn't as based, like where I would call the police station  
4       or anything. I would just message them or Facebook them,  
5       "Oh, what should I do?" "Where's the numbers?"

6                   **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Okay, so it  
7       was --

8                   **MS. ANITA ROSS:** Yeah.

9                   **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** -- to seek  
10      advice, or...

11                  **MS. ANITA ROSS:** Yeah.

12                  **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Okay -- okay,  
13      I thought you were in a territory where the two police  
14      force are working.

15                  **MS. ANITA ROSS:** Yeah.

16                  **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Okay -- okay,  
17      I get it. And when you -- when you received the report,  
18      you said you receive it by mail?

19                  **MS. ANITA ROSS:** Just regular mail. I just  
20      found it in my mailbox.

21                  **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Nobody called  
22      you --

23                  **MS. ANITA ROSS:** No.

24                  **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** -- and say,  
25      "Anita, we have it, can you come at the office and we will

1 present it to you?"

2 MS. ANITA ROSS: Yeah, they --

3 COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: Nothing?

4 MS. ANITA ROSS: -- had no communication  
5 whatsoever.

6 COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: No health  
7 support --

8 MS. ANITA ROSS: No.

9 COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: -- or...

10 MS. ANITA ROSS: I found it in the mailbox.  
11 I opened it. I didn't know what it was. Then I started  
12 reading it.

13 COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: M'hm.

14 MS. ANITA ROSS: And I broke down.

15 COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: So the  
16 coroners -- I hear that you sent -- you gave it to the  
17 media? Do you have that --

18 MS. ANITA ROSS: With --

19 COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: -- copy?

20 MS. ANITA ROSS: -- some reporters, yeah,  
21 but I --

22 COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE: Thank you.

23 MS. ANITA ROSS: -- told them it's in strict  
24 confidence. That they can't use it. It was just reading  
25 material for them.

1                   **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Just you  
2 don't have to have answer, but --

3                   **MS. ANITA ROSS:** Yeah.

4                   **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** -- if it's  
5 silent it's okay, but is it something you shared to our  
6 advocate?

7                   **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** It's something she  
8 can share, but we would -- we don't have it in evidence  
9 today.

10                  **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Oh, okay --  
11 okay. Is it something you would like to share to her --

12                  **MS. ANITA ROSS:** Yes.

13                  **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** -- so she can  
14 read it.

15                  **MS. ANITA ROSS:** Yes

16                  **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** And, of  
17 course, the Commissioners and Chief Commissioner.

18                  **MS. ANITA ROSS:** Yeah, I'll even highlight  
19 every that's falsified in there, or just not even what  
20 they're talking about in there.

21                  **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Yeah.

22 Well --

23                  **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** And just in terms of  
24 that, just -- that's your position --

25                  **MS. ANITA ROSS:** M'hm.

1                   **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** -- that you're  
2 identifying on a personal basis that you believe there  
3 should be information?

4                   **MS. ANITA ROSS:** M'hm. More information,  
5 and should be properly written, you know, it's pretty --

6                   **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** M'hm.

7                   **MS. ANITA ROSS:** -- a sensitive document.  
8 They should have take the time to do it.

9                   **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Right.

10                  **MS. ANITA ROSS:** You know, not just throw in  
11 a bunch of words, slap a stamp on it, and send it on  
12 its --

13                  **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** M'hm.

14                  **MS. ANITA ROSS:** -- way. There's got to be  
15 more proper supports in place.

16                  **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** And the  
17 police --

18                  **MS. ANITA ROSS:** Or warnings, yeah.

19                  **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** -- report.

20                  **MS. ANITA ROSS:** -- yeah.

21                  **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Yeah. The  
22 police report, did they sat --

23                  **MS. ANITA ROSS:** No.

24                  **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** -- you down  
25 and say...



1                   **MS. ANITA ROSS:** I don't have that.

2                   **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Okay -- okay.

3                   **MS. ANITA ROSS:** I tried requesting autopsy  
4 photos.

5                   **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Okay.

6                   **MS. ANITA ROSS:** But they won't let me have  
7 them because they said -- they said it belongs to the OPP.

8                   **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** (Indiscernible).

9                   **MS. ANITA ROSS:** I said, "Yeah, pictures of  
10 my daughter belong to you? No. They should belong to me."

11                   **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** But you  
12 talked about pictures, so you took those pictures?

13                   **MS. ANITA ROSS:** Yeah, we took a photo of  
14 her wrists with a cell phone.

15                   **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Okay. It is  
16 true when you say -- and thousands of mothers and fathers  
17 walk with you in this, that you all want justice -- justice  
18 -- we all want justice for our loved one. And people  
19 deserve either you're black, Native, First Nation, Métis,  
20 or Inuit, we deserve proper investigation and --

21                   **MS. ANITA ROSS:** M'hm.

22                   **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** -- and your  
23 recommendation are very -- very important to us, very  
24 important to the rest of the people who are listening to  
25 you right now, so --

1                   **MS. ANITA ROSS:** M'hm.

2                   **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** -- I say  
3 thank you, and it happen often, when we come here we're  
4 nervous, like I said earlier, we forget things sometimes --

5                   **MS. ANITA ROSS:** Yeah.

6                   **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** -- but the  
7 door is not closed. I just want you to know the door is  
8 not closed. We have people here if you have more things to  
9 say to us.

10                  **MS. ANITA ROSS:** Okay.

11                  **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Okay.  
12 (speaking native language).

13                  **MS. ANITA ROSS:** No, I --

14                  **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** I'm just going to  
15 put that (indiscernible).

16                  **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** We have  
17 Elders from Haida Gwaii women -- how do we say in  
18 English? Can you be my voice in English? I want to make  
19 sure I say it well, but my voice will change.

20                  **MS. BERNIE WILLIAMS:** I just want to say  
21 again -- we just want to explain about the Feathers. The  
22 Eagle Feathers -- it started a -- its journey with over 400  
23 Eagle Feathers from my home territory in Haida Gwaii, that  
24 the matriarchs, they walked at the shorelines and they  
25 started picking up the Eagle Feathers for the families all

1 across Canada.

2 And now these ones here they come from  
3 Shíshálh, which is just outside of Vancouver on a small  
4 village in that too that it -- there was like an Eagle wing  
5 that was sent to my niece, that you see her wandering  
6 around, it's Audrey Seagull (ph), and like she did at the  
7 preparation so this is also from another territory.

8 So these Eagle Feathers have been coming  
9 from all different territories all across Canada from like  
10 the Elders, like the spiritual people, the matriarchs, the  
11 clan mothers, so I just wanted to explain this -- that  
12 these are the gifts to the family members all across your  
13 beautiful territories all across here, so just wanted to  
14 explain that to -- for -- to say how again.

15 **ELDER LAUREEN BLU WATER:** So Anita, on  
16 behalf of the Commission, Michèle Audette is going to come  
17 and give you one of the red dresses to remember your  
18 daughter by.

19 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Which way?  
20 Over here?

21 **ELDER LAUREEN BLU WATER:** That way.

22 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Over here.  
23 In my home it's the other side.

24 It was made by women from hairs. A  
25 beautiful project, in schools, prisons, other

1 organizations.

2 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Can you just quickly  
3 explain about the red dresses?

4 **MS. JOYCE HUNTER:** Yeah -- yeah, okay. Hi  
5 there my name is Joyce Hunter, and I'm one of the women who  
6 belongs to the Thunder Bay Collective of Walking With Our  
7 Sisters. And we had a -- more than a year long project  
8 called, *The Red Dress Community Care Project*, and we went  
9 into schools, to the university, to jails, to private and  
10 public organizations.

11 And we're just a volunteer group of women  
12 and we talked about the issue of missing and murdered  
13 Indigenous women, and about violence against women, and the  
14 fact that we need to come together as a community to love  
15 and support our women, and to really look at them in a way  
16 that's respectful and which honours our women because a lot  
17 of times our women are seen as being disposable.

18 And as I was listening to Anita's story this  
19 morning -- I mean I heard so many parallels in there you  
20 know, like the -- the quick decision to say that there was  
21 no foul play suspected. And as a mother not being listened  
22 to you know, so it was our hope in doing this project that  
23 the community would come back and -- and really understand  
24 who we are as a people, but also come to respect us.

25 And so as part of that project we invited

1 community members to also make a red dress and then bead on  
2 them, so each and every red dress that you get was done by  
3 a community member and it was done out of love and from a  
4 place of understanding, because by the time they had beaded  
5 those red dresses they had already received the teachings  
6 and listened to our stories. Yes.

7 And I'm very sorry about your daughter.  
8 *Migwetch.*

9 **ELDER LAUREEN BLU WATER:** Commissioner  
10 Eyolfson is going to come and give you a package of seeds.  
11 They're seeds of reciprocity. And those are blue asters,  
12 which are known for their beauty. So much like the story  
13 you presented us today of your beautiful daughter.

14 Now Marlene Pelletier (sic) is going to come  
15 and, sorry, Pierre, sorry Pelletier, Pierre, I am sorry.  
16 Both of them are her friends, so there you go, maybe  
17 they're with her. She's going to come and bring you some  
18 Sweetgrass and she may want to say something to you here.

19 **MS. MARLENE PIERRE:** Anita, I know that  
20 everyone in this room, and those who will listen to all  
21 your words, myself I am so -- so impressed with the way  
22 that you took all the responsibility of even the legal  
23 authorities to come to some kind of satisfaction with, or  
24 non-satisfaction with what you found.

25 And you are to be commended for that because

1 most of us don't take that extra mile. And I -- I believe  
2 what I heard today is an example of a great, loving, mother  
3 and a very supportive family, and that is what we all try  
4 to be, and I want to, on behalf of the Commissioners and  
5 the people here present this piece of Sweetgrass to you for  
6 you to remember all -- all the -- and use this for -- in  
7 all the moments that you have walked since your daughter  
8 went missing and that that be a cornerstone for all of us  
9 who are here to do the same for our children and our  
10 sisters and our brothers, so *chi-migwetch* for this  
11 wonderful opportunity to meet such a -- a great person -- a  
12 great woman, and a great mother. *Migwetch*.

13 **MS. ANITA ROSS:** I would like to talk about  
14 more of the coroners.

15 **ELDER LAUREEN BLU WATER:** And Anita, I'd  
16 like to bring this Eagle Feather that my sister spoke to  
17 you about so that as you do your -- your work -- your  
18 continued grieving, and the celebration of your daughter's  
19 life that this will help your family with the medicines  
20 that you have, and help you in this healing journey that  
21 you're on.

22 And I'd also like to invite the community,  
23 as well, for those of you that want to come up and honour  
24 the daughter of Anita and celebrate her life, and -- and to  
25 help come to help our sister here, heal.

1                   So I want to say thank you very much, Anita,  
2                   for your strength and for your love and for the love of all  
3                   the families that are here and you know, to give them  
4                   strength because yours has been a very hard journey that  
5                   you've had to travel alone most of the time with the  
6                   support of your family and your daughters, but not the  
7                   support of those that should have been there.

8                   So I want to -- I want to honour you and  
9                   say, *chi-migwetch*, for the work that you had done.

10                   **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** And so Commissioners  
11                   I ask that we adjourn this hearing and note that we will  
12                   require time for lunch, which will mean our schedule will  
13                   be put back a little, but on that basis I request a minimum  
14                   of 30 minutes, is that -- thank you.

15                   **--- Exhibits (code: P01P08P0101)**

16                   **Exhibit 1:**           Folder of five images displayed on monitors  
17                   during public hearing.

18                   **Exhibit 2:**           TB NewsWatch article "No inquest for Kenora  
19                   teen's death: Coroner" by TbNewsWatch.com  
20                   staff, published August 31, 2016 at 2:08  
21                   p.m., two pages.

22                   --- Upon recessing at 1:27 p.m.

23  
24                   **Hearing # 2**

25                   **Witness: Crystal Davey**

1 In Relation to Ruby Hardy Galloway  
2 Heard by Commissioner: Brian Eyolfson  
3 Commission Counsel: Christa Big Canoe

4 --- Upon resuming at 2:23 p.m.

5 --- OPENING SONG

6 MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: Good afternoon,  
7 Commissioner Eyolfson. I would like to introduce you to  
8 the next witness today who will be sharing her story of her  
9 mother, Ruby Ann (ph) Hardy, and this is Crystal Davey.

10 And I would ask that the registrar please,  
11 promise Ms. Davey in on her Eagle Feather.

12 MR. REGISTRAR: Good afternoon, Crystal.

13 CRYSTAL DAVEY, Affirmed:

14 MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE: And so Crystal will  
15 be sharing the story of Ruby Ann Hardy, but as you can see  
16 she has a large circle of support behind her, and so what I  
17 was going to ask is that each person can just introduce  
18 their name and that would be helpful so that everyone knows  
19 you are.

20 MR. MIKE DAVEY: I'm Mike Davey, and  
21 Crystal's husband, and this is Evelyn Davey (ph), daughter.

22 MS. DIANE HARDY: Diane Hardy, and Crystal is  
23 my great niece.

24 MS. CRYSTAL BELL: Crystal Bell, and Crystal  
25 is my good friend.



1 **MS. SARA GLEESON:** Sara Gleeson, and Crystal  
2 is my best friend.

3 **MS. ALLISON RAISON:** Allison Raison, and  
4 Crystal is a friend.

5 **MS. MICHELLE SPADONI:** Michelle Spadoni,  
6 Crystal's a friend and a colleague.

7 **MS. TERRY SWAN:** Terry Swan, and Crystal is a  
8 dear friend.

9 **MS. CARLY BROCHI:** Carly Brochi, and Crystal  
10 is my high school friend.

11 **MS. VANESSA GOODMAN:** Vanessa Goodman, and  
12 Crystal's my cousin and a good friend.

13 **MS. ROMA DUPIS:** Roma Dupis, and Crystal is  
14 my foster daughter.

15 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Thank you for all  
16 being here today.

17 So Crystal, before we get started talking  
18 about your mother, I know that one of the things that you  
19 wanted to do is -- or we thought we might do just explain  
20 briefly why we have two spirit chairs, and then maybe we  
21 can start talking about some of Ruby's strengths.

22 **MS. CRYSTAL DAVEY:** Okay. So first off, I  
23 just want to say my name is Crystal Davey. I'm a -- I'm a  
24 Hardy from Rocky Bay First Nation. My spirit name is  
25 (speaking native language) which is Sounding Thunderbird

1 Woman. I'm a hand drum carrier. I'm really honoured to be  
2 here today. I'm hoping that I can, you know, share my  
3 story, and my mother's story and you know, things will be  
4 done in a good way, and I'm just happy to be here.

5 I have two spirit chairs today, one, is for  
6 my mother, Ruby Ann Galloway Hardy, and she's missing and  
7 presumed murdered and another one is for my brother, he's  
8 Troy Galloway (ph), and he was murdered as well.

9 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** So maybe a good  
10 starting point is to tell me a little bit about your  
11 childhood and about your mom and some of her strengths.

12 **MS. CRYSTAL DAVEY:** Okay. So my mother  
13 and -- and I -- and my two siblings, we -- so I was born in  
14 1982, and my parents were quite young, Ruby and Rob (ph),  
15 and they were married, but only for a short time. And my  
16 sister was born, Candice (ph), shortly after, and my  
17 brother wasn't born till we moved to B.C., but I can speak  
18 more to that after.

19 So growing up my mother was a very strong  
20 woman. I looked up to her a lot, and she was my role  
21 model. She did what she could to take care of us in any  
22 way that she knew now. And she struggled with her own  
23 issues. But I knew that she loved us so much and you know,  
24 if she had to go to food banks to get food for us,  
25 sometimes she would have to break the law and -- and to

1 steal things to it make sure we had what we need, but she  
2 always had what -- what we needed and her love for us was  
3 so strong, and I really value that, and I share that same  
4 love to my -- my own daughter and my step-son, and I strive  
5 to be as strong as -- as she is and as she was.

6 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** So you talked about  
7 having to access food banks, and you said times weren't  
8 easy, so it's -- it's fair to say you grew up in some  
9 poverty.

10 **MS. CRYSTAL DAVEY:** Yeah.

11 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** But your mother did  
12 the best she could --

13 **MS. CRYSTAL DAVEY:** For sure.

14 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** -- in circumstances.

15 **MS. CRYSTAL DAVEY:** Yeah. And she -- like I  
16 said, had her own issues, and -- and this is my story that  
17 I tell is the truth as I know it, and what I've learned  
18 growing up. And she was the only daughter in a family  
19 of -- of four children, four boys. And actually all of my  
20 brother -- or her brothers, my uncles have all passed away  
21 as well and her -- both of her parents have passed away so  
22 that whole side of my family is no longer here.

23 She suffered some abuses herself. And she  
24 started doing drugs and was selling drugs, again as I  
25 understand now -- I am a nurse practitioner and I've

1 learned a lot in -- in my career, that she was using drugs  
2 to numb the pain of her past, and she wasn't able to --  
3 because she didn't a good support system and didn't have  
4 good coping skills. So she -- yeah, she used drugs and she  
5 would sell drugs too, to help support us. And as her  
6 addiction got stronger and as we got older she had to sell  
7 her body to feed her addiction and to feed her children.

8 And I was quite young. I was eight years old  
9 taking care of my younger sister, who was four, and my baby  
10 brother, and so I would send my sister to school, when my  
11 mom was gone, and I would take care of my little brother.

12 And so when I think about that, and having to  
13 grow up very fast -- my daughter just turned eight and I  
14 can't imagine her having to have that responsibility to  
15 take care of two younger children. But where I lived, and  
16 we lived in low income housing, many of the families were  
17 the same, so we helped take care of each other and we just,  
18 again, did what -- the best we could with what we had and  
19 when my mom was you know, doing well and not doing drugs  
20 she was home and cared for us and took care of us, but then  
21 she would go away for long periods of time.

