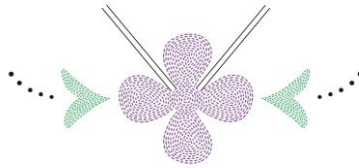


National Inquiry into
Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women and Girls



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 I
Public Hearings
Sheraton Vancouver Airport Hotel – Elmbridge Room
Vancouver, British Columbia**



Publication Ban

Friday April 6, 2018

**Public Volume 101:
Gladys Radek, Lorna Brown & Stephanie Radek,
In relation to Tamara Chipman**

**Heard by Chief Commissioner Marion Buller
& Commissioner Michèle Audette
Commission Counsel: Wendy van Tongeren**

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II

Publication Ban

A ban on publication is in effect on the name of the adolescent and any specific information concerning him in this transcript, which is the public testimony of Gladys Radek, Lorna Brown & Stephanie Radek, In relation to Tamara Chipman.

This ban on publication was ordered by Commissioner Brian Eyolfson on August 22, 2018 pursuant to Rule 55 of the Commission's *Legal Path: Rules of Respectful Practice*.

III

APPEARANCES

Assembly of First Nations	Julie McGregor (Legal counsel)
Government of British Columbia	Sara Pye (Legal counsel)
Government of Canada	Lucy Bell (Legal counsel)
Heiltsuk First Nation	No Appearance
Northwest Indigenous Council Society	No Appearance
Our Place - Ray Cam Co-operative Centre	No Appearance
Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada	No Appearance
Vancouver Sex Workers' Rights Collective	No Appearance
Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak / Women of the Métis Nation	No Appearance

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Clerk: Bryana Bouchir	
Registrar: Bryan Zandberg	

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1 Vancouver, British Columbia

2 --- Upon commencing on Friday, April 6, 2018 at 4:04

3 (Drumming in family)

4 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Madam

5 Commissioners, we are ready for the family now. The time
6 is 10 minutes after 4:00 and today is April 6th, 2018 and
7 we're at the Sheraton in Richmond, British Columbia. This
8 is the last session for the day.

9 And I'm honoured to present members of the
10 Radek family and Lorna Brown and we will have three
11 speakers. And in a moment we'll introduce all of the
12 support people that are here with them but I'm going to
13 start by swearing in the three witnesses who will be
14 speaking.

15 So, do you think the three of you can hold -
16 - touch that Bible at the same time? Okay. Thank you.

17 So do you, Stephanie Radek and Lorna Brown
18 and Gladys Radek, do you swear to tell the truth, the whole
19 truth and nothing but the truth so help you God?

20 **IN UNISON:** Yes.

21 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Thank you so much.

22 I've had an opportunity to hear the three of
23 you speak. And so it's in that context that I'm very
24 honoured to be here once more to be able to hear you and
25 the more that you have to say because I know that it is, in

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1 fact, infinite in terms of your experience.

2 So thank you for coming and thank you, all
3 of you, for being here as supports. So I wonder at this
4 juncture if -- I'll just pass the microphone around and
5 everyone who's seated in this portion, if you could
6 introduce yourselves in the context of your relation -- you
7 should start, Gladys, so that -- because not everyone knows
8 you, although I know you're a star but -- so you just give
9 your name and then the relationship to the family, okay,
10 when you introduce yourselves.

11 **MS. GLADYS RADEK:** My name is Gladys.
12 Where's the turn on button here? Gladys Radek and I'm the
13 aunt of Tamara Lynn Chipman.

14 **MS. LORNA BROWN:** And my name is Lorna
15 Brown. I'm Gladys' sister. I'm also Tamara Lynn Chipman's
16 aunt.

17 **MS. STEPHANIE RADEK:** Stephanie Radek.
18 Daughter of Gladys Radek, Tamara Lynn Chipman's cousin.

19 **MS. DENISE HAPYARD (ph):** Denise Hapyard
20 (ph), Tamara's cousin and Lorna's oldest daughter.

21 **MS. FLORENCE NAZIEL :** Florence Naziel. I'm
22 all their cousins.

23 **MR. ROB LEEVIN (ph):** Rob Leevin (ph),
24 Stephanie's brother-in-law, yeah.

25 **MR. MIKE LEWING (ph):** My name is Mike

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1 Lewing (ph) and I'm a fiancé of Stephanie Radek.

2 **MR. FRANK POUND (ph):** I'm Frank Pound (ph),
3 Lorna's husband and Tamara's uncle.

4 **MS. ARLENE ROBERTS:** (Speaking in Native
5 language). I'm Arlene Roberts and sister/friend to all of
6 these incredible women in front as well as we were on the
7 search team.

8 **MS. MYRNA LAPLANTE (ph):** My name is Myrna
9 Laplante (ph). I'm a friend of Gladys Radek for 10 years.
10 We met in 2008. And support for the family.

11 **GRANDMOTHER BERNIE WILLIAMS:** My name is
12 Bernie Williams, friends to the family and support.

13 **MS. ANITA MCPHEE:** My name is Anita McPhee
14 and friends to the family and health support.

15 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** So for many of
16 these sessions and the families I find that for me to do my
17 job confidently I just need to keep my mouth shut, so that
18 applies to this family. So I understand that the order is,
19 Gladys, you'll begin? And I'll sit here looking forward to
20 your wisdom.

21 **MS. GLADYS RADEK:** My name is Gladys Radek.
22 I'm from the Gitksan Wet'suwet'en territory northern
23 British Columbia, Moricetown, B.C. And to tell you a
24 little bit about me, I'm 62 and I've been institutionalized
25 since birth. When I was born I was born with tuberculosis

PUBLICATION BAN

1 and shipped off to hospital for tuberculosis And went home
2 to my mother for a short period of time after three-and-a-
3 half years in the hospital and consequently taken away and
4 thrown into foster care when I was four.

5 And when I was put into foster care I was
6 shifted around to several homes and they put me into a
7 Native foster home in Terrace, B.C. And within the first
8 week of being put into that foster home I was sexually
9 abused, spiritually abused, emotionally abused and was not
10 taught any of my culture. And I was shifted around through
11 the foster care system until I was returned to my family,
12 that I didn't know that I had, when I was about 13 years
13 old.

14 Due to the abuse that I was subjected to and
15 my sisters and my family, I was separated from my family
16 here and I didn't know that I even had any brothers and
17 sisters until I went back home when I started running away.
18 I was trying to flee an abusive situation and the
19 government decided then it was time for me to be returned
20 to my mother. I didn't realize that I had any sibling
21 until that point in my life.

22 I started drinking when I was nine years old
23 because drinking -- the alcoholism and partying was of the
24 norm, as did the violence and the sexual abuse from more
25 than one person in that family. There was several men in

PUBLICATION BAN

1 that family that sexually abused all of us. I was put into
2 foster care with [*family member's name redacted pursuant to*
3 *Rule 55*], and that went on for five years. And I started
4 drinking because I wanted to mask the pain that I was in
5 after witnessing my sisters and my little brother, my
6 little foster brother.

7 So I grew up with violence. And when I
8 started running away they decided that they were going to
9 put me back in with my mother and my stepfather and the
10 rest of my family. There was -- I had nine sibling and I
11 didn't even know it. I'm the second oldest of those nine.
12 And today there's six of us left.

13 In light of the Sixties Scoop, I was told by
14 the lawyers that I didn't qualify because I wasn't abused
15 by white people. That in itself I feel is wrong because it
16 was a white social worker and white police officers that
17 stole me from my family and that's when the abuse started.

