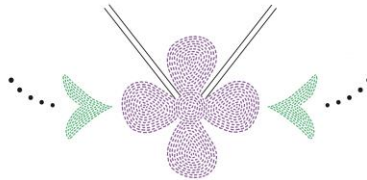


National Inquiry into  
Missing and Murdered  
Indigenous Women and Girls



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

**National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered  
Indigenous Women and Girls  
Truth-gathering process – Part I Public Hearings  
Sheraton Vancouver Airport Hotel  
Britannia Ballroom  
Metro Vancouver, British Columbia**



***Public***

**April 7, 2018**

**Public Volume 103:  
Jason Pierre, Delilah Pierre, Gertrude Pierre,  
Benedict Pierre, Trevor Joe & Melodie Casella,  
In Relation to Cheryl Ann Joe & Linda Eleanor Joe**

**Heard by Commissioner Brian Eyolfson  
Commission Counsel: Breen Ouellette**

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## II

### APPEARANCES

Assembly of First Nations	Julie McGregor (Legal Counsel)
Government of British Columbia	Sara Pye (Representative)
Government of Canada	Lucy Bell (Legal Counsel)
Heiltsuk First Nation	Non-appearance
Northwest Indigenous Council Society	Non-appearance
Our Place - Ray Cam Co-operative Centre	Non-appearance
Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada	Non-appearance
Vancouver Sex Workers' Rights Collective	Non-appearance
Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak/Women of the Métis Nation	Non-appearance

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Heard by Commissioner Brian Eyolfson

Commission Counsel: Breen Ouellette

Grandmothers, Elders, Knowledge-keepers: Florence Catcheway, Laureen "Blu" Waters-Gaudio, Kathy Louis, Ceejai Julian, Audrey Siegl, Bernie Poitras Williams, Merle Williams, Deni Paquette, Donna Dickison, Ruth Alfred, Harriet Prince, Gladys Radek, Louise Haulli, Reta Blind, Elaine Bissonnette, Eunice McMillan, Candace Ruth, Janice Brown, Theresa Russ, Deanna Lewis, Jennifer Thomas, Margerat George, Juanita Desjarlais

Registrar: Bryan Zandberg

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PUBLIC

1 Jason Pierre, Delilah Pierre,  
Gertrude Pierre, Benedict Pierre, Trevor Joe & Melodie Casella  
In Relation to Cheryl Ann Joe & Linda Eleanor Joe

1 Metro Vancouver, British Columbia

2 --- Upon commencing on Saturday, April 7, 2018 at 11:03

3 a.m.

4 **MR. BENEDICT PIERRE:** Before we begin, I've  
5 been asked on behalf of my family, that we're going to give  
6 one minute of a moment in silence in recognition of the  
7 young hockey team players that lost their lives in  
8 Saskatchewan. So before we do anything, I'd like to ask  
9 for one minute of silence starting now.

10 **(SHORT PAUSE)**

11 **MR. BENEDICT PIERRE:** Thank you. Respected  
12 Elders, family, friends, dignitaries, Commissioners, we'd  
13 like to begin by acknowledging and thanking the -- the  
14 Tsleil-Waututh, Musqueam, Tsawwassen, and Squamish -- being  
15 in this sacred territory to come and bring our -- our  
16 testimony to this Inquiry. And the one that we are going  
17 to be speaking of is our beloved Cheryl Ann Joe. And my  
18 family's asked to explain, that I know there's one chair  
19 that is easily left open for that spirit of the person, but  
20 in our family's discussion, one of the things we wanted to  
21 do is in -- in part of our teaching is it has to be -- has  
22 to be clean. I know it may have represented others, but we  
23 want our beloved Cheryl's to be -- to be clean and the --  
24 the purple cover, even the shirt was one of her -- her

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2 Jason Pierre, Delilah Pierre,  
Gertrude Pierre, Benedict Pierre, Trevor Joe & Melodie Casella  
In Relation to Cheryl Ann Joe & Linda Eleanor Joe

1 favourite colours. So we wanted to explain that's why we  
2 have this -- this table here with Cheryl's picture on it.  
3 So I'd like to begin with a -- with a prayer.

4 (Speaking Sháshíshálh Language). He who  
5 dwells above, we'd ask for your strength on this day to  
6 help our hearts and our minds to express and release  
7 emotions and feelings that we need to -- that we need to  
8 bring out and make the information to, you know, the public  
9 in awareness. And the importance, Creator, of this  
10 Commission -- to take these words that we're going to share  
11 today, that, you know, some good comes out of it. And we  
12 say a special prayer for all my family that will be  
13 speaking, Creator,  
14 to -- to touch them and give them that strength that they  
15 need. And to all you that are out there and watching  
16 what's going to happen today. Bless all of our loved ones  
17 at home, Commissioners, and most importantly, our -- our  
18 loved ones in the spirit world, especially our -- our  
19 beloved Cheryl. With that, we'll thank you, Creator, and  
20 we'll begin the work. (Speaking in Sháshíshálh).

21 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Thank you, Ben. And  
22 thank you for explaining your protocol to us. For the  
23 record, my name is Breen Ouellette, and I am a lawyer with  
24 the National Inquiry. It is my very great honour and

PUBLIC

**3 Jason Pierre, Delilah Pierre,  
Gertrude Pierre, Benedict Pierre, Trevor Joe & Melodie Casella  
In Relation to Cheryl Ann Joe & Linda Eleanor Joe**

1 privilege to introduce members of the Joe, Pierre, Casella  
2 family, who have travelled here from Sechelt. I will ask  
3 their matriarch, Gertie Pierre to introduce the other  
4 members of her family.

5 **MS. GERTRUDE PIERRE:** My daughter, Melodie  
6 Pierre -- Melodie Casella. And the next one's Trevor Joe,  
7 my nephew, the son of Cheryl Ann Joe. And my son, Benedict  
8 Pierre. And my daughter, Delilah Pierre. And my son,  
9 Jason Pierre. And Freda Ens, our support. And CeeJai  
10 Julian, Selena August (phonetic), my son's common-law, and  
11 Rhoda Julien, and Donna Dickison, Harriet Prince, and Penny  
12 Kerrigan. (Speaking in Sháshíshálh).

13 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Thank you, Gertie.  
14 And for clarity of the record, the people introduced in the  
15 front row -- row are witnesses and the people in the back  
16 are for support. Mr. Registrar, the family has requested  
17 to affirm using eagle feathers.

18 **MR. BRYAN ZANDBERG:** Good morning,  
19 everybody. I'm going to pass you some eagle feathers  
20 for -- okay.

21 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Three and three.

22 **MR. BRYAN ZANDBERG:** Three and three? Okay.

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

24 **MR. BRYAN ZANDBERG:** Okay. You've brought



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4 Jason Pierre, Delilah Pierre,  
Gertrude Pierre, Benedict Pierre, Trevor Joe & Melodie Casella  
In Relation to Cheryl Ann Joe & Linda Eleanor Joe

1 your own eagle feather this morning. Oh, okay. So what --  
2 what I'll ask the family members to do then, is to --  
3 everybody, just reach out and hold the eagle feather that's  
4 beside you, or the one you're holding. Okay. So I'll ask  
5 all the witnesses at the same time.

6 **JASON PIERRE, Affirmed:**

7 **DELILAH PIERRE, Affirmed:**

8 **GERTRUDE PIERRE, Affirmed:**

9 **BENEDICT PIERRE, Affirmed:**

10 **TREVOR ANSEN JOE, Affirmed:**

11 **MELODIE CASELLA, Affirmed:**

12 **MR. BRYAN ZANDBERG:** Okay. Thank you.

13 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And I will take a  
14 moment to offer the family cedar in support of their  
15 testimony today.

16 **(SHORT PAUSE)**

17 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Melodie, you have  
18 provided photos to share with us today. I ask that our  
19 excellent audio-visual staff please show photo number one,  
20 so that you may describe it for us.

21 **MS. MELODIE CASELLA:** This is a picture that  
22 was taken with Cheryl when she was about 15 years-old. And  
23 she was really proud of that jacket because this is time --  
24 in the time of the '70s where Happy Days was the biggest

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5 Jason Pierre, Delilah Pierre,  
Gertrude Pierre, Benedict Pierre, Trevor Joe & Melodie Casella  
In Relation to Cheryl Ann Joe & Linda Eleanor Joe

1 crave, and Scott Baio had a jacket similar, so she -- she  
2 wore that very proudly.

3 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: And next, I ask for  
4 photo number two, please?

5 MS. MELODIE CASELLA: This is a younger time  
6 in -- for her. And it was probably the time, I think, when  
7 she was living with my parents. And then, I grew to -- to  
8 love her like my sister, not my -- my cousin.

9 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: And now, I ask for  
10 photo number three, please?

11 MS. MELODIE CASELLA: This is a -- a picture  
12 of Cheryl, and she's holding one of my oldest nephews who's  
13 the son of my brother, Ben. And that's her son, her  
14 youngest baby, and he was about -- almost 2 years-old. He  
15 was a very big boy. And it -- it more shows of the person  
16 that she is to all of us. She was very loving, and kind,  
17 and she always had her arms out to embrace us, and -- and  
18 show us how much she loved and cared for everybody.

19 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: Gertie, could you pass  
20 the microphone? Thank you. Would you confirm -- are you  
21 here today because Cheryl is missing, or she was murdered?

22 MS. GERTRUDE PIERRE: She was murdered.

23 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: And what day was she  
24 murdered?

6 Jason Pierre, Delilah Pierre,  
Gertrude Pierre, Benedict Pierre, Trevor Joe & Melodie Casella  
In Relation to Cheryl Ann Joe & Linda Eleanor Joe

1 MS. GERTRUDE PIERRE: She was murdered in  
2 January 20th, 1992. Brutally murdered. She -- Brian  
3 Allender really done a horrible thing with her and  
4 mutilated her. And, you know, you never forget. I feel  
5 like it's that first day when we found out she died. I  
6 feel like we're right there again.

7 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: How old was she at the  
8 time of her murder?

9 MS. GERTRUDE PIERRE: She was 26 years-old.

10 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: Jason, would you share  
11 with us what it was like growing up with Cheryl?

12 MR. JASON PIERRE: Well, for -- for me  
13 growing up with Cheryl, she was like a real big caregiver  
14 towards our family. Like my sister, Melodie, I never  
15 considered her my cousin. I considered her more my -- my  
16 big sister because she was raised with -- with us for a  
17 little while. And she was one of the first ones to really  
18 step out of the -- the rural area, a -- away from the  
19 reserve and enter into the urban area out here in  
20 Vancouver.

