

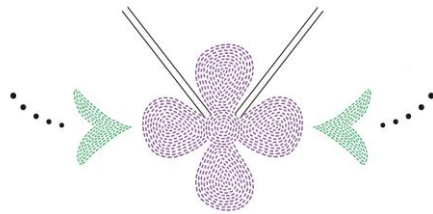
National Inquiry into  
Missing and Murdered  
Indigenous Women and Girls



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  
Edmonton Inn, Wildrose Ballroom**

**Edmonton, Alberta**



**PUBLIC**

**Tuesday November 7, 2017**

**Public Volume 21:  
Gayle Graham & Elaine Dreaver,  
In Relation to Catherine Linda Dreaver;**

**Melanie Dene, In relation to Shelly Tannis Dene**

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INTERNATIONAL REPORTING INC.  
41-5450 Canotek Road, Ottawa, Ontario, K1J 9G2  
E-mail: [info@irri.net](mailto:info@irri.net) – Phone: 613-748-6043 – Fax: 613-748-8246

## II

### APPEARANCES

Assembly of First Nations	No Appearance
Government of Alberta	Nicole Pfeifer (Counsel)
Government of Canada	Anne McConville (Counsel) Christine Ashcroft (Counsel) Tania Tooke (Paralegal)
Institute for the Advancement of Aboriginal Women	No Appearance
Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada, Saturviit Inuit Women's Association of Nunavik, AnânauKatiget Tumingit Regional Inuit Women's Association Inc., Ottawa Inuit Children's Centre, Manitoba Inuit Association	No Appearance
Women of Metis Nation / Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak	Melanie Omeniho (Representative)

**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 Edmonton Inn and Convention Centre - Wildrose Ballroom (Public #2)

III

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
<b>Hearing # 1</b>	1
<b>Witness: Gayle Graham and Elaine Dreaver</b>	
In relation to Catherine Linda Dreaver	
Heard by: Commissioner Brian Eyolfson	
Commission Counsel: Joseph Murdoch-Flowers	
Elders, Grandmothers, Knowledge-Keepers : Laureen «Blu » Waters	
Clerk: Tasha-Dawn Doucette	
Registrar: Bryan Zandberg	
Alberta Commissioner for Oaths: Jeff Weigl	
<b>Hearing # 2 Melanie Dene</b>	31
In relation to Shelly Tannis Dene	
Heard by: Chief Commissioner Marion Buller	
Commission Counsel: Breen Ouellette	
Elders, Grandmothers, Knowledge-Keepers: Rick Lightning, Laureen «Blu» Waters	
Clerk: Tasha-Dawn Doucette	
Registrar: Bryan Zandberg	
Alberta Commissioner for Oaths: Jeff Weigl	

IV

LIST OF EXHIBITS

NO.	DESCRIPTION	PAGE
<b>Witness: Gayle Graham and Elaine Dreaver</b>		
<b>Exhibits (code: P1P05P0104)</b>		
1	Digital folder of three images displayed on monitors during public hearing.	27
2	News article "Body in slough still a mystery: Woman disappeared in 1983" by Ian Williams; no publication data, one-page copy.	27

**Witness: Melanie Dene**  
**Exhibits: none entered.**

Gayle Graham & Elaine Dreaver,  
In Relation to Catherine Linda Dreaver

Edmonton, Alberta

--- Upon commencing on Tuesday, November 7, 2017 at 10:20  
a.m.

**Hearing # 1**

**Witness: Gayle Graham and Elaine Dreaver**

**In relation to Catherine Linda Dreaver**

**Heard by Commissioner Brian Eyolfson**

**Commission Counsel: Joseph Murdoch-Flowers**

**Elders, Grandmothers, Knowledge-Keepers: Laureen "Blu"**

**Waters**

**MR. JOSEPH MURDOCH-FLOWERS:** Commissioner Eyolfson, today, I have the honour -- the honour of -- of working with Gayle Graham, who is the sister-in-law to Elaine Dreaver, and who is the sister of Linda Dreaver who died in 1983. And as we're -- and we were preparing for this I -- I went over the -- the oath or affirmation, and both told me they wanted to swear an oath on the Bible, so I would ask that that be administered now.

**GAYLE GRAHAM, Sworn:**

**ELAINE DREAYER, Sworn:**

**MR. JOSEPH MURDOCH-FLOWERS:** So -- so as we were talking about, we'll need to have the -- the microphone, so if -- are you okay holding the microphone, or would you?

**MS. ELAINE DREAYER:** Yes.

Gayle Graham & Elaine Dreaver,  
In Relation to Catherine Linda Dreaver

1                   **MR. JOSEPH MURDOCH-FLOWERS:** Yeah? Okay.  
2                   Great. And we -- you know, we'll have to pass it back and  
3                   forth as you take turns talking. So yeah, we -- we had a  
4                   great meeting yesterday. And it was so wonderful to meet  
5                   both of you and -- and talk. Thank you for that. And I  
6                   just wanted to continue that conversation today, and maybe  
7                   we'll talk about some of the same things that we talked  
8                   about yesterday, I'm sure. Or maybe we'll talk about some  
9                   new things. But why don't we start by hearing from you  
10                  about why you wanted to be here and what do you want to  
11                  tell the Inquiry?

12                  **MS. ELAINE DREAYER:** Thank you very much for  
13                  the opportunity to speak here. For many years, I've  
14                  suffered watching my mother, the pain and anguish of losing  
15                  three, four of her children before she passed on, but the  
16                  loss of my sister, Catherine Linda Dreaver was overwhelming  
17                  because she went missing.

18                  She was missing for nine months, and it was  
19                  just out of the hopelessness that hit my mother that there  
20                  was nothing that was being done. And the not knowing what  
21                  happened to her. And at the resolution of, actually my  
22                  sister's body being discovered, there was still a sense of  
23                  hopelessness that nothing, no accountability, no real  
24                  feeling that anything, no accountability would happen in  
25                  regards to what happened to her.

Gayle Graham & Elaine Dreaver,  
In Relation to Catherine Linda Dreaver

1                   And it is actually took so much life out of  
2                   her, that when she passed away we all felt so -- I don't  
3                   know, like a sense of uselessness that there was nothing  
4                   that we could do to comfort her. And I decided that I  
5                   wanted to come forward, even though this is so incredibly  
6                   hard for me. But I -- I did want her name added into this  
7                   list, and I want just, I don't know, to feel better that  
8                   we're doing something that might change how people perceive  
9                   how Indigenous people are treated in this country.

10                   And I would personally would really love to  
11                   be able to see that it's -- like for me I look at it and I  
12                   always feel like it's always open season for Indigenous  
13                   people. And I'd like to see that end. And I'd like to see  
14                   some people actually being punished -- caught, punished --  
15                   caught, and then punished, and held accountable for it.  
16                   And I want to see that end. And even though how terrifying  
17                   this is for me, it's very important.

18                   **MR. JOSEPH MURDOCH-FLOWERS:** You -- you  
19                   mentioned the word hopelessness, even that hopelessness was  
20                   something that you and your family felt when your sister  
21                   was found?

22                   **MS. ELAINE DREAYER:** Yes.

23                   **MR. JOSEPH MURDOCH-FLOWERS:** Why -- where  
24                   does that hopelessness come from?

25                   **MS. ELAINE DREAYER:** It came from experience

Gayle Graham & Elaine Dreaver,  
In Relation to Catherine Linda Dreaver

1 of other tragedies that happened earlier in our family.  
2 And the police would come, and they take the information,  
3 but that would be kind of it. And there was never anything  
4 ever done. It was just like, well it's just another  
5 typical Saturday night. And -- the stereotypes of being  
6 First Nations in Canada is a sense of hopelessness.

7 And it's just been years and years and years  
8 and I'm -- I'm an old person now. And since I was a little  
9 girl growing up, I have never felt worthy. And that came  
10 passed down from my mother. And that must have come from  
11 her mother. So we're talking generations and generations,  
12 and now at my age a sense of hopelessness I hope is going  
13 to come to an end.

14 But it's hard to change the inside of me,  
15 because I've known better. Or I've seen the opposite to be  
16 true. So I don't know if you can actually change that part  
17 of me, but I hope by being here that that will come to an  
18 end. And that maybe with my stories, and other stories  
19 that are to come here, that we will start to get some pride  
20 back into our nation. And maybe some reconciliation, and  
21 some accountability.

22 And from here we can start growing forward  
23 instead of backwards. Every time we take one step forward,  
24 we seem to take two steps back. And I'm hoping between  
25 this and the Truth and Reconciliation, that'll happen; and



Gayle Graham & Elaine Dreaver,  
In Relation to Catherine Linda Dreaver

1 I remain hopeful. It's the first time I've been optimistic  
2 in a long time. So, that's it.

3 **MR. JOSEPH MURDOCH-FLOWERS:** You -- you  
4 mentioned also accountability, and you talked about police  
5 coming and taking information, and treating it like it's  
6 just another Saturday night.

7 **MS. ELAINE DREAYER:** M'hm.

8 **MR. JOSEPH MURDOCH-FLOWERS:** Do you want to  
9 talk about your experience with the police during the --  
10 the time that your sister disappeared, and when she was  
11 found? Is that something that you want to talk about?

12 **MS. ELAINE DREAYER:** Unfortunately, I don't  
13 have that much experience, because I was out of country at  
14 the time when she went and disappeared. I had a very close  
15 relationship with my sister, and I had seen her about two  
16 weeks before she went missing.

17 I lived in Vancouver, she was living in  
18 Edmonton. And we had a very close relationship, and we had  
19 the most beautiful meeting. And we managed to talk about  
20 things that normally we never get to talk about. And for  
21 some reason it was the most beautiful goodbye that I've  
22 ever had with another human being.