18 I lived several years through alcoholism. I
19 did try drugs but they didn't agree with my body and I
20 didn't like being out of control of my mind and my soul
21 through the drugs. It didn't agree with me.

22 The first time I did heroin I ODed and was
23 put in the hospital for three weeks. I survived it and I
24 never looked back again because I didn't like that feeling.
25 I almost died. At that point I was 14.

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1 I was introduced to the downtown east side
2 when I was 14. And the reason I was introduced to the
3 downtown east side was because I was sent to Willington
4 School for Girls, which was kind of like a jail, a reform
5 school. And I ran away from there and I ran to the
6 downtown east side. That's where I met a lot of my street
7 sisters and a lot of my own relatives that I didn't know.

8 I was really angry when I hit the downtown
9 east side because of all the violence that I was subjected
10 to as a child. I felt that nobody loved me. And I went in
11 search of love, a sense of belonging, and I didn't belong
12 anywhere.

13 My alcoholism continued until 2008 and I've
14 been clean and sober since. It was actually my niece
15 Tamara that made me realize that I couldn't do the work
16 that I'm doing for our missing and murdered women if I was
17 drinking and I needed to clear my mind. So I went to my
18 first Chief's meeting. And when I watched them perform for
19 that week I decided that I was going to quit drinking and I
20 put down that bottle.

21 It was through all the intergenerational
22 trauma that stemmed from my mother that made this life the
23 way it was for me. Even though my mother didn't go to
24 residential school, she only had a Grade 1 education. She
25 was abused by her sibling because of the residential

PUBLICATION BAN

1 school.

2 I didn't know why my mother didn't want me
3 but I know now that she did love me and that she couldn't
4 help what happened to her. And to this day my mother's
5 been silenced about what happened to her. She persevered
6 it all though. And with us six children that are left
7 behind with her we all know that she loved us
8 unconditionally and that she did her best. The government
9 stepped in. They took us all away from her. That was
10 their answer was to take us away.

11 My mother is 84 years old and she's
12 beautiful. And I'm really proud to be her daughter. She
13 did nothing to hurt us. She did nothing to hurt us. It
14 was the systems that are in place here now that hurt us.
15 It wasn't our mother. My mother was a life giver. And
16 because of my mother I have beautiful sisters and brothers,
17 nieces and nephews. I love my mother.

18 Yes, I did live through a life of
19 alcoholism. Creator decided to take that alcohol away from
20 me. And when Tamara went missing in 2005 it didn't take
21 long for me to realize that there was lots of other Tamaras
22 out there that were missing, so many of our young relatives
23 have been murdered, for no reason, because they were
24 society's throw aways.

25 I remember as a child going to school, I

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1 never wanted to be called an Indian. My teachers even
2 tried to change the way I wrote. I'm left-handed and they
3 changed the way I wrote. But now I can write with both
4 hands. I'm ambidextrous. That's because they tried to
5 change me but they couldn't beat the Indian out of me.
6 They couldn't do it.

7 I struggled all my life trying to belong,
8 searching for love, approval. And I wanted to rid myself
9 of the shame. I was ashamed to be an Indian.

10 When I got older I started driving by this
11 beautiful place called Moricetown and I'd see the beauty of
12 that canyon. I was never taught how to fish out of that
13 canyon. It's the only place in Canada where we can still
14 spearfish. That's the way we fish. I was never given that
15 opportunity. I was never given the opportunity to speak
16 our language. I'd love to learn our language. And yet my
17 mother is one of the few people on our reserve that can
18 still speak our language. She doesn't speak to us in that
19 language. She taught us all English.

20 When Tamara went missing I couldn't take it
21 anymore because all these years I watched my friends
22 disappear. I watched my relatives disappear, not just in
23 the downtown east side, up north, up in northern B.C. where
24 nobody wants to talk about it. Everybody thinks we're
25 doing fine and dandy up there. And yet we have so many

PUBLICATION BAN

1 women that are going missing and being murdered up there
2 and nobody's doing anything about it.

3 When she went missing, there was something
4 that just triggered me in my heart where I said enough is
5 enough. We can't live like this anymore. And I mean "we"
6 as Indigenous people. I swallowed my pride and I admitted
7 that I'm First Nations. I'm not ashamed of that anymore.
8 When you look at the colour of my skin, I am First Nations.
9 And I do have an education. And I got that education
10 through the school of life. The school of life has taught
11 me so much and I couldn't have done it without my brothers
12 and sisters either.

13 I know I used to worry them because
14 sometimes they'd go a year or two without hearing from me.
15 They didn't know where I was. And when Tamara went and
16 disappeared, I know how they feel now. And I know I broke
17 their hearts when I did that, when I'd just disappeared and
18 I would start hitchhiking all over the country.

19 I'm not going to give you the sordid details
20 of what I had to go through except for a couple of things
21 that happened to me when I was hitchhiking where I was
22 raped by police officers in Alberta and in B.C. Therefore,
23 I lost my trust in the police. I lost my trust in social
24 workers.

25 When I was being abused back then I tried to

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1 tell the teachers. I told my Sunday school teachers. I
2 even told social workers. I told the principal of my
3 school that I was being sexually abused at home. And the
4 last response from the principal was, "Oh, well, you know
5 what? We don't have any more foster homes here. You're
6 lucky you got a roof over your head." That was the answer
7 that I got. Why should I care if they didn't? I couldn't
8 get help. I was only nine when they -- when I tried to
9 disclose the first time. That was after a year of being
10 sexually abused. And I thought that they didn't believe
11 me.

12 When I got raped by the police and people
13 asked me years later, "Well, how come you didn't report
14 it?" Well, that's like me going to my abuser asking for
15 help. That wasn't going to happen.

16 So I lived with it and I lived with shame.
17 I felt dirty. That's why I lived that high risk lifestyle
18 because I got to the point where I didn't care anymore. I
19 did a couple attempts at suicide and was too much of a
20 coward to do that.

21 And then I went on hitchhiking through the
22 towns, through -- right across the country. I made it to
23 Moncton, New Brunswick. And I came back and I settled in
24 Calgary for a while. When I turned -- just before -- the
25 day before my 18th birthday I had met a young man, fell in

PUBLICATION BAN

1 love. And he was going to take me to Sylvan Lake, Alberta
2 for my birthday, for my 18th birthday. We were on a really
3 beautiful bike, 1200 Harley. It was absolutely gorgeous.
4 We just got it out of a shop that day, 1957. And we were
5 driving along the highway and we were about 10 kilometres
6 from our destination and a car came over the hill and
7 deliberately hit us. And I lost the use of my left leg.

8 Four years later, after eight or nine
9 operations where they were trying to save my leg, I just
10 said no more. And I asked my doctor to amputate it because
11 I was in pain every time they put a walking cast on me.

12 So I was an amputee at 22. And that led to
13 another addiction to Demerol and Morphine. And I carried
14 on with that for about four years.

15 When I was 21 I gave birth to my first son,
16 Chris. Because I was still drinking and everything, I went
17 back home to Prince Rupert where my mother lived and I gave
18 her custody of my son for a short period of time. I was
19 never taught any parenting skills. I couldn't be a parent.
20 I didn't know how. I didn't know what to do. I just kept
21 on drinking.

22 A couple years later I had another boy. At
23 two months and three weeks he died of crib death. And to
24 mask that pain I continued to drink. I thought it was my
25 fault. I did regain custody of my boy.