22 And if she was out trying to you know, make  
23 money or find drugs or whatever, I was the rock at home  
24 taking care of everyone else. And when she would come home  
25 some days it would be very difficult because she would

1 sleep for many days at a time on the floor. And I would do  
2 my best to take care of her too, and try to give her bits  
3 of food and water till she was well again.

4 And at that young age I still knew that she  
5 was doing drugs and I asked her to stop and she would cry  
6 to me and say, "I can't. I just don't know how to do  
7 that."

8 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** I understand, and you  
9 had said you know, she had suffered some abuse too, but  
10 even as an adult she experienced some domestic abuse too,  
11 can you please, tell the Commissioner a little bit about  
12 that.

13 **MS. CRYSTAL DAVEY:** Yes. So we lived in  
14 Thunder Bay and Nipigon, when I was born and my sister was  
15 born, after my parents divorced my mom had a -- a number of  
16 very abusive relationships where she would get physically  
17 abused and there were times that I would try to protect her  
18 and -- and also suffer abuse myself.

19 We actually left Ontario to go to B.C. to  
20 escape some of that abuse and we didn't know anyone there.  
21 I'm not sure why we ended up there, but she continued to  
22 have many different relationships with men who were very  
23 abusive, and there were times in the middle of the night  
24 where we'd have to pack up and just leave and -- and run  
25 out. And that's how -- like she -- when things were

1 happening to us then that's when she would say, "This is  
2 enough," and go. But when it was just her she would take  
3 the abuse and -- and you know, when you don't have a lot of  
4 supports, even if someone hurts you you feel like that's  
5 all you have. Yeah, and it's really affected the way that  
6 I view men as well.

7 And that today is very difficult for me  
8 because I didn't know if I should do a public testimony  
9 because then it puts me in the spotlight, and I actually  
10 fear that I may also be murdered, and it's hard to explain  
11 to people who may not understand the things that people  
12 have gone through -- yeah.

13 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** If you could -- and  
14 only to what you're comfortable sharing, tell us a little  
15 bit more about when you were in B.C., and when your brother  
16 came along, and if you could share with the Commissioner a  
17 little bit more about your life in B.C.

18 **MS. CRYSTAL DAVEY:** Okay. So I remember when  
19 my mom got pregnant with my brother and I was really  
20 excited because by this time I was a bit older and I was  
21 really interested in you know, how babies were born, and  
22 how my mom was taking care of herself, and I would get  
23 upset with her because she continued to use drugs and  
24 alcohol. And I think she was trying to do better, but her  
25 addictions were strong and she had lots to deal with that

1 she couldn't.

2 And I do remember a time when you know, she  
3 hadn't felt my brother move for a long time, and she was  
4 cooking a meal for us, which was my favorite, and she burnt  
5 her stomach and felt -- felt him move finally, and then she  
6 said, "Oh, I -- I haven't felt him move for a long time."

7 So she went to the hospital, and he was born,  
8 and he was okay, but he had a number of challenges himself  
9 you know, with like neonatal abstinence syndrome, and some  
10 issue said with fetal alcohol. But again when he was born  
11 she you know, stuck in there, and was around, and was  
12 really trying.

13 And we had Child Welfare come check on us a  
14 few times because obviously they were concerned that she  
15 would be gone for many days at a time. And we did go  
16 through a family resource program where they were trying to  
17 help give her some skills, and I think deep down she felt  
18 that maybe she couldn't do it and she needed more help  
19 because the day before we were supposed to be done with the  
20 program she left that night. And I just carried on like I  
21 did every day and sent my sister to school.

22 And later on when my mom -- the last time I  
23 spoke to her was when I was in grade eight and she was in a  
24 drug rehab program and -- and she called me and said that  
25 she didn't expect me to ever forgive her for what she has

1 done, and that she tried the best she could, and she wanted  
2 a better life for us.

3 And -- and I don't blame her now. I  
4 understand some of the things she's gone through and  
5 it's -- things are hard for me, and I've overcome a lot,  
6 and I can't imagine to not be able to overcome some of  
7 those things, and to really have to deal with all of that  
8 firsthand.

9 So we were put into foster care, and although  
10 my mom lived in abusive relationships she never hurt us.  
11 And the first foster home we went in was an emergency home,  
12 we were only there for three days, and we always -- me and  
13 my siblings always slept together, and we were always  
14 together, and we were split up in the same home, but in  
15 different rooms, and my brother was crying in the morning  
16 and I -- and I heard -- I heard a slap, and I went in the  
17 room and the foster mom had spanked him and he was just --  
18 just a baby. And I said that that's not right. And she  
19 basically said that I was making it up. And I was trying  
20 to grab him to save him, to protect him, and she struggled  
21 with me and threw me down the stairs.

22 So I ran out of the house, and across the  
23 street, and I called my mom to come help, but the home was  
24 like, hours away from where we lived, so she had to get out  
25 there quickly, and she arrived at the same time as the



1 social workers and the police did.

2 And I had bruises and scratch marks on me and  
3 they didn't believe me. They thought it was from my  
4 mother, or why I was placed in care. And I said, "I can't  
5 stay in this home. Like I don't understand how this home  
6 is safer for me than my own home when this wouldn't happen  
7 to me."

8 So we were put in another foster home. We  
9 were luckily kept together. It's really hard to keep three  
10 children in the same place, and I had a really good foster  
11 home with the Blade (ph) family, and I had a hard time  
12 giving up my maternal role though. I would fight with her  
13 often and say, "You're not doing that right. That's not  
14 right." This -- you know, my brother had asthma, I said,  
15 "That's not how you work that machine." And she really  
16 wanted me to be a kid. And I still don't know how to do  
17 that.

18 So we had lived there for a while and my mom  
19 would have visits with us pretty much every weekend, and  
20 then the visits -- she'd miss one, she'd miss two, we'd  
21 wait by the stairs, by the front door, and then she stopped  
22 coming.

23 So my dad's family -- and I didn't see much  
24 of my dad growing up. My parents really didn't get along  
25 well, and I was young so I didn't really know much about

1       how people didn't get along. I just knew my dad was  
2       somewhere.

3                   Anyway, so his parents invited me back to  
4       Nipigon to come for Christmas. And my sister, brother, and  
5       I we have different fathers and my sister went to visit her  
6       father's mom. My sister's father was also murdered, so she  
7       has had a hard time growing up having both of her parents  
8       have gone as well.

9                   So I lived with my grandparents for a while,  
10      but we had now gotten split up and my brothers, my brother  
11      was adopted in B.C., and it was supposed to be sort of  
12      an -- more of an open adoption but as soon as he moved in  
13      with them they wanted him to have some time to settle, so  
14      they cut off contact with us, and continued to not have  
15      contact for many -- many years. I would write him letters  
16      and send him presents and he never received any of those.

17                  This might be a good time to talk about him a  
18      little bit. Is that okay?

19                  **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Yes.

20                  **MS. CRYSTAL DAVEY:** So I was -- his  
21      parents -- his adoptive parents invited my sister and I to  
22      visit him, and I can't think of old I was, but I probably  
23      was 17 or 18, and we met them in Victoria, B.C.

24                  And they let us take him on a day trip and  
25      walked around, kind of thing. And he said to me, "My dad

1       hurts me." And he was so small and -- and I said, "Well,  
2       what do you mean?" And he said, "My dad hurts me and he  
3       pulls my hair and he -- he hits me, and hurts me." And I  
4       just felt helpless because he's like my son too, and my  
5       sister -- like I raised them, and I felt like I had done  
6       him a disservice that I couldn't take care of him.

7                So I told Children's Aid, I said, "I don't  
8       know what to do." And my foster mom there, she said,  
9       "Crystal, you know what you have to do." So I made a  
10      statement. Again, they said there was no proof. They  
11      didn't believe me. And he was placed back in that home.  
12      And then they cut off contact again because they said it --  
13      even though it's confidential, they obviously could tell  
14      who was the one that disclosed it.

15             So during that time he continued to be  
16      abused, and it wasn't till he was a teenager when he was --  
17      he was on a football team and he was doing quite well, and  
18      I guess he started fighting back and they couldn't handle  
19      him anymore. So they asked me to come out, to see him, to  
20      talk to him, because they knew I was a nurse and that I had  
21      worked with child and adolescent mental health and they  
22      said, "We don't know what to do with him."

23             And I thought he had really good insight. He  
24      was able to say to me, "You know --" we were at a hockey  
25      game and he said, "It's very busy in here. I'm feeling

1 very overwhelmed", so we left.

2 So at that time he asked if he could come  
3 live with me and I couldn't. And I said, "I'd be happy to  
4 bring you to Thunder Bay and find you a place." I can't --  
5 I -- I've done -- like so much work on me too, that I  
6 needed that space for me, and then now I regret that. So  
7 he continued to live in B.C., and struggled on his own, and  
8 -- and I -- I'm not sure what happened to him in those home  
9 -- in that home.

10 But this -- this summer he -- he was  
11 murdered, and I can't talk about it because it's an open  
12 case, but his alleged murderer is out on bail and I don't  
13 understand that.

14 And I feel like I wish I could have done more  
15 for him, and my life compared to his life was so different,  
16 and that could have been my life because I -- I'm lucky to  
17 have the supports and people that are there for me, but he  
18 really didn't.

19 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Crystal, I think it's  
20 fair to say too, that you believe there's a connection and  
21 tie because although we've talked about Troy, and that he  
22 was recently murdered, part of the path of his life was a  
23 result of first being put into care, but then also when  
24 your mother became missing. And so the entire connection  
25 between the children left behind, can you, please, tell me

1 your -- tell the Commissioner your thoughts on that.

2 **MS. CRYSTAL DAVEY:** So going back to my mom,  
3 so recently there was a family gathering in Prince George,  
4 and I went there, and that was the last time I saw my  
5 brother and my sister. We were all there together, and it  
6 was really great for us to have that opportunity.

7 We didn't often talk about my mom because my  
8 brother and sister were very young and felt like they  
9 didn't remember her as much as I did. But when we were  
10 there we talked about her a lot and my sister -- the -- the  
11 one thing she thought was that my mom left us to find a new  
12 family. That's what she thought why my mom never came  
13 back.

14 And my brother was quite angry. He felt sort  
15 of the same, he said, "Why -- why am I not good enough?"  
16 And -- and that disconnect between us, he felt like -- you  
17 said, "Well, you and -- you and Candice are off leading  
18 your perfect lives and you left me behind." Which is not  
19 true. When we explained to him that we had sent him all of  
20 these things he was like, "Well, why wouldn't they have  
21 given that to me?" And I said, "I -- I don't -- I don't  
22 the answer to that."

23 Yeah. So over time maybe I'll go back to  
24 living in Nipigon. I hadn't done any work on myself. I  
25 wasn't able to -- or ready to work on the issues from my

1 past, so I was going into my teenage years and I think I  
2 was pretty difficult. I was numbing with drugs and alcohol  
3 and seriously contemplated suicide.

4 And I realized that the place I was in with  
5 my grandparents wasn't the best place for me. And I asked  
6 to be placed back into foster care. And I got to be a part  
7 of a wonderful family, the Dupuis (ph) family, who were  
8 really there to help support me and not turn me away. And  
9 even if I was bad and rude and whatever, loved me  
10 unconditionally, and I -- I felt like that might have been  
11 the first time I really felt that.

12 When the news of my mom being added to the  
13 list of the missing and murdered women in B.C. was  
14 devastating to me. I had sort of followed the case of  
15 Robert Pickton, and the first list went out and I was very  
16 happy to not have her on that list. I felt -- I felt  
17 guilty about that though because there was so many people  
18 and families who have been affected. And then shortly  
19 after her name was added, and I was -- yeah, I was in  
20 shock. I -- I really was hoping that you know, she maybe  
21 found a man, a sugar daddy, to take care of her and she was  
22 off somewhere, you know. And the RCMP came to me in  
23 Thunder Bay to take a DNA sample, which was the hardest day  
24 of my life, but they didn't find her DNA on the property.

25 When I was in B.C. last spring for the

1 gathering I met with the RCMP there and reviewed her case.  
2 And they said her case is not closed, and they will take  
3 new information if they need to, but even though her DNA  
4 wasn't found there they assume that she was murdered by  
5 Robert Pickton because that was the time where he was the  
6 most active, and he was in that same area, and she was  
7 there.

8 And then I said, "Well, is it possible that  
9 she maybe left the country? You know, is there -- is there  
10 a possibility that she could be somewhere else?" And they  
11 said, "Not likely." She was quite ill. She had hepatitis  
12 and HIV and she wasn't accessing healthcare. She wasn't  
13 cashing -- cashing any of her social security cheques, and  
14 the last time she was seen was in 1998 at one of the hotels  
15 there and -- and not since.

16 So when I went to B.C. I was really hoping  
17 for closure, and to give me a sense of you know, at least  
18 if I knew then I can grieve, but it's sort of just still  
19 left open and unknown, which is hard.

20 So to honour her memory and to have a place  
21 for me and my family to visit, I had a memory tree made for  
22 her, and it's by -- by a lake here in Thunder Bay and I can  
23 go visit it any time.

24 And after my brother passed away I got his  
25 ashes and I spread some of his ashes there so that they are

1 re-united in the spirit world. And that may be the only  
2 way that we are reunited again.

3 And I think that the memorial tree is like,  
4 such an important thing, right, we know our roots, right.  
5 A tree has roots. And we flourish together, and to try to  
6 take something so tragic and try to see positivity in it.

7 And it's just a place to go to remember  
8 because -- because she is missing. She doesn't have a  
9 grave. She never had a funeral. And so I just feel she's  
10 just lost in the spirit world, so I need to honour her, and  
11 not forget her, and not let anyone else forget her.

12 And to not remember her as -- as a victim and  
13 to not remember her as a sex trade worker or a drug user.  
14 She is a strong woman, a beautiful spirit, and did the best  
15 she could with what she had.

16 We need to stop labeling our people because  
17 it dehumanizes them. It makes it okay that they're  
18 disposable. And it's not okay.

19 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** So if I could go back  
20 and ask just a couple of quick questions to clarify a few  
21 things.

22 You were talking about the fact that your mom  
23 ended on a second list. Maybe we can just contextualize  
24 what that list was, and what processes, if any, were  
25 involved once she was on a list as one of Pickton's



1 victims.

2 MS. CRYSTAL DAVEY: So being younger too, I  
3 wasn't clear on the process, and being so far away  
4 geographically, I think it was hard to connect with  
5 families who weren't in B.C. So the first list came out  
6 and then like a few days later they added a few more women,  
7 and I think because for one, even though my mother hadn't  
8 been seen since 1998 again we kind of assumed she was you  
9 know, out, and we would hear from her when we needed to.  
10 But then the realization was that, no, something's wrong  
11 and maybe she's a part of that.

12 So her brother put in a missing person's  
13 report on her, and it was really difficult, and the media  
14 was trying to get statements from me. They -- they were  
15 calling my place of work, trying to get a good story. And  
16 I think that's -- some of the issues we have where media is  
17 very powerful and I think we need to be focused on truth  
18 telling, and again not labeling people.

19 Also my brother and sister and my name were  
20 disclosed in an article and my sister and brother were  
21 minors at the time, and my sister got bullied at school,  
22 saying terrible things, like, "Your -- your -- your  
23 mother's a whore," and that she would end up just like her.  
24 I don't know how that people were able to disclose that  
25 information, and my brother and sister were not ready for

1 that.

2 There were some support systems that would  
3 give sort of monthly or weekly updates on the trial and  
4 things, and I had moved a couple of times so I lost contact  
5 with them. And to be honest, I wasn't ready to work  
6 through that. And it hasn't been till the last few years I  
7 -- I'm ready to do that work. And the more -- the more  
8 work that I do the more has to be done, and I think that's  
9 the hardest part.

10 And to survive I would shut down and -- and  
11 shield myself because I needed to take care of two small  
12 children. I needed to take care of myself. I needed to  
13 survive. And those are so hardwired in me now that it's  
14 really hard to turn it off.

15 And I've been crying for like a month, and I  
16 never cry, and so I know that these tears have to come out.  
17 And it's okay, and this testimony is also part of my  
18 healing journey, but I really want to raise more awareness.

19 There's still so many people who don't know  
20 about the Inquiry, don't know about the TRC. Don't know  
21 about colonization and intergenerational trauma like, it's  
22 kind of terrifying. And you know, we come up with  
23 recommendations about different things, but we're really  
24 treating the symptoms.

25 And as a nurse practitioner you don't just

1 treat symptoms. You want to prevent things from happening.  
2 You want to start before it gets to the point so just  
3 putting a band-aid on things it's not going to fix it,  
4 right. We need to go back to those systemic things, and  
5 still lots of systemic racism, and in my work doing  
6 policies and processes I see that.

7 It's not -- there are -- there is overt  
8 racism, but there's just those little microaggression  
9 things that happen you know, in a room, and -- and I speak  
10 out and sort of get an eye roll or, "There she goes again."  
11 And that's not okay. But it's hard to stand up for that.

12 Sometimes if you're the only Anishinaabe  
13 person you're expected to speak for all Anishinaabe, all  
14 First Nation, all Inuit, all Métis people. And that's not  
15 now it works, yeah.

16 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** So on the same line  
17 of what you're talking about now in term of racism, and you  
18 actually really made a point earlier about the labeling  
19 that you're seeing happening like with your mother, and  
20 with other missing and murdered Indigenous women, and so  
21 sort of those microaggressions you're talking about now.