21 And at that time, there was a lot of  
22 different things that were going on. And we had another  
23 older cousin, Curtis Paul (phonetic), who was in --  
24 involved with a lot of crime and the such, et cetera. And

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7 Jason Pierre, Delilah Pierre,  
Gertrude Pierre, Benedict Pierre, Trevor Joe & Melodie Casella  
In Relation to Cheryl Ann Joe & Linda Eleanor Joe

1 he took my sister, Cheryl, under his wing and -- and  
2 taught -- taught Cheryl the best he could about the street  
3 lives. The do's and don'ts of -- of living in the street.  
4 And with that respect, Cheryl passed that onto me and each  
5 and every one of our -- our siblings that -- whenever we  
6 went into Vancouver, she would say, you know, "Don't do  
7 this. Don't do that. Don't go here. Don't go there."  
8 You know, and which were like the danger areas, and stuff  
9 like that, where all the criminal activity was going down.  
10 And unfortunately, she got into becoming a  
11 working lady. And at an early age, I -- I took on the --  
12 the responsibility as being a spotter for her, which is  
13 looking out for her. Taking down -- taking down licence  
14 plates, and identifications when the -- the johns would  
15 pick her up. And she always used to tell me, "If I'm not  
16 back in an hour, make sure you go to the -- the Vancouver  
17 Police." And, you know, I -- I prayed and I prayed that --  
18 that that day wouldn't -- wouldn't happen or wouldn't come.  
19 Because there was a couple incidents where -- where she was  
20 taken away. She was taken way out in the Fraser Valley and  
21 an hour had went by, and then an hour and a half went by,  
22 two hours went by. You know, I was trying -- trying not  
23 to, you know, to go to the Vancouver Police, hoping that  
24 she would come back.

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8 Jason Pierre, Delilah Pierre,  
Gertrude Pierre, Benedict Pierre, Trevor Joe & Melodie Casella  
In Relation to Cheryl Ann Joe & Linda Eleanor Joe

1                   And then, just as -- as I was walking down  
2                   to the police station to go and tell them about my sister  
3                   Cheryl, about what she was doing and -- and then what she  
4                   wanted me to do, she came -- she came running across the  
5                   street after me. Her -- her clothes were all torn, and she  
6                   had a black eye, and a bleeding lip. And fortunately, she  
7                   got away that time. But I never, ever thought a day that  
8                   something like this would ever, ever happen to her, as  
9                   brutal as it -- as it was. Not in my wildest dreams did I  
10                  ever, ever think something like this would happen to my  
11                  beautiful sister Cheryl Ann Joe.

12                  These are just some of the things that I  
13                  experienced with my beautiful sister. You know, that was  
14                  a -- the life that she led down in Vancouver. You know,  
15                  because she -- she used to take care of all of us no matter  
16                  what. Me -- me in particular, she used to make sure I was  
17                  fed all the time. Made sure -- made sure that I was  
18                  clothed. Made sure I had shoes on my -- on my feet. She  
19                  did so many things for me. I still think about her to this  
20                  very day. The pain's still -- feels the same. I just pray  
21                  that this will -- the things that we are sharing here  
22                  today, will help some other families. Hopefully, then  
23                  other families won't have to go through any -- any of this  
24                  kind of stuff. Hypothetically, if it does happen and, you

9 Jason Pierre, Delilah Pierre,  
Gertrude Pierre, Benedict Pierre, Trevor Joe & Melodie Casella  
In Relation to Cheryl Ann Joe & Linda Eleanor Joe

1 know, we can make some change for their families, you know.  
2 And have some good resources in place for the -- places for  
3 those people.

4 Because to this very day, we're still  
5 struggling. And there was so much, different negligences  
6 that happened to our family, and throughout this whole  
7 judicial process. And I pray that other families won't  
8 have to go through it either. There's so much more that I  
9 could share and I just thank you all for listening to me.  
10 Thank you very much. (Speaking Sháshíshálh Language).

11 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Thank you, Jason.  
12 Trevor? What was Cheryl's life like in the weeks and  
13 months before her murder?

14 **MR. TREVOR JOE:** I remember she talked about  
15 getting her life together, so she could get my two younger  
16 brothers back from Alberta.

17 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Melodie, can you tell  
18 us why Cheryl didn't have custody of her two youngest sons  
19 in the months prior to her murder?

20 **MS. MELODIE CASELLA:** I had gone over to  
21 visit Cheryl at her house. And -- because I'd always go  
22 and stop in to see if there was anything she needed, or if  
23 I could help. And -- and she said that the dad had taken  
24 them to Alberta to go visit family and said he would bring

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10 Jason Pierre, Delilah Pierre,  
Gertrude Pierre, Benedict Pierre, Trevor Joe & Melodie Casella  
In Relation to Cheryl Ann Joe & Linda Eleanor Joe

1       them back. But at this time, it was -- the -- the weeks  
2       had turned into months for her and not having her children  
3       back. And they were babies. One was only 2 years-old, the  
4       other was 4. So the devastation and the loneliness she  
5       felt in her heart not having her babies at home because the  
6       dad had -- had just prolonged the visit, and just kept them  
7       with him in Alberta.

8                   **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And did she go  
9       anywhere for assistance to try and get them back?

10                  **MS. MELODIE CASELLA:** Yeah. I remember her  
11       when she said that she had gone to our band office and had  
12       asked for some kind of help and assistance, financially, to  
13       be able to go to Alberta because she was a single mom on  
14       social assistance herself. And then, nobody would help  
15       her. They wouldn't give her any money to go and nobody was  
16       supporting her or advocating for her to get her kids back.

17                  **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And did she come up  
18       with her own plan?

19                  **MS. MELODIE CASELLA:** Yeah. There was a --  
20       a time in December that through her -- her heartache and  
21       pain of not having her babies at home, and then she had  
22       said that, "I'm going to make the plan." She said, "To go  
23       get my boys." She said, "I'm going to have enough money."  
24       She said for -- for her and I to catch a train and go to

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11 Jason Pierre, Delilah Pierre,  
Gertrude Pierre, Benedict Pierre, Trevor Joe & Melodie Casella  
In Relation to Cheryl Ann Joe & Linda Eleanor Joe

1 Alberta. And then, go pick up the two little ones and have  
2 the -- the money in place to be able to buy the two extra  
3 tickets and bring them back home.

4 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And what was -- what  
5 did you say to Cheryl about her plan?

6 **MS. MELODIE CASELLA:** But at the time, when  
7 she was talking about this, that I think through her  
8 depression and loneliness of what she felt for missing her  
9 kids, and then, she had been using drugs. And I told her,  
10 "That that wouldn't be good to have your boys home and  
11 seeing you do that." So then, I was upset with her and I  
12 told her that, "I'm not going to talk to you." I said,  
13 "Until you do something with yourself."

14 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And do you remember  
15 the last time you saw Cheryl?

16 **MS. MELODIE CASELLA:** I'm a person who's  
17 blessed with -- and cursed at the same time with a really  
18 good memory. She came to the hospital on the Thursday  
19 before -- she was murdered that weekend. And she came into  
20 my room because I had had my tonsils taken out. And then,  
21 she peeked around the curtain to my -- my bed. And I was  
22 so happy to see her. And then, she sat next to me a -- not  
23 before she wrapped her arms around me and hugged me. And  
24 she was smiling and -- and laughing and then -- because I



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12 Jason Pierre, Delilah Pierre,  
Gertrude Pierre, Benedict Pierre, Trevor Joe & Melodie Casella  
In Relation to Cheryl Ann Joe & Linda Eleanor Joe

1 hadn't talked to her for almost a month after I had said  
2 that to her in December. And my mom had told her, when she  
3 called the house, that I was in the hospital. So she  
4 wanted to come and see if I was okay. And she said, "We're  
5 going to go to Alberta next week." She said, "I'm going to  
6 go to town this weekend." She said, "I'm going to go make  
7 some money. I'm going to go get my VCR out of the pawn  
8 shop, so my kids can watch videos when they come home."

9 And then, I was released from the hospital  
10 the next morning, and she phoned me on the Friday. And she  
11 said, "I went to the hospital and you weren't there." And  
12 she said, "Are -- are you able to come with me to  
13 Vancouver?" And I told her that I wasn't because I was  
14 still recovering from my surgery. And that, "The doctor  
15 had warned me to be careful." And then, she was like,  
16 "I'll be back on Sunday." And she said, "We'll make plans  
17 next week." She said, "Because I'm going to get the money  
18 we need and we're going to go to Alberta." She said, "Next  
19 week, and I'm -- we're going to get my boys home." And  
20 that was the weekend that she was murdered. She didn't  
21 come home that Sunday. And that conversation is like she  
22 called me yesterday. Or I remember her -- her laughing on  
23 the phone, telling me she loved me, and, "I'll see you on  
24 Sunday."

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13 Jason Pierre, Delilah Pierre,  
Gertrude Pierre, Benedict Pierre, Trevor Joe & Melodie Casella  
In Relation to Cheryl Ann Joe & Linda Eleanor Joe

1                   **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Trevor, do you  
2 remember when you learned that your mother had been  
3 murdered?

4                   **MR. TREVOR JOE:** Yes, I do. My cousin Ben,  
5 beside me, took me out of school right before the end of  
6 the day and he -- he brought me home to my -- or he brought  
7 me to my great-grans and there was a bunch of vehicles  
8 parked out front. And there was a -- a paramedic and a  
9 police car there, so I -- I instinctually knew that there  
10 was bad news, even at 9 years-old. And I -- excuse me. I  
11 walked in the front door and my mom's mom, my Grandma Linda  
12 hugged me, and her face was just full of tears. And I  
13 don't know how she got the words out, but she said, "Your  
14 mom's gone, and she's not coming back, Son." That -- that  
15 was how I found out.

16                   **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Melodie, can you tell  
17 us about the effect that the police investigation and  
18 coroner's examination had on the family?

19                   **MS. MELODIE CASELLA:** When we got in -- the  
20 information from the police in telling us that -- because  
21 through our culture, that when we -- we lose somebody, that  
22 there's a ceremony that has to happen. And then, you know,  
23 typically you have the wake ceremony, but then you have the  
24 burial the next day. But through our culture, then we --

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**14 Jason Pierre, Delilah Pierre,  
Gertrude Pierre, Benedict Pierre, Trevor Joe & Melodie Casella  
In Relation to Cheryl Ann Joe & Linda Eleanor Joe**

1 we have our medicine person that we call to come in to do  
2 the burning ceremony. And then, we were never, ever given  
3 a timeframe to tell us how long this would take, what they  
4 were actually doing with -- with Cheryl. Because all -- we  
5 wanted her home because we knew that she had passed.  
6 And -- so then the days kept going by. And then, my family  
7 was so distraught with the news alone, but then the  
8 prolongment of not having a timeframe of when we could  
9 actually make arrangements and plans for the ceremony that  
10 we were supposed to -- to have for Cheryl.

11 And then, it was about ten days that had  
12 passed, and then we finally got word and -- and I remember  
13 it was my brother, Ben, that told me that they would be  
14 sending Cheryl back home on the ferry. And then,  
15 everything had to be fast-tracked to call our medicine  
16 person to come and make arrangements for the -- the burning  
17 ceremony. And we were scared that that wasn't going to  
18 happen because when we have the medicine person, that they  
19 get called all over the place in the Lower Mainland, so  
20 then we were making -- my family was making calls and  
21 arrangements to have this happen.

22 But then when Cheryl's body came home, and  
23 then we were talking amongst our family about how we  
24 weren't allowed to have a -- an open casket. And we didn't

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15 Jason Pierre, Delilah Pierre,  
Gertrude Pierre, Benedict Pierre, Trevor Joe & Melodie Casella  
In Relation to Cheryl Ann Joe & Linda Eleanor Joe

1 know if it was because of the prolongment, or whether it  
2 was because of what was happening with tests that they were  
3 doing, or investigation, and -- or if it was the trauma to  
4 her face. And -- so we didn't -- we didn't know what the  
5 answer was, other than that we weren't allowed to have that  
6 wake ceremony. And we were never given the option to even  
7 have a private viewing as a family, which for us wasn't  
8 normal. Because for closure, you know, to the loss of  
9 somebody that you get that process you expect with a wake  
10 and then -- then the burial service. But we had her  
11 picture sitting on the -- the casket, which was closed with  
12 a blanket on top of it.