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1 And then I met my second husband in 1981.

2 And then the Creator blessed me with four daughters, my
3 oldest one here. I wasn't a perfect mother but I did try.
4 And today I have four beautiful daughters that are strong,
5 resilient, understanding and full of love, which is much
6 more than what I could hope for.

7 My baby sister here, I know she missed me
8 when I was gone but she always prayed for me and I knew
9 that. And I always went home because I needed grounding by
10 my baby sister and her wonderful husband. They never
11 turned their backs on me. Didn't matter what I was doing.
12 They were always there for me. And that's what family's
13 about.

14 I got to know also and learned through the
15 years of the other sibling that I had. And I didn't
16 realize until much later that my oldest brother was in a
17 foster home a block away from me and I never knew. I met
18 him when he was 16. And now we're very close as well.

19 Now my other little brother's Tom. I
20 remember when I met Tom. He was just a little guy. He was
21 much younger than me. And I remember going and -- going
22 home from the foster home and all I seen was this little
23 guy. He was standing up on the bumper of an old station
24 wagon. He was only six years old and he was a mechanic.
25 But I'll never forget meeting all my little brothers and

PUBLICATION BAN

1 sisters.

2 It's -- seems like a lifetime ago that all
3 this trauma happened but it affected me for the rest of my
4 life and it will affect me for the rest of my life. But
5 I've learned to forgive and I found that love. I found
6 that love in my family.

7 When I did return to school I was 44 years
8 old. I graduated with honours. But even after graduation
9 it still didn't get me any further in my life but I did get
10 educated in the white system. And that's probably the only
11 thing that I'm grateful for with the white system. They
12 tried to tear us apart and they couldn't do it because my
13 family is resilient. My family is love. My mother is
14 love. It doesn't matter what they did to her, what they
15 did to us. We have love.

16 And we love Tamara. She was 22 years old.
17 She was just starting her life as a young mother. And all
18 of a sudden she's just lost off the face of the earth,
19 missing. She's still missing today. She went missing on
20 September 21st, 2005. And this is when our family, my
21 cousin Florence, organized a walk because she got tired of
22 hearing about the women from our community and the girls
23 from our community that were going missing. She was very
24 close to my brother Tom.

25 Oh, the other thing I need to share is that

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1 my brother Tom and I have the same birthday. There was
2 three of us that had the same birthday in the same family.
3 What are the odds of that?

4 When Tamara went missing it hit my other
5 daughter really hard, my daughter Rachel, because she has
6 the same birthday as Tamara. So today she doesn't
7 celebrate her birthday on her birthday because that was --
8 Tamara's missing. So it doesn't seem like her birthday
9 anymore.

10 So I was -- every year I always phoned Tom
11 to wish him a happy birthday. I told him I couldn't forget
12 when his birthday was.

13 So Florence was the one that actually set
14 the template for our walks because she decided that she was
15 going to do a walk from Prince Rupert, where Tamara went
16 missing, to Terrace, Tamara's home community. And I
17 remember I approached the Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs and I
18 told them, "I want to go up to the walk for Tamara." And
19 they gracefully paid my way up there.

20 And then I got wind that they were having a
21 symposium in Prince George. And I asked Florence when I
22 got there, I said, "Did you know they're having a symposium
23 in Prince George?" And, "No, I didn't hear about it." I
24 said, "It's on the 28th." And this was March the 11th. So
25 she went running into the hall where all the walkers were

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1 preparing to walk to Terrace and said, "Do you guys want to
2 walk to Prince George?"

3 And she came out. I was still out in the
4 parking lot and she came back out two minutes later and she
5 said, "Yeah, let's do it." And we did. And we got drummed
6 into the symposium in Prince George.

7 That was such a humbling experience to be
8 walking on those highways, to walk down that highway and
9 look for a body, look for a clue. It was hard on all of us
10 because we felt the spirits of those women walking with us.
11 And we knew that we needed to do something.

12 So we walked into the symposium. And the
13 families in that symposium were the ones that pulled all
14 the recommendations together for the Highway of Tears. We
15 were very, very hopeful that the government would step up
16 and honour all of those recommendations and that never
17 happened.

18 2007 comes along and I asked Bernie -- I
19 bumped into Bernie downtown. I phoned her after and I
20 said, "You know what?" I said, "It seems to me the
21 government's not doing anything about these
22 recommendations." And I just blurted out to her, "Maybe we
23 should walk to Ottawa." And she turned around and, "Gladys
24 [*sic*], don't just talk about it. Do it," she said. I know
25 you guys can hear her saying that.

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1 But we had nothing. Between Bernie and
2 myself we had nothing. We didn't even have a vehicle
3 between the two of us. And so we started preparing in
4 January. We started preparing and by June 2008 we were on
5 our way to Ottawa. And here we are today with this
6 national inquiry that we demanded in 2008.

7 I'm going to leave it at that for now and I
8 want to say to you, Commissioners, to all the staff from
9 this national inquiry, thank you. Thank you for honouring
10 our women, our life givers. Thank you for being here and
11 hearing the pain of our families. I know this work is hard
12 on all of you because we've listened to these stories for a
13 decade, two decades, maybe three decades. And a lot of
14 these stories you guys are hearing for the first time.

15 I don't envy the work you have to do. But
16 we need to make this government listen to us and start
17 treating our First Nations' people like human beings.

18 Tamara was special to all of us. And my
19 family's going to be sharing some things about Tamara.

20 Actually, there's one more thing that I
21 wanted to share with you about Tamara. It was back in
22 2001. Tamara was only 18 years old. But I'd moved back up
23 to Terrace to hold accountable one of my abusers and I
24 charged him with historical sexual abuse. And Tamara was
25 the one that came to my house every day. When I was going

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1 to court she supported me. She didn't come into the
2 courthouse with me but she was always at home waiting for
3 me or else she'd come first thing in the morning just to
4 give me a hug to say, "Good luck, auntie." But she was
5 there for me the whole time I went through the court. And
6 for that I'm ever so grateful.

7 Tamara was always loved, always valued. I
8 even hate saying "was" because we still have no proof that
9 she's dead. She's missing. And until they can prove to me
10 via DNA that she's dead, I'm going to consider her missing.

11 One thing I'll say though is that she's not
12 missing in my heart. She's always in my heart.

13 **MS. LORNA BROWN:** I'm Lorna Brown. I have
14 to say that I admire my sisters. Even though we were
15 robbed for those so many years of knowing our sisters and
16 my cousin Terry, which we always called her -- we always
17 counted you guys. We always counted you as sisters and our
18 brothers that we never knew.

19 They're the reasons that I stand strong
20 today. Like, the things that my sisters went through and
21 things that we were -- also went through as a result of
22 Indian residential school, our mother was robbed of being a
23 proper parent. She was robbed of what it meant to be a
24 strong Aboriginal woman.

25 But it's because of the strength of my

PUBLICATION BAN

1 sisters and I watched the things that they went through.
2 And I vowed to not allow that to happen with my family.

3 I've watched my sister in her high school,
4 my oldest sister, Peggy, get kicked down the stairs for no
5 reason. So I had a bit of a chip on my shoulder going
6 through high school so -- because I always said, "No one's
7 ever going to kick me down the stairs like they did to my
8 sister."

9 And to all that I thank you and Peggy for
10 helping me to be this strong person. Because they turned
11 around and they tell me I'm the strong one but it's because
12 of you and the things that you guys went through and you
13 were just so strong.