22 In terms of growing up and going through  
23 those what are some of the things, or lessons that we  
24 should be taking and thinking about as a whole group in  
25 society, as opposed to just having a few go through that

1 lived experience?

2 MS. CRYSTAL DAVEY: So I think for one, as  
3 Indigenous people I think we need to be proud of who we  
4 are. When I was younger and I lived in B.C., I didn't go  
5 by the name Hardy when I was there because I didn't want  
6 people to know that I was an Anishinaabe person. I went by  
7 Galloway.

8 And then when I moved here there was more  
9 people that I recognized, and more people that I felt  
10 comfortable with, so I started going by Hardy, and I think  
11 that's -- that's really -- really sad, you know. And when  
12 you do speak out and -- and you are a strong advocate then  
13 you know people want you on committees or they want you to  
14 speak on behalf of everyone and it -- it feels like  
15 tokenism.

16 But we also need non-Indigenous people to  
17 really work and be allies because sometimes it's easier to  
18 hear those messages from someone -- so as an Indigenous  
19 person saying to you, "This is what our people suffered."  
20 Sometimes it feels like it's an judgement, or that it's  
21 like "Oh, you know, again here we go again." But if it  
22 comes from a non-Indigenous person they say, "You know,  
23 what know this is what it is," then sometimes people are  
24 more apt to listen to that.

25 And I think we talk about processes we have

1 that you know, we should be top down and bottom up. But  
2 like the medicine wheel we're all connected. We need to do  
3 it together. It's a circle. It's not up and down, down  
4 and up, it's we're all people. We're all Treaty people.  
5 We're all people of mother earth, and we need to work  
6 together to do that work, and to -- to not judge each  
7 other.

8                   And when people, you know -- when myself, if  
9 I talk about the issues that have happened in the past, I'm  
10 not saying -- blamed anyone. It's what happened. It's the  
11 truth.

12                   We need to be not afraid to speak the truth  
13 because we can't have reconciliation before the truth has  
14 been said. Before people realize what's actually happened,  
15 and we need to really fight that social indifference  
16 because it's like, "Well, that's not my family," right.  
17 And I've heard other people say that you know, the people  
18 who are with you and help you say, "Fine, looking for  
19 missing people --" it should be the whole community that  
20 does that. It should not just be family members, it should  
21 -- we're all connected. We're all connected we need to do  
22 the work together and we shouldn't look at race, but at the  
23 same time the issues that we have are related to race and  
24 we need to acknowledge it. But we don't need to stick --  
25 stay stuck in it.

1 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Another point of  
2 clarification and maybe you can help explain your thoughts  
3 on this. You were talking about the instance when your  
4 siblings name and ended up in a media article when they  
5 were still youth, and young. What are your thoughts on  
6 some of the stereotypes or the perceptions particularly of  
7 missing and murdered Indigenous women... and the  
8 characterizations, is it improving compared to you know,  
9 earlier days or what are your thoughts on it?

10 **MS. CRYSTAL DAVEY:** I'm going to say a -- a  
11 firm no on that.

12 Again, the label -- labeling of people, and  
13 almost giving a reason, so she did sex trade work and of  
14 course, she's going to be at risk, so it's almost her fault  
15 that she's missing, right. That it's -- the blame is put  
16 on the victim over and over and over and over again, and  
17 why do we blame a victim? They're a victim because they  
18 weren't able to do those things, right. They didn't have  
19 supports. But it just continues, right.

20 And -- and not even just missing and murdered  
21 women, but women in general who want to come forward to say  
22 the abuses that they have suffered, and sometimes they're  
23 not believed; or blamed. "What were you wearing?" "How  
24 come you were walking out at night by yourself?"

25 Our bodies are sacred, and we are sacred

1 people together, and why are we not making an effort to  
2 help and change these things from happening?

3 We -- you know, for recommendations we've had  
4 years and years, we know what's going on. But I still  
5 think it's important for the Inquiry to have people to  
6 share their truth, and to be acknowledged, and to do that  
7 healing work. But we need to start making action. We need  
8 to start changing things.

9 In looking at processes, and -- and that sort  
10 of systemic racism that happens, it's sometimes  
11 unintentional, right, but it's -- when there's policies or  
12 processes that either privilege someone or disadvantage  
13 someone then that's a problem. And I feel like -- you as a  
14 person if you reflect yourself, and you don't consider  
15 yourself a disadvantaged person then you're privileged.  
16 And that doesn't mean that's a bad thing, but I think we  
17 need to acknowledge the privileges that we have, and to use  
18 our resources that we have to help people who are  
19 disadvantaged.

20 And I think we need to really be careful on  
21 how things are portrayed in the media and -- and there's so  
22 many negative things that happen and just reinforce  
23 stereotypes that don't need to happen. Rarely do you see  
24 positive stories about people who have done well. And if  
25 you do, it's short lived and -- and maybe that's how we

1 view things as just people in general, and as a culture,  
2 that we, you know, when something bad happens, we need to  
3 know right away. We want all the gory details. But why do  
4 we need to know that? And I don't have an answer to that.

5 But I would like to see more role models, and  
6 that's what I like to be myself, and that's another reason  
7 why I'm here today, is to give people strength to tell  
8 their stories, and it doesn't have to be public. It  
9 doesn't have to be to everyone. But to not hold that in  
10 anymore. It doesn't help you. You need to tell the story  
11 to heal. And there's so many more people who have been  
12 hurt. Who have been abused. Who have suffered violence.  
13 Who haven't shared their story, or said a thing about it.

14 And I hope that with me being here today I  
15 just encourage you to please do that, to please talk to  
16 someone.

17 And you know, a lot of the work I do, being a  
18 role model is so important to me, and especially to my  
19 daughter. You know, my mother was a role model to me.  
20 Again, she's a strong woman, did what she had. She was  
21 very resourceful. And I like to emulate those  
22 characteristics in my life. I'm happy that I've changed  
23 and broken the cycle of -- of violence in my family.

24 As a child I've gone to more than 40  
25 different schools. I never could make friends. My



1 daughter's been in the same school since she was born --  
2 well, since she went to kindergarten. She has all her same  
3 friends. She's never experienced violence. They were  
4 learning in school about violence the other day and she  
5 couldn't believe that -- that there's violence in cartoons.  
6 And I want to be a strong role model for her so that she's  
7 able to change her children's future too.

8 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Thank you. You've  
9 actually talked it role modeling, and I think some of the  
10 most important components of role modeling for you  
11 personally. And I know you're very modest. So in terms of  
12 role modeling you know, you've, you've explained to the  
13 commission that you're a nurse practitioner. So maybe you  
14 could tell him a little bit more about what you're doing  
15 now, and particularly the -- the question I have for you,  
16 and I'm sorry I'm so long winded on this point, but the  
17 question I have for you is you know, how do you find  
18 strength? And where do you -- how do you come from what  
19 you've been through and end up where you are, so what are  
20 the lessons we should be taking away from that?

21 But again, if you could start maybe with  
22 explaining what you do now and how you got there.

23 **MS. CRYSTAL DAVEY:** Okay. So I'm a primary  
24 healthcare nurse practitioner. I work at our local  
25 university. I'm a faculty member there, and I teach

1 undergrad nursing. I'm also the Aboriginal cancer lead for  
2 the Northwest Region with Cancer Care Ontario, and the  
3 hospital here. I've done different spokesperson work for a  
4 local Children's Aid Foundation to help other children in  
5 care to see that it is possible to go further.

6 And I've gained a lot of my strength one,  
7 through people who support me, and I'm happy that I have so  
8 many supports here today.

9 Through Creator, and -- and learning as I go  
10 and -- and accepting lessons. We learn lessons from good  
11 things and from bad things, and to balance darkness and the  
12 light, right. We can't just have one or the other. And  
13 sometimes you need that darkness to see the brightest star  
14 shining. And that really resonates with me because I feel  
15 like I've had a lot of darkness in my life.

16 Preparing for this I was thinking of all the  
17 people in my family who are not here anymore. And there's  
18 too many -- there's too many.

19 And I feel like I'm still learning. I know  
20 that I'm not perfect, and I know that I have a long way to  
21 go, but it's really asking for help when you need it, and  
22 people will help you.

23 It's trusting in Creator, Great Spirit, God,  
24 whatever your beliefs are, and being there for other people  
25 and trying to build community and you know, giving

1 people -- again, now I feel I'm a privileged person just to  
2 help people who aren't as privileged as I am. And I've  
3 worked really hard to get where I am.

4 It's not luck. But it is trust. Trusting  
5 Creator, trusting the path, and working hard through it.  
6 And I think although many people in my family -- I mean you  
7 know, have been murdered, but also people dying from  
8 chronic disease, like, again if we think of the medicine  
9 wheel we focus so much on the physical, which is only  
10 really a quarter of what we need to focus on, so it's no  
11 wonder our people so sick, and why we're dying so young.

12 And yeah, just not thinking of yourself as --  
13 as singular being, that we are all connected and we need to  
14 work together. And again, I'm still working on my own  
15 journey of asking for help because it's not easy for me.  
16 Yeah.

17 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** One of the things you  
18 were talking about as a role model was that you now  
19 actually do something where you go talk to other kids in  
20 foster care, you know, about achievement and hard work.  
21 Can you tell us a little bit more about that, or maybe talk  
22 about how that is a type of thing that helps, and that is  
23 important for Indigenous kids to have access to.

24 **MS. CRYSTAL DAVEY:** M'hm. So I think it does  
25 stem back to how there's lots of negative things in the

1 media, right, and -- and -- and I think about how when I  
2 was young I -- I didn't want to know -- people to know that  
3 I was Indigenous.

4 We all need to be proud of who we are. But  
5 it's hard to do when all you hear is negative things, and  
6 that you know, people are drunks, or they're on pills or  
7 you know people are hurting each other.

8 So having a positive role model, and I have  
9 many people I look up to, and -- and I strive to do the  
10 things that they do, has really helped me. And I know when  
11 I was in foster care I was one of the first children to --  
12 to -- to finish high school, to go to postsecondary, and we  
13 had a celebration. And I remember getting an award to help  
14 put toward a laptop or a computer, and the other kids were  
15 young and they just looked at me and they said, "Wow,  
16 that's so cool." And I said, "Yeah, it's super cool." And  
17 I said, "You can go to university. You can go to college.  
18 You can do whatever you want, right. I did it."

19 And -- and for them to see the adversity you  
20 know, and they're living it, to know that it is possible I  
21 think then gives us an opportunity to really have something  
22 to strive for. To know you know that there are people who  
23 you know, who we can connect with that and we can aspire to  
24 be.

25 In the media -- and I keep talking about the

1 media, but even in like, movies and things like that,  
2 there's not very many Indigenous people, right -- like, so  
3 when you see -- when you see one or two, it's fine, "Oh, I  
4 got to see that movie, right."

5 But really to know that we have so many  
6 people that are strong and doing wonderful things, that it  
7 is possible for everyone to do that.

8 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** Do you have any  
9 particular recommendations based on everything you've gone  
10 through with your mom and your life experience in  
11 particular that you want to share with the Commission?

12 **MS. CRYSTAL DAVEY:** So I'm super nerdy and I  
13 made a bunch of cards -- cue cards, but I feel like I did  
14 speak to a lot of the things that -- that were important to  
15 me, but if you give me a moment I'll just look. You can  
16 tell I did a good job, I'm skipping through.

17 **MS. CHRISTE BIG CANOE:** (Indiscernible).

18 **MS. CRYSTAL DAVEY:** Okay. I think a  
19 really -- really big piece is helping individuals and  
20 families building skills. Through residential school, as  
21 many of you know, families were disconnected. And if you  
22 grew up in residential school, and were lucky enough to  
23 survive and -- and go back to your home, many people felt  
24 that they weren't connected to their own communities any  
25 more. That they weren't able to practice ceremony. To

1 speak the language.

2 But in those years -- from -- you know, four  
3 or five to 16 or 17 you're really learning how to be a  
4 person, how to live, how to cook. How to clean. How to  
5 work. And we learn that from our parents. We learn that  
6 from our community members. But many of those people  
7 couldn't learn those things and so that trauma again goes  
8 through the generations and those skills are lost. And now  
9 we're trying to get those skills back, but again it's not  
10 an overnight thing, so we need to have people -- skills to  
11 parent. To cook. To take care of themselves.

12 But in a good way, that it's not you know,  
13 paternalistic, where we're coming and saying, "We need to  
14 do this for you." It needs to be, "What -- what can we do  
15 to help you?" "Do you want our help?" And sometimes we  
16 are so sick, our communities and people, that the trauma  
17 has been normalized, and that seems like just a normal  
18 function.

19 So you know, maybe someone was abuse in  
20 residential school, they continue to get abused once they  
21 leave, maybe they abuse themselves. We need to really heal  
22 all of that. And again, that's not an overnight thing.

23 And that's what I'm learning myself is that  
24 we need patience, but we need tolerance, as well, to be  
25 able -- people can tell their story and not feel judged.

1 And people need to receive that story and not feel blamed.  
2 That we -- we all need to be together to -- to help each  
3 other. We are, again, all spirits of Creation, and we  
4 really need to -- it's not us against them. It's us  
5 together. And that's the only way we can do things now.  
6 We can't be fighting. We need to heal.

7 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** May I ask a couple of  
8 questions about the memorial tree?

9 **MS. CRYSTAL DAVEY:** Yeah.

10 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** And that is even as a  
11 concept or an idea, what -- what would be a good way? We  
12 know, for you what you've chosen to do to memorialize your  
13 mom, what are other ways or how are ways we could increase  
14 that type of way to make memory of these women, like your  
15 mother?

16 **MS. CRYSTAL DAVEY:** Well, I said this before,  
17 but I don't want her remembered as a victim. As a sex  
18 trade worker. As a drug addict. As a thief, whatever. I  
19 want her to be remembered as the strong women she is, and  
20 was.

21 And I think we need to continue to remember  
22 people who have gone on before us, and even people who are  
23 still here, because I think the people who are still here  
24 struggle, and even though I don't think it's intentional,  
25 we judge them, and we judge their actions and -- and

1 they're suffering, and need help.

2 But to always remember our loved ones in a  
3 good way, and to celebrate them, and to not forget them.  
4 Even if you know, for me to not be able to have closure of  
5 a funeral, and -- and things like that, but to still  
6 celebrate her and to know -- let her know that I still love  
7 her and I carry on her memory. And that what she's gone  
8 through hasn't been for naught.

9 And that I'm hoping you know today too why  
10 I'm sharing these things to make things better for my  
11 daughter, and for my future relations, and I just really  
12 want to say, *migwetch*, for listening to me today, and I  
13 feel like I've probably have more to say, but Creator's  
14 telling me I'm done for now, but I'm not done forever.  
15 *Migwetch*.

16 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** And so just one point  
17 on clarification. You talked about being in a place of  
18 privilege, and being able to do things now, and because you  
19 raised this idea with the memorial tree, the question I  
20 have for you is should there -- you know, would a good  
21 recommendation be to provide the type of resources that  
22 people who can't afford something like a memorial tree --

23 **MS. CRYSTAL DAVEY:** M'hm.

24 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** -- or what they need,  
25 would that be a good recommendation?



1           **MS. CRYSTAL DAVEY:** I think it would. It is  
2 an expensive thing to do. But I felt like you know, we  
3 could pull together to do that because it is important, and  
4 although it wasn't a funeral or a ceremony. I wasn't able  
5 to access funds for that, so I think for -- for families  
6 who are -- you know, think that they would like to do  
7 something like this, I think it would be a really -- really  
8 good gesture to be able to help them do that. To help them  
9 with their healing. Yeah. Yeah.

10           **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** I have no further  
11 questions at this point, but Commissioner Eyolfson may have  
12 some.

13           **COMMISSIONER BRIAN EYOLFSON:** Thank you very  
14 much for sharing your truths with us.

15           I just -- was very interested in a lot of  
16 things you said about wanting to raise awareness about you  
17 know, the TRC, the National Inquiry, colonialism,  
18 intergenerational effects, and you then went on to address  
19 some of that, and answered some of the questions I had, but  
20 I'm wondering if, based on your experience -- your life  
21 experience and your work experience as well, you -- you  
22 also just mentioned in terms of recommendations about  
23 helping with building skills, but not paternalistic way  
24 because of the intergenerational effects of residential  
25 schools, you also talked about trauma and the need to heal.

1 I'm just wondering if you have any -- any thoughts on --  
2 about -- I don't want to keep you here too long, but --

3 **MS. CRYSTAL DAVEY:** Yeah.

4 **COMMISSIONER BRIAN EYOLFSON:** -- your  
5 thoughts about -- --

6 **MS. CRYSTAL DAVEY:** That's fine.

7 **COMMISSIONER BRIAN EYOLFSON:** -- about how  
8 best to go about doing that in terms of --

9 **MS. CRYSTAL DAVEY:** M'hm.

10 **COMMISSIONER BRIAN EYOLFSON:** -- you know,  
11 through what type of programs, or whatever.

12 **MS. CRYSTAL DAVEY:** Sure, yeah, thank you.

13 So I -- I think that we need safe places, is a -- is a huge  
14 piece, right. And what's really hard when we think about a  
15 space where we -- you know, say for young people, or a  
16 place where you know, sort of vulnerable people can meet,  
17 also makes a place where predators go, so we need to be  
18 very careful of that.