23 And I went back to Vancouver, and two weeks  
24 later she went missing. And I knew in my heart that she  
25 would not have left me without saying goodbye. Everybody

Gayle Graham & Elaine Dreaver,  
In Relation to Catherine Linda Dreaver

1        else in my family remained hopeful that -- that she'd just  
2        went off and went on a walk about, but I knew that that was  
3        not true.

4                    So I didn't actually have that much  
5        experience in regards to -- because it took nine months.  
6        And at that point, I was out of the country. But my  
7        stories are literally just from listening to my mother.  
8        Her tearful experiences with dealing with the police  
9        officers.

10                   And then again when they found her body, it  
11        wasn't like -- they didn't even want to think of it as a  
12        murder. And that hurt immensely because there's no way  
13        that my sister would have walked to the outside of the city  
14        and thrown herself into a slough. And that's how they  
15        found her.

16                   And even to this day, they still don't want  
17        to admit that that was wrongdoing. And it just seems  
18        impossible that that could be the case.

19                   **MR. JOSEPH MURDOCH-FLOWERS:** At the time of  
20        her disappearance, where did she live?

21                   **MS. ELAINE DREAYER:** She had just moved to  
22        Edmonton. She used to live with us. I used to live with  
23        her and her husband in Vancouver. After a long  
24        relationship, they broke up. No, they -- I'm sorry. They  
25        moved to Kelowna to try to reconcile their relationship,

Gayle Graham & Elaine Dreaver,  
In Relation to Catherine Linda Dreaver

1 but it couldn't happen. So she moved to Edmonton with the  
2 idea of a new start.

3 He moved back down to Boulder, Colorado, and  
4 I remained in Vancouver.

5 **MR. JOSEPH MURDOCH-FLOWERS:** Hmmm.

6 **MS. ELAINE DREAYER:** And, but she had just  
7 moved here.

8 **MR. JOSEPH MURDOCH-FLOWERS:** And whereabouts  
9 in the city was she living?

10 **MS. ELAINE DREAYER:** She was living around a  
11 102nd Street. I'm sorry, I -- I -- I can't really  
12 remember. It was close to the Senate city, but not in a  
13 downtown core.

14 **MR. JOSEPH MURDOCH-FLOWERS:** Hmmm. And what  
15 was she up to around that time?

16 **MS. ELAINE DREAYER:** She was a key punch  
17 operator. But in the 80's times were tough. And they more  
18 or less just kept giving her part time jobs, so it wasn't  
19 that she didn't want to work; she was working usually six  
20 months, dance everywhere, but continually working.

21 But I think at that -- at that precise time  
22 that she was probably unemployed, but only temporary.

23 **MR. JOSEPH MURDOCH-FLOWERS:** M'hm. And you  
24 mentioned that she was -- she disappeared, and she was  
25 found outside of town.

Gayle Graham & Elaine Dreaver,  
In Relation to Catherine Linda Dreaver

1                   **MS. ELAINE DREAYER:** That's right. Near  
2                   Sherwood Park.

3                   **MR. JOSEPH MURDOCH-FLOWERS:** And how far is  
4                   Sherwood Park from downtown about?

5                   **MS. ELAINE DREAYER:** That's a good question.  
6                   I don't really live in Edmonton anymore, 15, 12. Yeah.  
7                   And my sister didn't drive at the time, so there's no way  
8                   in the world that she would have got to such a remote area  
9                   on her own.

10                  **MR. JOSEPH MURDOCH-FLOWERS:** Right. Oh.  
11                  Yesterday you spoke quite you know, with -- with such  
12                  fun -- fun memories of -- of your loving relationship with  
13                  Linda.

14                  **MS. ELAINE DREAYER:** Yes.

15                  **MR. JOSEPH MURDOCH-FLOWERS:** Did you want to  
16                  talk about that?

17                  **MS. ELAINE DREAYER:** My sister -- my sister  
18                  was six years older than I am. Very protective. So  
19                  loving. It is a big sister that everybody would love to  
20                  have. But she moved to Vancouver, I was living in  
21                  Edmonton. And she welcomed me into her life, into her  
22                  relationship with her husband. They took me into their  
23                  home and made me feel so comfortable and a part of their  
24                  life.

25                  She was always the kind of woman that would

Gayle Graham & Elaine Dreaver,  
In Relation to Catherine Linda Dreaver

1 bring home the dog with one leg, two legs. Any sort of  
2 person that didn't fit in well or felt uncomfortable she  
3 always brought into the fold. She loved the Moody Blues,  
4 she just felt a kinship with them.

5 Even today, I can almost feel her presence  
6 here. It's -- she is so warm, she was so loving, and yet,  
7 kind of tragic at the same time. You know, she always  
8 struggled with being accepted herself. She liked very  
9 traditionally Native, and in Edmonton in a few cities  
10 through Canada it's not always an easy role.

11 Yeah, but we all loved her so much in our  
12 family. It took -- she was the special one in the family,  
13 and when she disappeared it -- it ripped a hole in each and  
14 every one of us in her hearts. And I'm just hoping that  
15 she's here today. I bet she's happy that somebody is  
16 standing up for her for a change.

17 **MR. JOSEPH MURDOCH-FLOWERS:** Hmmm.

18 **MS. ELAINE DREAYER:** I'd just like to thank  
19 her for being (indiscernible). You'd love her.

20 **MR. JOSEPH MURDOCH-FLOWERS:** I'll just pass  
21 the mic to you. So, Gayle, what's your relationship to  
22 Linda?

23 **MS. GAYLE GRAHAM:** I was married to Linda's  
24 brother, so sister-in-law to Elaine and to Linda. I was  
25 living in Edmonton when Linda disappeared. And when Jesse

Gayle Graham & Elaine Dreaver,  
In Relation to Catherine Linda Dreaver

1 (ph) their -- their mother called me to let me know that  
2 Linda had disappeared, the -- the stories that -- that she  
3 told me with -- actually the -- the family kind of used to  
4 laugh about Linda, because Linda, every -- everything in  
5 Linda's place was spotless all the time. And I'm not like  
6 that.

7 I -- so when Jesse went over to check  
8 Linda's place, there was a teapot, and two cups on the  
9 table, but one of the cups had fallen on the floor, and  
10 Linda was gone. And knowing Linda, she never would have  
11 left a cup on the floor.

12 Besides that, because like Elaine said,  
13 times were really difficult in the early 80's, and so Linda  
14 was working temporary jobs and at the time she disappeared,  
15 she was on unemployment insurance. And her UI cheque was  
16 sitting on -- on the night table beside the bed. And she  
17 never would have left you know, without having any money.

18 So the cheque -- the cheque was there, the  
19 coffee cup was on the floor, Jesse went to the police, and  
20 the police said she's 33. She's an adult. There's nothing  
21 we can do. And then the land lady told Jesse that she had  
22 to clean the place out by the end of the month so that the  
23 land lady could re-rent the basement suite.

24 And the basement suite was on about 89th  
25 Street and a 114th Avenue, which like Elaine says it's --

Gayle Graham & Elaine Dreaver,  
In Relation to Catherine Linda Dreaver

1       it's fairly close to downtown, but it's not right in the  
2       downtown core. Sherwood Park where -- where the remains  
3       were found is like -- like I said, 11 or 12 miles out.

4               But just nobody believed that Linda would  
5       have walked out to the middle of nowhere, to a field. The  
6       -- the police didn't follow up. Even when Linda didn't  
7       show up, Jesse called me at Christmas time and said that  
8       she was pretty sure that Linda was dead, because there was  
9       no way that Linda would have not called her on Christmas.

10              But they didn't find her body until the  
11       following May. She had disappeared in September. And  
12       that's -- you know, after the remains were found the -- the  
13       investigation changed to the RCMP, because it was outside  
14       the city. I don't know if the RCMP ever talked to the city  
15       police, or any follow up was done.

16              They interviewed everybody that had known  
17       Linda, but nobody knew anything about why she had  
18       disappeared or -- or what had happened. They couldn't find  
19       a -- a cause of death from the remains, because they had  
20       deteriorated.

21              But I remember the -- the funeral. And that  
22       Jesse couldn't stand up. They -- her -- her sons were --  
23       were carrying her to follow the coffin. She -- I don't  
24       know what else to say. I mean Linda -- thank you. Linda  
25       was a bridesmaid at my wedding to her brother.

Gayle Graham & Elaine Dreaver,  
In Relation to Catherine Linda Dreaver

1           I was telling a story before about Linda was  
2           a bridesmaid, and my sister was a bridesmaid. And both of  
3           them were really shy. And -- and but my sister was a  
4           school teacher, and I think Linda expected her to be more  
5           outgoing than she was.

6           And my -- my sister kind of sat in the  
7           corner at the wedding, because she was afraid to talk to  
8           anybody, and Linda -- Linda who was really shy too, pushed  
9           herself and went around and greeted all the guests at the  
10          wedding. And even though it wasn't at all comfortable for  
11          her, she thought -- she told me she thought that's what a  
12          bridesmaid was supposed to do; make everybody feel welcome.  
13          And I was just so grateful.

14          She was the -- she was the only one of  
15          Jesse's kids that went to University. And Jesse was so  
16          proud of her, just so proud. And she was really into  
17          science, and she was just an amazing person. And I don't  
18          know what else to say.

19          She -- she's -- she's missed. She's still  
20          missed. And when I first heard about this Inquiry, the  
21          first person I thought of was Linda. Like, why -- how can  
22          she just be forgotten? 'Cause the people that -- that know  
23          her never forgot her. But she didn't have a big circle of  
24          friends or family. And I just didn't want her to be left  
25          out.



Gayle Graham & Elaine Dreaver,  
In Relation to Catherine Linda Dreaver

1                   **MS. ELAINE DREAYER:** I'm good.

2                   **MR. JOSEPH MURDOCH-FLOWERS:** Okay.

3                   **MS. ELAINE DREAYER:** I was just saying that  
4 I feel good being here. It actually feels good to talk  
5 about her. It's been years. I mean, it happened back in  
6 the 80's. A lot of time has lapsed. I feel her presence  
7 like I said it before. I feel a certain kind of strength  
8 that comes with talking about her.