14 So you know a little bit about our story.
15 We were separated as siblings. And so we were quite close,
16 all of our -- Tom, he's a year older than me. Tamara was
17 his only daughter. And she really was such a -- like, such
18 a ray of sunshine. Like, she's got the -- like, the most
19 beautiful smile. She loved her son. And, you know, she
20 was also a product of -- her mother and father, the family
21 breakup. It really affected her a lot. And I know she was
22 just devastated when her parents split up. [*Information*
23 *redacted pursuant to Rule 55 of Legal Path: Rules of*
24 *Respectful Practice*]. And she was another young Aboriginal
25 woman that was in the system that failed her. That system

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1 worked against her. It didn't -- the system's not there to
2 help.

3 [Information redacted pursuant to Rule 55 of
4 Legal Path: Rules of Respectful Practice]. At the time I
5 was looking after him so I really got to spend a lot of
6 time with Tamara. [Information redacted pursuant to Rule
7 55 of Legal Path: Rules of Respectful Practice]. I mean,
8 she would never have brought any harm to her son. She
9 loved him.

10 And I just witnessed time and time again
11 where the social worker she had was just pushing her
12 buttons. You know, telling her how it was going to be and
13 with a smirk would tell her, "Well, yeah, I don't think you
14 quite made it this week again. Yeah, I don't quite like
15 the way you looked at me or stuck up for yourself." Like,
16 it was a -- it went on week after week. And I just -- and
17 she was making so many strides.

18 She was getting counselling. She was making
19 those steps. And it's unfortunate that she was lost in
20 that system. And I know Stephanie will touch a little bit
21 on that so I won't go into that.

22 But I look at -- look back on how much she
23 loved her son. And I have videos of her and one day I will
24 show that to [name redacted - Rule 55] And I just want to
25 say that we are -- we're trying to look forward now to what

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1 we can do and be there for my nieces and my daughter and,
2 you know, and that's where we need to go from here is,
3 like, be a support for each other because the government is
4 not going to -- they're not going to be the answer for
5 everything. It's us as mothers. It's us as sisters. It's
6 us as aunties and grandmothers that are going to make the
7 difference for our children and our grandchildren.

8 And I just want to encourage every woman in
9 this room and every man that that's what it's going to take
10 is us to stand together and to say no and end that violence
11 that's so systemic. And let people know that it's not okay
12 to take out somebody's life or to abuse a woman or to rape
13 a woman. It's not. We're not going to take it. We're not
14 going to stand here and take that any more.

15 And I just also want to say to the
16 Commissioners, I thank you so much for the work, the hard
17 work that you have done. I respect each and every one of
18 you. And for giving our girls a voice, for giving us a
19 voice, because it's -- without this inquiry we wouldn't
20 have this voice. And it's not a perfect system but how can
21 you perfect something that this is the first time that this
22 has ever happened in, you know, dozens of years of a broken
23 system and all this heaviness on your shoulders. But you
24 are strong, amazing women. And I just applaud you for
25 allowing us to have a voice.

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1 **MS. STEPHANIE RADEK:** My name's Stephanie
2 Radek.

3 Tamara and I grew up together. The one
4 thing I do know is despite the intergenerational trauma
5 that is so dominant within our society, I have many good
6 memories. My mom, my auntie, my family tried. They tried
7 and they tried hard.

8 I remember as a child we all used to get
9 together and have these giant baseball teams. There was
10 enough of us family members. We had two baseball teams
11 just family, aunties, uncles, cousins. And, you know, we'd
12 have fondues, which we need to do again. We had
13 sleepovers. You know, the fondues, when we had them at our
14 house, all the kids would be kicked into the basement and
15 we'd play dark out. And, you know, and Tamara was there.
16 And boy, let me tell you, when Tamara walked into the room
17 she was something else. She was a firecracker. She was
18 amazing. She was tall. She was beautiful. She had an
19 attitude on her like nobody I've ever met before, in a very
20 good way.

21 You know, I feel, like, despite the PTSD
22 that I've even suffered as a result of my grandmother and
23 my mother and my aunties and uncles through the Sixties
24 Scoop, through residential schools, through the trauma that
25 they went through, I commend my family for doing the best

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1 that they could. No family is perfect but there is no
2 other family like ours.

3 Tamara and I dealt with the same -- a
4 similar story. I too -- it hit me hard when my parents
5 split up at that age. Again, my mom did the best she could
6 but as a result of her mom not being able to teach her
7 skills, my mom didn't have skills, therefore, I wasn't
8 taught skills. And Tamara and I walked a similar path as
9 we grew up. We kind of drifted apart but I, too, chose
10 alcohol and drugs. I'm happy to say I am clean and sober
11 now.

12 But to deal -- you know, without having that
13 numbing agent, which is what I lived through today, which
14 Tamara didn't have a chance. She was taken. She was --
15 she's gone. She didn't have the chance to try and work
16 through things.

17 Today I deal with having to be a childless
18 mother. And that kills me every single day. But I do the
19 best I can. And no matter what, my choices were in the
20 past. I make choices today not for my benefit and my
21 selfishness for my kids. I could take my children back. I
22 could just take them. If I could, I would. I don't think
23 that's the right decision for them at this moment though.
24 They're in a place of resentment and hate. If Tamara
25 had the chance, I think she would have been an amazing

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1 mother. You can see in many of her pictures how much love
2 she had for [name redacted - Rule 55].

3 I am happy to say that despite my issues
4 today and my -- the void of my children in my life today,
5 I've had the opportunity over the last few months to really
6 get to know [name and personal information redacted - Rule
7 55]. Now we actually -- are you running the Sun Run? Okay.

8 There's a group of us, 10 of us, [name
9 redacted - Rule 55] is included in that group and we are
10 all training to run the Sun Run in memory of Tamara and
11 many of the missing women along this highway. And it's an
12 honour and a pleasure to be able to do this with [name
13 redacted - Rule 55] because I know if Tamara was here she'd
14 be doing it. You know, we've got the opportunity today to
15 push forward and maybe the Creator or God, whatever your
16 personal choice is, didn't intend for these things to
17 happen but they did. And I firmly believe that today He's
18 opening new doors for us and we need to walk through these
19 doors. We need to push through these doors. But it starts
20 with us wanting to be the change that we want to see in
21 this world.

22 One of the things I have learned in the
23 north, my sister is dealing with severe addiction issues
24 and whatnot right now, as Tamara did, as I have myself.
25 And so I've been looking into -- I'm familiar with a lot of

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1 the resources in the city in Vancouver here for treatment
2 and counselling and that kind of stuff. And I feel like a
3 lot of the system works. I managed a treatment house in
4 Surrey for about nine months. And let me tell you, that
5 was a learning experience in itself.

6 But in the north, I did manage to make some
7 phone calls and found there's -- KSAN Society offers
8 transition houses for women pleading abusive relationships,
9 whether -- whatever it may be due to. They service
10 Terrace, which is how many people there? Fifteen thousand
11 (15,000) people in Terrace alone and then you have the
12 surrounding areas. They have funding for women and their
13 children for 16 people. How are you supposed to fix
14 anything when you have to turn these women down at the
15 door? There's -- where are they to go? There's 16 beds
16 available for this.

17 There's -- as a result of intergenerational
18 genocide, really, as everybody knows, the opioid crisis is
19 a huge issue. I wanted to bring it to your attention that
20 in the north for Terrace, Prince Rupert, Smithers, Houston,
21 Vanderhoof, there's one detox centre. That's in Prince
22 George, British Columbia.