19 But if we have a safe place to -- to share,  
20 and that can be Indigenous and non-Indigenous people, and  
21 things don't need to be structured. Like, it doesn't have  
22 to be show up at 4:00, and we're going to do the skill, and  
23 you're going to do this and you're going to sign this  
24 evaluation form. And -- and to not say we're going to --  
25 we're going to teach you how to cook. Like, because then

1 that's a deficit base, right? We want to really be  
2 strength based, and be like we're having "Kookum's  
3 Kitchen", we're going to work together and we're going to  
4 make this meal and you're going to take food home.

5 And then in that way you have that informal  
6 way of making role models too, where you have people, and  
7 you're building community, and building skills, and people  
8 will continue to come to those places to meet, and to share  
9 and to heal together. And to have places where -- if  
10 people want to do traditional ceremony or if they prefer to  
11 do their own prayer, or their own type of spiritual work  
12 they can do that.

13 But I think what's important to remember too,  
14 is people facilitating those may have their own trauma, so  
15 it's not an easy process to do, and we need to have lots of  
16 supports and -- and systems that are not so -- trying to  
17 think of the word I want to use. That it's not so  
18 systematic. Like, it's not so, this has to happen before  
19 this happens, before this happens.

20 Again, it's not linear. We think it's more  
21 secular, and that at any point in time we're somewhere on  
22 that medicine wheel, and wherever we are it doesn't matter  
23 there shouldn't be judgment there and that we're just  
24 learning as we learn.

25 But I think a safe space where people can

1 share and -- and grow and live together would be important.

2 COMMISSIONER BRIAN EYOLFSON: Thank you.

3 Very much. I don't have any other questions. I just want  
4 to thank you, Crystal, for coming and sharing and talking  
5 about your mother, but also for your very thoughtful  
6 recommendations and participating and contributing to the  
7 Inquiry. And --

8 MS. CRYSTAL DAVEY: Thank you.

9 COMMISSIONER BRIAN EYOLFSON: -- thank you  
10 very much.

11 MS. CRYSTAL DAVEY: *Migwetch.*

12 COMMISSIONER BRIAN EYOLFSON: And before you  
13 go we just have some gifts of appreciation for you coming  
14 and sharing. I don't know if you heard this morning, but  
15 we talked about some Eagle Feathers that we have that came  
16 from out West, from British Columbia. Originally started  
17 by some Haida Gwaii grandmothers, but the ones we have now  
18 came from Shíshálh, B.C., and they've been --

19 MS. CRYSTAL DAVEY: Wow.

20 COMMISSIONER BRIAN EYOLFSON: -- to the  
21 inquiry to share with people who come and share their  
22 truths with us, and we also have the red dress pins that  
23 were talked this morning, and some -- some seeds as well,  
24 so I'm going to ask the grandmothers to help with those.

25 ELDER LAUREEN BLU WATER: So on behalf of the

1 Commission we'd like to offer you this Eagle Feather to  
2 help with your healing journey. And the other grandmothers  
3 or helpers will come up and present you with their gifts as  
4 well. And thank you for your courage.

5 **MS. CRYSTAL DAVEY:** *Migwetch.*

6 **MS. MARLENE PIERRE:** I'm honoured, my dear  
7 young friend, to pass this blade of Sweetgrass to you, for  
8 you to recall the times that were good with your mother,  
9 and your brothers, and the rest of your family, and count  
10 our blessing.

11 And the greatest blessing is that you are  
12 here today and that all the things that you talked and  
13 shared are all a part of our lives somewhere along the  
14 line. And I really your idea of a memorial tree, that  
15 every community in our area can do that, just one person  
16 needs to start it. And you sound like you are one of those  
17 kind of people. You are the role model now for your own  
18 community for the rest of the -- your family. So I say  
19 *migwetch* to you, have a very good life.

20 **MS. CRYSTAL DAVEY:** Thank you.

21 **MS. MARLENE PIERRE:** Okay. Oh, okay.

22 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** I think there's still  
23 some seeds. Commissioner.

24 **COMMISSIONER BRIAN EYOLFSON:** So these seeds  
25 are just a small token of reciprocity.

1 I just want to say I admire your strength  
2 too, in coming and really sharing this afternoon.

3 **MS. CHRISTA BIG CANOE:** So at -- at this  
4 point, I would like to ask for a break. But I do know that  
5 Crystal would welcome a reception line, much like we had  
6 this morning. If our MC could maybe ask for that. So  
7 we'll call for a 15 minute break, please. But allow Ron  
8 here to invite families to come greet Crystal.

9 **MR. RON KANUTSKI:** Thank you again for the  
10 council, and Commissioners, and Crystal for her truths here  
11 this afternoon. And at this time again, we are going to  
12 open things up to those that want to pass their strength  
13 and love on to Crystal. We'll have a healing song sung for  
14 her and we invite yous to come up. She has given  
15 permission to be hugged. So if she will accept that at  
16 this time, thank you.

17 --- Exhibits (code: P01P08P0102)

18 **Exhibit 1:** Folder of eleven images displayed on  
19 monitors during public hearing.

20 --- Upon recessing at 3:38 p.m.

21  
22 **Hearing # 3**

23 **Witnesses: Carol Quagon, Mary Natawance, Allan Henderson,**  
24 **Bonnie Shapwaykeesic, Diane Geissler, Chief Janice**  
25 **Henderson, James Henderson, Micah Henderson, Raven Kasper,**

[Type text]

1           **Jody Kabatay and Stewart Henderson**  
2           **In Relation to Edith Quagon, Kathleen McGinnis, Sarah Mason**  
3           **Heard by Commissioners Michèle Audette and Brian Eyolfson**  
4           **Commission Counsel: Christa Big Canoe**  
5           **Grandmothers, Elders, Knowledge-keepers: Bernie Skundaal**  
6           **Williams, Laureen Blu Waters, Marlene Pierre, Ma-Na**  
7           **Chacaby, Rita Fenton**

8           --- Upon resuming at 4:44 p.m.

9           --- **OPENING SONG**

10                   **MR. JAMES HENDERSON:** (Speaking Ojibway  
11           language). *Bonjour.* (Speaking Ojibway language) on behalf  
12           of our family this is our way of life. I would like to say  
13           (speaking Ojibway language), *migwetch.*

14                   **MS. JENNIFER COX:** Madam Commissioner and Mr.  
15           Commissioner, I present to you the family of Edith  
16           Quagon -- Quagon, Kathleen McGinnis and Sarah Mason. And I  
17           will get them to introduce themselves to you. Here you go.

18                   **MS. CAROL QUAGON:** Hi, I'm Carol Quagon from  
19           Mitaanjigamiing First Nation.

20                   **MS. MARY NATAWANCE:** I'm Mary Natawance from  
21           Mitaanjigamiing First Nation.

22                   **MS. BONNIE SHAPWAYKEESIC:** Bonnie  
23           Shapwaykeesic from Mitaanjigamiing First Nation.

24                   **MS. DIANE GEISLER:** Diane Geissler, from  
25           Rainy River First Nation.

[Type text]

1                   **CHIEF JANICE HENDERSON:** *Boujour.* (Speaking  
2                   Ojibway language). My name is Janice Henderson. I'm from  
3                   the Muskrat Clan, and I'm from Mitaanjigamiing. And my mom  
4                   was Edith Quagon.

5                   **MR. ALLAN HENDERSON:** Hello, *bonjour,*  
6                   (speaking Ojibway language). My original name is (speaking  
7                   Ojibway language) and the name they gave me was Allan  
8                   Henderson Jr. Mom was Edith, mom (speaking Ojibway  
9                   language).

10                  **MR. JAMES HENDERSON:** *Bonjour.* (Speaking  
11                  Ojibway language). I'm from Mitaanjigamiing. And Edith is  
12                  my mother, and Kathleen is my aunt, and Sarah is my aunt,  
13                  *migwetch.*

14                  **MR. MICAH HENDERSON:** Hello, *bonjour.*  
15                  (Speaking Ojibway language). My name is Micah Henderson.  
16                  I come from the Muskrat Clan. I come from the reserve  
17                  Mitaanjigamiing First Nation, *migwetch.*

18                  **MS. RAVEN KASPER:** Hi, I'm Raven Kasper from  
19                  Mitaanjigamiing First Nation.

20                  **MS. JODY KABATAY:** My name is Jody Kabatay  
21                  and I am from Mitaanjigamiing.

22                  **MR. STEWART HENDERSON:** Stewart Henderson,  
23                  Mitaanjigamiing First Nation. My mom was Edith Quagon,  
24                  too.

25                  **MS. JENNIFER COX:** So before we begin we



[Type text]

1 should do a promise to tell the truth on the Feather.

2 So Mr. Registrar, I'm wondering if perhaps  
3 the family would like to do it all together at one time.  
4 Okay. We have Feathers.

5 **MR. REGISTRAR:** Okay, I'm looking at how to  
6 do this with so many witnesses.

7 You brought your own Feathers today -- your  
8 own sacred Feathers you'd like to use. Okay, we've got  
9 that. Oh, all kinds of things.

10 Okay, does anybody need a -- we've got sacred  
11 Feathers as well for anybody in the back. Yeah? Okay.  
12 That's good. Just one. Okay.

13 The logistics. Okay, so I'll give that one  
14 to you, okay. And good. Two more. I'll take yours as  
15 well, maybe two and two.

16 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Bryan.

17 **MR. REGISTRAR:** Oh, wow. Oh, yeah, I've got  
18 my hands full. You want to bring them over?

19 Okay, here you go Micah. Okay, do you want  
20 to take that one? You're welcome.

21 Okay, well, welcome today, everybody. Do all  
22 of you -- does everybody promise to tell your truth in a  
23 good way today? All the witnesses are saying yes. Thank  
24 you.

25 **CAROL QUAGON, Affirmed:**

[Type text]

1           **MARY NATAWANCE, Affirmed:**

2           **BONNIE SHAPWAYKEESIC, Affirmed:**

3           **DIANE GEISLER, Affirmed:**

4           **CHIEF JANICE HENDERSON, Affirmed:**

5           **ALLAN HENDERSON, Affirmed:**

6           **JAMES HENDERSON, Affirmed:**

7           **MICAH HENDERSON, Affirmed:**

8           **RAVEN KASPER, Affirmed:**

9           **JODY KABATAY, Affirmed:**

10          **STEWART HENDERSON, Affirmed:**

11                   **MS. MARY NATAWANCE:** Three of my sisters got  
12 murdered. Three of my sisters got murdered. My oldest one  
13 was murdered in Minneapolis. My second one is in Alberta.  
14 And my youngest one's in Thunder Bay.

15                   My oldest one was murdered in -- in  
16 Minneapolis. They -- they picked up the two guys that  
17 murdered her, but they never got charged because the  
18 government was -- went on strike so they couldn't take them  
19 people to court. And before they murdered her they raped  
20 her, and then when they got done, they cut her body up.  
21 It's hard to talk about my sisters. Then my second one was  
22 murdered in Alberta. They're still investigating to see  
23 who murdered her. Whoever did that cut her legs off. And  
24 my youngest one was murdered in Thunder Bay. She lived  
25 with this -- this man for ten years. He was from Montreal.

[Type text]

1 All he got was five years (indiscernible).

2 My youngest one left six kids behind, four  
3 girls and two boys. My oldest one -- I don't remember how  
4 much they left, I don't know if it's seven or eight. And  
5 then my second oldest, she left a boy and a girl.

6 So I have my niece here. Her mom was the  
7 second sister. And I got four -- four nieces -- no, two  
8 nieces and two nephews, and some of them are not here. And  
9 her grandchild is here. That's my oldest one. And my  
10 youngest -- did I say youngest already? My second oldest,  
11 she left a boy and a girl.

12 I got -- I got 20 great -- 20 grandchildren  
13 and 17 great grandchildren. They never met their  
14 grandparents. I'm the only one they know.

15 I'm trying to be strong for my family, but  
16 it's hard for me to be strong. I've been dealing with this  
17 since 1967 to 1992. I miss -- I miss my sisters a lot.

18 Right now there's just my little brother and  
19 myself that's left out of nine. It's hard for me to say  
20 what to say.

21 And we all went -- my two oldest sisters and  
22 myself -- no, my three oldest sisters and myself and my  
23 little brother went to the residential school, and it was  
24 hard for us going there.

25 And I'm dealing with the sexual abuse. And

[Type text]

1 my oldest daughter, she's 49, and she was conceived when I  
2 was going to residential school. And it's hard for me to  
3 deal with that too.

4 I've been going through a lot of stuff and  
5 trying to heal myself, but it's hard.

6 Sometimes I wish my -- I wish my sisters were  
7 here because I would like to talk to them when I'm -- when  
8 I'm depressed or stressed -- stressed. So now I just have  
9 my two daughters when I stressed out to talk to. Sometimes  
10 I don't want to talk to them.

11 I got six girls and a step-son. Both of my  
12 parents are gone. My father passed away in '67, my mom in  
13 '80. I'm trying to heal myself.

14 I want to get through this -- this murder of  
15 my sisters. I pray sometimes to see if they could find --  
16 if they could find the couple guys that murdered my sisters  
17 -- my youngest one.

18 She lived with this French man for ten years  
19 and he's the one that -- and he's the one that murdered my  
20 sister. She was going out of the apartment building on  
21 Mary -- Maryanne (sic), or some place by Court Street. She  
22 was walking out of the apartment when he stabbed her. It  
23 was on Valentine's Day. When I met him -- first met him, I  
24 thought he was an -- a nice guy, but I didn't know he was  
25 abusive to my sister.

[Type text]

1 I was wishing that my -- my other family  
2 would be here. My youngest sister's children, they live in  
3 Thunder Bay, but they never came. And my -- my youngest  
4 sister, her name is -- was Sarah Mason, and my second  
5 oldest name is Kathleen McGinnis. And this is her  
6 daughter, Diane. And I got Janice and Junior and James  
7 sitting by the drum. And Stewart sitting back here, and  
8 the three is my grandchildren, and I got two -- two of my  
9 great grandchildren up in the room.

10 So I hope that I get through this. I'm  
11 trying to be strong for everybody in my family because I'm  
12 I'm like a mom and a dad to my niece and nephews because  
13 both of their parents are gone. That's why I'm trying to  
14 be strong.

15 Well, thanks -- thanks for listening to me.  
16 Hum?

17 **MS. DIANE GEISSLER:** My name is Diane  
18 Geissler. I was born in 1963. My birth name is Diane Mary  
19 McGinnis. My birth mother was Kathleen McGinnis.

20 In order to better understand how my mother  
21 died, I'll briefly tell you about her life. My mother  
22 lived in Rainy River First Nations, commonly known as  
23 Manitou Rapids, which is not far from Fort Frances. In  
24 fact, she was born in a teepee, and her family lived a  
25 traditional life.



[Type text]

1 Family Services in 1991, and again more recently, confirmed  
2 that my mother did not give us up for adoption. In fact,  
3 my brother and I were removed from her home because my  
4 mother couldn't show that she had a job or could support us  
5 financially. She was not found to be unfit.

6 The information then sets the stage for what  
7 happened in 1978. At the time I was 15 years old and I  
8 knew that I was adopted, but I didn't know who my birth  
9 mother was. I didn't find out about my mother until 1991  
10 when I searched for my birth family. By that time she had  
11 already died. In fact, both my parents were gone.

12 In 2005 I learned that my birth mother was on  
13 the missing and murdered list. After considerable  
14 searching, and with the help of Toronto Star columnist  
15 David Bruser in 2014, I've been able to piece together the  
16 last day of Kathleen McGinnis's life. She was hitchhiking  
17 from Thunder Bay to B.C. because she heard one of her  
18 children might be out there. My brother was. She never  
19 made it. Ten kilometres outside of Calgary she was killed.

20 When I went to get the medical examiner's  
21 report at first they told me I needed to prove she was my  
22 mother. And when I said I was adopted, they told me I  
23 wasn't eligible for that information. Because she gave me  
24 away. And I told them she didn't.

25 There was a woman who worked at the office

[Type text]

1 and she said, "Off the record, if I presented my birth  
2 registration that they would accept it." And she told me  
3 how to apply for that.

4 So I got my birth registration and they sent  
5 me the medical examiner's report. Almost half of it is  
6 whited out because they feel I don't have a right to that  
7 information. And I don't think that's right. I know some  
8 of the information should be whited out, but not as much as  
9 they did. And I hope through this that that's something  
10 that can be changed.

11 My mother wasn't dealt with respect, and I  
12 hope that changes for Anishinaabe women now to be treated  
13 with respect. Thank you.

14 **CHIEF JANICE HENDERSON:** Oh, okay. First of  
15 all, I wanted to acknowledge all of the sacred items, our  
16 drum from our community, Kookumisunon (ph) and the Eagle  
17 staff, and all the sacred items here.

18 And I wanted to thank all the family members  
19 that are here today because I know there were you know,  
20 more that would like have attended, and initially I had  
21 been waiting to do this hearing in our own Treaty  
22 territory, Treaty 3. And last week when I got an email  
23 saying, "Are you still coming here to Thunder Bay?" I was  
24 told that there wasn't going to be one in -- in our area.

25 And I'm currently a Chief of my community and



[Type text]

1 -- and at the opening ceremonies last night Chief Peter  
2 Collin said that, "You know, we will be presenting a  
3 resolution at the Assembly of First Nations in a few days,"  
4 and I informed him that I am prepared to second that. And  
5 we want to ensure that this -- the whole issue of MMIWG,  
6 you know stays at the forefront, and that if we can also  
7 promote one being held in our own Treaty area, and also in  
8 other Treaty areas because you know, only so many people  
9 can attend these, and -- and they need to be in our  
10 communities, on our land, and whether they're in our  
11 traditional round houses, that's really important, so  
12 that's a request.

13 And, and I did speak to you last night  
14 briefly about that, Michèle, so you know, I will get Marion  
15 Buller's email from you. I just haven't had a chance to  
16 send you, and I'm sure you're really very busy.