9                   And I'd like to thank everybody here for the  
10 opportunity that presents itself here today. And I hope  
11 everybody else who presents themselves here today feels the  
12 same thing as I do right now. I feel a sense of calmness  
13 that I wasn't expecting to happen so quickly. So thank  
14 you. Oh.

15                   **MR. JOSEPH MURDOCH-FLOWERS:** Yesterday our  
16 conversation kind of -- of course we spoke about Linda, but  
17 we also spoke about your own experience growing up.

18                   **MS. ELAINE DREAYER:** M'hm.

19                   **MR. JOSEPH MURDOCH-FLOWERS:** Did you want to  
20 talk about that today too?

21                   **MS. ELAINE DREAYER:** I hadn't expected to  
22 speak about myself, but I guess it is part of the picture  
23 about being First Nations in this country.

24                   My experience was that my mother moved me  
25 out of the reservation. We're Cree. We are from the

Gayle Graham & Elaine Dreaver,  
In Relation to Catherine Linda Dreaver

1 Mistawasis Tribe, just -- you too? My father -- my father  
2 Henry Dreaver (ph) and my mother Jesse Margaret (ph) came  
3 from John Smith Reserve, but we were all registered in  
4 Mistawasis. But my mother felt that the life on the  
5 reservation was hard, so she moved me out of the  
6 reservation two weeks before I was born.

7 She wanted me to be raised differently than  
8 the rest of the family. I -- but when I was younger I  
9 looked very Native. I don't know why, as I get older I  
10 seem to mellowed out of it in my features, so I've been  
11 told. But in my experience in school was as soon as I  
12 started to attend school, they labeled me dyslexic without  
13 ever teaching me or testing me.

14 So put me into a seven-year program, which  
15 meant that on the sixth year or seventh year of my  
16 schooling -- I got held back one year, and my whole  
17 experience during elementary to -- to grades, grade 9, I  
18 sat at a table in the back of the classroom by myself. I  
19 was totally isolated.

20 And in the first six years, it wasn't so bad  
21 because you got used to being in the same classroom with  
22 everybody else even though I -- I was in the back. But  
23 come the seventh year, I get held back and now I'm with a  
24 bunch of strangers again.

25 And only until I hit grade 10 did I have the

Gayle Graham & Elaine Dreaver,  
In Relation to Catherine Linda Dreaver

1 opportunity to actually mingle and go to classrooms that  
2 were separate. I went to Victoria Composite High School.  
3 It was an adult training school at that point. And for the  
4 first time in my life I had the opportunity to sit where I  
5 wanted to sit in a classroom. And I had the opportunity to  
6 talk and meet other people.

7 And I hated school. I absolutely hated  
8 school. And came grade 10 I found out that there was  
9 teachers out there that knew how to talk to me, or wanted  
10 to talk to me, and the last three years were brilliant. I  
11 found out that I wasn't dyslexic. I actually did know all  
12 the stuff that I was learning. I had no idea. And for the  
13 first time in my life I started going to school willingly.

14 But my experience for the first nine years  
15 was hellish. It was really hellish. And I -- I'm -- I  
16 considered my [sic] still fortunate, because I wasn't in a  
17 residential school. And the stories from my family, I'm  
18 still very grateful. So to a certain degree I don't really  
19 want to say that my life was rough, because it wasn't  
20 rough.

21 The only thing that I regret so much is that  
22 because my mother's life was so difficult is that she  
23 really wanted to raise me being non-Aboriginal. And I've  
24 lost so much because of that. And as I grow old, I start  
25 realizing how important it is to be proud to be First

Gayle Graham & Elaine Dreaver,  
In Relation to Catherine Linda Dreaver

1 Nations.

2 And as I was saying a little bit earlier is  
3 that deep down I always knew I was First Nations, and I was  
4 always proud to be First Nations, but when I looked around  
5 the room yesterday, and this morning I felt like -- I feel  
6 so un, not First Nations. So -- and it was -- it was  
7 terrifying for me.

8 But as I said a little bit earlier, I'm  
9 starting to feel like I am -- I am First Nations, and I am  
10 proud to be First Nations. And I want everybody to be  
11 feeling like this. I hated the fact that we always felt  
12 like second class citizens in our own country.

13 And again, thank you for allowing me to be  
14 proud. And I wish my mother was here to feel it too, you  
15 know? Because she tried so hard to make me not be First  
16 Nations, and it would be great for her to see that we're  
17 actually taking some of our identity back. You know, my  
18 mom, I'm sure she'd be here and strong and happy for all of  
19 us.

20 **MR. JOSEPH MURDOCH-FLOWERS:** Do you want to  
21 tell us more about your mother?

22 **MS. GAYLE GRAHAM:** My mama -- my mama, she  
23 was the best thing that ever happened to everybody she met.  
24 She -- like I said, she had a hard life. The first man  
25 that she married, wanted to -- the first man that fell in

Gayle Graham & Elaine Dreaver,  
In Relation to Catherine Linda Dreaver

1       love with was non-Native, and it was the most horrific  
2       thing that ever happened to her because the other family  
3       did not want to have a First Nations as a -- marrying their  
4       son. And at that point, it hit a low for her and she  
5       decided that she was no longer proud to be First Nations.

6                So she packed up all the kids and well, this  
7       is years later; she packed up all the kids and moved to  
8       Edmonton with hope that she could change and become, how  
9       was the word, assimilated into white man's society, with  
10      the great hope that we would have a better chance than what  
11      we would have had on the reserve.

12              And for that I actually thank her, because  
13      it did allow me chances and opportunities that I probably  
14      would not have had on the reservation. With the  
15      consequences of course I've lost my -- my ability to be  
16      First Nations.

17              But on the other hand she -- she was the  
18      strength in our whole family. We all lived in different  
19      places throughout Canada, and every year she'd go on a walk  
20      about and visit everybody. And we all got used to seeing  
21      her. Everybody back in the res, her sisters, didn't matter  
22      where we lived. She'd just hop on the Greyhound bus or she  
23      would hitchhike.

24              Because we never had the money hitchhiking  
25      was the way to do it back then. Back then when it was a

Gayle Graham & Elaine Dreaver,  
In Relation to Catherine Linda Dreaver

1        little more safer to do that than it is nowadays.  
2        Especially in BC where I come from. She always had a smile  
3        on her face. She was always happy. She never wanted  
4        anything, she just wanted it all for her kids, which is  
5        part of being a mother I'm sure.

6                    But she always had a smile on her face, and  
7        she was always willing to feed people who came in the door.  
8        But the, the disappearance of my sister took that all out  
9        of her. And she had lost three of her other children  
10       before that too.

11                   So the last part of her life, she was tired.  
12       And all she wanted was the Lord to come and take her. And  
13       eventually he did. But I still choose to remember her with  
14       a big smile on her face. She always had the face that  
15       didn't have the frown. The frown lines were never there.  
16       Frown lines didn't exist on this woman's face.

17                   And I still love her. She's been gone 25  
18       years now, but that's all I can say about her right now.

19                   **MR. JOSEPH MURDOCH-FLOWERS:** Yesterday you  
20       spoke about Jesse, about a visit that your parents had.  
21       Did you want to talk about that? I -- I found it a very  
22       powerful story.

23                   **MS. GAYLE GRAHAM:** Okay. Well, this -- this  
24       story was when -- when I first met Ray (ph), Elaine's  
25       brother and Linda's brother. And we -- we started dating.

Gayle Graham & Elaine Dreaver,  
In Relation to Catherine Linda Dreaver

1       And we were talking about getting married, and I wanted my  
2       parents to come and meet Jesse. And it was just easier for  
3       them to come to her place, because she didn't drive, and  
4       they lived in Sherwood Park.

5                   And so they came -- they came to the door.  
6       I was already there. And Jesse invited them in. And we  
7       sat around, and we had tea or coffee. Usually tea I'm  
8       thinking, because Jesse always drank tea. And then -- so  
9       my parents stayed, and we talked for a while. And we  
10      talked about a wedding and -- and everything. And then  
11      they left. And Jesse came to me and she said, "Your  
12      parents are absolutely wonderful people because they didn't  
13      look around my place. They -- they walked in, they sat  
14      down, and they acted like it was just normal."

15                   And you know like I was saying to Joe (ph)  
16      yesterday, Jesse thought that because -- I don't know  
17      whether it was because they were white, that -- or that she  
18      was uncomfortable about her house. Or whether she was  
19      uncomfortable because she was Native. I -- and I -- you  
20      know, she -- she was saying that they -- they were really  
21      kind.

22                   That -- I don't -- I kind of got the  
23      impression that maybe she expected that they would just  
24      look and say, "No, we're not coming in." I -- I don't  
25      know. I mean, my parents weren't like that, but she was --

Gayle Graham & Elaine Dreaver,  
In Relation to Catherine Linda Dreaver

1 I -- I was happy that they came over, because Jesse's place  
2 was beautiful.

3 Like, it was so welcoming, so comfortable.  
4 And I was you know, telling Joe about my parents' place. I  
5 mean, they were like, at various times, you know, my  
6 parents had six children. The house was too small, the  
7 kitchen was big enough for maybe three, two, three people.  
8 So if everybody sat down for supper, the table went out  
9 into the living room, because that was the only way  
10 everybody could sit around the table.

11 My mother was not much of a house keeper, so  
12 usually it looked like a truck drove through it. And I  
13 thought Jesse's place was just wonderful. And her -- she,  
14 like I say, she was just welcoming and smiling and -- and  
15 she was you know, all the time I was married to Ray, I mean  
16 she was like my best friend.

17 If -- even when she lived in Vancouver, when  
18 my youngest daughter was three, I think three, I had to  
19 have surgery. I had to have a hysterectomy, and Jesse flew  
20 out from Vancouver and stayed at my place for six weeks.  
21 And my house had never been so clean.