13 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Can you tell me what  
14 you recently learned about the coroner's examination of  
15 Cheryl's body?

16 **MS. MELODIE CASELLA:** There was a book that  
17 was written, and the book is called, "Contempt of Court".  
18 And in this book, the coroner had written in the book that  
19 when they -- they cleaned Cheryl's body, that she had this  
20 peaceful and calmness to her face. And that she was, you  
21 know, in our -- our mind of what she saw, made us question  
22 of why couldn't we have seen that? You know, as the last  
23 image of what -- what the coroner was allowed to see, which  
24 for us, I -- I believe as a family is, you know, caused

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16 Jason Pierre, Delilah Pierre,  
Gertrude Pierre, Benedict Pierre, Trevor Joe & Melodie Casella  
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1 the -- the lack of closure because we couldn't see her. We  
2 just had the picture on her casket. The images that were  
3 in the media.

4 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Do you remember the  
5 name of the author of this book, "Contempt of Court"?

6 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Carsten Stroud.

7 **MS. MELODIE CASELLA:** Carsten Stroud. Thank  
8 you.

9 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And so, are you saying  
10 that the author of this book was allowed to directly view  
11 Cheryl being autopsied by the coroner?

12 **MS. MELODIE CASELLA:** From this book, that  
13 it was very detailed with their involvement that they had  
14 in -- nearly every part of the whole investigation, and  
15 that they -- they paint the image of when they walked  
16 through the door of the coroner's room, and then seeing --  
17 seeing Cheryl.

18 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And did the author of  
19 the book also detail being at other points in the  
20 investigation, early in the investigation as well as later?

21 **MS. MELODIE CASELLA:** When I actually sat  
22 down and read the book through, like, for me, it was  
23 something hard because of the details of what was in there.  
24 That this author was called by the investigators, and then

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1 they told him that there was something that they should go  
2 see. So they have the descriptions of being in the tent  
3 where they were doing the investigation that was, of  
4 course, unfolded through the court proceedings. And  
5 when -- in reading that book front to back, with the  
6 sections that was about Cheryl, that caused great concern  
7 for me. Because, you know, as we know that there's  
8 anything that could be contaminated through an  
9 investigation. And for -- to have a civilian coming into  
10 that -- the tent to -- to witness and view Cheryl's body in  
11 the tent while the investigators were doing everything they  
12 had to do, that there could have been just something small  
13 that could have contaminated the whole scene, and then what  
14 would have happened with our family? That if that was  
15 thrown out of court because it was contaminated with his  
16 DNA, whether it was a hair, or facial hair, or something,  
17 at the scene, or even at the coroner's office.

18 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And so you've spoken  
19 earlier about how the author indicated that she looked  
20 at -- at peace. Do you know if something was done by the  
21 coroner's service or during the police investigation, which  
22 caused Cheryl's condition to deteriorate so that the family  
23 could not have an open casket? Did you receive a coroner's  
24 report?

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1                   **MS. MELODIE CASELLA:** To date, no. That our  
2 family has never, ever seen the coroner's report to find  
3 out if there was an actual reason, that was medical, like  
4 through, either the investigation or any part of the  
5 process that was involved with the coroners and any, like,  
6 the forensic pathologist, which, of course, was revealed  
7 through the court proceedings, we don't know.

8                   **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Do you have opinions  
9 about how the police and the coroner's service could have  
10 handled the return of Cheryl's body to your family in a  
11 better way?

12                   **MS. MELODIE CASELLA:** That I feel now,  
13 today, that there was a portion of when the investigators  
14 had -- they had actually come to Sechelt, and I had shared  
15 information that somebody had picked up my cousin and I,  
16 when she was -- we were hitch-hiking. And then, so they  
17 had a photo line-up and were asking if I could I.D. that  
18 person as being the driver, which I couldn't. So then,  
19 they said there was a suspect.

20                   So they came to Sechelt, you know, through  
21 the ferry and the long drive back and forth, that they'd  
22 made the effort to do that. But then, you know, after the  
23 fact of us not having anybody tell us anything, like, from  
24 having a suspect to actually having somebody arrested, that

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1 it was all done through the media. And that it -- it was a  
2 complete lack of compassion toward our family. Or even  
3 empathy, considering, you know, what was all over the media  
4 on what this offender had done to Cheryl.

5 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And do you have any  
6 opinions about the communication with your family about the  
7 return of Cheryl to you?

8 **MS. MELODIE CASELLA:** That they could  
9 have -- because they had come to Sechelt, that the least  
10 they could have done was called us, and told us, and  
11 prepared us before the media did.

12 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And what are your  
13 opinions about how the police and the coroner's service  
14 allowed this author access to Cheryl when you were not  
15 given access to see her?

16 **MS. MELODIE CASELLA:** I think it's a  
17 complete disrespect to a family to have somebody who's just  
18 a -- a civilian, and somebody who can go in there and get  
19 all the details of what happened to our loved one, when  
20 we're sitting in -- sitting on the outside wondering  
21 ourselves what actually happened. And then, they're  
22 allowed to do this. That investigators, yes.  
23 Pathologists, yes, coroners. But then to have just a  
24 civilian author go in there and start to report and



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1 document everything, and for us to later read it in a book.  
2 That that's an absolute disrespect to a family.

3 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And you mentioned that  
4 you've learned about the arrest of the offender through the  
5 media. Did the police make the effort to contact anybody  
6 in the family to warn you in advance that this was going to  
7 be reported?

8 **MS. MELODIE CASELLA:** No, they didn't.

9 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Do you think that your  
10 family should have been informed directly before they moved  
11 in and made this arrest?

12 **MS. MELODIE CASELLA:** Yes. They should  
13 have, at -- at least, had that courtesy. Considering what  
14 our family was already going through, and the prolongment  
15 of their -- their investigation on what they were doing.  
16 And us waiting for Cheryl to be home with us.

17 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And would you tell the  
18 Commissioner about how you learned the full details of  
19 Cheryl's murder at the trial?

20 **MS. MELODIE CASELLA:** That the details of --  
21 of what had unfolded through the court proceedings, that  
22 it -- that there was nothing that was, like, shared direct  
23 to us. It was just all through -- through the courts  
24 because the offender chose not to speak about anything. So

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1 then, everything that had unfolded in court was through the  
2 investigation, which I remember all -- all of, like the  
3 forensic pathologist, there was a blood splatter expert,  
4 and all of what -- what was painting the picture of what  
5 happened to Cheryl. And I don't know if you want me to get  
6 into what actually was -- was said, or -- through the  
7 court?

8 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** If you feel strong  
9 enough to -- to share with us. I -- I know it was brutal,  
10 but I will leave that to your judgement.

11 **MS. MELODIE CASELLA:** When we sat through  
12 the courts, that we were somewhat prepared in advance for  
13 the evidence that would be shared because of how graphic --  
14 graphic it was. Which I have to say and warn, that the  
15 graphicness of what I'm going to say isn't something that's  
16 always broadcast through the media.

17 That when -- when we found out the  
18 information through the courts, that -- that Brian Allender  
19 had hit Cheryl to the point of causing head trauma. Where  
20 it was revealed through the courts that she was probably  
21 still alive for two hours after he had done that to her.  
22 And then, after he waited for her to -- to be dead, then  
23 post-mortem, he sexually mutilated her with what they said  
24 to possibly be a saw and a Swiss Army knife. And this is

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1 all through evidence put together to create what had  
2 happened because he would not say anything to anybody what  
3 happened.

4 That he had -- he had not only sexually  
5 mutilated her, but he did cannibalistic acts with the  
6 sexually mutilated parts. And did acts of necrophilia,  
7 which, for us as a family, is unfathomable that a human  
8 being could do something like this to somebody that we  
9 love. And who's been a great part of our life.

10 And then, it wasn't enough that he did that  
11 when it was a CPR officer who was on security patrol, that  
12 it was Sergeant Weir (phonetic) that he went over to the  
13 van where he was parked and then startled Allender, so he  
14 started the car and started to drive away, and then, in  
15 high speed. But Sergeant Weir didn't know that Cheryl's  
16 body was on the other side of the van. And then, he went  
17 and was quick enough to take his licence plate. For us,  
18 that was the greatest godsend and gift that this man could  
19 have ever done for our family. And he tried to chase him,  
20 but he went in the wrong direction, while Allender was  
21 speeding away. And then, had thrown some of Cheryl's body  
22 tissue out the window. And then, disposed of the rest of  
23 her -- her body parts into a -- a garbage receptacle.

24 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** What do you remember

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1 the most about Allender's defence at the trial?

2 **MS. MELODIE CASELLA:** That the defence, and  
3 what they tried to use with this psychologist, that he  
4 claims to have assessed Allender and was trying to use the  
5 testimony in court. But then, the Crown couldn't cross-  
6 examine Allender, so they disallowed him. And told him  
7 that -- that it was inadmissible in the court because  
8 during this, he -- they were trying to claim that he was  
9 intoxicated, and he watched Silence of the Lambs, and --  
10 which, could not even be cross-examined by the Crown.

11 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And so that evidence  
12 wasn't accepted?

13 **MS. MELODIE CASELLA:** No, it wasn't. It was  
14 inadmissible.

15 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And what was the final  
16 outcome of the trial?

17 **MS. MELODIE CASELLA:** The final outcome --  
18 that it was Honourable Judge Braidwood, that before passing  
19 the sentence of first degree murder with no eligibility of  
20 parole for 25 years, that he said this was the most  
21 appalling evidence that he had ever heard in his 35 years.  
22 And for us, that said a lot because he has probably had so  
23 many cases go through his chambers.

24 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Did the investigation

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1 and the trial leave any loose ends that concern you?

2 MS. MELODIE CASELLA: Yes. There are so  
3 many that are of great concern because, you know, at that  
4 time of listening to the evidence that was being unfolded  
5 of how they put together the full arrest of Allender, that  
6 they said that there were in his car garage where the van  
7 was parked, that there were bags of women's clothing. And  
8 then, they had his common-law partner and his mother-in-law  
9 on the stand to testify to say that those clothes didn't  
10 belong to them. And they didn't know whose the clothes  
11 were. And in a canvas bag is where they found Cheryl's  
12 shoes, jacket, and her headband that she had been wearing.  
13 So for us, you know, that said, you know, why would he --  
14 the questions of why would he have all those clothes in  
15 there.

16 And where was the follow-up investigation  
17 when, you know, during the time that -- that there were  
18 women that were going missing in the Downtown Eastside  
19 area. But then it even posed the question that this man  
20 was a hockey coach to some young boys, including his son.  
21 And he travelled all over the Lower Mainland, including up  
22 in Highway 16, Vancouver Island, and even down in  
23 Washington, they said.

24 His van had been painted four different

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1 colours. And his -- his common-law wife testified and  
2 said, during these hockey trips that he would go missing.  
3 She would never ask him where he'd go, but she said he'd  
4 come back, like, if it wasn't on the hockey trips, it was  
5 at home where he would go and sleep on the couch, as what  
6 she thought to not disturb her. But who is to say what he  
7 was doing on those outings because of what he had done to  
8 Cheryl in the middle of that night.