17 So -- oh, okay. Yeah, okay.

18 So what I have -- actually maybe it's  
19 probably better -- the best way -- like I -- I thought  
20 about how can I tell my story and -- because we've been --  
21 even my cousin, sitting beside me, Diane, we've been --  
22 we've been waiting for this day for many -- many years.  
23 And -- and -- and now that it's actually here, it's -- it's  
24 scary, it's emotional and -- and I told myself I wasn't  
25 going to cry, but my support people. I'm looking right at

[Type text]

1       them over there, Mary Alice (ph) and Darlene (ph), thank  
2       you also for being here.

3               So what -- what I did was I wrote a letter to  
4       my mom that's not too long, but I -- I hope I can read it  
5       because -- so I'll just start, "*Bonjour*," (speaking Ojibway  
6               language) and then, "*Maman*," (speaking  
7               Ojibway language) hello, Mom, I love  
8       you. This is Janice, your daughter.  
9       Dear Mom, I wanted you to know that  
10       first of all -- that first of all I am  
11       okay. I have made my life and have  
12       lived my life as best as possible  
13       without you, without your guidance, and  
14       unconditional love. I was fortunate to  
15       have you in my life for the first five  
16       years, being in residential school from  
17       five to eight, and then becoming a  
18       Crown ward as a result of the '60s  
19       *Scoop*. I miss being with you, Mom,  
20       Dad, and all my siblings growing up.  
21       With the exception of James," sitting  
22       by the drum, "as we were in the same foster home from eight  
23               to about 14. And Allan, Jr.," sitting  
24       beside me here, "was in another home close by for an a  
25               few years. When we left the area

[Type text]

1                   Allan always amazed me like, no matter  
2                   city I was living in he would always  
3                   find me and say, "Hey, sis, it's me.  
4                   I'm here." And you know, he'd be in  
5                   LA, or Montana, wherever -- wherever he  
6                   was he would find me and I don't know  
7                   how, but I was glad. On November --  
8                   November 19th -- November 19 -- 13th,  
9                   1978, Mom, my world was further  
10                  shattered when I received the call  
11                  about your murder. Yes, I did travel  
12                  home from Peterborough, and yes, I did  
13                  attend your funeral. Mom, I was in  
14                  shock and utterly horrified and could  
15                  not fathom the idea of looking into the  
16                  details of your murder until the last  
17                  few years when I went to the library  
18                  with Allan, Jr. in Minneapolis a few  
19                  years ago. I told him, I said, "Let's  
20                  go there." Because I want -- I want  
21                  closure. I want closure on your  
22                  death."

23                  Can I get some Kleenex?

24                  **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Okay grab the Kleenex.

25                  **CHIEF JANICE HENDERSON:** "When" -- yeah,

[Type text]

1                   thanks, "When we went to the  
2                   library I was -- I wanted to read about  
3                   the case --" her case. "I wanted to  
4                   read about your case. And -- and --  
5                   and I was really surprised. And --  
6                   that -- that the case had been  
7                   dropped," and you know, because my mom  
8           -- when she had got murdered the -- as my Auntie Mary had  
9           just talked about earlier the city lab workers just  
10          happened to be on strike when the -- the case got called  
11          and so it had -- they had to stop it. And -- and when --  
12          when they recalled the court -- then they couldn't get a  
13          hold of any of our family members. All they knew was that  
14          she had three sons, and that was Allan, and Stewart, and  
15          Alfred (ph). And they couldn't find -- well, they didn't  
16          know about the rest of the family -- like, we're a big  
17          family. "And so you know, what we read was -- it said  
18                   that -- I didn't understand you know,  
19                   like the -- the person admitted to  
20                   killing you, to -- to murdering you,  
21                   and -- and you know, all -- all we can  
22                   think of is that you know, that gap  
23                   when the -- the lab workers on strike,  
24                   that somehow maybe the samples got  
25                   contaminated because they didn't match

[Type text]

1                   even though the person admitted that it  
2                   was him and we have -- we have the  
3                   documents."

4                   And you know, because after -- after we left  
5                   Minneapolis it -- it was like a -- a puzzle that we had to  
6                   unravel, so that was around 2012 when we went to  
7                   Minneapolis and a couple of years later we got -- well, I  
8                   got a call first from the reporter that Diane mentioned,  
9                   DavidBruser, and he had been doing some research on the --  
10                  *The Highway of Tears*, the MMIWG issue. And then I get a  
11                  call out of the blue saying, "Is this Janice Henderson?  
12                  And, is this -- was this your mom?" And -- and I said,  
13                  "Yes." I said, "This is me."

14                  And he said, "I would like to do a story on  
15                  your family, and are you okay if I do this?" And I -- I  
16                  told him that -- you know, I thought about it, but I said,  
17                  "I need to talk to the rest of my family members, or the  
18                  ones that you know, I could reach because some of them are  
19                  not in our area." So I reached out to as many and -- and  
20                  they were willing to share the story, you know, even though  
21                  how difficult you know, it was, and yeah, so that's -- that  
22                  brings us to today you know, that that -- that we are here,  
23                  so that's -- that's taken us this long to get here and  
24                  we're very -- I'm very happy about that, that this is  
25                  occurring. And I'll continue on with the letter.

[Type text]

1 "I reunited -- Mom, I reunited with Dad  
2 around 1980, and returned home in 1984.  
3 And I never left. I got to know Dad  
4 the last 17 years of his life.  
5 He gave me many teachings, and I know  
6 if you had lived you would have shared  
7 and you know taught your teachings to  
8 me. I was fortunate -- or I am  
9 fortunate to have two beautiful step-  
10 moms in my life, Edna Morrison (ph)  
11 Lorna Cochrane (ph), who have helped me  
12 and -- and my Aunt Mildred (ph), my  
13 Dad's sister, and my only other  
14 surviving auntie, Mary," who's here.  
15 And I'm grateful that she's here  
16 because she's -- you know, she's the  
17 eldest in our family and. "So, Mom, I  
18 want to be happy. And I know that you  
19 will always -- you will always be in my  
20 heart. I have -- I have more brothers  
21 and sisters from my dad's second  
22 marriage, and from his third  
23 relationship I have a step-sister  
24 and -- and step-brothers. So in  
25 closing, *Maman*, I want you to know that

[Type text]

1                   your memory will not be forgotten. You  
2                   were a mom. An aunt. A grandma. A  
3                   friend to many. I will continue  
4                   looking for a way to -- to ensure that  
5                   the issue of missing and murdered women  
6                   is in the forefront of issues not only  
7                   here in Canada, but internationally as  
8                   well."

9                   This -- earlier -- earlier this -- this year  
10                  -- in March, I had the opportunity to do a -- a  
11                  presentation at a UN gathering, so I did have a chance to  
12                  internationally speak to the delegation that was there, and  
13                  Diane came with me, and -- and I was really glad to have  
14                  her support, and. So I guess my question -- or maybe your  
15                  question is, what -- what -- do I hope to get out of this  
16                  MMIWG besides that? And that is that I know because this  
17                  is my murder -- like my mom's murder happened in  
18                  Minneapolis -- that I'm not sure what this -- you know,  
19                  what can be done.

20                  But a few years ago when Al, and I had --  
21                  had left library -- like one of the things that -- one of  
22                  his friends had said, "Maybe we should ask the -- write a  
23                  letter to the Mayor of Minneapolis and ask for a public  
24                  apology." And so that's something that -- that I think  
25                  we'll just go and -- I don't know if I could get your help,





[Type text]

1                   doing that all my life, you know  
2                   because despite what happened to me in  
3                   the Indian residential school, and the  
4                   -- the '60s Scoop it has made me who I  
5                   am today. You know, it made me  
6                   independent, Mom. It made me strong.  
7                   It made me determined. Determined to  
8                   -- to continue and be the best person  
9                   that I can be, and -- and to -- and to  
10                  do it with -- with love and kindness."

11                  And -- and that's there's always hope for  
12                  our people that -- that we're going to -- we're going get  
13                  through this. We have to work together and -- and having -  
14                  - having my family here it's been -- this is -- it gives me  
15                  strength and you know, last week we didn't know how many  
16                  would actually be here because it was just kind of like  
17                  short notice, and because as I said, I was waiting -- I  
18                  wanted to have it in Treaty 3 area, and I was able to hold  
19                  of family members and just say, "Will you come?"

20                  And -- yeah, so you know, I did not want to  
21                  get into the details of what happened to my mom today  
22                  because -- because of -- of how gruesome it was. How she  
23                  was portrayed in the news by the individuals that -- that  
24                  were -- were interviewed. "I want to remember you, Mom. I  
25                  want to remember you with dignity."

[Type text]

1                   And -- and that -- that we all -- all be  
2                   treated that way and you know, and with the -- with the  
3                   police as well, you know. It was not that long ago that  
4                   another cousin of ours, Stacey Debungee (ph), his body was  
5                   found here in Thunder Bay, and that case is still not  
6                   resolved and so we're going to continue on as a family, you  
7                   know, and do what we need to do, and also support other  
8                   families in -- in you know, just -- by just being here.

9                   And -- and even -- even the people that are  
10                  here listening, you know, I appreciate that -- we  
11                  appreciate that because it means that this is important and  
12                  that's all I want to say, *migwetch*.

13                  And you know by the time this mic go around  
14                  we might look at round two, I might be able to say  
15                  something else. But I really -- really appreciate this and  
16                  -- and I'm glad that we have this opportunity, *migwetch*.

17                  **MR. ALLAN HENDERSON:** *Migwetch*. Hello.  
18                  Yeah, *bonjour*. (Speaking Ojibway language). You know I  
19                  have to say our legacy will live forever, everybody's  
20                  legacy, that is the missing and murdered Indigenous women,  
21                  and the girls, but (speaking Ojibway language) our -- our  
22                  babies -- you know, there's a lot of things -- like this is  
23                  just the start (speaking Ojibway language) the little ones  
24                  that have been gone already, we only can think of what's  
25                  going to happen with that.

[Type text]

1                   Okay, (speaking Ojibway language), I want to  
2           say hello to my -- my daughter, Althena (ph) Henderson, is  
3           listening in Mesa, Arizona, I love you. I wish you were  
4           here. I know you are here by spirit. And the grandkids  
5           White Bear (ph) and White Wolf (ph), I love you dearly. I  
6           know you can hear me.

7                   But there is things that I -- I want to --  
8           there's plenty -- I hope you guys got pillows because man,  
9           oh man, really.

10                   I have to say *migwetch* to everything. I have  
11           to say *migwetch* to those ones who were before us here --  
12           sitting here. I acknowledge their pain. I acknowledge  
13           their families. Also *migwetch* (speaking Ojibway language)  
14           I only speak from here, and there is plenty I need to say,  
15           but I'd like to request the pictures.

16                                   **(PICTURE PRESENTATION)**

17                   **MR. ALLAN HENDERSON:** (Speaking Ojibway  
18           language), this is our grandmother (speaking Ojibway  
19           language). She lived with us at Mitaanjigamiing. This  
20           lady has a history, man oh man, a beautiful lady. I love  
21           her.

22                   Her daughters -- my mom, my auntie, and my  
23           other auntie that sits here with us (speaking Ojibway  
24           language). Just like what we said earlier (speaking  
25           Ojibway language) and that's who we talk about (speaking

[Type text]

1 Ojibway language) is who we talked about too. (Speaking  
2 Ojibway language).

3 Next picture, please. We really have a look  
4 at this picture Sarah (speaking Ojibway language). I hurt  
5 because along this we should have other pictures of our  
6 mother and our other auntie; that's what hurts. (Speaking  
7 Ojibway language). This is all of our family and there's  
8 plenty more all over. We have a big family. (Speaking  
9 Ojibway language) grandmas and grandpas. In your heart  
10 across Turtle Island you have to know your history. Not  
11 the history that the world gave us.

12 (Speaking Ojibway language) is me, not Allan  
13 Henderson, Jr. (speaking Ojibway language). Those names  
14 are not existed, that's what they gave us. (Speaking  
15 Ojibway language). When are they going to stop?  
16 (Speaking Ojibway language) where are these people that  
17 supposed to be here? (Speaking Ojibway language). These  
18 ministers. How are they supposed to understand us if  
19 they're not here? I have to say also, you know this  
20 gentleman that's here in Thunder Bay (speaking Ojibway  
21 language), I never seen him here, the Mayor.

22 You know, when we supposed to be acknowledged  
23 I still say, when is it? This is fine. But in here really  
24 does it really mean anything to you? If these other  
25 people are not here? I tell you the truth there's things

[Type text]

1 my family will not say, but I will. I tell you one thing  
2 it's going to carry on until we do have justice for  
3 everybody. Not only our family, those people that were  
4 sitting here. Those people that were upstairs.

5 You know, listening to promises -- nah, geez,  
6 I don't even want to get into that, politics. It's very  
7 hard to -- to be (speaking Ojibway language) justice. You  
8 know, I -- I -- I really truly believe -- I really truly  
9 believe that these people should be here because they can't  
10 draft this, can they? As they've been doing.

11 You know, I could carry on with this forever,  
12 but that's not my intention. But I want to point these  
13 interests out. Make note. Next time though when you have  
14 these, please, make sure those people are here so they can  
15 understand us.

16 Okay. (Speaking Ojibway language). I'll  
17 give you a little history. Mom -- was the beautiful lady.  
18 She had lost a lot of children. In our family there would  
19 be 21 kids from the same father. Our life has been outside  
20 where with we were, that was a good life. (Speaking  
21 Ojibway language) you know, whatever happened to that? You  
22 know. So even though that we were living in the woods,  
23 hey, just like muskrats, hey, out in the bush. That's the  
24 beautiful life. (Speaking Ojibway language). That's the  
25 way it should be.

[Type text]

1                   But my mom -- our mom -- their mom, our  
2                   aunties, we had a -- there's a history that has never been  
3                   told. (Speaking Ojibway language). You could go to  
4                   Minnesota, go to your museum there (speaking Ojibway  
5                   language) 17 years old, they lived a good life until --  
6                   until all this happened. When they decided to -- that you  
7                   know, we are supposed to be captured, right.

8                   You know I used to be very violent. Can you  
9                   understand why I was so violent? There was nothing there  
10                  for us.

11                  You know, when I talk to my daughter last  
12                  night there's a lot of things she said. And I -- and I --  
13                  it really hit me. You know (speaking Ojibway language),  
14                  grandmas, these are all beautiful people. You are all  
15                  beautiful people. Everybody is beautiful people.

16                  Like I said (speaking Ojibway language) and  
17                  I'm going to tell you a little bit. Like I said, my  
18                  grandma, my mom, my aunties. I'll tell you how I became  
19                  who I am. A long time ago (speaking Ojibway language) how  
20                  life was beautiful, just like that teepee and that fire  
21                  that sits out there. That's how we used to live. Those  
22                  teachings are here with us -- with everybody, but --  
23                  (speaking Ojibway language). This is only -- this is only  
24                  how the legacies begin, my namesake, the only one that knew  
25                  because the name was going to be given was (speaking

[Type text]

1 Ojibway language) are the grandmas, all the way back, to  
2 our generations back, that's how it used to be like.

3 They would ask those ladies -- those  
4 grandmas, "Ah, is this the -- is the word that the name is  
5 going to go to?" Or you can hear this and feel it. This  
6 is the existence of us. My namesake came down from a lot  
7 of grandmas, and the only ones that knew it are the women.  
8 (Speaking Ojibway language), the leaders. They would ask  
9 grandma, "Mom, is this the name that's going to go to this  
10 child?" They go, "Oh, okay."

11 (Speaking Ojibway language) there was no --  
12 there was no negative thing out there for them, right? So  
13 grandma asked the next grandma -- the next mother,  
14 generations and generations, this is how legacy and  
15 prophecies began. (Speaking Ojibway language). I know a  
16 lot of us we've been born out in the woods. (Speaking  
17 Ojibway language).

18 I think, (speaking Ojibway language),  
19 Stewart, you too? No? (Speaking Ojibway language) but  
20 there was a lot of us that were born out in the woods.

21 So this name (speaking Ojibway language)  
22 that's how this became "Mom, I love you."

23 You know the next time you cough that's how I  
24 was born. My mom was coughing so hard (speaking Ojibway  
25 language) she didn't even know. (Speaking Ojibway

[Type text]

1 language) when she was going to washroom I was down there.  
2 So that's how this name became, (speaking Ojibway  
3 language), the one that fell to the ground naturally in  
4 birth.

5 That's how we existed. It's supposed to be  
6 like. (Speaking Ojibway language). The ones that taught  
7 me was my grandmas, like (speaking Ojibway language) your  
8 grandma's taught you, (speaking Ojibway language). Even  
9 though she couldn't remember (speaking Ojibway language)  
10 she would call Junior, Junior, that's Stewart. Alfred,  
11 (speaking Ojibway language) she -- they had too many kids.  
12 They couldn't remember who the -- who -- which one was  
13 which.

14 But that's my -- that's the way I look at  
15 life. To the people that struggled life, it always will be  
16 a struggle till until we have what we have. This is life.

17 All right. This the hardest part. Yeah.  
18 (Speaking Ojibway language). Residential school, you heard  
19 it from my sister. You heard it from my auntie. Our life  
20 was good. You know, I always -- always been out in the  
21 world. (Speaking Ojibway language). I never -- I never  
22 went to school. I went to junior high school and that's  
23 about it. That's when all that started happening with my  
24 education.