22 But she made the kids happy. She did things  
23 with the kids. She just loved them to pieces. And she  
24 wouldn't let me lift anything. You know, she was like  
25 my -- when I got home from the hospital, my little daughter



Gayle Graham & Elaine Dreaver,  
In Relation to Catherine Linda Dreaver

1           came running up and tried to jump on me, and she was going,  
2           “(indiscernible) don’t do that.” She says, “Your mom can’t  
3           lift anything.”

4                           And then she would tell me, “Just sit down.”  
5           But she was -- she was that kind of person. And Linda was  
6           very much like her, you know? Elaine looks like her, like  
7           Jesse; when I look at Elaine. Her face is just like  
8           Jesse’s.

9                           And I -- I am so happy to have been married  
10          into the Dreaver family and so accepted by them since 1970.  
11          It’s been amazing. Hell of a ride, but --

12                           **MR. JOSEPH MURDOCH-FLOWERS:** I think -- I  
13          think we had some photos set up. So there are some, pardon  
14          me, some pictures that we have. Did you want to talk about  
15          these photographs then? Either of you?

16                           **MS. ELAINE DREAVAR:** Yes.

17                           **MR. JOSEPH MURDOCH-FLOWERS:** Go ahead.  
18          Sure.

19                           **MS. ELAINE DREAVAR:** The one thing I forgot  
20          to say about my mother was that when my mother took us off  
21          the reservation, she did it by herself. She took her and  
22          her seven children and raised them by being a cleaning  
23          lady. All of the kids, by herself. So we usually lived in  
24          poorer neighbourhoods, but when we got older, we all  
25          decided that we would go to Hawaii together.

Gayle Graham & Elaine Dreaver,  
In Relation to Catherine Linda Dreaver

1                   So the kids all chipped in, and the three of  
2                   us went to Hawaii. This was her long-time husband, and the  
3                   two of us women, we hate having our picture taken. You can  
4                   tell that we're not the -- the biggest photography people.  
5                   Believe it or not though, that was a very happy time.

6                   He looked actually the happiest in the  
7                   picture there. Yes, but this was our first time abroad  
8                   too, and not like we got to travel very much in our  
9                   lifetime there. So but for me it was a very happy time,  
10                  even though you can't tell in that picture. It was -- it  
11                  was amazing time.

12                 The three of us lived together in Vancouver  
13                 for many, many years. And his name was Stan Orall (ph).  
14                 My sister is the one in the black dress, and the miserable  
15                 looking one on the other side is me. And we're on a boat,  
16                 on a cruise.

17   **(LAUGHTER)**

18                 **MR. JOSEPH MURDOCH-FLOWERS:** Here's another  
19                 one.

20                 **MS. ELAINE DREAYER:** Yes, again, this one is  
21                 my mother with Stan Orall and my sister, Linda. It was a  
22                 very happy occasion. It was a New Year's Eve which we  
23                 didn't typically went out and participated in, but it was  
24                 such a beautiful time, and I don't think I've ever, ever  
25                 seen my sister dress up like this before. And I don't

Gayle Graham & Elaine Dreaver,  
In Relation to Catherine Linda Dreaver

1 think I ever, ever saw her do it again.

2 She was never happy to be any focal point in  
3 a room, but that day she was. She was absolutely amazing,  
4 and my mother, I've never seen her happier. It was a very  
5 happy time. And unfortunately, I don't have an awful lot  
6 of pictures of my sister because like I said before, she  
7 was not comfortable with her beauty. And there she's so  
8 beautiful.

9 And this was our trip. Also in Hawaii, she  
10 had a parrot on her shoulder. Took the picture, she  
11 smiled, and then the bird pooped all over her.

12 (LAUGHTER)

13 **MS. ELAINE DREAYER:** That's my memory of  
14 that day. But it was very fun. It was in Hawaii, again,  
15 like I say. Very happy times, and, like I say, you can  
16 look at her. She's -- this was her natural, her look. Her  
17 look was just soft and -- and loving. She was a gentle  
18 person, a gentle soul. I miss her so much. And that's how  
19 I choose to remember her. She deserved better than what  
20 she got. She deserved so much more.

21 On the upside, my mother and my sister and  
22 buried together in the same plot here in Edmonton. My  
23 sister went first obviously. My mother went just back in  
24 1992. But that's the one thing she insisted on, was to be  
25 buried with my sister.

Gayle Graham & Elaine Dreaver,  
In Relation to Catherine Linda Dreaver

1                   And actually, the most poignant thing I can  
2           see when I put on the little stone on her grave was if it  
3           has no sorrow that heaven can not cure. And I am very  
4           grateful the two of them are together now.

5                   **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** I don't know what to  
6           say.

7                   **MS. ELAINE DREAYER:** You and me both. Like  
8           I say, I'm very happy to be here, and to talk about her.  
9           And I'd like to thank everybody. Like I say, so much time  
10          has elapsed. And many years has gone by without me trying  
11          to think about it. And I just hope that other people get  
12          to talk about people that have come and gone in their  
13          lives. And to rekindle the memories that made them so  
14          special.

15                   Because time has such terrible habit of  
16          removing or easing that pain. And to deny the pain is  
17          tragic. I think you really have to talk about it, and I've  
18          never been that kind of a person. And I can see now after  
19          all the years of people telling me that I should talk about  
20          it, that they are probably right. So yeah. Thank you and  
21          thank you mother for having my sister. And thank you for  
22          allowing me to be here. And thank you, Mr. Commissioner,  
23          for listening to me.

24                   **MR. JOSEPH MURDOCH-FLOWERS:** Would you like  
25          to say any words about...

Gayle Graham & Elaine Dreaver,  
In Relation to Catherine Linda Dreaver

1                   **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** (Indiscernible)

2                   **MR. JOSEPH MURDOCH-FLOWERS:** Okay.

3                   **MS. ELAINE DREAYER:** Ditto.

4                   **MR. JOSEPH MURDOCH-FLOWERS:** Well,  
5 Commissioner, I -- I -- I leave it in your hands at this  
6 point. I -- thank you.

7                   **COMMISSIONER BRIAN EYOLFSON:** So I don't  
8 have any additional question. I just want to tank you both  
9 very much for coming here today and telling us about Linda,  
10 and sharing with everybody, you know, what happened. And  
11 the bit about your family.

12                   And I want to thank you for -- for showing  
13 your strength as well in coming to talk about -- about  
14 Linda and your family, so thank you very much.

15                   **MS. ELAINE DREAYER:** Thank you.

16                   **MR. JOSEPH MURDOCH-FLOWERS:** Remember I said  
17 we have surprises?

18                   **MS. ELAINE DREAYER:** M'hm.

19                   **MS. GAYLE GRAHAM:** This isn't a trial run?

20                   **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** So we're going to ask  
21 the Commissioner if he'll offer you this tobacco here. And  
22 this is for you to -- to pray with after here. And to  
23 thank you for sharing your words and your truths. We also  
24 have another small gift for you. And I know that before we  
25 started, we gave you each an eagle feather to -- to hold on

Gayle Graham & Elaine Dreaver,  
In Relation to Catherine Linda Dreaver

1 to that bird that flies the closest, to the one that makes  
2 us, and we'd like to give you your own eagle feather.

3 **MS. ELAINE DREAVAR:** Oh, thank you.

4 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** And some seeds which  
5 are wild sage, one of our medicine's, so that you can plant  
6 these in memory of your families, and that you can have  
7 this feather to help you with the rest of your journey. To  
8 help you with your healing.

9 **MS. ELAINE DREAVAR:** Thank you. Thank you.

10 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** This will comfort  
11 you. These came from the grandmother's in British  
12 Columbia, who on their journeys and their walks, they  
13 collected these eagle feathers for the people who would be  
14 telling their stories so that it can help give you  
15 strength. Because you've shown that you have strength, but  
16 this will continue to help you.

17 **MS. ELAINE DREAVAR:** M'hm.

18 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** And to help you with  
19 your healing, because our loved ones are always going to be  
20 here for us. And they want you to know with these feathers  
21 that whenever you need them, you just bring out your  
22 feather and talk to them and they'll come and be with you  
23 to help you with your journey. So hai'hai (ph).

24 **COMMISSIONER BRIAN EYOLFSON:** Okay. And so  
25 if there's nothing further, we can adjourn.

Gayle Graham & Elaine Dreaver,  
In Relation to Catherine Linda Dreaver

1                   **MR. JOSEPH MURDOCH-FLOWERS:** Yeah. And --

2                   **MS. ELAINE DREAYER:** Thank you.

3                   **MR. JOSEPH MURDOCH-FLOWERS:** Yeah.

4                   **MS. ELAINE DREAYER:** Thank you very much.

5                   **COMMISSIONER BRIAN EYOLFSON:** Okay.

6                   **MS. ELAINE DREAYER:** Thank you for the  
7 opportunity.

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

9                   **--- Exhibits (code: P1P05P0104)**

10                  **Exhibit 1:** Digital folder of three images displayed on  
11 monitors during public hearing.

12                  **Exhibit 2:** News article "Body in slough still a  
13 mystery: Woman disappeared in 1983" by Ian  
14 Williams; no publication data, one-page  
15 copy.

16                  **--- Upon adjourning at 11:07 a.m.**

17                  **Hearing # 2**

18                  **Witness: Melanie Dene**

19                  **In relation to Shelly Tannis Dene**

20                  **Heard by Chief Commissioner Marion Buller**

21                  **Commission Counsel: Breen Ouellette**

22                  **Elders, Grandmothers, Knowledge-Keepers: Rick Lightening,**  
23 **Lauren "Blu" Waters**

24                  **--- Upon resuming at 1:45 p.m.**

25                   **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Thank you, Chief

Melanie Dene  
In relation to Shelly Tannis Dene

1 Commissioner. For the record, my name is Breen OUELLETTE,  
2 and I am a lawyer with the National Inquiry. It is my  
3 honour to introduce Melanie Dene, who resides in Edmonton.