23 One of the barriers that the resources in
24 Terrace are running into is the Greyhound bus service is
25 leaving. So when a client comes in wanting to change their

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1 life, in that moment they want to change their life, they
2 have to ship them eight hours away after a bed becomes
3 available. I feel that Terrace needs a detox centre. They
4 need treatment readily available. A lot of the referrals
5 are coming to down south treatment centres. But, again, if
6 you have a client who is on opioids or other things and in
7 the moment wants to quit, they can't wait a week or two
8 weeks or three weeks or a month to get this help. We need
9 to put these supports in place now so that we can move
10 forward, so these people can change their life. Because in
11 that one day, one week, two weeks, how many of them will
12 die before they get the chance to do this because they just
13 can't wait?

14 And like I said, I feel that if Tamara was
15 given opportunities without judgment, without barriers,
16 without judgment, if she was actually given a true
17 opportunity, I firmly believe that the system has failed
18 her. And as a result, she chose to numb. She chose to not
19 deal with things after fighting and fighting and fighting.
20 And inevitably it costed [sic] her her life.

21 I think that we need to change this and we
22 need to change this now.

23 **MS. GLADYS RADEK:** So we have four
24 generations of women from our family here right now sitting
25 in front of you that have all lived through that trauma.

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1 There's no place for us to reach out to in Terrace, in the
2 northern communities. We're always left out of the
3 equation. The call for treatment centres, health, healing
4 and wellness of our people is much needed.

5 When you come up north you're going to see a
6 beautiful territory up there where our fish our, where our
7 wildlife is, or used to be, and our kids aren't being
8 taught anymore how to fish, how to hunt, live off the land
9 like we used to. We wouldn't -- that was stripped away
10 from us.

11 When my daughter talks about detox centres
12 and everything, we need those detox centres because a lot
13 of our people are suffering from 500 years of abuse. And
14 we need somewhere that we can go to heal our hearts,
15 somewhere to go where we can find our families, somewhere
16 where we can learn how to be parents. Can't live on love
17 alone they say. Well, we -- our family proved different
18 because we're just as dysfunctional as the next family but
19 we sure love each other and we stand each other up.

20 I'm really proud of this one here. She's my
21 baby sister. And I'm totally in love with her family.
22 Denise, I don't want to break your heart but you're all my
23 favourite nieces.

24 But my girls learned a lot through Lorna's
25 family. Lorna's family is the most stable out of all of

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1 us. How many years you and Frank for?

2 **MS. LORNA BROWN:** Thirty-nine (39) years.

3 **MS. GLADYS RADEK:** Thirty-nine (39) years
4 they've been together and raised their family.

5 And they're the solid rock of our family.
6 And they've always welcomed us with open arms, no matter
7 what we did, no matter what kind of trouble we got into,
8 they were always there. And she was there for Tamara too.

9 *[Information redacted pursuant to Rule 55].*

10 And he's a spitfire just like Tamara was. He's a little
11 hellion but you know what? He knows that he's loved and
12 that's the most important thing in his life right now.

13 *[Information redacted pursuant to Rule 55].*

14 Well, I went through that too 40 years ago and I ended up
15 in jail. *[Information redacted pursuant to Rule 55].* And
16 with our love that's not going to happen because we're
17 going to hold onto him dearly and we're not going to allow
18 that to happen. We're going to stand together strong for
19 him. Because there's something that nobody really thinks
20 when our women and girls go missing, especially the young
21 mothers, is what happens to those kids?

22 I think about the stories that I've heard
23 over the years. I think about Georgina Papin actually and
24 I think about the fact that she had seven children. And
25 what happened after she disappeared? *[Information redacted*

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1 *pursuant to Rule 55].*

2 That's what happens. And some of them will
3 never see each other again. We're not going to allow that
4 to happen.

5 We need to hang onto our children. We need
6 to protect them. We need to teach them that the road that
7 we took is wrong. The mask isn't going to work. That mask
8 is not going to work. The alcohol is not going to work.
9 The drugs aren't going to work because they only take your
10 pain away for a little while. It's a temporary fix.

11 What we need to do is raise our children
12 with love. We need to teach our children a way of life.
13 We need to teach them that we do live off the land, that
14 we're fishermen, we're hunters, we're gatherers, we're
15 beaters, we're beautiful, all of us. And this government
16 has been trying for 500 -- over 500 years to rid Canada of
17 the Indians and we're still here. We're still strong. We
18 are a little bit broken but we can fix that.

19 We need these positive changes now. We
20 can't wait anymore. And that's why we're stepping up and
21 we're saying violence no more.

22 And I just want to touch base on the fact
23 that our men are hurt too. Our men were hurt too the same
24 way that we were. And very many of our men live in guilt
25 because they figure that they can't provide for us. And as

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1 women, we need to stand behind our men and we need to bring
2 them back to the way things should be, because without our
3 men there would be no more children. Without women there's
4 not going to be any more children. This genocide on behalf
5 of the government will not work because we are getting
6 stronger. And what we ask for now is health, healing and
7 wellness centres. We need those.

8 It's good and well that they so-called
9 apologized but it doesn't mean nothing until you back it
10 up. You give us the resources for those institutional
11 problems that you've given to us. You've already raped our
12 land. You're stripping resources out of our lands and
13 you're making billions of dollars off of our backs. And
14 now it's time for payback. We want some of that money too
15 so that we can provide for our people, so that we can
16 prevent homelessness, so that we can prevent addictions, so
17 we can prevent all these masks from tearing us apart.

18 Violence isn't the answer for a good
19 society. We, as Indigenous people, all breathe the same
20 air. We bleed the same blood. And the only difference is
21 the colour of our skin. Not good enough. We're all still
22 human beings.

23 We're not asking you for handouts. They've
24 never been handouts. This is our land. What you're doing
25 is you're taking our land. You are the ones that are

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1 taking the handouts. And you're taking it right off of our
2 backs. And that's enough.

3 Are you going to say something now, Wendy?

4 Can we show that slideshow of Tamara?

5 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** I think it has been
6 shown. But, yes, if you'd like to do that, yeah. It
7 wasn't shown? Okay. So is that the one that was -- it's
8 been made into a slide show?

9 **MS. GLADYS RADEK:** It's on the top, yeah.

10 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** It's like a movie?

11 It's called ---

12 **MS. GLADYS RADEK:** Yeah.

13 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay. Did you get
14 that? The slide show. Slide show, please.

15 --- SLIDE SHOW PRESENTATION

16 **MS. ARLENE ROBERTS:** Okay. I'm Arlene
17 Roberts. I used to be a firefighter for seven years with
18 Kitsumkalum. And my husband was 20 years. And I fished
19 with him as well. Grew up on my dad's fishing boat. And
20 we were at a fisheries meeting and that's when Tom came in.
21 Tamara's dad is a fisherman. And told us Tamara was
22 missing. And it just took us maybe a day to get organized,
23 hey, Lorna? Yeah. And rounded up all the fishermen, all
24 the firefighters in Kitsumkalum, and my husband, Chief Don
25 Roberts, was taking the lead along with Brigitta (ph).

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1 Yeah, Brigitta (ph) and Ron.