25 So mom, again, the leader of our -- our



[Type text]

1 existence, just like this. These are all teachers. Wow,  
2 the power to have rule on Native people, huh. That's --  
3 that's how it happened with me. I see this today. Still  
4 the same way. My existence in that school never happened  
5 wonder why, hum? I guess I must have been born wrong the  
6 colour, genocidal, genocide of us. (Speaking Ojibway  
7 language) mom, just like grandma, they're here, the  
8 leaders, you women are the leaders from your heart. You  
9 can make this change. You don't have to listen to them.

10 Women take that power, please -- please.  
11 (Speaking Ojibway language). You know, us men, at least  
12 me, I understand the existence of the power of that woman,  
13 my sister, all my relatives here. All you women. You are  
14 the leaders. That little bit that we have is a lot, no?

15 You know, (speaking Ojibway language). I  
16 hate Canada. I really do. I don't know when -- if we ever  
17 are going to get justice. You got to learn not to play  
18 with us. You know. You got to quit playing with us. Just  
19 let us be who we are. You've got to stop (speaking Ojibway  
20 language). But I tell you, you know I would like to say  
21 how this is all going to turn out, but it's not the time to  
22 tell yous because it's not the future yet.

23 See this little guy right here? My son.  
24 (Speaking Ojibway language). They're gifts. They see and  
25 understand. (Speaking Ojibway language). My grandkids are

[Type text]

1 the same way. They're gifts. They're gifted because we  
2 protected them. I protected them. I might have -- I'm not  
3 a perfect person. But I learnt how to be a dad and a mom  
4 to my kids. There was nobody there to tell me that I am  
5 doing right or wrong. I only learnt the way I feel, just  
6 like right now. I feel a lot.

7 You know, our existence in the 70s was really  
8 bad, 60s, 70s. When I first thought about '71, Betty  
9 Osborne (ph) truly can you close your eyes, and really say  
10 (speaking Ojibway language) -- close your eyes, '71, has  
11 anything changed since then to right now? Thank you.  
12 Doesn't that feel powerless? Yeah?

13 That's how we feel. That's how the people  
14 feel. Powerless. That's how my mom felt. Powerless.  
15 Sure my mom was an alcoholic. Sure my mom -- I tell you my  
16 mom wasn't drunk that night. My mom was sober -- sorry,  
17 our mom, aunties, sisters, grandmas. A friend, that's who  
18 she helped out that night. You can look. You will never  
19 find that. My heart today is with that person that she  
20 took home that evening. I -- I still don't know who that  
21 person is. I don't -- she saved that lady. That's the  
22 punishment of kindness -- love, respect. My mother did  
23 that for that lady that evening. When are we going to have  
24 that? When we can have closure?

25 You know, when I talk to my uncle I asked my

[Type text]

1 mom, "Mom, is it okay that I could go to school at this  
2 Federal government? You'll be okay, right?" I didn't want  
3 to go. I didn't want to leave her.

4 Those gifts you all have also. How could we  
5 really tell -- tell her that what's going to happen to her?  
6 That's our existence. I was in another state while this  
7 happened. I could have took off. I could have run back to  
8 Minneapolis. There was nothing holding me, but I committed  
9 myself to her, I said, "Mom, I'll finish this. I'll --  
10 I'll -- I'll do this for myself."

11 Just like everybody else they know. I wanted  
12 to learn how to cook. Yeah, because one day maybe I  
13 thought then when I was that young, what if I don't find a  
14 woman that didn't know how to cook, that's why I learned  
15 how to cook. That's my existence, so I -- I commit myself.  
16 Even though I wanted to leave that day, that week. I kept  
17 on asking myself I should just go back. Laona, Wisconsin,  
18 is where I was when this all happened. But I was over  
19 there. (Speaking Ojibway language). I heard that cat.  
20 That cat wanted to get out, where they found my mom's body.

21 These gifts that we have we have to cherish  
22 them. Like this little man back here. Only to believe  
23 that this young guy is going to be a leader. I know that.  
24 Our grandmas, aunties, everybody, in our generation, our  
25 Clan Muskrat, *wazhashk*.

[Type text]

1                   I still cry. I always cry. I never used to  
2 be able to cry until I understood what actually means  
3 (Speaking Ojibway language), know what that means. These  
4 things right here. That run down everybody's face. Gentle  
5 spirits of water is the best way you can say my name.  
6 Everybody needs water.

7                   Like I said, I could go on forever. You know  
8 -- I know everything is a parallel. I know everything that  
9 is wrong. I'm only the one can make me right. You guys  
10 can't make me right. I wish that's how they would look at  
11 this -- from that point of view to ours. Like me being  
12 over there, if I sitting over there. If I was a Minister,  
13 Commissioner, Trudeau -- whoever else needs to be over  
14 there that can see this over here. (Speaking Ojibway  
15 language). You know as a leader, *ogimaakwe*, my dad was  
16 like that too. He was an *ogimaakwe*. (Speaking Ojibway  
17 language). I never wanted to be that. I would have been  
18 there.

19                   But you know all these Chiefs and all the  
20 things that happened, we cannot -- it's not going to  
21 happen. You can -- you can fool some of the people, but  
22 you cannot fool me.

23                   (Speaking Ojibway language), like I said it's  
24 all been a nightmare. This is a nightmare to me. Because  
25 realistically -- really they shouldn't be happening today.

[Type text]

1                   (Speaking Ojibway language). My heart is out  
2 to everybody.

3                   When I got that call -- Uncle Willy (ph)  
4 called me -- called where I was going to school, Laona,  
5 Wisconsin -- by the way this is where George Foreman  
6 learned how to box.

7                   **(LAUGHTER)**

8                   **MR. ALLAN HENDERSON:** Anybody remember George  
9 Foreman? While this is here he went to -- got his training  
10 and learned how to box. I thought that was the greatest  
11 thing in the world, to go there. But when I got there it  
12 was so wild. Can you imagine going somewhere 89 percent  
13 African American? That's where I went.

14                   But that evening -- that day that I got  
15 called -- Uncle Willy called -- and I just told him, "Oh,  
16 you don't need to tell me, Uncle." I said, "I could tell  
17 you where she's at." Today -- that's where that cat was.  
18 That cat wanted to get out of there. Not too far from  
19 where -- where she went and saved that lady.

20                   You know -- there's things that you like to  
21 wish upon, right? I wanted to be here all my life. This  
22 last 40 years. This is the way I thought then. I was  
23 selfish. Me, thinking that way back then. I said, "How  
24 come that wasn't that woman instead of Mom?" I live that a  
25 long time.

[Type text]

1                   (Speaking Ojibway language). Auntie,  
2           (Speaking Ojibway language), Janice, all of them are like  
3           that. They give -- they give everything. When are you  
4           going to -- when are they going to listen to them?

5                   I talk about the -- I talk to my grandkids --  
6           over there, they're going to have children, and hopefully  
7           by then something comes out -- out with this.

8                   It's all a nightmare, please, somebody slap  
9           me, all right. Really, that's why Turtle Island is not  
10          supposed to be like this. Man, just give me a good slap.  
11          This is unreal. Really -- really it's unreal. I'm still  
12          living my nightmare. I'm sitting here. I'm living my  
13          nightmare still.

14                  I don't know how everybody else feels. There  
15          is no dollar to replace our loved ones. What are you guys  
16          going to do with that, because you sure ain't doing  
17          anything, right.

18                  I hope they hear me in Ottawa. I hope they  
19          hear me at Queen's Park. I hope everybody hears me --  
20          Washington, the Parliament. Those people over there, those  
21          Mayan people, wow, they're struggling and they're hopefully  
22          they keep what they got.

23                  But I hurt. I always will hurt. (Speaking  
24          Ojibway language), *La Maman*, aunties, grandma.

25                  But we'd never forget who we are, okay.

[Type text]

1 Let's cry together, maybe we should do that. You know, I  
2 know you -- you all need to cry too. You have to let it  
3 go. That's where it starts. These things called tears.  
4 (Speaking Ojibway language), can you feel that? Can you  
5 feel that? Does that one come out? Huh? You should let  
6 it go. For a few seconds you don't have to be that person.  
7 Be -- be your spirit. That's real. That's real. Doesn't  
8 that feel real?

9 Well, I hope my Uncle Willy is listening.  
10 "Willy, please bring us some pictures of our mom, our  
11 aunties. You should be here too. You can make that  
12 happen. Uncle Willy, bring the pictures for us, okay?"

13 Because that's where it hurts. I still can't  
14 see my mother. You guys need to see our mother. You all  
15 need to see all these women. They're beautiful women.  
16 (Speaking Ojibway language). I want this nightmare to  
17 stop. (Speaking Ojibway language). We're family right  
18 here. All of us. You close your eyes we all look the  
19 same. They all look the same to me.

20 Well, this is what I want to say to the --  
21 for now, I want to say to those people on the other side,  
22 in Minnesota, you know, "Please, next time when you can do  
23 a processing, do it. Not hold anything back." Like our  
24 mother was held, they could have processed it. That body  
25 could have come.

[Type text]

1                   Our relatives that are sitting in Manitou  
2                   Rapids. Just like I told them, "Please," I said,  
3                   "Please -- please -- please, don't play with me. You guys  
4                   are all pretending." They were all pretending they loved  
5                   my mother. This is the only time we're all together is  
6                   because of these things. What happened to that nurture  
7                   right?

8                   My mom taught me a lot of things, just like  
9                   our grandmas taught our -- our -- our grandpas. Just like  
10                  these medicines. That's who made the medicine man, is that  
11                  woman. The true leaders -- the women have that power.  
12                  They have that. That's the gift. (Speaking Ojibway  
13                  language).

14                  I know you sit there around your circle, it's  
15                  the beautiful life you have. It's the real world of  
16                  contentment. It's the real world how life should be. Mom,  
17                  dad, grandma, everybody, *bonjour*, my son. They have a good  
18                  life up there because they're real.

19                  (Speaking Ojibway language). I will hurt  
20                  until it all stops. I tell you I'm going to live a long  
21                  time. I am. I'm going to live a long time. (Speaking  
22                  Ojibway language). *Migwetch*.

23                  **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** We'll take a break.

24                  **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Yeah.

25                  **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Yeah.



[Type text]

1                   **MR. ALLAN HENDERSON:** Yeah, a good song  
2 would be great, thanks.

3                   **MS. JENNIFER COX:** Madam Commissioner and Mr.  
4 Commissioner, I'm wondering if we could have a short break  
5 for a minute.

6                   **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** They want a break.

7                   **MS. JENNIFER COX:** Break, yes.

8                   **ELDER LAUREEN BLU WATER:** We'll take a few  
9 minutes break here for the family. They've requested a  
10 break, please, thank you.

11   **(SHORT PAUSE)**

12                   **MR. RON KANUTSKI:** Okay, I'd like to call  
13 everybody back and continue with the Inquiry. Kindly ask  
14 our -- I'd like to call the family back and our  
15 Commissioners and assistants. (Speaking Ojibway language).  
16 I know the -- the food is ready too, so I don't want the  
17 family to have to eat cold food tonight. Microwave -- oh,  
18 you got food. Oh, that's what happened. That's why you  
19 guys went for a break. You got (speaking Ojibway  
20 language), you're going to go all night here, okay. I  
21 didn't get the memo. I should have grabbed a dish. I'll  
22 eat off Janice's plate, yeah. Is everybody -- we're  
23 missing a few still, hey. Okay. Are we starting now?

24                   **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Oui.

25                   **MR. RON KANITSKI:** Okay.

[Type text]

1                   **MS. CAROL QUAGON:** Hi. I'm going to tell you  
2 my story about -- well, I guess I held it in like, for 40  
3 years now. I think I was ten years old when -- when I was  
4 first told about my -- my Auntie Kathy (ph). I was told,  
5 like, in detail how she died.

6                   Yeah, I knew -- I was really close to my  
7 Auntie Kathy, so when -- when I was told I was really  
8 surprised because I didn't know what to think at that --  
9 because I was only ten and I -- I didn't really know the  
10 laws or anything, but I -- all I knew was I hated whoever  
11 that person was that -- that hit her or -- or whoever took  
12 her out there on the highway. I don't know. I still have  
13 the images in my head.

14                   I still picture her, like -- because when I  
15 was at the funeral and (indiscernible) and I was crying  
16 because I wanted to see her. They wouldn't let me. They  
17 said, "You can't." Then at the -- then they told me, "You  
18 can't cry. You have to be quiet."

19                   All -- all -- all I know is I -- I was told  
20 that she was murdered by somebody and I had to try to think  
21 of all the -- the -- the good times that I had with her  
22 because she was taken from me.

23                   I was just getting over my one auntie and  
24 then I was told about the next. And I had to go -- when  
25 they told me -- my mom had told me, she said that, "Auntie

[Type text]

1 Edith got murdered." That she was stabbed and raped and  
2 just left there. Left there for days. So I had to go to  
3 another funeral. But nothing -- nothing -- if you can help  
4 me take the pain away.

5 They told me not to talk. They told me to be  
6 quiet. So when I heard about this, it was -- I didn't know  
7 what to think at first. I know -- I don't know what can be  
8 done to help -- I don't know what can be done to help solve  
9 them -- some of the murders, but I know people are just  
10 getting away with everything. Nothing's being -- nobody's  
11 being held accountable.

12 I was -- I was older when my -- when my  
13 Auntie Sarah died. It was -- I kind of understood, but I  
14 didn't know why they -- why the person that said he -- he  
15 had -- he murdered her, but he -- nothing really -- the  
16 charges weren't enough, I don't think, for what he did.

17 I know -- I don't really trust the police  
18 because they don't really help when you really -- when you  
19 need them.

20 Because when I was -- when I was 15 I lived  
21 in Thunder Bay here. I was -- I was grabbed and I was --  
22 and that -- that man took me down the highway somewhere and  
23 I didn't know where I was and I jumped out of the car and  
24 all I did was start running and I -- I made it home. My  
25 mom tried to call the police and let them know and they --

[Type text]

1           they didn't believe.

2                         How can -- how can justice be done to any --  
3           for anybody -- any women? You -- all they did is the  
4           police took me and then they took -- they didn't believe  
5           me. I end up -- they end up taking me to LPH because I was  
6           -- I was going out -- I was out of control because I didn't  
7           want nobody touching me.

8                         And that's what they -- that's how I got --  
9           that's how I got the way I am, because I can't trust  
10          police. Who can we trust? Who can we trust out there?  
11          Who's going to help?

12                        I'm just glad that I made it home that time  
13          because I don't think I would be here today. I wanted -- I  
14          just want to know how you -- you are going to help -- help  
15          all the teenagers around here? Like, I was a teenager and  
16          I wasn't listened to. Nobody helped me. Nobody. They  
17          just put me away and...

18                        **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** (Speaking Ojibway  
19          language). Let go. Let go. It's okay. All right.

20                        **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Here take some water.

21                                **(DRUMMING AND SINGING)**

22                        **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** She can sit there.

23                        **MS. JENNIFER COX:** Yeah, she can sit there.

24                        **MS. CAROL QUAGON:** I can sit here.

25                        **MS. JENNIFER COX:** You can sit there and

[Type text]

1 talk.

2 MS. CAROL QUAGON: Okay. I'm just going to  
3 talk from here.

4 MS. JENNIFER COX: Yeah.

5 MS. CAROL QUAGON: Yeah.

6 MS. JENNIFER COX: We figured that out.

7 MS. CAROL QUAGON: Okay, ready to go. So  
8 when -- I can still remember the face of this -- of this  
9 guy. All I know is he was -- he was white. He had a beard  
10 and a white van. All I could -- all I could think of is  
11 just to close my eyes and just wait till he was done raping  
12 me. And not to -- not to fight him because I know -- I was  
13 so scared and when I told my mom and she called the cops  
14 and then they came. I thought they were going be taking me  
15 to the hospital to get checked, but, no. No, that's not  
16 what they did. They put me in a straightjacket because I  
17 was trying to fight back because they were holding me. I  
18 didn't want nobody touching me.

19 My mom was the only one that believed me.  
20 She couldn't do nothing to help me. She couldn't do  
21 nothing. They wouldn't do nothing. They wouldn't listen.  
22 They wouldn't take the statements.

23 I never told this to nobody. I held it in  
24 for this many years. And that's why I -- I came because I  
25 -- I wanted people to know that there's probably a lot of

[Type text]

1 women out there that had this happen to them and they never  
2 speak up. They never let people know what's going on.

3 After that -- that's when I was -- I became  
4 suicidal. I started drinking. I quit school. I -- I  
5 didn't care. I didn't care about myself because I knew  
6 nobody else did. I was (indiscernible) lost girl and  
7 nobody cared. They just looked at me. Well, that's just a  
8 drunk Indian.

9 I -- I just want people to know that they --  
10 something has to be done. Something -- somebody has to  
11 listen. If the police aren't going to listen somebody else  
12 -- there has to be some way. There has to be something.

13 I -- I have nine granddaughters, and I watch  
14 over them real close because I don't want nothing to ever  
15 happen to them like what happened to me. I don't -- I just  
16 want to be -- to make sure that they're protected.

17 And that's when I think about it I always  
18 think that's probably how my aunties felt. They wanted to  
19 be helped and there was nobody there to help them. I had -  
20 - I feel like they're not -- I feel like there's no help  
21 out there. Nobody's going to help. I'm all alone. I just  
22 hope something comes -- something happens -- something  
23 comes from this because there's a lot of hurt -- there's a  
24 lot of hurt out there.

25 I could just imagine how my aunties felt when

[Type text]

1       they're being assaulted or -- and raped. I could feel that  
2       because it happened to me.

3                   I just want people -- somebody to listen.  
4       Somebody to help -- somebody to help us women, and girls  
5       because no -- there's nobody -- there's not always somebody  
6       there.