4 Melanie has brought someone in support who  
5 will I -- who I will ask Melanie to introduce.

6 **MS. MELANIE DENE:** So Honey, I have brought  
7 with me a dear friend of mine. I consider her to be a  
8 sister. Her name is Honey Desjarlais (ph). She's from the  
9 Fort McMurray, First Nation, and I am from the Mikisew Cree  
10 First Nation and the Treaty 8 Territory.

11 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Thank you. Ms.  
12 Registrar, Melanie has requested to affirm using an eagle  
13 feather.

14 **MELANIE DENE, Affirmed:**

15 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Melanie --

16 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Go ahead  
17 (indiscernible).

18 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** -- would you please  
19 tell us the full name of the person you are here to speak  
20 about today?

21 **MS. MELANIE DENE:** I am here representing my  
22 cousin, Shelly Tannis Dene.

23 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And are you here today  
24 because Shelly is missing, or she's been murdered?

25 **MS. MELANIE DENE:** She's been missing since



Melanie Dene  
In relation to Shelly Tannis Dene

1 August 2013.

2 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Do you know how old  
3 she was when she went missing?

4 **MS. MELANIE DENE:** She would have been 20 --  
5 26. She would have been turning 26 that year.

6 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Did Shelly have a  
7 difficult life growing up?

8 **MS. MELANIE DENE:** Yeah. We -- we're  
9 originally from Fort McMurray, my family. Well, most of us  
10 grew up in Fort McMurray. My family comes from Fort  
11 Chipewyan area. So Shelly's father was my uncle, and we  
12 all grew up in a place called Water Ways (ph) and Shelly,  
13 Candace (ph) and her brother lived there with her mom and  
14 her dad. And when, growing up for Shelly was a good  
15 upbringing because her dad at that time and my auntie were  
16 cultural, and they followed traditional values and ways.

17 And then the family had split up, and then  
18 after that, that's when the -- the kids had moved with  
19 their mom to B.C. and from there a lot of dysfunction I  
20 guess you could say happened within the family. So, mainly  
21 to do with addictions, alcohol to be more specific, and  
22 then eventually drugs.

23 We moved away, me and my mom had moved away  
24 from Fort McMurray when I was about nine. So that was  
25 like, the last time that I had seen Shelly as a kid. And

Melanie Dene  
In relation to Shelly Tannis Dene

1           it wasn't until her father had passed away in 2012 is when  
2           I had seen Shelly again. And at that time she -- she was  
3           grown up, and she was a mother of her own.

4                         And we connected like, through Facebook, and  
5           that's how you know, like, most of us stay connected;  
6           through social media. And so that was my relationship with  
7           my cousins that I hadn't seen since we were all children.

8                         **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And so I understand  
9           that Shelly had a son?

10                        **MS. MELANIE DENE:** Yeah. She had -- she --  
11           his name is Ivan (ph). He just turned ten in August. He  
12           is in a foster home. He's been adopted in B.C. Through  
13           this whole process, as our family, we try to -- to adopt  
14           him. And because that was the only thing that we had of  
15           her left. But between the provincial -- I don't know how  
16           it works in the Provinces between B.C. and Alberta;  
17           numerous of us that tried to gain custody of Ivan were  
18           unable to. And so the family that he was placed with won  
19           custody and so now he's in this home. And we -- we don't  
20           see him. Go ahead, Breen.

21                        **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Were you given reasons  
22           for why your family's applications were not accepted?

23                        **MS. MELANIE DENE:** I don't know what the  
24           reasons are, you know? When you -- when you can be able to  
25           provide a home for a child, especially when it's a -- a

Melanie Dene  
In relation to Shelly Tannis Dene

1 member of your family, you would think that the courts  
2 would be more open to placing that child into their family  
3 circle, as opposed to outside of that.

4 I'm not sure why Ivan was not placed with  
5 you know, Shelly's auntie who had applied, myself who had  
6 applied, Candace, which is Shelly's sister. I don't know  
7 what it is that you need to do or to be recommended, or to  
8 be looked at as a safe home.

9 Like, I am -- I'm a mother. I have two  
10 daughters myself, and I have another one on the way. You  
11 know I -- I don't have much, but I have a home, and I have  
12 a lot of love. And I thought that that was enough to be  
13 able to take on Ivan, you know?

14 I wanted him to -- I know for myself that I  
15 wanted him to be still within our family, and to grow up --  
16 to grow up knowing who we were. And to not ever forget who  
17 his mom was. And I'm not sure if the home that he's in  
18 does that. I don't know if they talk to him about who his  
19 mother was. Thank you. Go ahead.

20 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Okay. Do you believe  
21 that Child and Family Services is taking care of the best  
22 interests of Indigenous children and families in British  
23 Columbia and Alberta?

24 **MS. MELANIE DENE:** Is that a trick question?  
25 No, I don't. I don't believe that the child welfare system

Melanie Dene  
In relation to Shelly Tannis Dene

1 is looking out for the best interests of the Indigenous  
2 children that are being apprehended daily from their homes,  
3 from their communities.

4 I feel that that system has replaced  
5 residential school system. To remove a child, not just  
6 from the home, but from the community is devastating. It's  
7 -- it's impact, and it just speaks to the volume of  
8 colonialism that we are still faced with as Indigenous  
9 people.

10 And you know, because of the conditions that  
11 we might not live up to, you know, we may be looked at as  
12 in poverty, but just because you live in a run down house  
13 or you know, you're not able to -- I don't know what it is  
14 that they look at, but as long as you're able to provide a  
15 loving, caring home, and you are able to give that child  
16 everything that they need, with a roof over their head,  
17 food in their belly, to keep them safe from addictions and  
18 stuff like that, then you know, does that make you any less  
19 of a parent?

20 I think, I think children need to be, to be  
21 in their homes, and they need to be within their family,  
22 within their family circle. And especially within their  
23 community.

24 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** You mentioned poverty  
25 as a potential factor for denying families the right to

Melanie Dene  
In relation to Shelly Tannis Dene

1       care for their -- their children. All things being equal  
2       between the extended family of a child, or a stranger in  
3       foster care, except for perhaps the poverty issue; do you  
4       believe it makes sense to pay that stranger thousands of  
5       dollars rather than to support the family to allow them to  
6       continue to raise that child?

7                   **MS. MELANIE DENE:** Do I think that makes  
8       sense? No. It doesn't make sense. I would be considered  
9       poverty. I am a University student. I -- I go to school  
10      full time. I'm living off of student loan, and the child  
11      tax benefit that the govern [sic] gives to me. I would be  
12      considered poverty, and I have two children, and another  
13      one on the way. Does that make me less of a person to  
14      raise my own children that way?

15                   No, because I'm still doing everything I  
16      possibly can every damn day to ensure that my kids needs  
17      are being met. I ensure that the -- the rent is paid. I  
18      struggle to pay utilities, but I do it. You know, I -- I  
19      reach out to -- to my friends and to support to help me to  
20      -- whenever I need that help.

21                   I don't -- I don't rely on -- I don't rely  
22      the -- my Band or you know? Like, I always try to find a  
23      way to make ends meet, and I've been doing it. And I'm, I  
24      feel that a lot of families, a lot of mothers and a lot of  
25      fathers, they do that. They -- they struggle. Yeah, sure

Melanie Dene  
In relation to Shelly Tannis Dene

1 we struggle, but as long as those needs are being met then  
2 that doesn't make you any less of a parent, and it doesn't  
3 make you any less worthy to raise your own children.

4 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Can you tell us what  
5 Shelly's life was like leading up to her disappearance?

6 **MS. MELANIE DENE:** So like I said, Shelly  
7 and her siblings and her mom had moved to -- to B.C. where  
8 she grew up most of her teenage life. Shelly had -- she  
9 had dropped out of high school, and then when she became  
10 pregnant with her son, that gave her the drive to go back  
11 to school and to finish, which she did. As you can see,  
12 she graduated.

13 She -- she had her own place, she had her  
14 own vehicle. You know, she did everything and it's like I  
15 said, as a mother you do everything for your children. And  
16 that's what Shelly was doing. She -- she put aside you  
17 know, her -- her addictions. Like, she was drinking and  
18 doing drugs beforehand, but when she had Ivan she -- that  
19 was her focus, was her son.

20 And so she had graduated, and then when  
21 Shelly's father had passed away, that was the first time I  
22 -- I remember meeting little Ivan. And he was -- he was  
23 super cute. He was so cute. And she said that she wanted  
24 to further, like, further on into school. Looking for work  
25 and stuff like that. She was just trying to you know, plan

Melanie Dene  
In relation to Shelly Tannis Dene

1 her life on what she wanted to do to ensure that she could  
2 make a life for him.

3 And then the last I heard of like, Shelly  
4 was that she had -- she had relapsed, and that was the  
5 first time that Ivan was taken away. And so if anything  
6 that -- that kind of woke her up. And so she, you know,  
7 she cleaned herself up again and she -- she worked hard,  
8 and she always made sure that she made her appointments to  
9 -- to visit with him.

10 She was doing what she could do in order to  
11 get her son back. And she stayed sober for -- for three  
12 years. And, but I don't know; child welfare system I  
13 guess, you know, they -- they get to determine when you're  
14 okay, and when they feel that your child should be returned  
15 to you. And for Shelly, that was really hard for her.

16 And so during that time she decided to get  
17 away from B.C. because that's where a lot of the temptation  
18 I guess, was, the influence. So she had moved here to  
19 Edmonton. And she came to live here with our -- our  
20 grandmother. And she moved here in May of that year.

21 And she wanted to clean up her life. And  
22 she wants to figure out what she had to do in order to get  
23 her son back. And she figured that being around family  
24 would help her. And that year, that summer, I had come  
25 down In July from -- at that time I was living in Fort

Melanie Dene  
In relation to Shelly Tannis Dene

1 McMurray. And I had come to Edmonton, and I stopped at my  
2 grandmother's place. And I didn't even know Shelly was  
3 here.