9 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** As a point of  
10 clarification, when you said his van was painted four  
11 colours. Do you mean that there were four different  
12 colours on the van, or that it had been painted over four  
13 times?

14 **MS. MELODIE CASELLA:** There were four  
15 different layers, which was discovered because of the paint  
16 that had been rubbed off on the -- on the back of the van,  
17 which he must have hit when he was down at the site  
18 where -- where Cheryl's body was found. So it was four  
19 different layers over time, which they didn't know how many  
20 years. That he had painted that van four different  
21 colours.

22 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** So based on all that  
23 evidence, what concern did you have about the total of it?

24 **MS. MELODIE CASELLA:** Of the what?

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1                   **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** The total of the  
2 evidence. What concern did that raise for you?

3                   **MS. MELODIE CASELLA:** The concerns were that  
4 this was -- considering the -- the evidence and the details  
5 of what he did to Cheryl, that this could -- could not have  
6 been the first time he had done this because of the -- the  
7 severity of what he did in the act of murder.

8                   **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Did you ever learn  
9 whether the police tried to follow-up on the possibility  
10 that Allender was -- had -- had murdered other women, or  
11 was a serial killer?

12                   **MS. MELODIE CASELLA:** Later on we did have  
13 information shared with us. Like, from one of the retired  
14 detectives, in saying that they did follow-up with the  
15 hockey schedule of the trips that they did take everywhere.  
16 But then, at -- they were looking for whether there was any  
17 missing women or girls in those areas that he was stationed  
18 at for hockey tournaments but claimed that they -- they  
19 didn't find anything on that. But then, whether -- we  
20 don't know about the paint layers of the -- the van. If  
21 that was suspect to any other incidents because that --  
22 we'd never seen it in the media to be publicized to say  
23 whether or not they recognize this man in other areas,  
24 which we were hoping would have been done.

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1                   **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And did they ever meet  
2 with him and try to extract a confession from him?

3                   **MS. MELODIE CASELLA:** After those two  
4 detectives were retired, that one of the detectives had  
5 shared and said that approximately 15 years after he was  
6 put in prison, that they -- they had a visit scheduled at  
7 the prison with him, with Allender, and he didn't know that  
8 they were there. And then, they were sitting there waiting  
9 and the corrections officer was escorting him to the -- the  
10 place that they were meeting him. And as soon as Allender  
11 had seen them, that he turned on his heels and literally  
12 ran down the hallway away from them.

13                   **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Gertie, would you tell  
14 us about the ceremony you held after the trial verdict was  
15 issued?

16                   **MS. GERTRUDE PIERRE:** The ceremony?

17                   **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** After the trial and he  
18 was found guilty, you held a ceremony?

19                   **MS. GERTRUDE PIERRE:** Well, my sister  
20 planned to honour all the people that had -- is that the  
21 one?

22                   **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Yeah.

23                   **MS. GERTRUDE PIERRE:** Yeah. My -- my sister  
24 was the one that had planned that and worked along with



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1 Freda Ens to honour all the people that had been involved  
2 with getting Brian William Allender charged and sentenced  
3 for 25 years. We honoured all the police, everyone that  
4 was there, we honoured them and we gave them an eagle  
5 feather. And I know I heard that one of the officers that  
6 were there, it was mentioned that he was really race --  
7 racist against Aborigines. And then, after that ceremony  
8 he was so touched by it, that he went outside the  
9 Friendship Centre, and he started to cry because he was --  
10 he was so touched by what we were doing for everyone. But  
11 my sister was the one that had planned the ceremony and  
12 we -- we held, along with Freda and everybody else. There  
13 was a lot of people involved.

14 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And so when you say,  
15 your sister, who are you referring to?

16 **MS. GERTRUDE PIERRE:** Linda. Linda Joe, the  
17 mother of Cheryl.

18 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Thank you. And were  
19 you aware that Allender appealed his conviction first to  
20 the B.C. Court of Appeal, and then later to the Supreme  
21 Court of Canada?

22 **MS. GERTRUDE PIERRE:** My sister had said  
23 that they had went to the -- I think, I forget how many  
24 judges it was first, four? Three or four. And then, they

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1 went to the Supreme Court of judges and, I think there was  
2 seven of them. And they all saw the seriousness of what  
3 Allender had done with my niece and, you know, they  
4 wouldn't let any appeal happen for him.

5 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** So they dismissed the  
6 appeal?

7 **MS. GERTRUDE PIERRE:** Yes, they did.

8 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Was anyone else in the  
9 family involved during the appeals, supporting Linda  
10 through it?

11 **MS. GERTRUDE PIERRE:** No, there wasn't. She  
12 didn't even let us know that she was part of the -- a role  
13 for giving information on Allender. So she was the only  
14 one that was registered.

15 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** M'hm. And do you know  
16 if she had support through the entire trial process from  
17 Victim Services?

18 **MS. GERTRUDE PIERRE:** She had support from  
19 Freda Ens, through the court, and after the court was over,  
20 I don't know. I -- I couldn't say if she had any kind of  
21 support from the Victim Service. She had a counsellor.

22 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And your family has  
23 provided us with a video clip of an interview of Linda.

24 **MS. GERTRUDE PIERRE:** M'hm.

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1                   **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And I would ask the  
2 audio-visual team to please play that clip now.

3                   **(VIDEO CLIP PLAYED)**

4                   **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Melodie --

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

6                   **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** What's the hardest  
7 part about watching that video?

8                   **MS. MELODIE CASELLA:** The hardest part of  
9 watching that video is because she's no longer with us.  
10 But the support that she talks about, I don't believe stuck  
11 with her because we didn't know all the years of what she  
12 had weathered on her own. That these appeals that were  
13 applied for, it was in 1995 through the B.C. Court of  
14 Appeal, where there were three judges, where one had  
15 accepted some of the evidence to go through to the Supreme  
16 Court of Canada for the appeal. And that didn't happen  
17 until 1997. So I couldn't have imagined what my auntie had  
18 gone through alone because you're still reliving the trauma  
19 all over again of the evidence to ensure that some sort of  
20 justice would continue.

21                   **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And can you tell us  
22 what Linda was like before Cheryl's murder?

23                   **MS. MELODIE CASELLA:** My auntie, before  
24 Cheryl's murder, she was a very hard-working woman. She

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1 was absolutely brilliant. And she was going to school to  
2 become a teacher. And then, she ended up coming back home  
3 and she was the curator for our museum, who worked to  
4 gather all of the history for our people in the Sechelt  
5 Nation.

6 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And, Gertie, can you  
7 tell us about how Linda's life went after the court appeals  
8 were finally over?

9 **MS. GERTRUDE PIERRE:** Well, I used to go and  
10 visit my sister when -- because she lived in Vancouver.  
11 And every time I went to see her, I could see, you know,  
12 that -- she didn't really want to -- to live. She kept  
13 saying, you know, "I'm living hell on Earth, Sis. I just  
14 want to die. I just want to be with my daughter." She  
15 said, "I'm sick and tired of everything around me." And I  
16 kept saying, "But, you know, you have your grandsons and  
17 your daughter." She said, "I can't even be a mother." She  
18 said that, you know, "Losing Cheryl took -- ripped my heart  
19 out. I just can't even think about anything else  
20 because, you know." The hardest thing for my sister was  
21 when, you know, we -- we couldn't see her body. And that  
22 just tore her apart. She said, "I just wanted to see her."  
23 Or, you know, "How do I know it's not her in that casket?"  
24 She said, "I needed to see her to have a closure."

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1                   But, you know, that was the hardest thing  
2                   for her. And I could see, you know, and I guess, when I  
3                   kept going to visit her, I'd always take pictures of her  
4                   and her life was being taken out of her. You know, she was  
5                   slowly dying. The last time I saw her, a week before she  
6                   died, I remember I looked at her, and her eyes had no more  
7                   spirit in -- in her eyes. She was dead already. You know,  
8                   she -- she just didn't want to live. And she kept saying,  
9                   "Sis," she said, "You know, I -- I just don't want to be  
10                  here on Earth. I'm tired of suffering. I just want to  
11                  go."

12                               **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And, Gertie, when --  
13                               when she -- she was the curator of the museum, as Melodie  
14                               said, and then she moved to Vancouver after the court  
15                               process was over?

16                               **MS. GERTRUDE PIERRE:** Yeah. She -- she  
17                               moved back to town when -- after my niece died. And when,  
18                               you know, she died on Salisbury and Powell, and my sister  
19                               lived up the hill from where my niece died. Because she  
20                               would go down there all the time to, you know, just -- it  
21                               was just four blocks away from her home. And she -- you  
22                               know, she felt she needed to be there, you know, to be with  
23                               her because she -- you know, she knew, you know, how she  
24                               died. And the brutality of her death just killed her. You

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1 know, to think about Brian Allender doing what he did to  
2 her, tore her apart, tore her heart apart, her soul apart.  
3 And she had a really difficult time. You know, she -- she  
4 tried to be a grandmother to her children, but she just  
5 couldn't do it anymore. She was too lost in grief.

6 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Trevor, would you  
7 share with the Commissioner what your Grandma Linda was  
8 like before your mother was murdered? And how that  
9 compared to living with her in Vancouver afterward?

10 **MR. TREVOR JOE:** She was just a -- a very  
11 typical grandma before -- before that happened. She went  
12 to bingo and she drank occasionally, but she always had her  
13 life had -- especially me and her other daughter, my Auntie  
14 Bobbi (phonetic), she always had our lives -- she always  
15 had our lives in control. And she was -- I would say she  
16 was happy before that.

17 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And then afterward?

18 **MR. TREVOR JOE:** It was -- it was like a  
19 polar-opposite. It's -- you can't even explain. It's like  
20 watching somebody go through an addiction. Like, you want  
21 to see the person that you remember, and that took care of  
22 you, but you just -- you know, that person's not there  
23 anymore. And that's just, kind of, what Grandma was like  
24 after my mom died. It was -- it, like, my Auntie Gertie

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1 said, it was just very soulless when you looked into her  
2 eyes, she wasn't happy, and she wasn't sure of herself, she  
3 wasn't confident. And that wasn't my grandma.

4 And she began drinking more, and gambling  
5 more, and I just say that her life spiralled, basically,  
6 right out of control after that.

7 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Melodie, can you tell  
8 us when Linda died and what the cause of her death  
9 ultimately was?

10 **MS. MELODIE CASELLA:** Auntie Linda died in  
11 December 2008, and it was through her drinking when she had  
12 passed away. And my mom got the call from my cousin Bobbi  
13 that her mom had -- had died.

14 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And, Trevor, do you  
15 remember -- before she moved to Vancouver, did she try to  
16 get help?

17 **MR. TREVOR JOE:** I can remember her trying  
18 to get help through the band, and the Chief and Council  
19 wouldn't give her the necessary leave of absence required  
20 to deal with such a -- an event. So -- and she did reach  
21 out for help, and the door was permanently shut on her, as  
22 I remember.

23 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And do you believe  
24 that people, like your grandmother, should have the right

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1 to take enough time from work to grieve the way they need  
2 to, without having to fear that they will lose their job?

3 MR. TREVOR JOE: Absolutely. I think that's  
4 very fair.

5 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: And, Melodie, is there  
6 anything that you want to add about leave for the family  
7 member of a murdered person? What -- what needs to be  
8 allowed to that person?