7                   Why don't they listen? Why don't they help?  
8       They're supposed to be police officers, why? Why? I just  
9       have so much anger towards them.

10                   That's all -- that's all I have to share.  
11       Can't -- I can't go on anymore.

12                   **MR. JAMES HENDERSON:** *Bonjour.* (speaking  
13       Ojibway language).

14                   **(SHOUTING)**

15                   **MR. JAMES HENDERSON:** I want to honour all  
16       the murdered and missing women and girls and guys by doing  
17       that.

18                   I also wanted to start off by saying that I  
19       have the same -- same thoughts that my family has expressed  
20       about the helplessness, the hopelessness. I was there.

21                   I remember -- I remember being -- being out  
22       on the trap line as a young kid. Those were the -- the  
23       shining glimmers of hope all my life until I was about four  
24       years old, being taken to -- just kidnapped, taken away,  
25       residential school.

[Type text]

1                   There's a lot of abuses that I've suffered  
2 through there. I'm not going to go into any details. I'm  
3 sure that a lot of people have heard the stories that come  
4 about.

5                   After leaving residential school I was in a  
6 foster home. I learned German. I learned that I was  
7 really nobody. All through the times that I was at  
8 residential school and through the foster home I was placed  
9 in, all I knew was abuses that -- that came about.

10                  You heard my cousins, my aunts, my sister and  
11 brother talk about the hurts and pains that are caused by  
12 those that are supposed to be looking after us, but yet  
13 take advantage of us.

14                  Not knowing who was supposed to be helping.  
15 Who can you turn to? The very same people that raped me at  
16 residential school? That put me through those abuses?  
17 Those -- those times that I had with that, have been --  
18 lead me to believe that I wasn't a very good person because  
19 of all the things that were happening to me.

20                  But yet I wanted to -- to live because  
21 remember that trapline. The things that -- that were there  
22 for me, in the trapline. I remember one of the times I was  
23 out walking with my dad and we were by a -- a stream --  
24 fairly fast moving stream in -- in the springtime and I  
25 know that--- you -- you know we were out hunting, trapping,



[Type text]

1 but I didn't know that. To me I was just out with my dad  
2 and I was grateful for that. But I know that there was a  
3 couple wolves that were on the ice flow going downstream  
4 and my dad was shooting at them. And those wolves jumped  
5 up, dodged the bullets. They both did that.

6 And being young -- a young kid I thought my  
7 dad was providing me some entertainment, but I didn't know  
8 -- and I understood Ojibway too, by the way. When he  
9 explained to me that he was providing food, clothing, if we  
10 would have got those wolves for -- for the family, but I  
11 didn't know that. I thought he was there because I was  
12 clearing -- clapping my hands, cheering -- cheering away  
13 because it was quite a sight to see.

14 I -- I remember being taken away barely. All  
15 those memories that I had at residential school and the  
16 foster homes are vague, but the trapline was always clear.  
17 There was always so much love out there. Even though that  
18 I was -- I didn't know that I was out there. I didn't even  
19 know where I was.

20 But this leads me to the fact that hearing  
21 all the -- the things that was happening with my aunts, my  
22 mom. I could not -- I did not understand anything of that.  
23 Even reading the information that was there, that was  
24 provided, I couldn't -- I couldn't accept the things that  
25 they were saying. How they portrayed my mom. And I had a

[Type text]

1 lot on anger towards those people, that was some of the  
2 Children's Aid workers at that time that I -- that -- that  
3 had some of these reports.

4 But one of the things that I know that I --  
5 that I came to realize too, just trying to get the grasp of  
6 what was happening to my family, going through a lot of the  
7 turmoil and trying to understand those things that -- that  
8 happened. I also know that those things weren't true. I  
9 knew that in my heart. I know those things that happened  
10 to my -- my aunts and my mom were something that people  
11 hid.

12 And the thing that I wanted to talk about a  
13 lot more, in all those times that I was really having a  
14 hard time to grasp and understand what was being done, and  
15 not being done. All I -- all I can be able to do right now  
16 is that searching and looking for all those things that I  
17 needed to do in order for be able -- for me to be able to  
18 have a clear mind and have some kind of understanding of  
19 what was there.

20 I was so confused at times about what was  
21 happening.

22 But one of the things that I -- I had, I  
23 remember that (indiscernible) this was only probably two  
24 years ago. I've always helped -- helped with the walks  
25 here in Thunder Bay, the drum and I and the staff, the

[Type text]

1       singers that came out. And it's something else because I  
2       remember at one of the -- one of the times there they did a  
3       roll call of all the murdered and missing women while we  
4       were standing down by the -- by the floodway. And I recall  
5       like, I was asked to -- to -- beat the drum at the sound of  
6       each name. I heard a lot of names of people that I knew,  
7       that I didn't know that were there on that list, but yet I  
8       had to do that.

9                        When I heard my mom's name (Speaking Objibway  
10       language) I didn't want to beat the drum, but -- but I did.  
11       The same for my aunts, Sarah and Kathleen. It was so hard  
12       to do that. I also remember my -- my cousin, Debbie (ph),  
13       that lived here in Thunder Bay, and her life was taken.  
14       Not really sure of what happened there, but -- suicide. My  
15       cousin, Bill (ph), in Vancouver, my cousin, Stacey (ph),  
16       here in floodway. I always wondered what was -- why was  
17       this happening to my -- my family?

18                      But I know about two years ago I couldn't get  
19       over the things -- just trying to make sense of what I  
20       read, of what I heard and what I didn't want to understand.  
21       I remember going to sleep one night and I had a dream about  
22       some things that I wanted to share.

23                      Anyway, a couple of different times that I've  
24       went to Minneapolis I didn't know I was close to where my  
25       mom was murdered. I remember having all these anxiety and

[Type text]

1       panic attacks happening. I was going around that driveway  
2       -- expressway and then when I was turning away I only felt  
3       that everything was going -- well, leaving me, I didn't  
4       have that feeling anymore. But I know I crossed the river  
5       from where I was -- where I was heading to and then made  
6       that turn. It only -- I only realized that's where --  
7       that's where my mom was murdered, over on that side of the  
8       river.

9                    Anyway one of the -- one the times that -- in  
10       this dream that I want to talk about they shared two years  
11       ago at a walk, I remember at City Hall, I talked about  
12       wanting to go make peace for myself and with my mom and be  
13       able to go ahead and be able to go there and be able to do  
14       all these things that I wanted to do, but I -- I remember  
15       going there. I remember driving there, but before I could  
16       even get anywhere close to there, there was a riot or  
17       something going on. A riot that was happening -- I know  
18       there was people on the streets, there was fighting that  
19       was happening. And I know that there was people running  
20       by, but this one -- one individual come running by me. I  
21       had no clue, but he come by me and he went like this to me,  
22       and I got hit on the shoulder and I -- I didn't know what  
23       happened.

24                   In my dream I was -- I was -- I was still  
25       there. I was still -- still walking towards where -- where

[Type text]

1 I thought I was going to be, like, see what's happening,  
2 but I -- at some point I must have blacked out because  
3 something was injected into -- into my shoulder and I  
4 blacked out. And I remember walking up, I had no clue  
5 where I was. Had no clue, absolutely, I didn't even know  
6 where -- why I was waking up on the ground -- on the  
7 street. And I looked at myself -- I looked at my clothes,  
8 they were dirty. They were just shiny from all the -- all  
9 the dirt wherever I must have been sleeping or whatever, I  
10 had no wallet. I had no keys. I don't know here my  
11 vehicle was, nothing.

12 But I remember walking and asking people  
13 where I was, nobody really wanted to help. I tried to --  
14 to go and see the police that were there. They just drove  
15 away. But I remember -- since nobody wanted to talk to me  
16 because I guess I must have looked pretty -- pretty awful  
17 to them, all dirty and everything. The only way I thought  
18 I could be able to find out what was happening was I walked  
19 to -- to a news stand and looked at the newspaper. And I  
20 looked at it through the glass and I couldn't believe from  
21 the time that I was there, this was two years later -- two  
22 years that were gone, blacked right out. I didn't know  
23 what was in me. It was in something I took. It was  
24 something that was done to me.

25 I woke up two years later still trying to

[Type text]

1 figure what was happening, what was going on. And I tried  
2 to approach different people normally would go to see to  
3 help -- ask for help -- counsellors, priests, anybody, the  
4 police, nobody would -- would talk to me. Nobody would  
5 help me out in any way. But I remember -- I remember  
6 talking to the street people, the men and women that worked  
7 the streets. They were helpful to me. They at least told  
8 me where I could find food. Find things that I could do  
9 keep myself alive. And I still didn't even know what was  
10 going on. I remember talking to -- going to those places  
11 for help. And I remember somehow again I got -- I got  
12 blacked out for another three years.

13 I had no -- no idea where I was again. And I  
14 was walking around and the only thing that I could figure  
15 out was that I should -- I finally realized that I was in  
16 Minneapolis. And I found out the direction where home was.  
17 I was -- I was able to get my mind clear enough to know  
18 where the directions were. Where I needed to go. What I  
19 needed to do.

20 So I did that and I -- I couldn't afford to  
21 get any -- any bus fare or whatever, so I walked. I walked  
22 to the outskirts. All I know is I'm heading home. And I  
23 started -- I got out of the city limits and I was -- I was  
24 finally becoming happy because I was going home. I should  
25 be there however long it takes me to hitchhike back because

[Type text]

1 I don't know where my vehicle is. I don't even know where  
2 anything was.

3 And when I -- when I started going and I was  
4 there, and I was just happy because I could hear a car  
5 slowing down already behind me, so I says, "Oh, such great  
6 luck I have. I'm not even hitchhiking yet and there's a  
7 vehicle stopping." But when I turned around it was the  
8 police. They picked me up, brought me right back downtown  
9 and they didn't even take me to the precinct or anything.  
10 I was right back out on the streets.

11 And I have no idea what happened after that  
12 because I blacked out again, and I know that it wasn't  
13 because of the -- of the -- you know, the people that I was  
14 with. It was the ones that were supposed to be helping me  
15 that were keeping me in turmoil. And the only people that  
16 I could have trust -- any kind of trust with, were those  
17 that were on the streets, working them, panhandlers, winos,  
18 whatever you want to call them, but that's who -- who I  
19 wanted to -- that's who I was able to have contact with.

20 And I remember -- I remember walking also,  
21 and I looked at myself on -- in -- when I was going by a --  
22 one of the mirror -- or, not the mirrors, the windows, and  
23 I seen my own refection and I was just a bag of bones  
24 looking at me. I got scared and I didn't think I was ever  
25 going to see my family.

[Type text]

1                   But while I was walking, I was walking  
2           through a mall -- that same mall, and I seen this one lady,  
3           and I recognized her and I called her by her name, and she  
4           -- she looked at me and then she -- she ran away. And I --  
5           I know my voice sounded really awful. I was just screechy,  
6           high pitched. I called her name again. And I told her --  
7           I yelled out, "I gave you and your dad an Eagle fan." And  
8           that made her stop and think about what -- what happened  
9           and she turned around and she looked at me.

10                   She was still scared to come see me. But  
11           then she -- she calls me, she says, "James." I said,  
12           "Yes." And I -- I remember talking to her and I was  
13           explaining what was happening. "I can't trust anybody," I  
14           says. "I can't trust the police. I can't trust the  
15           workers. I can't trust anybody. The only people I can  
16           trust are the street people." I says, "I'm trying to get  
17           home. I've been here for at least seven years. I want to  
18           go home." And she agreed to help me, but she says, "I'll -  
19           I'll -- I'm parked not too far from here, but my friend is  
20           parked in the parkade over here." And I said, "Okay." I  
21           says, "What's your friend going to do?" She said, "She --  
22           she will meet you at the parkade."

23                   And -- because I still had a lot of fear of  
24           the police catching me again, and -- and they were around.  
25           And I don't know why I was singled out, but they were there



[Type text]

1 right behind. They watched what I did and where I went.  
2 (Indiscernible) time I tried to do something for myself I  
3 couldn't do nothing.

4 Anyway I walked over there, to that parkade.  
5 That lady says, "Get in. Just lay down in the back." And  
6 then when -- when -- when they seen me going around, she  
7 says, "I'm going to stop down over here and you go out and  
8 you go out that door, and she'll be there waiting for you  
9 in another vehicle." So that's what happened. And they  
10 followed her car around, but I made the getaway. And she  
11 kept in contact with her friend and she was telling them  
12 that she was being chased around.

13 She -- they -- they finally stopped her and  
14 they -- they didn't know where I was. But by that time I  
15 was heading out of Minneapolis. I was still in the --  
16 still in the back seat of the car. And then the first town  
17 that we came to my friend, Corrine (ph), she was the one  
18 that says, "Well, I got to stop here. I got to buy you  
19 some clothes, and I want you to be able to go take a  
20 shower." She told me because she says, "You stink." And I  
21 said, "Okay, yes, so okay, I will."

22 So I did all of that, got there, continued  
23 going home, but I was so -- so worried about the police or  
24 anybody else catching us or stopping us. And I -- I had a  
25 lot of fear going. I was happy. I was sad too because I

[Type text]

1       couldn't believe that was seven years I was gone. Nobody  
2       really knew where I was because I didn't tell anybody I was  
3       going down Minneapolis, so they -- they wouldn't know where  
4       I was.

5                        Anyway, when I was -- I remember we were  
6       getting close to International Falls and I remember  
7       going -- we're going across the bridge and she's telling  
8       me, "Well, you're almost there. We're -- we're just  
9       crossing -- we're across the border now. We're still on  
10      the bridge, but we're on the Canadian side." And I  
11      remember crying, and saying, "I'm -- I'm going home. I'm  
12      finally going home.

13                      That's -- that's when I woke up. I was in my  
14      house. I was in my house. I was looking up at the  
15      ceiling. I looked at myself, I wasn't that little --  
16      skinny little person, bag of bones, that what I looked at.

17                      I know -- I know that for a fact though, all  
18      these things that -- that are happening -- that happened to  
19      me, made me aware of all the things that are happening to  
20      our women, our men. Those that live out on the streets.  
21      And I say that because I know that -- I know those were the  
22      people -- the only people that you could trust in any way,  
23      was them. Even though some of them were addicts, now --  
24      but at least they showed compassion and understanding and  
25      they helped me navigate through the city. But I know that

[Type text]

1 -- I understand now, after thinking about that -- that  
2 dream that I had. I know that it has everything to do with  
3 the women that are -- they have been murdered, that are  
4 missing.

5 It's those very people that are there, that  
6 are supposed to provide that help, it's the police, it's  
7 counsellors, it's those that are in office, that are there  
8 that should be helping, but they don't. They smile, happy,  
9 but that's -- that's about the only thing they are able to  
10 -- to deal with. And I know that -- that a lot of the  
11 people (indiscernible) I didn't know anybody by name, I  
12 just recognized them by face and who I could trust, were  
13 those people.

14 And I'm so grateful that it was just a dream  
15 that I -- that I -- that I endured. But it also is a  
16 reflection of the -- the things that happened to me in my  
17 lifetime. Maybe not to that point where that -- that I had  
18 to go and experience working the streets, but I certainly  
19 got a good view of how each and everyone of those people  
20 that I -- that I befriended, that they were having such a  
21 hard time being able to speak up on their own behalf.

22 And that the people that were supposed to  
23 help, they didn't. They just brought us back to where our  
24 -- wherever our misery was going to be, and that -- that's  
25 -- that's the thing about it, there like the -- the times

[Type text]

1       that I think about it, there's always more that's always  
2       added on to that because you know, I've been so fortunate  
3       because like there was even grandmas there that -- that  
4       helped me out. You know, any nationality that was there  
5       they were helping me out.

6                   And all I can say is that -- you know, that  
7       that dream was so real for me there that it -- it made that  
8       awareness that we need to be able to help people. We need  
9       to be able to talk to the people. We need to be able to  
10      stand -- understand the people and provide them the help  
11      and support and correction. Because one of the things that  
12      I do right now is I work as a -- an addictions counsellor.  
13      And I -- I have a hard time sometimes remembering those  
14      things.

15                   And I'm wanting to be able to provide more  
16      assistance, but sometimes there isn't that help that can be  
17      there because some of them choose to want to be still  
18      wherever they may be because they still need to be learning  
19      things that will be beneficial to them, and that -- and I  
20      know that the stories -- the -- the -- this dream that I  
21      had makes me aware of that every -- every day because I  
22      know that my family and my friends they all struggle with  
23      those addictions and -- and it's not because of their  
24      doing. It's some (indiscernible) heard some of the stories  
25      today and the family that are there, there's a lot of

[Type text]

1 suffering that happens, and they're put in situations where  
2 they have to do that, and I really think that a lot of the  
3 things need to be done in such a way that people are  
4 understood and I -- I can read stories you know, that  
5 they're happening out there.

6 I hear the Deputy Grand Chief -- I know she's  
7 not here anymore, but I hear the work that she does, and  
8 those are the kinds of things that -- that need to be done.  
9 We -- we need to be able to put all those things aside that  
10 -- that -- you know, you can't be judging people just  
11 because of their appearance. Because I know how I  
12 looked -- I never felt so ashamed and scared when I seen my  
13 own reflection. I was just a little skinny bag of bones  
14 that was walking around, scaring people.

15 And I -- I don't know what -- what I would do  
16 if that was something that happened to me. Yet I know that  
17 I will still have some difficulty going to Minneapolis  
18 because I sure hope that isn't something that's going to  
19 come true. But I know -- I know that in my heart that I  
20 still can go and do those things wherever I need to go.  
21 Because that's -- that's the commitment too, that I made a  
22 long time ago to my mom, that I would do the best that I  
23 could to you know, work with those that were hurt in that  
24 way, and understand those things that are there.