4 And I was sitting there visiting with my  
5 grandma, and all of a sudden Shelly came out and I was  
6 like, "What the heck?" You know, like, "What are you doing  
7 here?" And I just couldn't believe like, how tall she was  
8 'cause like, the last time I had seen her was in 2001. And  
9 yeah, she -- she was really tall. She was beautiful. And  
10 I gave her a big hug, and you know, and asked her what she  
11 was doing here. She said, "I'm -- I'm living here now. I'm  
12 just trying to get my life together."

13 And so we kind of chit chatted, but I could  
14 tell that Shelly was very, kind of distracted. She was on  
15 her phone. And that was the last time that I had seen her  
16 myself. And it was in August the next month that my mom  
17 had called me, and she told me that Shelly was missing.  
18 And I was like, "What do you mean she's missing?" And she  
19 said, "I don't know." She's like, "We haven't seen her.  
20 We haven't heard from her. She's gone."

21 And so I asked like, "Did you go to the  
22 police? Did anybody go to the police?" And at that time,  
23 Candace, her sister was the one that went to go file the --  
24 the complaint with the Edmonton Police, but they didn't  
25 file it. They basically said that she's probably just out



Melanie Dene  
In relation to Shelly Tannis Dene

1           doing what any young girl's doing. Or that maybe because  
2           Shelly was at that time talking about going to the Yukon,  
3           and so they assumed that maybe she had just took off to the  
4           Yukon.

5                        So they didn't you know, they didn't take it  
6           seriously. And Candace knew something was wrong because  
7           she talked to her sister like, almost every day. And when  
8           she doesn't talk to her, that's what worried her.

9                        **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** So when you say that  
10          they wouldn't file a report, are you referring to the  
11          Edmonton Police Service?

12                      **MS. MELANIE DENE:** Edmonton Police Services,  
13          yes. They didn't file the report. It wasn't until  
14          November of 2013 that they finally filed her as a missing  
15          person.

16                      **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Why do you think it  
17          took them so long to file that report?

18                      **MS. MELANIE DENE:** 'Cause she's Indigenous.  
19          Because they labeled her as high risk. I don't know. Why  
20          wouldn't the police file her? Why do they not file them  
21          right away? Why do they wait, take their time? Like,  
22          three months is too long.

23                      **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Do you know if  
24          Candace, tried reporting Shelly missing to Edmonton Police?

25                      **MS. MELANIE DENE:** Yeah. Candace was --

Melanie Dene  
In relation to Shelly Tannis Dene

1 Candace should have been a cop. She was on them all the  
2 time. She -- she wanted to know where her sister was  
3 because she knew that something wasn't right. Like I said  
4 that Candace talked to her sister every day, and when  
5 she -- she would try to text her. She would call.

6 She even went as far to see if like, Shelly  
7 was using her bank card, or if her status card had been  
8 used or you know, she was doing everything to figure out  
9 like, what happened to her sister, even Facebook. Like,  
10 she reached out to Shelly's friends to see if Shelly maybe  
11 went back to B.C.

12 Like, she was just trying to figure out  
13 where it did -- what -- like, what happened to her sister.  
14 And Candace said that the last time that she -- she texted  
15 Shelly, and she asked her if everything was okay. And the  
16 -- the response back was, "No." And then when she tried to  
17 call, the phone was disconnected, so (indiscernible)  
18 Candace. That's when she knew like, something -- something  
19 was seriously wrong. That (indiscernible) help.

20 But it's like I said that the police, they,  
21 in my -- in my own opinion, they -- they waited too long.  
22 Like, three months is -- that's a long time to -- that they  
23 could have been out looking. You know, posters could have  
24 been up. They could have put it out on, out on the news.  
25 They could have put it on social media. You know, try to

Melanie Dene  
In relation to Shelly Tannis Dene

1 help the family, take the family serious. And when they  
2 report somebody that they love is gone missing --

3 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Do you know if Candace  
4 tried contacting the RCMP in British Columbia?

5 **MS. MELANIE DENE:** Yeah. She contacted the  
6 police in B.C. She talked to the police in the Yukon. She  
7 -- I even believe she was sending the missing person  
8 posters up (indiscernible) different detachments. Like, she  
9 was -- like I said, she was (indiscernible) the police --  
10 (indiscernible) she couldn't have been. It should have  
11 been the police doing their job, basically.

12 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Do you know if she got  
13 any better response from the RCMP in B.C. than Yukon?

14 **MS. MELANIE DENE:** From what I can remember,  
15 Candace said that they had questioned, but you can't quote  
16 me on that, but that would be, have to come from Candace.

17 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** So what has the family  
18 done on its own to try to raise awareness?

19 **MS. MELANIE DENE:** We've had walks. We put  
20 out posters. We've created Facebook pages. We spoke to  
21 media multiple times. I even put up a ceremony last fall  
22 for her. And not just for her, but for all murdered and  
23 missing women. I've been praying. I don't know, like,  
24 what does the family do?

25 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Can you tell us why

Melanie Dene  
In relation to Shelly Tannis Dene

1 Candace is unable to be here today?

2 **MS. MELANIE DENE:** Like Shelly, Candace too  
3 was heavily into addictions. And then when her sister went  
4 missing she sobered up, and she sobered up fast. She  
5 was -- she was the strength behind all of this. This was  
6 her big sister.

7 And if she didn't do it, Shelly probably  
8 would have been forgotten. So Candace got sober, and this  
9 was -- this was her -- this was her mission being a mom  
10 herself, and she was trying to go to school also. She  
11 lived in Fort McKay at the time. And she -- she just, I  
12 don't know, she just got engaged. Like, her sister --  
13 finding her sister was like, her work, her every day work.

14 She got in contact with some of the  
15 grassroots movements. You know, like, Stolen Sisters,  
16 Murdered Missing Indigenous Women, she just reached out,  
17 and on June 21st, the following year after Shelly had been  
18 reported missing, she held a walk here in Edmonton for  
19 Shelly.

20 And then from there, you know, she held a  
21 walk in Peace River. She -- she did everything. She  
22 talked to CBC. She talked to all the media. Probably half  
23 the reporters that might be in here, Candace probably  
24 talked to them. She did everything that she possibly  
25 could, and we had a fire back in Fort McMurray a little

Melanie Dene  
In relation to Shelly Tannis Dene

1 over a year ago. And from there, you know, a lot of us  
2 moved.

3 Candace moved back to B.C. She was  
4 expecting to go back to Fort McKay, because she -- she was  
5 going to school. And I think it just -- this place a toll  
6 on you, you know? And it's not something very easy to  
7 carry. Every day you wake up, you know, your loved one is  
8 the first thing you think about.

9 So Candace currently is in recovery, because  
10 she had fallen off. She's -- but she's working on herself,  
11 and you know, I -- I don't look down on her. I don't judge  
12 her, because what she did for a young person herself, like,  
13 she's in her early 20's, and to do what she was doing on  
14 behalf of her sister, that to me shows me love, you know?

15 And I talk with her every now and then, and  
16 like, today I -- I talked to her this morning, and I told  
17 her I was coming here. And all she could say was, "Thank  
18 you and I love you." She said, I'm -- because she's not in  
19 a place right now where she can do this. Can't carry this.

20 And I think it's important that, you know,  
21 and I told her that that, "It's important that I continue  
22 what you were doing," and that I don't want Shelly to ever  
23 be forgotten. I want her to be found. That's the only  
24 thing my family has ever -- ever wanted, has ever asked  
25 for, was for her to come home.

Melanie Dene  
In relation to Shelly Tannis Dene

1                   In some way, we just -- we want her home.  
2           We want to know what happened to her. I can't fathom in my  
3           mind how someone goes missing. I just, I can't fathom it.  
4           It doesn't make any sense to me. How does somebody go  
5           missing and like, four years, this is the fourth winter.  
6           And I just -- it's not easy, it's not something that you  
7           know, they say, "Oh, in time." No. It's not like that.

8                   And when you -- when you read on the news or  
9           you hear on the news about another farm that they have  
10          found in B.C. with human remains, that makes your heart  
11          stop, because you wonder if your loved one is there. And  
12          in a way, you kind of pray that maybe she is, so that at  
13          least you have some sort of answer.

14                   Or if they find another victim, you know,  
15          that's what my -- me and my family live through when  
16          reports like that are -- are being broadcasted. I don't  
17          think anybody should have to live like that.

18                   **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** What were Shelly's  
19          gifts and strengths?

20                   **MS. MELANIE DENE:** Shelly was -- she was  
21          very determined. She had her own dreams. I think her  
22          strength was her son, Ivan. She was kind. She -- she was  
23          beautiful. When her father was sick, she had drove all the  
24          way from B.C. and she came, and she sat by his side until  
25          he had passed.

Melanie Dene  
In relation to Shelly Tannis Dene

1                   She -- she wanted whatever any young mother  
2                   wanted, you know? A young woman. When you're a young  
3                   lady, like, in your 20's, 'cause I've been there, you know,  
4                   that's when you're -- you're discovering who you are as an  
5                   individual. And you're trying to figure out your -- your  
6                   own dreams and what it is that you want to do in -- in  
7                   life.

8                   And when you have children you know, it  
9                   makes it that much more that you -- you want to better  
10                  yourself. And I believe that's what she -- she was  
11                  attempting to do. Like, she -- she -- that's why she had  
12                  moved here, to Edmonton of all places.

13                  I wish she would have came and lived in Fort  
14                  McMurray, or Fort McKay, because she -- maybe she would  
15                  still be here today.

16                  **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** What do you hope will  
17                  happen as a result of your testimony today?

18                  **MS. MELANIE DENE:** I hope that Shelly's case  
19                  is re-opened. When we reported her missing, when they  
20                  finally filed her missing in November of 2013, it was a  
21                  year later, December that the police basically said that  
22                  they exhausted everything that they could do. I'm not sure  
23                  what that means, 'exhausted'. It makes me question like,  
24                  what they were actually doing, because if Candace was doing  
25                  their job, you know, what were they actually doing as law

Melanie Dene  
In relation to Shelly Tannis Dene

1 enforcement?