2 So we asked Tom about the missing persons
3 and the police didn't take him seriously. And so then we
4 started the search. And our day started at 4:00 a.m. and
5 all the way from Prince Rupert to past Kitsumkalum, past
6 Terrace, looking for Tamara, step by step and inch by inch,
7 and especially where she was last seen coming out of Prince
8 Rupert.

9 Prince Rupert is 149 kilometres, yeah, from
10 Terrace. And so day after day we did that. And originally
11 the Terrace search and rescue guys joined us. And there
12 was three of them. And they came the second morning and
13 said that they were going to get fired if they continued on
14 with us, that they weren't authorized to search and rescue
15 with us.

16 And so then they stayed with us for the day.
17 And then they showed up the next day, which was amazing.
18 And they're all non-First Nations' men and they stayed with
19 us. And they didn't lose their jobs it turned out in the
20 long run but they weren't going to leave us alone to search
21 by ourselves and that's when they started doing the grid
22 patterns and, yeah, all the stuff of how they do the search
23 and rescue, hey? And so they were -- they really made a
24 big difference.

25 And then, as well, all the fishermen, all

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1 the fishermen that came forward to start going at 4:00 a.m.
2 in the morning. So it was just an incredible -- it was
3 incredible because we -- we're still looking. We still
4 are, still looking with that.

5 So and when you talk about treatment centres
6 and discounting our healing, in the north we really need
7 that.

8 I work for the Indian Residential School
9 Survivor Society and we're going on 23 years. And we go
10 month to month with our funding. We go month to month.
11 And we cover 32 towns and villages in the north. We're the
12 only organization across Canada like us. We have 24 staff
13 all over B.C. And they all do what I do.

14 And so they're closing the doors now. The
15 government's starting to close the doors. Well, you guys
16 had 10, 20 years now with this residential school stuff.
17 It's time for you guys to move on. It's time for -- you
18 guys should all be healed by now. There shouldn't be any
19 issues anywhere along the line. So little by little the
20 government's closing our doors, especially in the north,
21 shutting down the residential school offices. So we're
22 pretty much almost the only organization left again with
23 that -- with the survivors and the issues and the
24 generational issues that they were talking about with all
25 the generational issues that we need to continue on. This

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1 isn't the end of anything. This is the beginning.

2 Yeah, this isn't we're going to sit down.

3 It's like -- like they were saying, we're not going to sit
4 down anymore. We got our babies and our grandbabies and
5 our great-grandbabies and those yet unborn that are
6 watching us and knowing us and hearing us. And that's
7 something that we really need to -- I want to recommend
8 with the Indian Residential School Survivor Society
9 continue 20 years, 40 years, 60 years of generations down
10 the road, whatever it takes to untangle the colonialism,
11 whatever it takes. Because when it comes to search --
12 searching, we do whatever it takes for us. When it comes
13 to standing beside each other, we do whatever it takes to
14 be beside each other.

15 I ask you to recommend that so we can
16 continue forward. I deeply, deeply, deeply admire this
17 family that sits in front of you. Through all of that,
18 everything that all our generations -- I'm third generation
19 survivor. Through all of this we're still here and we're
20 still together. And we're here, whatever needs to happen,
21 you let us know. We're here.

22 So I'm really grateful to be a part of this.
23 I'm honoured to know Gladys and Bernie and Lorna and
24 Stephanie and Frank and just the whole family, just the
25 whole family including a little baby boy. Yeah. And then

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1 when you were there in Kitsumkalum walking from Prince
2 Rupert to Kitsumkalum, walking that walk, that we were
3 there searching. Those steps that you guys walked we
4 searched. And we really honour you for showing up. I
5 really thank you from me and my husband, Don Roberts.
6 (Speaking in Indigenous language). Thank you so much for
7 everything.

8 **GRANDMOTHER BERNIE WILLIAMS:** Yes, I just
9 want to mention when we -- I thought Gladys was crazy and
10 that when we -- I still feel that way after all these
11 years. When we actually started the walk we drove up to
12 meet Gladys and them, didn't realize -- you know, unless
13 you're there to really feel the impact, when we did the
14 first walk from Terrace to Prince Rupert and that and
15 number one, I grew up in Rupert in what is now -- well,
16 what was then -- they call it Apache Pass and that right
17 downtown. It was quite different back then to it is now.
18 And when we arrived I never realized we were going to walk
19 through a snow storm literally, a snow storm. We were not
20 prepared for that.

21 But what had happened through that it was
22 really very surreal to even -- I didn't realize that one of
23 our family members had gone missing in the same area back
24 in the '70s in the same place that Tamara went missing. So
25 that opened up a whole new world for our families back in

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1 Haida Gwaii too.

2 And when we did the walk though it was so --
3 I never forget the feeling. I don't get, you know, that
4 emotional and that but I literally -- I mean, we could
5 literally hear, you know, through the trees and that, you
6 know, the spirits. It was very, very intense.

7 And then this last walk that we did last
8 year that the Commissioners walked with us and the Chief
9 Commissioner walked with us, it was -- we still heard the
10 same thing. We heard the wailing.

11 We started the walk last year to open the
12 hearing in Smithers and while we left Prince Rupert. And
13 we started very late that evening and it was Audrey and
14 Summer Rain and a few of the walkers. And thank God Gladys
15 and them were driving behind us and that. It was very,
16 very dark. There's no lights, no nothing. And we heard
17 the same. The wailing, the crying. You could hear them
18 right, you know, in the trees that, you know, it was very,
19 very, you know, intense at some -- you know, at some points
20 there.

21 And then when we started walking out the
22 next day, you literally can just feel the spirits where
23 your whole body just -- it's like you're going to drop
24 right there because you know that, like, their spirits are
25 still there. And I was very grateful that Lorna and them,

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1 you know, were there to say the prayers and that the
2 medicine went down and that. And I think that was one of
3 the hardest walks that we ever did.

4 And I am so grateful to Arlene and her
5 husband Don and to Brigitta (ph) and her husband Ron and
6 all the families across, like, you know, all through the
7 territories that -- even when we did our walk right from
8 Vancouver to Prince Rupert, I remember the -- some of the
9 walkers just literally dropping right to the -- you know,
10 to the -- you know, on the highway literally. You know,
11 they're collapsing.

12 And I don't think that these people in power
13 will ever understand the magnitude and the support that we
14 never had for even seven of our walks all across Canada to
15 try to bring this awareness and to create that awareness.
16 Nothing has changed.

17 The two walks we did to Highway of Tears in
18 Vancouver, we had no support. And I don't know what the
19 fear was with that. I don't know what the fear is today.
20 We walked 93 days and beside me Myrna Laplante (ph) too who
21 also walked with us. Cindy (ph) and her sister Bonnie and
22 Alana (ph), these are families that came out that still had
23 no support.

24 When those recommendations came through from
25 the Prince George symposium back in 2006, 33

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1 recommendations came out from the families. And out of 33
2 recommendations to date there's only 2 that was done. And
3 it was only because of the Chief in Moricetown that helped
4 to put up those billboards. The other recommendation was
5 very short-lived was at the bus -- the bus line. That only
6 lasted three months.

7 My challenge is to the government, to the
8 Minister of the Attorney General, who did not make good on
9 his promise and did not make good on his word, and I really
10 think that they need to revisit that again and that should
11 be part of the recommendation to the National Inquiry is to
12 revisit that. When those families came in to do those
13 recommendations, it was very, very, very extremely hard on
14 those families. And I really feel is that, again, so we're
15 sitting here 12 years later and nothing is still done.
16 Women are still going missing. But because of the legacy
17 that this incredible young woman had envisioned it's not
18 done.