25 I think some of those things were talked

[Type text]

1 about in -- in the reports. And even -- even those  
2 reports, they still anger me because it doesn't really --  
3 you know, reading the reports that were done regarding my  
4 aunts, my mom, it's -- it's really frustrating to hear them  
5 being, you know, basically being told that she was a  
6 prostitute. She loved to drink. She loved to fight. You  
7 know, that -- that really -- really just bothers me when I  
8 -- when I was -- when I read that. But some of the -- but  
9 I go over that.

10 I -- I've come to the point in my life where  
11 I -- I -- I can forgive people. I have forgiven people.  
12 Especially those that have harmed me in a lot of ways that  
13 they want to. That inflicted pain on me when I was young.  
14 When I was defenceless. When I was helpless. But yet I  
15 still show compassion to those people because I see them.

16 There was one -- one of the supervisors that  
17 -- that was at residential school, just happened to meet at  
18 a shop and I remember saying -- he goes walking up there  
19 and I was waiting for my vehicle to get finished and he  
20 turned around and he looked at me, and all he says, "Geez,  
21 we can't get rid of yous at all." And when I heard that I  
22 just wanted to go up there. I wanted to hurt him because I  
23 know that's who did a lot of the abuse in the residential  
24 school.

25 But the shop owner happens to be a friend of

[Type text]

1 mine and he seen -- seen the anger that I had and he -- he  
2 just came around, he said, "Chris (ph), take care." And he  
3 come over and he come and held me. Rob (ph) doesn't know  
4 that he helped me out a lot that day. Probably saved me  
5 from a jail sentence.

6 But I know -- I've encountered a number of  
7 different people that have harmed me. And I wanted to hurt  
8 them, but I got over that fact. I just have to forgive  
9 them because we're here about legacies this morning by  
10 other families. And the thing that I want to be able to do  
11 is help -- help that process because that's something  
12 that's really important for me to be able to do because  
13 that cycle has to stop.

14 Earlier -- on the -- on the first break that  
15 we had I sang a song, it was a wolf song, and I know that  
16 ladies here that work with the Inquiry when I was working  
17 with them in September at the DaVinci Centre, they know  
18 that I became a great grandfather while I was working with  
19 them. So that wolf song really meant a lot to me.

20 My great grandson's name is Mayan (ph)  
21 McGinnis, it's a little wolf. And when I was out in Sault  
22 Ste. Marie for a AADAC conference amongst of all those  
23 other things that were happening there I bought him a  
24 onesie, not knowing what his name was, or his colours, I  
25 bought him one with wolves that were -- there was blue in

[Type text]

1       there, there was grey, there was white. The only colour  
2       that was missing from there was red.

3                   And the significance of that is he -- now I  
4       want to make sure that even my granddaughters and  
5       grandsons, they don't have to go through and endure the  
6       pains, my nieces and nephews don't have to endure the pain  
7       that I -- I dreamt about happening because it's so easy for  
8       that to happen. And I know some of those stories that I  
9       heard today that's exactly what happened to them because  
10      how can somebody just disappear for seven years and nobody  
11      even know where I am. That message was so strong for me  
12      to be able to -- to even talk about and deliver because a  
13      lot of frustrations came about also.

14                   So I still have a lot of angers at times, but  
15      I deal with that right here. I deal that now wherever I  
16      can to go to lodges -- sweat lodges, different ceremonies,  
17      and I talk to the people. It's unfortunate that my -- my  
18      grandmothers that I was -- used to go see have passed on  
19      right now, but I can still hear them talking. I -- I  
20      remember all those sacred Elders that come and spoke to me  
21      about a number of different things. Another -- Mary  
22      Alice's (ph) late husband, Joe (ph), was always a big  
23      support and there's a whole list of them that go on, you  
24      know, Alex (ph) and them.

25                   All those old guys, they told me, "Sit -- sit



[Type text]

1 down, listen." And they all spoke to me in Ojibway. They  
2 all gave me some direction about what needs to be done.  
3 And each of them always told me simply that, "When this  
4 happens, you will know who it came from, and you will know  
5 what to do." And I -- when I think about -- like, probably  
6 about a dozen of those sacred Elders telling me that.

7 Also, that they know, I've always understood  
8 and known that what people are going through when I see and  
9 look around I know what's happening. I recognise that.  
10 Simply because I've -- I have experienced that myself. I  
11 experienced that pain. I experienced that hurt. And I  
12 know how to go to get through that pain. And that's  
13 something hopefully that I'll be able -- be able to  
14 continue working with in -- wherever -- back in the  
15 communities where -- wherever I can. That's always been my  
16 goal. That is the promise I made to my mom. I also did  
17 the same thing for my aunties because I -- I love them. I  
18 miss them every day.

19 I talk to them. I know that my -- my mom  
20 came to me a few different times and she told me once there  
21 when I was just going through some difficulties in my life  
22 with people in the community, outside the community  
23 wherever, just really frustrating, hurtful time for me. My  
24 mom came to me and she says, "James Arthur (ph), you can if  
25 you want to." And there's only two people that always call

[Type text]

1 me James Arthur, one's my Aunt Mildred, and I know she  
2 wasn't there, so I know it was my mom because I can always  
3 recognize her voice.

4 And that's what gives me the determination to  
5 be able to move ahead and forward, because those things  
6 that are -- that I -- I have -- have had the privilege of  
7 being shown by these Elders are going to be there with me  
8 and that's something that I want to be always be able to  
9 share with the different -- different community members,  
10 whoever -- whoever it is that will want to take the time  
11 and sit and talk. I usually don't talk much. I just ask  
12 questions.

13 Because like I said -- I mentioned Joe, Mary  
14 Alice's late husband, his dad showed me how to counsel.  
15 One whole day I spent going through a bunch of turmoil  
16 doing the whole AA program in that day. And he showed me  
17 what really frustrated me about the whole thing was that  
18 every time I looked at him when I was just going through  
19 all the pain that I was going through he'd look at me and  
20 he'd have -- kind of smile at me and he'd be looking at me,  
21 and it just infuriated me. And I remember telling him, I  
22 says, "You're not even listening to me. Why else would you  
23 be smiling at me?" And I says, "It's just a big joke."

24 I don't know -- like I regret saying some of  
25 those things that I said to him that day, but he just

[Type text]

1 continued smiling. He'd ask me some more questions, and  
2 then he'd have me crying again for the next couple hours.  
3 And I'd look back at him and he's smiling again. And it  
4 just bothered me with that -- all day long, probably about  
5 -- finally around six o'clock in the evening -- oh, yeah,  
6 the thing about it too, he kept -- during the day he kept  
7 on asking me, he says, "Are you willing -- are you ready to  
8 quit drinking for the rest of your life?" I remember the  
9 first time, "Yes, that's why I'm here."

10 And then he would continue asking me  
11 questions. All day long he asked me that. Towards the  
12 evening when I thought about it for the longest time, he  
13 asked me again, because he might have thought I forgot what  
14 he -- what he asked me. So he asked me again, he says,  
15 "Are you ready to quit drinking for the rest of your life?"  
16 And I said, "Yes, I am." And he looks at me, he's smiling  
17 again, and he says -- I wasn't going to say nothing to him  
18 that time because I was just happy he was smiling.

19 And then a thing came about me was that when  
20 he was smiling at me that time, he says -- he looks at me,  
21 he says, "Look at me." He says, "You've been asking me all  
22 day -- all day long about why I've been smiling at you. I  
23 can finally tell you why I've been smiling." And I said,  
24 "Okay." And then I was really wanting to hear what he had  
25 to say. Then he told me, "Almost word for word the things

[Type text]

1       that you told me today was how I lived my life. All those  
2       things that happened to me -- that happened to you,  
3       happened to me almost in the same exact words that you  
4       spoke. All that crying and sharing that you did with me  
5       today, that's why I was smiling. I understood what you  
6       were going through. I understood because that's what I  
7       went through."

8                       And I looked at him, it was my turn to smile.  
9       And I asked him -- I asked him, I says, "How come you  
10      didn't tell me sooner?" He says, "I don't think you would  
11      have been able to go through all the things that you did  
12      today. You wouldn't have been able to share. You wouldn't  
13      be able to know the things that -- that you know now.  
14      Those things are there for you to be able to help others."

15                      And -- and I thought about what he said and I  
16      just really impacted me so much that I -- I was able to cry  
17      again. I still had tears, but I cried tears of happiness  
18      because for once somebody understood who I was. What  
19      happened to me. What I've endured up until that time.

20                      Well, it wasn't that long after that that he  
21      passed away. And I being an alcoholic, I could not get  
22      over the frustration and anger that I felt that -- when I  
23      heard that. I remember saying to myself, "That damn guy  
24      did it to me again. He just went and died on me."

25                      Like I was just so frustrated, angry, but

[Type text]

1 after I said that I broke down and I realized nobody's  
2 going to do that on purpose. It was just my way -- the  
3 anger that I've had within me that I held for the longest  
4 times. Like I was finally able to understand that, too,  
5 that the amount of dedication that he had shown to me.

6 And I remember still feeling like that, and I  
7 happen to bump into my friend here, Mary Alice, and I told  
8 her about that. And she just asked me a simple question,  
9 she said, "What do you think he would have said to you?"  
10 And I couldn't answer. I just knew right away that all I  
11 had to do was thank her, because I know -- I know the  
12 things that he'd shown me that day what I needed to do.

13 And that -- that's what I continue doing  
14 these days, is showing that same compassion that he had for  
15 me, that same understanding. Sometimes I know it's hard  
16 for me to show it sometimes, but it's something that needs  
17 to be dealt with and shared with -- with our community, the  
18 world, the universe because that's -- that's how important  
19 it is for me to continue. With that I'm just going to say,  
20 *migwetch* to everybody for listening to what I had to say.  
21 *Migwetch.*

22 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** It's probably  
23 (indiscernible) go like this.

24 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Food?

25 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** They would have taken

[Type text]

1           it into the other room.

2                           **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** I have no clue.

3           (Indiscernible).

4                           **MS. JENNIFER COX:** I think...

5                           **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** There's food -- I  
6           don't (indiscernible)

7                           **MS. JENNIFER COX:** In another room.

8                           **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** There's food in the  
9           other room. Micah wants to speak.

10                          **MS. JENNIFER COX:** Okay.

11                          **MR. MICAH HENDERSON:** Well, *bonjour*,  
12           (speaking Ojibway language). Hello, again. My name is  
13           Micah Henderson. I'm a 25-year-old going onto 26. I --  
14           the reason why I'm here is because I'm here for myself.  
15           I'm here for my people, doesn't matter who -- who -- who we  
16           are, we are all the same human. It doesn't matter what  
17           colour of skin, what type of language we speak, we are all  
18           very human.

19                          And just like how -- how our -- how our  
20           traditional drums are, they may not look all the same, but  
21           the still have the same -- the same round -- round --  
22           roundish -- roundish look to them. They're -- they -- they  
23           represent -- this grand -- this grandmother drum represents  
24           ladies in a good way, in a -- in a clear way. It  
25           represents how -- how powerful they are. And what -- what

[Type text]

1 -- what they mean to -- what they mean to me. And what  
2 this drum represents to me is -- it reminds me of how --  
3 how powerful a mother's love could be to you.

4 And the reason why I say that is because I  
5 watched a documentary about a -- about a -- a Navajo  
6 soldier who -- who lied about his age to go fight in World  
7 War II, and when he did that, and when he finally went --  
8 he went over, he didn't -- he didn't go over to Europe, he  
9 went over to Japan to go fight the war over there. And he  
10 was one of the -- he was one of the sole survivors who was  
11 on one of the first landings of Peleliu Island, and what --  
12 what that reminded me of, that terrible battle on that  
13 island, was that the Japanese soldiers referred it to as,  
14 "The white sands that will carry the blood of the  
15 Americans." And -- and it doesn't matter what type of skin  
16 they are -- just to let you know that they're all  
17 Americans. And that they're going to be red on that beach.

18 When -- when I heard about the casualty rate  
19 of the first wave -- they sent about 15,000 troops in -- in  
20 those Higgins boats. So when they got about 15 yards -- 50  
21 yards away from the beach that's when the -- that's when  
22 their high commander gave -- gave the word and the battle  
23 was on. So that's -- that story.

24 But one story is that there's another one  
25 that actually really -- really hits -- hits home. It's

[Type text]

1       about a -- it was made into a movie but it was made into  
2       like, a documentary and -- well, sort of a documentary.  
3       And what it was about -- it was about the Bielski brothers,  
4       and what they did for their people -- the Jewish people.  
5       And the reason why I love -- love this movie so much is  
6       because they were the ones that were living in nature.  
7       They bought -- they brought their own -- they brought their  
8       own expertise. They -- they helped each other, young, old,  
9       the sick, they helped each other out. They -- they all  
10      said that, "I don't want to be -- I don't want to be a lab  
11      rat for Hitler." So when I -- when I saw -- when I heard  
12      them saying that, "We will protect you. We will make sure  
13      that no one comes to harm you."

14                    But when Hitler enactenized (sic) a plan --  
15      his plan -- it was a plan that was called "Operation  
16      Brushfire (ph)", and what that meant was he was going to  
17      send in Belarusian Police and soldiers to go in with tanks  
18      and trucks and then he assigned the -- he assigned his  
19      right-hand wing of the Luftwaffe to go and bomb certain  
20      targets in there.

21                    But anyway, the thing is, is that I'm -- I'm  
22      here to say that I never knew my grandmother and was that I  
23      -- I'm finally -- finally pretty happy about that. They --  
24      the way how my dad, how my -- my auntie said that they were  
25      I was -- I was happy. I am happy.



[Type text]

1                   The other thing is -- is that I'm never going  
2                   to -- I'm never going to know what she feels like because  
3                   she -- she was taken away before I was even born. And that  
4                   right there -- that statement right there hurts. I'm  
5                   finally old enough to understand what that means.

6                   "Grandma, I hope -- I hope that you -- I hope  
7                   that one day you come -- come and say hello to me."

8                   *Migwetch.*

9                   **MR. ALLAN HENDERSON:** (Speaking Ojibway  
10                   language). That -- this is how my grandkids feel also. So  
11                   they're going to carry this a long time. This young man,  
12                   my son, and my niece, they're going to hurt a long time.  
13                   One day they're going to have children too. (Speaking  
14                   Ojibway language). Youth, they also need to be recognized  
15                   for all their hurts. (Speaking Ojibway language).

16                   *Migwetch.*

17                   **CHIEF JANICE HENDERSON:** I think that  
18                   concludes...

19                   **MR. ALLAN HENDERSON:** Yeah.

20                   **CHIEF JANICE HENDERSON:** Yeah. They're going  
21                   to put the food away. They're going to put the food away.  
22                   Are you sweaty? Do you want to do one song? A closing  
23                   song, because...

24                   I think this concludes our -- our family.  
25                   And I don't know if you wanted to say some closing

[Type text]

1 remarks, Michèle and Brian.

2 I heard they're going to put the food away,  
3 so I don't know if we should go, but...

4 **COMMISSIONER BRIAN EYOLFSON:** I think  
5 everybody would probably like to go get some food, so I'm  
6 just going to be brief. I don't have any questions. I  
7 just want to thank you all very much, Janice, Diane, Micah,  
8 Allan, James, all your family, for coming here together.  
9 It was very powerful, very emotional to hear what you're  
10 sharing, and I'm sure everybody did and I just want to say  
11 a big *chi-migwetch* to all of you, thank you.

12 **--- Exhibits (code: P01P08P0103)**

13 **Exhibit 1:** Folder of four images displayed on monitors  
14 during public hearing.

15 **Exhibit 2:** Letter from Mr. William Leonard, executive  
16 director of Kenora-Rainy River Districts  
17 Child and Family Services to Ms. Diane  
18 Geissler, dated February 28, 2017.

19 **Exhibit 3:** Letter from Mr. Vik Nowak, supervisor Family  
20 and Children's Services of the District of  
21 Rainy River to Ms. Diane Geissler dated June  
22 24, 1991, with attached nonidentifying  
23 background information for Diane Geissler.

24 **Exhibit 4:** Department of Public Welfare Adoption Order  
25 in the matter of Diane Mary McGinnis made

[Type text]

1 by A.R. Hugill, J. on June 29, 1966.

2 **Exhibit 5:** Alberta Government Freedom of Information  
3 and Protection of Privacy Act request for  
4 general information of Diane Geissler for  
5 all information pertaining to Kathleen Mary  
6 McGinnis, reference number: 2015-G-0182,  
7 with 40 pages of attachments.

8 **Exhibit 6:** Ontario Court documents related to Sa  
9 Majeste la Reine contre Jean-Claude Gagne,  
10 11 pages.

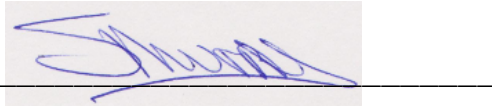
11 **Exhibit 7:** Minneapolis Police Dept. and State of  
12 Minnesota court records related the homicide  
13 of Edith Quagon, ten pages.

14 **Exhibit 8:** Toronto Star new article "Three Ojibwa  
15 sisters from the same reserve each met a  
16 violent end" by David Bruser, December 5,  
17 2015 (13 pages).

18 --- Upon adjourning at 6:38 p.m.

LEGAL DICTA-TYPIST'S CERTIFICATE

I, Shannon Munro, Court Transcriber, hereby certify that I have transcribed the foregoing and it is a true and accurate transcript of the digital audio provided in this matter.



Shannon Munro

February 19, 2017