2 But I want to see her case re-opened, and I  
3 want to see it active. And I -- I would love for the  
4 police to be in contact with us, her family, on a daily  
5 basis, even a weekly basis to tell us what it is, you know?  
6 I -- I -- I just, I don't feel like -- and I you know,  
7 yeah, I know that they're overworked, and they have million  
8 other cases and things to do as police officers, but  
9 perhaps develop a special task force that just deals with  
10 cases like this; where they can actually do their jobs  
11 properly, and they can spend that time efficiently and  
12 effectively on each of these cases, because I'm so tired  
13 of, not just Shelly, but other cases too like, being  
14 disregarded, forgotten about, or exhausted. So --

15 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And to be clear, this  
16 special task force, you -- you would want to deal  
17 exclusively with Indigenous missing and murdered cases?

18 **MS. MELANIE DENE:** I think that's a high  
19 priority right now. Yeah. I think it needs to be like  
20 that across this whole country, not just here in Edmonton.  
21 But you know, they -- they say that they have projects,  
22 special KARE here in Edmonton, but even what is that doing?  
23 You know, still young women are going missing or being  
24 murdered, so how effective is this Project KARE?

25 I would like to -- to see an independent



Melanie Dene  
In relation to Shelly Tannis Dene

1 task force that works specifically just with Indigenous  
2 peoples that go missing or who have been murdered.

3 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** We've talked  
4 previously, and you had mentioned something about safety in  
5 cities. Do you want to talk about that?

6 **MS. MELANIE DENE:** This is when we met back  
7 in October or September when I came and met with you. I  
8 talked about my safety. I talked about -- yeah, I think I  
9 -- I -- since Shelly has been gone missing, it's been my  
10 reality now as an Indigenous woman, I don't feel safe. I  
11 don't go anywhere. I go to school, and I stay home, and I  
12 do what I need to do during the day.

13 I have daughters you know? And I fear for  
14 their safety. I don't even like them playing outside  
15 because I have in my mind what if somebody comes and takes  
16 them?

17 I -- I don't like that feeling. Even being  
18 on campus, you know? Being a -- walking on campus, or  
19 walking anywhere really, even traveling. When I travel to  
20 Saskatchewan, I travel during the day and I always have to  
21 ensure whoever on the other end where I am -- like, I text  
22 along the way just to let them know where I am, because  
23 what if something happens to me?

24 Is that normal? Is that a normal way to  
25 behave? You know, I've never done that before. And I feel

Melanie Dene  
In relation to Shelly Tannis Dene

1       like I shouldn't have to live my life that way, in fear.  
2       And I feel like I'm not the only Indigenous woman that  
3       feels that way.

4                   It's not a nice feeling. I'm angry all the  
5       time. I've been angry. Racism, colonial violence. Like  
6       even as Indigenous women like, when you -- you read about  
7       these stories, the -- the murdered victims like, the way  
8       that they're murdered is, it's like out of rage? Hate? I  
9       don't know.

10                   Like, it's not where somebody just got shot,  
11       or you know, got hit by a car, or I don't know. I'm not  
12       saying there's a proper way to kill somebody, but I'm just  
13       saying that when it comes to being an Indigenous person,  
14       why is it more violent and disgusting, the way that they're  
15       killed?

16                   And -- their crimes aren't even being  
17       solved. They're lucky if they can even convict somebody of  
18       their crime. Look at the wave -- the victims of Robert  
19       Pickton, you know? Or Cindy Gladue. You know, like, why  
20       are women being murdered in that way and people just seem  
21       to be okay with it. Like, why is that? Like, why are  
22       Canadians okay with the way that these women are being  
23       treated? If they were of another colour would it been,  
24       have, be different? Would there be more outrage in the  
25       public?

Melanie Dene  
In relation to Shelly Tannis Dene

1                   Why is it just Indigenous people that come  
2                   together and raise these issues and try to bring it to the  
3                   light, to the forefront to help the rest of Canada  
4                   understand what it is that we are facing? This is not just  
5                   -- this is not just a, you know, like a passing of time.  
6                   This has been going on for a very, very long time. So  
7                   that's how I feel.

8                   **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Do you believe then  
9                   that's it's important for safe spaces to be created in  
10                  cities across this country?

11                  **MS. MELANIE DENE:** Yeah. I would like to  
12                  see more safe spaces for Indigenous people, not just women  
13                  and girls, but even for our men, our boys. You know, a lot  
14                  of these people that come to the urban centres, they're  
15                  escaping from something. And they come here, and they  
16                  don't have places to go.

17                  And -- and I'm not saying that you know,  
18                  they're all like that, but even for myself being here in  
19                  Edmonton, I would like to have a safe space if I chose to  
20                  go. You know, like, even a place to go for a ceremony.  
21                  Like, I would like to have places like that set up for here  
22                  in the urban centres.

23                  I think that, you know, yeah, they have  
24                  women shelters, and you know, they're so quick to always  
25                  point the fingers to those types of places, but beds are

Melanie Dene  
In relation to Shelly Tannis Dene

1 limited. They don't have access to Elders. Resources, you  
2 know, like a lot of people don't know where to go for  
3 certain things.

4 So I think if you can be able to create  
5 spaces like that specifically for Indigenous people, then  
6 you know, I think that would -- that would help, in a way.

7 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Do you believe there's  
8 a power imbalance or a lack of fairness in the struggle of  
9 Indigenous mothers and parents against Child and Family  
10 Services?

11 **MS. MELANIE DENE:** Oh, Breen. Yeah. Of  
12 course there's a power imbalance. It's always been about  
13 power, and who holds that power. You see it. Like, I'm  
14 learning about it in University. It's in our history.  
15 It's you know, Elders talk about it. We've seen it with  
16 residential school. We've seen it with the Indian Act, and  
17 still see it with the Indian Act.

18 We see it within the reserve systems. And  
19 child welfare system like, who gave them that much power  
20 just to -- to come in? Like, I -- I recall watching a  
21 documentary on APTN, and it's, I think it was in Winnipeg.  
22 And it was a young mom who was also a product of the child  
23 welfare system. When she became a mother, her baby was  
24 taken away from her. Why? Because she -- she grew up in  
25 the system, so automatically that like, strikes her as like

Melanie Dene  
In relation to Shelly Tannis Dene

1 she's not like, a mother? Like, she can't be a mom?

2 So yeah, it's -- to me it's just another act  
3 of dispossession. You know, continue to keep us in a  
4 certain situation to keep us in poverty, to keep us down.  
5 To keep us still struggling, to keep us within our  
6 addictions. You know, that it's always going to be that  
7 way, unless like, for myself I -- I used to be an  
8 alcoholic. And did that make me a bad mom? No, because I  
9 still went to work and you know, I still managed to make  
10 sure that my kids had the things that they -- they needed,  
11 but I knew I had a problem.

12 But it took me a long time to realize that  
13 and you know, I -- I found my place, and I -- I found  
14 myself in ceremony. That's what I returned back to. And  
15 that's what has been helping me these past three and a half  
16 years. And without returning back to that, I think I -- I  
17 could have been Shelly. I could have been another one of  
18 the -- the victims, but yeah. I don't know.

19 This is -- this is a struggle that we -- we  
20 face. And Indigenous women seen to be targeted because  
21 it's not just mothers with their children being taken away  
22 and apprehended at birth, it's also women that are getting  
23 sterilized without their consent. There's a lot of things  
24 that are happening, and you know, I wish people would  
25 educate themselves, and make the connections of to what is

Melanie Dene  
In relation to Shelly Tannis Dene

1           actually happening.

2                         Like, why is there such a increase in prison  
3           systems when there should be more increase in programs and  
4           services to help families, to help Indigenous people?  
5           Yeah. I could go on, but --

6                         **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Do you think some of  
7           that help should be in the form of somebody that can help  
8           Indigenous parents stand up against child welfare so that  
9           they're not just at the mercy of that system?

10                        **MS. MELANIE DENE:** I think that's where it's  
11           important to have community. And it's important to have  
12           Elders. And like Cindy Blackstock, you know, she -- she's  
13           a true advocate. And she wasn't just speaking on behalf of  
14           just one province. She was speaking on behalf of all of  
15           the children that have been taken away, and that are  
16           continuously being taken away.

17                        She's talking for our, all of our children.  
18           All of the Indigenous children that are being impacted.  
19           Something like women like her, people like her, you know?  
20           Those are the people that you want in your corner to -- to  
21           help you fight this battle that it is that Indigenous  
22           people are fighting. Listen, man, we've been fighting for  
23           a really, really, really, really long time. And it's not  
24           just within child welfare system, it's in all systems.

25                        **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** What are your hopes

Melanie Dene  
In relation to Shelly Tannis Dene

1 for Ivan?

2 **MS. MELANIE DENE:** My hopes for Ivan? I  
3 hope that he knows that he's loved. I hope that he knows  
4 that he's not forgotten by his family. I hope that he  
5 remembers who his mom is. I hope that he -- he hears --  
6 when he hears about her that he hears the good things about  
7 his mom, and the things that she did for him.

8 I hope that he's loved. I hope that he has  
9 a connection to -- to Creator, you know? To -- to our  
10 Indigenous way of life. I hope he has that, so that he  
11 doesn't ever forget who he is. I hope he's doing good in  
12 school. I hope he's happy. I hope, you know, like, he's a  
13 little boy. And I hope one day that his mom can be found  
14 so that he's not sitting where I'm sitting in the future.

15 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** I will now ask the  
16 Chief Commissioner if she has any questions for Melanie.

17 **CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER:** It's  
18 okay. Take your time.

19 **MS. MELANIE DENE:** Thank you.