9 MS. MELODIE CASELLA: That I think that  
10 for -- for somebody that's -- has full-time employment in  
11 a -- a place of employment that if they were to apply for  
12 bereavement leave, they give them three days. Well, this  
13 isn't your typical death in your family. We waited for ten  
14 days just for Cheryl's body to come home. And then, you --  
15 you have to go through the process of waiting for a date  
16 for a pre-trial, to even start the process of -- of Supreme  
17 Court.

18 And so, with consideration for -- for  
19 somebody who loses a loved one in the manner that they --  
20 they have, that three days isn't right. That I think  
21 through, you know, whether it's employment, your E.I.  
22 Employment Insurance, that there has to be something  
23 amended or changed to support a person through -- through a  
24 death and a murder. Not a death, a murder. And I think,



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1 through our -- our own community, our First Nations  
2 community, is that we need a human resource worker who  
3 could advocate and support that individual who's looking  
4 for this. Because some people probably don't know what  
5 their rights are to begin with. And if there's some other  
6 avenue to take more time off to support that person who's  
7 going through a tremendous amount of grief and pain, and  
8 then on-setting some, probably, PTSD. And where was the  
9 support around that for Auntie? And, you know, counselling  
10 through -- through our own community.

11 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And we've discussed  
12 this previously, you mentioned Employment Insurance.  
13 Are -- are you thinking something similar to the way  
14 maternity leave works under Employment Insurance?  
15 Something that has enough time and it gives a person an --  
16 an income and -- and they have their job security, so they  
17 can go back?

18 **MS. MELODIE CASELLA:** Yes. I believe that  
19 there should be something similar in place because I don't  
20 believe that they would have to go out of their way to --  
21 to prove to either their place of employment that they're  
22 going through absolute grief, and loss, or PTSD, and having  
23 to expose what they're going through. That there has to be  
24 some kind of consideration to support that person.

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1                   **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And do you think that  
2                   Victim Services needs to be enabled to help people more  
3                   following the -- the court process?

4                   **MS. MELODIE CASELLA:** That I know that  
5                   through our community, that it's -- it was very rural. It  
6                   still is. We're ferry bound. And then, to have some kind  
7                   of support or advocacy through Victim Services where, you  
8                   know, our situation is different from those that are in an  
9                   urban setting. For whether there's services that are  
10                  available outside the community, which we don't have that  
11                  opportunity. And that there should be some kind of  
12                  referral, through Victim Services, to help to advocate and  
13                  support the family through the process and what they have  
14                  to go through.

15                  **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** I understand, from our  
16                  previous discussions, that you and your mother registered  
17                  with Victim Services and the Parole Board, within the last  
18                  decade. Why was it at that time?

19                  **MS. MELODIE CASELLA:** That it was when --  
20                  when we had talked to our friend, Freda, and then she had  
21                  asked us about whether or not we were registered. Because  
22                  we later found out that Auntie Linda was registered through  
23                  Victim Services, so with a Parole Hearing coming up, the  
24                  25-year benchmark eligibility for Allender, that there

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1 weren't any family members registered.

2 So we got the forms to -- to be registered  
3 through Victim Services, which is a two-fold process, which  
4 later goes onto being referred to the Parole Board of  
5 Canada application forms to attend a parole hearing. And  
6 then, which, of course, they refer to the Department of  
7 Justice to have our family make a request for financial  
8 assistance to attend the -- the parole hearing. If there  
9 was anything to go wrong for a family through that process,  
10 we experienced it.

11 That my mom and I, when we got registered,  
12 that the warden of the institute had jumped over us, as  
13 registered family members, and then we were -- my mom and I  
14 were on the ferry, we got a call to say that Allender was  
15 approved for a work release program application, which  
16 would be starting in the summer for two months. We were  
17 absolutely outraged and disgusted that that had happened.  
18 And then, they retracted and called us back to say that we  
19 violated your rights as registered family members through  
20 the Victim Rights Act. That -- that there was a process  
21 that we did not include, with your mom and you, to be a  
22 part of. And then, they called a meeting to talk to us  
23 about this. And we were so outraged with what had  
24 happened. And the good thing about it was that it

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1       prolonged him even being allowed, so he didn't end up  
2       having the work release program that summer.

3               And I -- then when it moved on for reaching  
4       out to family members to come with us to the Parole  
5       Hearing, then I was the one that was doing the support for  
6       my family because we're in Sechelt, and we weren't -- were  
7       never advised of anybody in Sechelt that could help my  
8       family. With my own personal load of stress, that I got  
9       all the forms together, I got all my family registered.  
10      But through that process when we were sending information  
11     for the financial assistance to the Department of Justice,  
12     that the email address that -- that they gave us, we sent  
13     all of our personal information to them with our -- our  
14     scanned copies of our I -- government I.D.'s. And then,  
15     when we did a follow-up of what was going on, of whether or  
16     not we'd get financial assistance, we found out that they  
17     didn't receive the information. "Could you please fax it?"  
18     So we faxed it. They said they still didn't receive it.  
19     "Could you send it to this email address?" So the final  
20     email sent, then all of my family that was attending, which  
21     was six of us, they finally received all of our  
22     information. Which delayed any processing for us to even  
23     get financial assistance to attend that parole hearing.

24               And then, we later shared with our legal

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1       counsel, Breen, that we didn't get reimbursed for four  
2       months after the parole hearing. And for my family, you  
3       know, the concerns around that -- that if none of us had a  
4       credit card to secure our hotel room, we wouldn't have been  
5       able to go. If -- if none of us had financial means to get  
6       there and back through the ferry, through the gas and  
7       mileage, paying for hotel and our food, that we could not  
8       have been a part of that parole process because of what had  
9       happened to us. So -- which will come, I guess, along  
10      later of -- of all the recommendations around what we'd --  
11      had gone through in that process, between registration  
12      where you can't just apply for a parole hearing observation  
13      unless you're registered through Victim Services.

14                So it's a lot of stress on a family when  
15      you're having to do this on your own. And then, they're  
16      just sending you a link through the email. How many family  
17      members even have email or internet at home? The access,  
18      you know, which can be limited for some. So then, I didn't  
19      want the stress for my family, so I printed all the forms  
20      out. Filled them all out for my family. Scanned them all,  
21      emailed, faxed, and then ensured that they were registered  
22      to be able to come together for that parole hearing.

23                   **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** You have also provided  
24      evidence to the Commission in the form of a letter from

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1 Correctional Service Canada, in -- indicating that Allender  
2 was being allowed escorted temporary absences from the  
3 prison. Did that concern you?

4 **MS. MELODIE CASELLA:** The escorted temporary  
5 absences, that when we got this information along with the  
6 work releases that he had been applying for, and actually  
7 been granted, that this -- the -- the information of what  
8 we know of what he did to our loved one was not being  
9 considered. That it seems that when you go through Victim  
10 Services and then you get the information back to you on  
11 reports on the -- the offender, that it -- that it raised  
12 concerns about the programs that were being offered in the  
13 prison system, that doesn't seem to -- to fit, you know,  
14 for him to be even eligible as being rehabilitated enough  
15 to be outside of the confines of a prison setting. And  
16 then, it was saying that he was going for personal  
17 development purposes, for that escorted temporary absence.

18 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And so for the benefit  
19 of the Commissioner, when, in your previous research into  
20 Correctional Services, can you describe the purpose of  
21 the -- the stated purpose of an -- an escorted temporary  
22 absence, or a work release, or a transfer from a maximum to  
23 medium, or medium to minimum-security prison?

24 **MS. MELODIE CASELLA:** That taking it on

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1       myself for researching everything that's involved with --  
2       with the Parole Board and Correctional Service Canada that  
3       these are only granted for somebody who poses the least --  
4       the least risk of escape. Where they're graduated from the  
5       maximum, where he was at, to a medium-security facility.  
6       And then, where we had later found out that he was --  
7       without consulting with us as registered families, or  
8       Victim Services, that he went to a minimum-security  
9       facility. And then, to even go on escorted temporary  
10      absences, it -- it's all based on the least amount of risk  
11      for escape.

12                   **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And the ultimate goal  
13      of relaxing these restrictions, what did you learn that the  
14      ultimate goal is?

15                   **MS. MELODIE CASELLA:** The ultimate end goal  
16      of what Correctional Service Canada is doing is to,  
17      basically, set up that offender to go through these de-  
18      escalated security measures due -- down to minimum-  
19      security, to escorted temporary absence, and work release  
20      program, is to eventually have them released from the  
21      institution.

22                   **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And is there any  
23      consideration of whether or not the particular offender  
24      poses a -- a continuing risk of harm to society?

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1                   **MS. MELODIE CASELLA:** No. That it's more  
2 based from what they have in all of their -- their websites  
3 on Correctional Service Canada, the least amount of risk of  
4 escape.

5                   **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Are you concerned that  
6 Linda's death, and the resulting lack of pressure from a  
7 family member, caused Correctional Service to start  
8 grooming Allender for parole release by building these  
9 measures into place?

10                   **MS. MELODIE CASELLA:** From putting all the  
11 information together on what has been going on with this  
12 offender after I got registered, that after my Auntie Linda  
13 passed away in 2008, and then he started applying for the  
14 work release program in 2015. And then, seven of those  
15 were outside of the institution, even before that parole  
16 hearing happened in 2016. So then to -- to start to read  
17 the information on what was happening in that institute,  
18 was beyond disgusting to say the least, on what they were  
19 doing with this offender. And then, not considering the  
20 details of what he had done to even be in that institution,  
21 or in -- incarcerated for life without eligibility of  
22 parole for 25 years, and then to be allowing this after the  
23 one person who was registered had passed away of -- just a  
24 few years before that.



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1                   **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** So are you concerned  
2                   that the burden of ensuring that a dangerous offender stays  
3                   inside is placed on the shoulders of the family?

4                   **MS. MELODIE CASELLA:** That it is -- that you  
5                   don't -- you don't get the justice with the judge  
6                   sentencing somebody to prison. That for a family, they  
7                   have to be registered through Victim Services. And then,  
8                   to start to fight a system to have justice continued  
9                   because, you know, we were thinking that if my mom and I  
10                  hadn't registered before that parole hearing, that you  
11                  know, how many more things would he have gotten away with?  
12                  And then, eventually, with what they were doing in working  
13                  to try to get him lowered from max right down to minimum,  
14                  and then having these work releases and ETA's to be outside  
15                  of the facility, to eventually have him back out amongst  
16                  society. You know, and -- and doing who knows what to the  
17                  next person because of what Correctional Service Canada was  
18                  doing.

19                  **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Just before you went  
20                  to the parole hearing, your family was asked to provide  
21                  victim impact statements to Correctional Service Canada and  
22                  the Parole Board. Would you explain what you were told the  
23                  purpose was for those statements?

24                  **MS. MELODIE CASELLA:** We were told that

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1 those victim impact statements were going to be used in  
2 assessment for the parole hearing, for the parole panel, to  
3 review our information of the impact of what Allender had  
4 done to my cousin Cheryl. And then, whether or not he  
5 would be granted what he had requested, which initially  
6 was, I believe, it was day -- or full parole. And then, we  
7 get another letter that it's been added to day parole. And  
8 then, to have escorted temporary absences add -- added on,  
9 so he could leave the facility more. And -- but through  
10 Victim Services they had said to us, "When you write your  
11 victim impact statement, do not put anything that will be  
12 self-identifying." Like, for a location of where we live,  
13 and who we are associated to our loved one.