19 And I really honour these families that are
20 here. And I really honour Gladys' family here and that
21 would be recommendation is that that -- those 31
22 recommendations -- actually, 32, that really, really needs
23 to be looked at.

24 I remember when we stopped in Prince George
25 there was an Elder from outside of Dawson Creek. And she

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1 says -- she called me "little one." She says, "You know,
2 up in our territory we believe there's over 500 First
3 Nation women that are missing or murdered and nobody
4 cares." That's just in northern B.C., further north. And
5 this is where she is from, Anita McPhee. And I never
6 forget that. And nothing still has changed. And that
7 Elder has passed on now, so this is 12 years later that she
8 has told us that -- us back then and nothing has changed.

9 And I really believe in these isolated areas
10 that we really need to open this up more. It really needs
11 to be -- these people need to be really included in this
12 process and that because, like, there's no voice for them.

13 That's all I have to say. Anita.

14 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Thank you. Thank
15 you.

16 **MS. ANITA McPHEE (ph):** My name's Anita
17 McPhee (ph) and I'm from the Tahltan territory. And I
18 really honour these ladies here and the work they've done
19 because I've watched them do their work from the beginning.
20 And they're the ones who created this awareness in me.

21 And I want to share right now that in
22 Tahltan territory, which is Telegraph Creek, Iskut, Dease
23 Lake, but past there is Good Hope Lake, there's six
24 communities between Tahltan, Tlingit and Kaska. And we
25 haven't been really included in this inquiry. And there

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1 was something in Lower Post but I talked to my Chief today
2 and she said, "We never even heard about it."

3 And I know you've done an amazing job trying
4 to include everybody, but there's no many women who've been
5 hurt. It's hard to include everybody. And I see the work
6 that you do and you've done an incredible job.

7 I went to Saskatoon and I've been a health
8 support care. So I see the work that you've done. And I
9 really, sincerely hope that they give you that extension
10 for two years, because our people in these isolated
11 communities need this.

12 I, too, am a survivor of sexual abuse. My
13 mom went to residential school. My grandmother went to
14 residential school. And be damned if anyone's going to
15 take my child away from me. She's 10. And so I stand here
16 and my story is not different. And everybody in my
17 community, they're going through the same thing. And I
18 really hope those women get to be heard.

19 And I applaud you for letting me speak and
20 thank you, Bernie. And I hold my hands up to Gladys and
21 Lorna and their daughters, and their family here for the
22 work that they've put in. So (speaking in Tahltan
23 language).

24 **MS. GLADYS RADEK:** There's another project
25 that Tamara's inspired us to do. A few years after doing

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1 the raising awareness and a few years after everything
2 started, I've tried to involve myself in whatever I can to
3 raise awareness, to push for this public inquiry, to push
4 for the rights of our women, to push for change for our
5 children.

6 There's a few little things that we work on
7 collectively. So I moved away. I moved to Ontario.
8 Couldn't find a place in Ottawa so I moved to Gatineau to
9 be closer to the belly of the beast I call it, Parliament
10 Hill.

11 So, I did a five-year stint down there and I
12 moved back home nine months ago. And I told everybody. I
13 said, "Yeah." I said, "I'm going to put Terrace on the map
14 because they're going to acknowledge the Highway of Tears
15 and the women that were missing from there."

16 So I've been back there for nine months now
17 and, yes, I have created a little bit of a ruckus and this
18 year we had our first annual Feb 14 march. And the mayor
19 actually came out and walked with us, which was really an
20 honour. Yeah, I can see my sister walking with her right
21 now with the flag and everything.

22 And I got involved with the Terrace Women's
23 Resource Centre. And at this time I've already spoken not
24 only to the mayor now but another male councillor. And
25 they are interested in putting up a totem pole for the

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1 missing and murdered women in Terrace. And on
2 International Women's Day I was speaking to one of the
3 councillors there and he actually even offered me a space
4 for it.

5 So we do want to -- of course, working with
6 my family and with Arlene and her wonderful husband from
7 Kistumkalum, he's the Chief, Don Roberts. We are going to
8 work together on this. And what we want to do is -- my
9 friend Bernie is also a master carver. So what we want to
10 do is we want to have Bernie and a team of women carve a
11 totem pole for our monument in Terrace.

12 I know they have a rock in Vancouver that is
13 very well used and I know that people would utilize that
14 space. And the thing is, Terrace is the hub of the north.
15 We have approximately 80 reserves in and around, up in the
16 area between Prince Rupert and Prince George. And they're
17 all affected by the loss of a loved one. So we need a
18 monument. We need this totem pole built and carved by
19 women. And Bernie has agreed that she would be more than
20 happy to carve it for us.

21 **GRANDMOTHER BERNIE WILLIAMS:** On the record,
22 I haven't said yes.

23 **MS. GLADYS RADEK:** But I know she will.

24 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** She said yes
25 to me.

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1 **MS. GLADYS RADEK:** Yeah, okay. There we go.

2 But the thing is, it is important for our
3 people to have a memorial, a monument to honour our women.
4 I think they should have one in all communities because all
5 of our communities are affected by it. And I would really
6 like to put Terrace on the map, like I said, to honour our
7 missing and murdered women.

8 And as you know, what goes with that is that
9 we also need to do fundraising to perhaps have this pole.
10 I don't know that she'd be willing to move up there for
11 four months but if we could have it caravanned from
12 Vancouver and have it caravanned up to Terrace so that
13 everybody will remember our missing and murdered women up
14 there.

15 That's just one of the few things that I
16 worked on for Terrace. And, yeah, I'm really bad because
17 I'm right in their face. And but they agree with me too.
18 And I will say that the mayor has already agreed that she
19 would like to see something happen like that. So it's in
20 the works.

21 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Okay. Perhaps
22 starting with Chief Commissioner, do you have any
23 questions?

24 **CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER:** No, I
25 don't have any questions because you've answered all that I

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1 might have had.

2 Thank you all for what you've said. It's
3 very moving. It's very important. What you've said this
4 afternoon is vital to our work and us doing our work in a
5 good way.

6 Personally, it's important to me too because
7 this work is hard. And each one of you inspire me and the
8 other Commissioners every day to work hard and to not give
9 up. So I want to thank you for lifting us up, educating us
10 and making our work better today.

11 Thank you.

12 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** Commissioner

13 Audette?

14 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** English or
15 French? Oh. Okay.

16 Before I get to you, I just want to say
17 something. Arlene, what people don't know it's during that
18 walk -- and I only did few kilometres compared to many
19 years of walk of you and your family. I was able to
20 witness something that it doesn't exist in my own culture
21 in Maliotenam. When we walk we walk. But over there we
22 had to stop and ask for permission and I was, like, why are
23 we stopping? And then I -- in, like, my region we don't
24 ask question. We listen and observe. And I had goosebump
25 to see two men talking, singing. It was beautiful. And

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1 then I just heard to say, yes, we're allowed to come in
2 your territory. And I said, "Wow, that was powerful."

3 That was showing that our cultural identity
4 is so alive no matter where we live, no matter what people
5 try to do on us. And it's not over. So we go and there's
6 a line-up. I'm like, okay, so I'm going to wait. You and
7 your husband hugged every people in that walk before we got
8 inside. That was so beautiful. And hugging exists in my
9 region so I was very comfortable to hug you.