20 **CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER:** First of  
21 all, I'd like to know the story about each of the pictures  
22 that you have here today about, of Melanie. Oh, sorry.

23 **MS. MELANIE DENE:** Shelly.

24 **CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER:** Shelly.  
25 I'm sorry. Melanie, please tell me about Shelly's

Melanie Dene  
In relation to Shelly Tannis Dene

1 pictures.

2 **MS. MELANIE DENE:** This picture here is her  
3 graduation photo. So that's when she had graduated from  
4 upgrading. This photo here, I stole this one from Candace.  
5 But Candace said this was a trip that they had taken in  
6 B.C. I think this one might have been in Vernon. And so  
7 Candace was the one that took that picture.

8 And the picture I'm wearing is -- this was  
9 the last time Candace spent a day with her sister. It was  
10 for Candace's daughter, Matea (ph) her birthday. And  
11 Candace took this picture of Shelly. And so this is a  
12 picture I use when I purchase a (indiscernible) in the  
13 walks or just raising awareness.

14 **CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER:** Thank  
15 you. I have a few questions about your experiences in  
16 trying to adopt Ivan. What do you remember about the  
17 process of paperwork, of telephone calls, that sort of  
18 thing?

19 **MS. MELANIE DENE:** So this is when I was  
20 still living in Fort McMurray. From what -- so my family,  
21 there was Candace, my mom, my uncle, my uncle, I mean my  
22 aunt, my Auntie Jean (ph) and her sister were the ones that  
23 were more so involved. They were meeting with Athabasca  
24 Tribal Council. They were utilizing the child support  
25 system that ATC offers, because they -- this was before the



Melanie Dene  
In relation to Shelly Tannis Dene

1           finalisation of adoption for Ivan. And so the family were  
2           wanting to be able to give -- be given the opportunity to  
3           adopt Ivan.

4                        So they were working with the support of ATC  
5           and that they were having like, meetings over the phone  
6           with the B.C. child welfare system, and with the family  
7           that had -- had Ivan at the time. And so it like, there  
8           was a process, and my auntie, she -- she was the one that  
9           had put her name forward, and like, she had a home in Fort  
10          McKay. She had a job. You know, she had all of the means  
11          in order to take care of Ivan.

12                       And just like I said, I don't know what the  
13          dynamic is between the provinces like, the whole  
14          relationship there between child welfare system. Very  
15          different it seems. B.C. seems to be impossible to work  
16          with. But I -- I can recall when me and Candace were  
17          talking on the phone, and she was telling me about all of  
18          this, and I was like, well, what if I put my name forward?  
19          You know, because I had a good job, I was sober. I had a  
20          vehicle. I had a home. You know, like, I have two kids of  
21          my own. I thought why not? Like I could do this, you  
22          know? Then at least he's here. And he's close to all of  
23          us.

24                       And so she was like, "Well, come to -- come  
25          to a meeting then." And so I went. I went to one of the

Melanie Dene  
In relation to Shelly Tannis Dene

1 meetings that we had at ATC. And I couldn't believe the  
2 conversation like, how the conversation went about. It  
3 just seemed like the lady that represented the woman in  
4 B.C. like, she was fighting us. Like, the family, you  
5 know? In order for Ivan to stay with her.

6 And as a child of welfare worker you would  
7 think that you would be fighting for the family. Like,  
8 wanting to keep the child with his biological family. But  
9 it wasn't like that at all. It was a very frustrating  
10 conversation. It got very heated. It seemed like they  
11 were controlling everything. And you know, the family that  
12 he's with is a non-Indigenous family. So he's been placed  
13 in the home of, sorry, white people.

14 And so it just, like, what? You know, like,  
15 does that make them better parents because of the colour of  
16 their skin? Or because they -- they raised Ivan for what,  
17 three years? That makes them more eligible? Like, we're  
18 his biological family, and he's all we have left of Shelly.  
19 And to me I would think that both like, Alberta and B.C.  
20 would try to work with our family in order to get Ivan back  
21 where he can be -- be with us.

22 And you know, like, we didn't just lose  
23 Shelly, we lost him too. And that's hard. Like, at least  
24 we know where he is, but we shouldn't have to lose both of  
25 them.



Melanie Dene  
In relation to Shelly Tannis Dene

1 him to be able to be learning about who we are, making that  
2 time, putting that effort in for him to come and visit,  
3 then of course you know, he's going to like, not know who  
4 we are. And he's going to be scared. But I feel that,  
5 that's what they do. So --

6 **CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER:** Thank  
7 you. I have no other questions.

8 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Melanie, is there  
9 anything else you'd like to share with the Chief  
10 Commissioner today?

11 **MS. MELANIE DENE:** I -- I think that for me  
12 during this -- this whole four years going down this road,  
13 you know, with the rallies, the marches, the -- the  
14 interviews, we've come to a place now like, where it's been  
15 pushed for an Inquiry. And we're here. And I -- I respect  
16 you know, that what the Government is doing, but my biggest  
17 question is what is the Government planning to do after  
18 this Inquiry? Like, what is the action plan?

19 Because I hope it's not like another R Cap  
20 report. I hope it's not 94 calls to action, where we have  
21 roundabout circle talks about reconciliation. Like, what  
22 is the action plan? And I want to see the courts, I want  
23 to see the police system, I want to see the enforcement you  
24 know, be examined, and looked at, because there is so much  
25 racism against Indigenous people within just that one

Melanie Dene  
In relation to Shelly Tannis Dene

1       system, but it's within all the systems, that I'm just  
2       trying to really understand like, what is the Inquiry going  
3       to do?

4                   And I'm not just placing that all on to the  
5       Government, but I'm like, what is Canada, all of Canada  
6       going to do? Canadians, you know. I feel like the -- it's  
7       the Indigenous people that are always having to push and  
8       push and push and we're vocal, and you know, like, look at  
9       Idle No More. And look at Standing Rock, and look at now  
10      in B.C. with Kinder Morgan. It's -- and with the Murdered  
11      Missing Indigenous Women.

12                   Like, why -- why does it always have to  
13      like, come to that point where we have to be in the face,  
14      and demand to get to this point? Like, I -- I want a world  
15      where my daughters can be safe. I -- I want them to have  
16      the same as, just like anybody else. I want them to have a  
17      future. I don't want my -- my daughters to feel that  
18      they're looked at differently just because of who they are.

19                   I want them to be proud to be able to be --  
20      say, "I am an Indigenous woman. I'm (indiscernible)." You  
21      know, I want them to have that sense of security. I don't  
22      want them to be looked at any less than. And I'm trying to  
23      understand like, how do we get there? You know, so I know  
24      that's a very loaded question and -- but that's what goes  
25      on in my mind.

Melanie Dene  
In relation to Shelly Tannis Dene

1                   **CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER:** Well,  
2           thank you. I'm having much of the same questioning in my  
3           head too and I'm hoping you'll give me the answers. Thank  
4           you so much for coming today and telling us about Shelly  
5           and Ivan, and the rest of your family.

6                   We look upon what you've told us, and what  
7           other families and survivors tell us, and it's really  
8           giving us sacred gifts, the memories and the stories and -

9                   **MS. MELANIE DENE:** M'hm.

10                  **CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER:** -- and  
11           the truths. The matriarchs on Haida Gwaii in British  
12           Columbia sometime ago heard about what we are going to be  
13           doing all across Canada. And they wanted a way to  
14           recognize and honour families and survivors who come  
15           forward, because they know the grief that -- the pain that  
16           families are going through, and survivors are going  
17           through.

18                  So they ordered, as only matriarchs can,  
19           that eagle feathers be harvested and -- and that happened.  
20           And they've asked us to give families and survivors who  
21           come forward an eagle feather on their behalf, to lift you  
22           up, to give you strength and -- and to honour you.

23                  So we have an eagle feather for you. My  
24           Elder assistant Kathy is going to help me here. Just one,  
25           thanks. Yeah. We have one also for your friend who --

Melanie Dene  
In relation to Shelly Tannis Dene

1                   **MS. MELANIE DENE:** Oh, she went to pick up  
2 my daughter.

3                   **CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER:** Oh, she  
4 did? Okay. Well, we have one for you and also one for  
5 your friend, because we know family includes family of the  
6 heart.

7                   **MS. MELANIE DENE:** Oh, okay.

8                   **CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER:** Oh,  
9 we're not done yet. Also, we have -- oh, you have them?  
10 Oh, thank you so much. Oops, I'm sorry, I (indiscernible).  
11 Because we believe in ceremony and the importance of  
12 tradition, we have tobacco ties for you and your friend,  
13 and also, and exchange for the sacred gift you gave us, we  
14 wanted to give you and your friends seeds to plant.

15                   Seeds we know have a lot of significance in  
16 a lot of different ways all across Canada. So would you  
17 please plant them --

18                   **MS. MELANIE DENE:** M'hm.

19                   **CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER:** -- take a  
20 picture of what happens and send it to us?

21                   **MS. MELANIE DENE:** Okay.

22                   **CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER:** And thank  
23 you again.

24                   **MS. MELANIE DENE:** Thank you.

25                   **CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER:** It's been

Melanie Dene  
In relation to Shelly Tannis Dene

1 a real honour to hear from you.

2 **MS. MELANIE DENE:** Thank you.

3 **CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER:** And good  
4 luck.

5 **MS. MELANIE DENE:** Thank you.

6 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Chief Commissioner --  
7 Chief Commissioner, I request that you adjourn this hearing  
8 at your pleasure.

9 **CHIEF COMMISSIONER MARION BULLER:** Yes,  
10 we'll take about a 15-minute break, please.

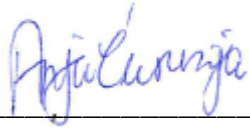
11 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Thank you.

12 --- Upon adjourning at 3:00 p.m.

LEGAL DICTA-TYPIST'S CERTIFICATE

I, Anja Curuvija, 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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Anja Curuvija

February 11, 2018