14 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** So when did the parole  
15 hearing take place?

16 **MS. MELODIE CASELLA:** That took place in  
17 December 13th, 2016, which was the month before they would  
18 have initially let him out on day or full parole, January  
19 21st, 2017. That was at Mountain Institute in Agassiz, B.C.

20 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Thank you. Can you  
21 tell me how the parole hearing was delayed at the start?

22 **MS. MELODIE CASELLA:** Well, when we showed  
23 up at Mountain Institute, the family has a sitting area  
24 that they go and wait next to where the -- the parole

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1 hearing room is. And my -- as my family was sitting there  
2 waiting, the Pacific Region Director, Patrick Storey had  
3 come in with his assistant, Lucinda Fraser (phonetic). And  
4 then, when they walked in they looked at us and said that  
5 we need to advise you that Mr. Allender has requested an  
6 Elder-Assisted Hearing. And he is -- he's Caucasian. And  
7 we were absolutely outraged with the information that was  
8 delivered to us because there was never, in any one of his  
9 assessments, saying that he was taking what's called the  
10 "Red Path" in the prison. So this is something that I had  
11 researched, even before we went there because I had  
12 information that this could be a possibility. And it was  
13 never confirmed with us as a family.

14 So when my mom, and I, and my cousin Trevor,  
15 my sister Delilah were sitting there and we said that,  
16 "This is using our culture against us." And then they were  
17 saying that the Elder that was with the offender was asking  
18 if we would go out there, and the process would be that  
19 they would do a smudge ceremony, similar to like a talking  
20 circle. And this just infuriated us even more. And then,  
21 my mom said that, "We will go in there. We will read our  
22 victim impact statements, but we're leaving the room and  
23 we're coming back here. We're not going to go through the  
24 process of what you're telling us to do. And we'll go

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1 about -- go back in there for when the parole panel gives  
2 their -- their decision for Allender. But otherwise, we're  
3 not going to sit through this." And then I said that, "I'm  
4 born and raised First Nations." I said, "My teachings are  
5 that when you go into a setting like this, the Elders say  
6 that you leave your negativity on a hook outside the door."  
7 And I said, "How dare you ask us to go in there and to tell  
8 Allender that we're going to leave that emotion on a hook  
9 outside this door when he brutally murdered my cousin."

10 So then they -- they had the audacity,  
11 Patrick Storey and Lucinda Fraser, to say that the offender  
12 has rights and this is what his request is. And we -- we  
13 stood our ground and said, "No. We're not going in there."  
14 So then Patrick walked out, and then quite a bit of time  
15 went by. So he went and he told the parole panel where our  
16 family stood on what the request was by the offender. And  
17 then, he later came in and he asked, "Could you please come  
18 out there because the parole panel would like to address  
19 you as a family on what they're going to decide." And we  
20 wanted to be assured that we weren't going in there for  
21 some kind of a smudge ceremony to -- to break the -- the  
22 ice for Allender, between us and him.

23 So we went and we sat there, and they told  
24 us that because of the fact that we were First Nations and

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1 Allender wasn't, that they said that they would up --  
2 uphold our rights as victims. And then, because we were  
3 First Nations, and then they asked him if he understood  
4 what his rights were, and he said yes. That he could  
5 either walk out, rather than have a regular parole hearing,  
6 or to have another Elder-Assisted Hearing applied for. But  
7 he said he wanted to continue with a regular parole  
8 hearing.

9 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And so what did you  
10 learn once the parole hearing got under way? Was this the  
11 first time you had ever heard Allender speak?

12 **MS. MELODIE CASELLA:** That we were really  
13 surprised that -- that he actually did speak at his -- his  
14 own parole hearing. And he had tried to -- to start to  
15 talk about what Dr. Lohrasbe was saying about -- about him.  
16 The -- the portions that were inadmissible in court of the  
17 Silence of the Lambs, and how it made him do what he did to  
18 Cheryl. And then, he was still using that after 25 years,  
19 and after all of the assessments that were done on him  
20 claiming his high level of accountability.

21 And through that information shared, that he  
22 started to say that he had -- in the '70s had these strobe-  
23 light effects. And when they asked him to explain it, he  
24 was saying, "It's like when the light goes on and you're

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1 fully aware of what you're doing and where your  
2 surroundings are, to the light going out and it's  
3 completely dark, and you don't know what happened." And  
4 then he had talked about this information, like, through --  
5 through his parole hearing.

6 And it was -- was like, he became so  
7 consumed, he forgot there were other people in the room.  
8 And then, finally, when he realized, I guess, that we were  
9 all sitting there, then he just closed right up. Shut  
10 right down and got really quiet. And then, the information  
11 that -- that he was sharing too about what he had done to  
12 Cheryl's body post-mortem, that he was trying to deny at  
13 first and then later would admit what he did.

14 And then, we had heard through, I guess, a  
15 psychologist through Mountain Institute on the assessments  
16 of what was done on Allender as well while he was in there,  
17 in giving what their view would be for him to be whether a  
18 high-risk or a low-risk to reoffend again. And he said he  
19 was medium to high-risk for sexual offences.

20 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And do you remember  
21 the psychologist report giving a diagnosis as to his  
22 condition?

23 **MS. MELODIE CASELLA:** They diagnosed him  
24 with erotophonophilia. And what that breaks down to is

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1 they say it's a lust murderer. And after we went to the  
2 parole hearing, I went online and started to research from  
3 some of the psychologists that had assessed people with  
4 this diagnosis who sexually mutilate their victims, or  
5 commit acts of cannibalism, or necrophilia, in his case was  
6 all three, that either they get caught or they end up  
7 dying. And if they caught, it's because when they go  
8 through this they have these fantasies of what they want to  
9 do, and then they eventually end up going out to fulfil  
10 that fantasy.

11 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Did you learn whether  
12 or not this condition is capable of being rehabilitated or  
13 cured?

14 **MS. MELODIE CASELLA:** With that psychologist  
15 report and what I was reading online, said that it's  
16 incurable.

17 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And so all the  
18 evidence at the parole hearing indicated to you what about  
19 his condition and whether or not he should be returned to  
20 society?

21 **MS. MELODIE CASELLA:** That through --  
22 through the diagnosis, through the institute itself, and  
23 saying that he's incurable, that it was part of my victim  
24 impact statement with the research that I did on the

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1 Correctional Service website. That the sexual offender  
2 program that they offered and claimed was in the advanced  
3 stages of participation and completion, that those programs  
4 are for acts of an offender doing either hetero,  
5 homosexual, or pedophilia, on living victims. And in this  
6 case, everything that he did to Cheryl was post-mortem.

7 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** You spoke about the --  
8 the bureaucracy of getting registered for the parole and  
9 the -- the lack of support. How do you believe that  
10 families should be supported in making and preparing for a  
11 parole (phonetic) -- a parole hearing?

12 **MS. MELODIE CASELLA:** That families need to  
13 be supported fully through this process from the beginning  
14 through to the end, and after the parole process. Because  
15 for us, you know, that we weren't prepared for what was  
16 going to happen at that institute. And then, having to go  
17 home and then to absorb the information that shared. And  
18 then, forcing a family into the position of becoming an  
19 expert researcher on the information of what's being  
20 delivered to a family, that I could never imagine what  
21 another family would go through if they didn't have  
22 somebody that would advocate or support them. But a family  
23 member shouldn't have to be that sole person to advocate  
24 and support, when they already have a lot going on in their



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1 own life.

2 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Delilah, am I correct  
3 that you registered with Victim Services and wrote an  
4 impact -- a victim impact statement as well?

5 **MS. DELILAH PIERRE:** Yes. With the help of  
6 my sister, I was registered.

7 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And were you told how  
8 the statement would be used?

9 **MS. DELILAH PIERRE:** Not specifically  
10 through the Parole Board, but they informed me to write a  
11 letter, or not -- not even to write a letter. I registered  
12 through the Parole Board for support of my mom and my  
13 sister. And I did not want to write a victim impact  
14 statement as I was 6 years-old at the time of Cheryl's  
15 murder. But I -- I had sleepless nights leading up to this  
16 parole and it was because I felt the need to write the  
17 victim impact statement because -- it was because of my  
18 Auntie Linda, which was the mother of Cheryl. And I -- I  
19 had to write this letter on her behalf because I watched  
20 her for 16 years suffer from 6 years-old to 26.

21 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Were you told whether  
22 or not Allender would be reading it?

23 **MS. DELILAH PIERRE:** No.

24 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Were you told whether



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Gertrude Pierre, Benedict Pierre, Trevor Joe & Melodie Casella  
In Relation to Cheryl Ann Joe & Linda Eleanor Joe

1 of my cousin, Cheryl Ann Joe, who was  
2 brutally murdered by Brian William  
3 Allender. Just a name to me. A name I  
4 never knew and due to his actions, a name  
5 that I will never forget. I feel the  
6 need to express myself through this very  
7 sad, depressing, and heavy heart. Not my  
8 heart, but spiritually. My late Auntie  
9 Linda Eleanor Joe's heart, the mother of  
10 Cheryl, the pain she endured from her  
11 daughter being murdered is pain I never  
12 understood because I was too young at the  
13 time.

14  
15 I write this statement remembering my  
16 late Auntie Linda Joe, the impact it had  
17 on her. I recollect the unconditional  
18 love she spread to her daughter,  
19 grandsons and extended family. But I  
20 also remember her as a broken mother of a  
21 murdered daughter. When I was young, I  
22 always wondered why she suffered the way  
23 she did. As my knowledge grew and  
24 details unfolded in regards to the murder

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In Relation to Cheryl Ann Joe & Linda Eleanor Joe

1 of my cousin, it is with too many  
2 feelings I cannot list, but simple to  
3 say, Allender committed the most horrific  
4 criminal act against a human being.

5  
6 This human being cannot be compared to  
7 anybody on this Earth, but someone I can  
8 only be told about through stories from  
9 my older relatives. My auntie suffered  
10 silently, but I know she felt she needed  
11 a purpose to life to try and protect her  
12 other daughter and grandsons that were  
13 left without a mother.

14  
15 Linda Eleanor Joe, who is not here today,  
16 she is not able to write a victim impact  
17 statement to present to you. Although, I  
18 believe the statement she would write  
19 would be pages long into a novel. My  
20 Auntie Linda is not able to voice her  
21 feelings as to how she lived without her  
22 beloved daughter, Cheryl. Depressingly,  
23 I can say the dark thoughts that flooded  
24 her mind are caused by a horrible,

56 Jason Pierre, Delilah Pierre,  
Gertrude Pierre, Benedict Pierre, Trevor Joe & Melodie Casella  
In Relation to Cheryl Ann Joe & Linda Eleanor Joe

1 graphic memories explained in court of  
2 Allender murdering her daughter.

3  
4 I cannot fully describe the suffering she  
5 felt, but I can try to express from  
6 childhood memories in how this affects me  
7 as an -- as a -- as an adult. I was too  
8 young at the time to understand her pain,  
9 to cry with her, share sleepless nights  
10 with her. But this year, this month, and  
11 this very moment I partially understand  
12 how the murder of her daughter tore her  
13 apart. Psychiatrists couldn't help her,  
14 counsellors continually prescribed  
15 medication to numb her, and doctors  
16 administered more pills to temporarily  
17 block out the memories. When my Auntie  
18 Linda woke -- awoke, the horrible  
19 memories would return, and another day  
20 would pass until the day she passed away  
21 and reunited with her daughter in Heaven.