10 So thank you for that, for teaching your
11 culture to me. So I hope Canada sees that it's beautiful.
12 It's alive. It's powerful. And it's nice to see that it's
13 there.

14 What I would like to say, again, I'll try to
15 find the best words, but it will come from my heart. You
16 know me, Gladys. Because of you I was able to meet a
17 wonderful family, to witness and to receive as a gift and
18 teaching that in those moment the best thing that could
19 happen to us it's the family, the support, the love. And
20 we hear through this journey too many of family members or
21 survivors don't have what you have, that they don't have
22 that support. They come here alone. And that breaks my
23 heart. It breaks my heart. It makes me mad.

24 So your work is so important for those who
25 come here alone. They know they're not alone because of

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1 you, because of Myrna, because of families that support
2 other families. And that's, for me I think, the best
3 medicine that when you get together the power that comes
4 from those gathering, the magic.

5 And I strongly believe that you'll see soon
6 we'll have a third phase, the expert panel. I always have
7 that debate with few lawyers of the Inquiry. Expert? It's
8 families. So they said, "Yeah, of course." Where you have
9 that knowledge to build that report, that passion, that
10 love, that experience to build that report and those
11 action, those call for action or recommendation. So it's
12 very precious for the four of us, as Commissioner, as human
13 being, and the rest of the team, of course, very, very
14 precious.

15 So we will continue this journey. And I
16 know you, as a leader, you will make sure that we stay on
17 track. And that I say thank you. Thank you. Very
18 important. Like, the other members of that circle who help
19 us or guide us, if they're listening, thank you. Cynthia
20 (ph) was here earlier. She's also a member of that
21 important circle.

22 And I was pleased to hear that it's not
23 over, because you remember when I went to your territory
24 you said to us, "This is the last walk." And I was, like,
25 no, we can't finish there. We can't stop there. But it's

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1 demanding. I guess it's demanding. And then I receive a
2 picture not long ago. And if it's possible to put it
3 there, the walk -- the run. Yes. See? Now they're not
4 walking. They're running.

5 And those gesture are educating the Canadian
6 but also us, Indigenous people and people who works with
7 you and for you. It's so important that those things,
8 activities or event like this continue.

9 And I can say to you, Gladys, and to your
10 family, the love that you give us, Serge (ph) and myself
11 and Marion when she came, it's something that we will carry
12 and honour for the rest of our life, that's for sure.
13 That's -- it's there for me. I even write to Brigitte (ph)
14 now. We don't text us. We send postcards. The old days.

15 And I want to say also that for the totem
16 pole, you heard, Canada? People who are listening? If you
17 truly believe -- I know, Marion knows me. We're not
18 allowed to promote things or fundraise but we're special.
19 We're different. So we'll take this momentum to say, "Come
20 on, Canada. Support, Citizen of Canada." I'm sure you're
21 going to have a Facebook page for the fundraising? I don't
22 know how you're going to do it but ---

23 **MS. GLADYS RADEK:** We'll figure out a way.

24 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** You'll figure
25 it out. So they need support. They need support because

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1 it's also one of the mandate we're supposed to present to
2 the federal government, recommendation to commemorate
3 women, to commemorate our loved ones. So that's a
4 beautiful initiative. So we should support you. I will.
5 I will. As long Bernie does. And she will. If she
6 doesn't, I will, but I will remind her how wrong she is.

7 We have friends across Canada. We have
8 supporters. We have allies. And I don't know if you saw
9 when we were in Thompson, a woman came and present all the
10 beautiful commemorations, the statue -- c'est quoi in
11 anglais? Young women dancing in browns or copper or -- it
12 was beautiful. Very, like, eight feet tall. Yeah, jingle
13 dress or shawl dancers. It was beautiful, beautiful and
14 huge. So there is initiative already in action. So you do
15 deserve to have one too so.

16 You have my love. You have my support. And
17 you have a beautiful daughter. And I'm proud to say that I
18 have a new friend because of the walk also. We stay in
19 touch since the walk. Yeah, yeah, yeah. And she drove.
20 She drove.

21 **MS. GLADYS RADEK:** Yeah.

22 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** From your
23 community to come here. All by yourself? Amazing.
24 Amazing. So we're taking care of your cousin.

25 **MS. GLADYS RADEK:** Nice.

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1 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Yeah.

2 We have gift. Do you accept gift? I know
3 it's not money. It's not money but it's a gift.

4 **MS. GLADYS RADEK:** Money's not ---

5 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** No, no, for
6 your project.

7 **MS. GLADYS RADEK:** Oh, yeah.

8 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** For your
9 project. But we have a gift for you, for you and for you.
10 Bernie, come here, please.

11 **MS. GLADYS RADEK:** Oh, you're in trouble
12 now.

13 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** I'm going to
14 ask Kathy. Kathy is an amazing, amazing grandmother. She
15 rocks. She's strong. She's beautiful. She has lots of
16 stories. And her spirituality is so strong. She's one of
17 our grandmother for the Commissioners and I'm glad Marion
18 share with us. And I would like her to be one of the Elder
19 to give you the gift.

20 I know I have to give it to you with two
21 hands. And also, my new friend and ma nouvelle amie. And
22 where is my kokum?

23 **GRANDMOTHER BERNIE WILLIAMS:** So, Lorna,
24 Gladys and Stephanie, I just want to say haawa to you and
25 to explain where these eagle feathers come from.

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1 These eagle feathers actually came from
2 Thompson, Manitoba. But we've done a call out and the
3 journey started with Haida Gwaii where the matriarchs
4 collected over 400 eagle feathers on the beach and on the
5 shorelines of the villages and that. And so we did a call
6 out nationally to other spiritual Elders and leaders. Like
7 Michèle was saying earlier, at the earlier session, where a
8 young man took his bustle and he took the eagle feathers
9 off of that to present it to give to the Inquiry. So this
10 is where this is come from.

11 So this is all the way from off in Thompson,
12 Manitoba. The other hearing we were at just before this
13 one, those eagle feathers came back from Sechelt, from
14 Sechelt Nation and that where they donated two eagle wings
15 to be used as gifts to the families and that so. Just want
16 to let you know that it's family-led and the families have
17 been so kind to give it to the families. Haawa.

18 **COMMISSIONER MICHÈLE AUDETTE:** Merci,
19 Bernie.

20 And I ask Chief Commissioner to give you
21 something very special to protect you, to remember that we
22 love you.

23 **MS. WENDY VAN TONGEREN:** This session is now
24 adjourned. That is the last session for the day and we
25 look forward to seeing you tomorrow morning. Thank you.

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--- Exhibits (code: P01P15P0305)

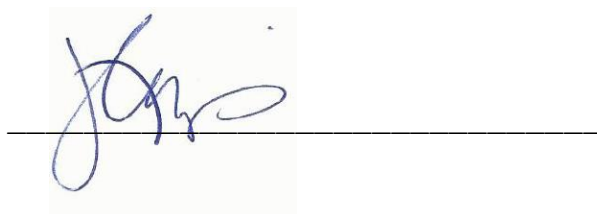
Exhibit 1: Folder containing 46 digital media items displayed during the public testimony of the witnesses.

Exhibit 2: Video slideshow of Tamara Chipman set to music (3 minutes 12 seconds, 86 MB, M4V media file).

--- Upon adjourning at 6:07

LEGAL DICTA-TYPIST'S CERTIFICATE

I, Janice Gingras, 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.



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1 Janice Gingras
2 April 17, 2018
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