22  
23 What I would like to say is this, if my  
24 aunt -- if my Auntie Linda, whom I

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In Relation to Cheryl Ann Joe & Linda Eleanor Joe

1 thought was one of the strongest women I  
2 ever known, could not heal spiritually,  
3 mentally, and physically, then how can  
4 the man that committed this infamous  
5 murder be healed from what he had done?  
6 Why is it now Allender thinks he can walk  
7 this Earth and rebirth a new life into  
8 society? A life that my Auntie Linda and  
9 Cheryl can no longer have?

10  
11 I remember my little cousin crying at --  
12 at night because he was scared that the  
13 same man was going to murder more people.  
14 This is the fear Allender instilled in my  
15 little cousin, the son of Cheryl. The  
16 continuous rippling effect from  
17 Allender's horrific murder damages so  
18 many of my family members. I cannot even  
19 fathom the idea of him being healed by  
20 taking particular programs in the  
21 penitentiary. My Auntie Linda could not  
22 be healed from the memories of her  
23 daughter being murdered by this man. If  
24 this man is deemed as safe to work

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Gertrude Pierre, Benedict Pierre, Trevor Joe & Melodie Casella  
In Relation to Cheryl Ann Joe & Linda Eleanor Joe

1 release programs, or parole, how should  
2 my family cope during this process? Too  
3 many questions that I am starting to ask  
4 with the possibility of no answers or  
5 response from this man, that I can no  
6 longer speak of.

7  
8 I have tried my best to get in touch with  
9 the same wavelength and strength as my  
10 Auntie Linda. I ponder on what thoughts  
11 crossed her mind, and what she would  
12 speak of this very day. My auntie was  
13 such a knowledgeable woman, with so much  
14 strength and love. I wish she could be  
15 here with me and my family. This is the  
16 reason I wrote this big V.I.S. It is to  
17 have a choice for someone that is no  
18 longer with us today -- is to have a  
19 voice for someone that is no longer with  
20 us today. I need to know that my family  
21 will be safe, and this man will not be  
22 able to walk the same streets as the rest  
23 of us, as we try to cope with the  
24 memories of what he did. Signed, Delilah

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1 Pierre"

2 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And Trevor, we spoke  
3 previously, do you believe Delilah was on the same  
4 wavelength as Linda?

5 **MR. TREVOR JOE:** I absolutely believe that.  
6 My grandma couldn't have wrote that any better herself. It  
7 was -- it was very, very articulated well.

8 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Delilah, I understand  
9 that there was a problem with your victim impact statement,  
10 and the statements of some of your other family members.  
11 Would you please tell the Commissioner what happened?

12 **MS. DELILAH PIERRE:** Well, we went to the  
13 parole hearing on December 13th of 2016. And I got a  
14 telephone call. I was with my mother on Friday. We went to  
15 a Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women meeting, and I just  
16 go for support for my mom, you know. And she's a board --  
17 she was a board member at that time. And I received a phone  
18 call, and it -- without even knowing that it was January  
19 20th, Friday, 2017, which is Cheryl's spiritual journey, the  
20 day that she was murdered, I got a phone call from the  
21 Parole Board.

22 I got a phone call from the Parole Board of  
23 Canada, and it was Patrick Storey, the Director of the  
24 Pacific Region, and he told me that my privacy was breached



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Gertrude Pierre, Benedict Pierre, Trevor Joe & Melodie Casella  
In Relation to Cheryl Ann Joe & Linda Eleanor Joe

1 from -- that my victim impact statement was disbursed to the  
2 wrong offender. And my name is written on that victim  
3 impact statement. And thankfully, I was with my mom because  
4 Lord knows, I don't know what I would have done if I was by  
5 myself. I fell apart on the phone, just crying in  
6 convulsions while Patrick was on the other line.

7 And I said, "What do you mean my privacy was  
8 breached? I don't even know what that means?" And he said  
9 that my letter, along with two other of my family members,  
10 including Trevor's and another cousin. Three out of the  
11 five, apparently my mom and my sister's weren't included,  
12 but they were given to another offender from -- for another  
13 parole hearing. And all he said was that my letter was  
14 immediately given back from this offender because he said,  
15 "I do not recognize these letters."

16 And then I -- I asked Patrick on the  
17 telephone, I -- I said, "How do I not know that this  
18 offender that received my letter, is another psychopath?  
19 Another murderer that now knows my name?" And I said, "For  
20 all I know, you know, in this day and age of social  
21 media" -- thankfully I don't -- I don't have Facebook. I  
22 don't have any social media, but this is not the reason why.  
23 I just don't follow social media. But in this day and age  
24 you can track anybody down. And then, Patrick tried to

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1 reassure me, and said, "You're -- you're going to be fine.  
2 You're -- you're safe. And that this person's hearing --  
3 parole hearing was immediately postponed since he received  
4 three letters, mistakenly."

5 And throughout registering with the Parole  
6 Board of Canada, I kept getting emails back from Lucinda,  
7 "We didn't receive your information. Can you resend it  
8 again?" I had about three or four times, "Can you please  
9 send your information?" This is my driver's licence, my  
10 registration, my S.I.N. number, all my personal information.  
11 Where was it going? Who was it going to? I have no idea.  
12 I still don't know. And then, for this to happen, it almost  
13 ruined my life. It did ruin my life.

14 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Can you tell us about  
15 the impact it has had on your life?

16 **MS. DELILAH PIERRE:** From that day in --  
17 January 20th on Friday, I feared for my safety because it's  
18 all I kept thinking. I went to this Parole Board to keep a  
19 criminal behind bars. I wrote that statement for my Auntie  
20 Linda. And then, I started regretting it because I felt  
21 like it put my life in danger. You know, I -- I work in a  
22 public outlet, and my name is registered online for my job  
23 that I carry.

24 And I fear that people would look up my name

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Gertrude Pierre, Benedict Pierre, Trevor Joe & Melodie Casella  
In Relation to Cheryl Ann Joe & Linda Eleanor Joe

1 and I -- I thankfully, you know, with the job position I  
2 have, I'm a casual, so I'm on-call for work. But I stopped  
3 taking those calls for work because I didn't want to go out  
4 anymore. I didn't want to -- you know, I lived in Vancouver  
5 and my family was in Sechelt. So from January 20th to this  
6 day, you know, over a year and three months, I -- I stopped  
7 going to work, and I -- I laid in bed. I -- I got anxiety.  
8 And I'm not a person -- I never had anxiety or fear  
9 instilled with me every day. You know, I work in the public  
10 health sector, and I never understood anxiety and depression  
11 until I started seeping into that.

12 Because I -- I feared for my life, wondering  
13 what kind of offender received my statement? Was he a  
14 murderer? And I asked Patrick that on the phone -- Patrick  
15 Storey. And he said, "I can't disclose that information,  
16 but I'm -- I'll know -- let you know that you're -- you're  
17 going to be fine because we did a risk assessment." And I  
18 said, "Well, how is that risk assessment done? Is this a  
19 psychological risk assessment? Is this based on the  
20 criminal charges of this offender?" He couldn't give me  
21 in -- information because it would breach the  
22 confidentiality of the offenders. Meanwhile, my  
23 safety -- and I was breached.

24 So I -- I stopped going to work. I almost

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In Relation to Cheryl Ann Joe & Linda Eleanor Joe

1 lost my job because I was wondering why they weren't calling  
2 me anymore. And I didn't fulfill the correct number of  
3 hours of work for a casual. And then, I had to appeal with  
4 my work. And thankfully, they had some understanding. But  
5 even though I wrote those letters, I didn't get support from  
6 work. I told them the circumstances of my anxiety and, you  
7 know, and it ruined my life. And thankfully, with the  
8 support of my family, my mom and my dad especially. The  
9 sleepless nights and when I couldn't get out of bed, and my  
10 mom would ask me just to go for a walk, and -- it was just  
11 really hard. And it still is.

12 I mean, I -- I could ride the SkyTrain to  
13 work and anybody that looks at me, then I'm thinking, "Do  
14 they know me?" And it -- it's that fear that they instilled  
15 in me because of what they did to me -- the Parole Board of  
16 Canada. And who did this? How did this happen? Why did  
17 this happen? You know, I -- I still have questions to this  
18 day. And I still don't have answers through the Parole  
19 Board of Canada or, you know, through the Privacy  
20 Commissioner. And it's -- it's been a long hard road, but  
21 with, you know, with the support of my -- my parents and my  
22 brothers and my sister. And it's been really hard dealing  
23 with this privacy breach because of Parole Board Canada  
24 faulty mistake. A filthy mistake that, no matter what they

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Gertrude Pierre, Benedict Pierre, Trevor Joe & Melodie Casella  
In Relation to Cheryl Ann Joe & Linda Eleanor Joe

1 say or do -- and they apologized in a letter, but I don't  
2 even accept that apology.

3 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And you mentioned the  
4 Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada, did you make a  
5 complaint, and did you have assistance to do that?

6 **MS. DELILAH PIERRE:** Not necessarily. It  
7 was, you know, through the support of my sister, you know,  
8 who's been very strong and supportive on my behalf, and  
9 telling me things and processes that I needed to get done to  
10 legally protect me. Or -- you know, so I followed-up with  
11 the First Nations Legal Clinic, which is located downtown  
12 for free support. And that was only because, you know, my  
13 mom and my sister kept telling me, you know, "You need to  
14 follow-up. You need to figure out and get answers." And,  
15 you know, so as tough as it was, I -- I registered through  
16 the First Nations Legal Clinic, and I told them my  
17 situation. You know, which they said that was quite  
18 serious.

19 And, you know, so they have articulated law  
20 students that were sent -- designated to my case. You know,  
21 I had about three or four filter through last year, and they  
22 filed a legal complaint to the Privacy Commissioner of  
23 Canada. When my sister went online through the Parole  
24 Board, and the steps and processes that the Parole Board of

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Gertrude Pierre, Benedict Pierre, Trevor Joe & Melodie Casella  
In Relation to Cheryl Ann Joe & Linda Eleanor Joe

1 Canada were supposed to follow with the Privacy Breach, and  
2 they were supposed to lodge a complaint through the Privacy  
3 Commissioner and follow steps and procedures in which the  
4 Parole Board of Canada did not do. It was only because I  
5 followed through with the First Nations Legal Clinic that  
6 they lodged a complaint to the Privacy Commissioner of  
7 Canada to figure out how this happened. How this privacy  
8 breach was turned into the wrong offender when this  
9 happened. And how this risk assessment was done.

10 Because all I had in the letter was saying,  
11 from the Parole Board of Canada, that this offender, "Will  
12 not harm older adult woman." What does that mean? I'm 31.  
13 Am I old? Is it Aboriginal woman? That's how vague they  
14 were in the letter. So I wanted to know, you know, and --  
15 and also in that letter they said, "A risk assessment was  
16 done." How? Through psychological reports? You know,  
17 is -- is this offender still going to be released?  
18 Additional to that letter they said that, "This offender  
19 would not be in the same region" as me. That, "He will  
20 still be released." So I wanted answers.

21 And the First Nations Legal Clinic filed  
22 this report with the Privacy Commissioner of Canada. And I  
23 only spoke with this Commissioner once, and he basically  
24 said the same thing. That, "You are not at risk or harm."

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1 And this was your telephone call. No follow-up. No -- no  
2 phone calls. Just all -- no written letters from the  
3 Privacy -- Privacy Commissioner of Canada. Except last July  
4 (sic) -- or September, saying, "We are now closing your file  
5 because we've seen that the Parole Board of Canada followed  
6 the correct measures of the complaint, and provided you  
7 answers, and that we feel satisfied. And we are now  
8 clousing (phonetic) -- closing your file."

9 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And so you've provided  
10 evidence of all the -- the correspondence you have received,  
11 correct?

12 **MS. DELILAH PIERRE:** Yes, I have.

13 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Okay. Thank you. So,  
14 Trevor, what effect did the death of your mother have on you  
15 as a young boy, growing into a man?

16 **MR. TREVOR JOE:** I think it definitely  
17 affected my relationship with women. It definitely -- it --  
18 it numbed my emotion. It was like my heart stopped beating  
19 in my chest when I was 9 years-old. And it didn't really  
20 start beating again until I seen my son a couple years ago.  
21 So I went through a real dark spell. Like I said, it -- it  
22 nullified my potential to the point where I just didn't  
23 really want to finish anything. I was really good at  
24 starting stuff and I just -- I didn't have the -- the

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Gertrude Pierre, Benedict Pierre, Trevor Joe & Melodie Casella  
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1 emotional support, or the confidence to carry out the  
2 endeavours that I was pursuing.

3 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And, Ben, would you  
4 share with us Cheryl's gifts and strengths as a person?

5 **MR. BENEDICT PIERRE:** Well, Cheryl's gifts,  
6 you know, what I, you know, recollect of her is, you know,  
7 her being the eldest grandchild of my Grannie Carrie's  
8 (phonetic) children, which was my Auntie Linda, you know,  
9 she was very, you know, cherished by my Grandmother Carrie.  
10 And took care of her as she was growing up because of some  
11 of the social challenges that she faced. But, you know, she  
12 was somebody that, you know, watched out for each and  
13 everyone of us, you know, Jason, Melodie, myself, my cousins  
14 Raquel, Dawn (phonetic), Dexter (phonetic), Sabina  
15 (phonetic), Charlene (phonetic), Roger.

16 You know, she was always the one that took  
17 care of us, especially in summer times. You know, whether  
18 it was babysitting us, being the eldest of all of the  
19 cousins. And, you know, like was mentioned earlier by my  
20 brother, we considered her more of a sister because, you  
21 know, she lived with us during periodic times. But, you  
22 know, some of the things we think about and recollect of her  
23 is, you know, like being a mother watching out over all the  
24 younger cousins. You know, head counts during swimming,



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1 during the summer. Making sure everybody was okay.

2 And the same experience with my brother,  
3 Jason. You know, mine was the same with the streets in  
4 Vancouver. She, you know, always protected us and watched  
5 over us. You know, because, you know, we lived periodically  
6 in Vancouver ourselves for a period of time. You know,  
7 always laughing, jovial. You know, she had dreams and  
8 aspirations and, you know, I -- I know one thing for sure,  
9 is that, you know, she loved her -- her three children  
10 dearly, with all of her heart. You know, and I think in  
11 some ways, you know, what ended up happened was, you know,  
12 the cause of her trying to, you know, collect money.

13 Unfortunately, she couldn't get it anywhere else. Trying to  
14 fight to get her children back, and to reconcile with them  
15 to bring them back to B.C. and be a family.

16 Unfortunately, you know, she met some very,  
17 you know, unfortunate circumstances. But she'll always  
18 stand out -- out in my mind as being a wonderful human being  
19 on this Earth, despite the difficult, you know, hurt and  
20 pain we carry. And what has been expressed today of the --  
21 the traumatic, you know, way that she was taken off of this  
22 Earth by Brian Allender. You know, there's a lot of other  
23 great things that will, in my mind, stay in my mind that  
24 I'll remember and try to remove that negative and hurtful

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1 feeling.

2 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And Melodie, you  
3 wanted to add about Cheryl's gifts and strengths?

4 **MS. MELODIE CASELLA:** That Cheryl was a very  
5 strong and resilient woman. And she was a person who would  
6 always try to find a solution to a problem. And then, I  
7 think a lot of what she shared with me as a young woman,  
8 that she did her best in -- in trying to -- to be supportive  
9 toward me and whatever that -- whatever it was that I was  
10 going through in my own life. And always finding a way to  
11 make me smile and see through that, that things would get  
12 better.

13 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Gertie, what do you  
14 hope will happen as a result of your testimony today?

15 **MS. GERTRUDE PIERRE:** Well, what I'd like to  
16 see is for women to have more safer places in society.  
17 Where they have safe houses, and they have more support  
18 services, and they, you know, can have a place to go when  
19 they, you know, don't be looking all over the place for  
20 support for counselling or anything. To have it in place  
21 for our women.

22 And, you know, for them to -- when they need  
23 to go to treatment, that the treatment's available. And  
24 they don't have to wait for weeks or months before they can

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1 go to try and rehabilitate themselves with the alcohol  
2 addictions, and the drug addictions.

3 And I really believe that, you know, the --  
4 the women really need to have the people show the respect,  
5 the caring, and the love that they deserve, instead of  
6 having the systemic violence that's going on around them.  
7 Because there's so much violence that is happening to our  
8 women today. So I think that we really need to have a lot  
9 of services for, not only the women, but the men to see, you  
10 know, how to treat women in a respectful way, instead of  
11 being so violent with them.

12 Because, you know, we -- we -- a lot of our  
13 people still are hurting from the residential school system  
14 that they were in. And that really needs to be looked at  
15 and worked with because we have a lot of people that carry  
16 the hurt. And, you know, in residential school you were  
17 never, ever taught to be a parent. You were never taught to  
18 love. You were never taught to care. You were isolated.  
19 You never done anything, you know, everything was grouped  
20 together. Never anything was done individually. You never  
21 thought for yourself. So now, today, our people really need  
22 to see that they are invaluable, and that they can do, you  
23 know, the things that they need to do to go back to school,  
24 educate themselves, become good parents. And, you know,

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1 love, and care, and respect one another. I really believe  
2 that, you know, we really need to look at that.

3 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And, Trevor, would you  
4 tell us what you hope will happen as a result of your  
5 testimony today, with respect to children of murdered and --  
6 and missing women?

7 **MR. TREVOR JOE:** I'm hoping -- I -- I think  
8 that kids dealing with this kind of trauma, the best thing  
9 for them -- like, we all talk about counselling and  
10 psychiatry, and stuff. And it's good to -- to have those  
11 people to talk to, but I found what benefited me most, was  
12 being a part of sports teams because they didn't just help  
13 me through that time. I still have some of those teammates  
14 from when I was 8, 9 years-old that are great friends with  
15 me today. So I think for a kid growing up, if you get him  
16 around the right sports team and you keep him real busy,  
17 it'll -- it'll benefit -- it'll benefit them their whole  
18 lives.

19 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And, Trevor, you --  
20 you just whispered to me that you had a message that you  
21 wanted to send to Canadians?

22 **MR. TREVOR JOE:** My message was that I'm  
23 very grateful and honoured to be a part of this healing, but  
24 the fact that we're here exemplifies racial and gender

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1 inequality in our country. Thank you.

2 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Ben, what do you hope  
3 will happen as a result of your testimony today?

4 **MR. BENEDICT PIERRE:** Well, for me, first  
5 and foremost, you know, the -- this Inquiry has given a  
6 voice to my family. You know, you've heard, you know,  
7 through some of this testimony a lot of, you know, hurt and  
8 pain. The concerns that we have about the -- the  
9 institutions of the judicial system, or the justice, you  
10 know, involving the police, coroners, you know, media  
11 issues, you -- you know. And so many things, you know, have  
12 happened and are unfolded throughout this process that, you  
13 know, we're bringing to light that we hope that can shed  
14 some light where some changes need to take place. You know,  
15 for families, you know, that have to go and experience  
16 through this thing when these, you know, horrible things,  
17 you know, happen in society. And families have to be  
18 confronted to deal with this.

19 You know, we have to be on that, you know,  
20 level equal playing field. Like my -- my cousin just talked  
21 about, you know, the racial or gender biases. You know,  
22 the -- the colonial, you know, views on institutions. And  
23 one of the things in following the Inquiry that, you know, I  
24 want to really bring attention to is the -- the provincial

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1 government who's currently, you know, led by the N.D.P. and  
2 the -- the Green Coalition. Is that under the -- the  
3 Liberal government, the terms of reference was -- was set up  
4 regarding the Missing and Murdered Women Indigenous Inquiry  
5 (sic), so under the -- the Privacy Inquiry Act -- the terms  
6 of reference was set up, you know, through the information  
7 that was collaborated between Judy Wilson Raybould and the  
8 Attorney General in B.C., where there's a document, it's  
9 Document 802, the Missing and Murdered Women and Girls  
10 Inquiry (sic). And it was enacted November 9th, 2016  
11 following information from the federal government, that  
12 there's a Section -- Section 42, Subsection A and B, where  
13 the Commission cannot find any misconduct, you know, by any  
14 persons or cannot create any reports of any misconduct of  
15 findings by person or persons. And they cannot -- the  
16 Commission also cannot, you know, question the -- the issues  
17 related to any prosecutorial decisions made by, you know,  
18 the justice system.

19 And a lot of the different things that we  
20 related to around the parole breach, you know, the hearings  
21 and the information, you know, and if it wasn't for my  
22 sister, how aggressive and intelligent she is with her  
23 research and her education at bringing all this stuff to  
24 light, you know, we really need to have that stricken. You

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1 know, and what the Liberal government adopted and have  
2 the -- the N.D.P., you know, amend that so the Commission  
3 can go out and hold people responsible and accountable. You  
4 know, just like an example is in Ontario with the police out  
5 there with the issues back east that they're faced with,  
6 that the -- the Commission was able, through their process  
7 with all the other 14 province and the territorial  
8 governments, where there's a forensic team that's set up  
9 that is, you know, and all of the issues that were done in  
10 Ontario by the police, you know, where they're able to  
11 question to find if there's any findings of misconduct.

12 Because me and my cousin were talking before  
13 we came in here, is that, you know, this process is set-up  
14 because there are faults. And those faults have to be  
15 corrected. And, you know, there has to be, you know,  
16 restructuring, whether it's policies, or legislation,  
17 whatever it may be in order for the change to start  
18 happening, you know, on the ground for our Aboriginal  
19 communities. Whether you're living in a rural area or an  
20 urban area, you know, that there are so many things that are  
21 an unequal playing field for our people. And we're over  
22 represented in a lot of different areas in society, but  
23 we're yet -- we're such a small margin.

24 So I think these are the changes I want to

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1 be part of in what we shared today in honouring my cousin  
2 Cheryl. Bringing a voice to her spirit, my Auntie Linda's  
3 spirit, my Grannie Carrie's spirit. Because that's what we  
4 want to change for those future generations as we -- we move  
5 forward. You know, because that's what we all have to do  
6 together, is move forward together as one. And to make it a  
7 better society for everybody. Thank you.

8 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And, Delilah, what do  
9 you hope will happen with respect to privacy breaches as a  
10 result of your testimony today?

11 **MS. DELILAH PIERRE:** Well, I want  
12 accountability with the Parole Board of Canada. For people  
13 to properly do their job and keep the community safe. But  
14 they did the total opposite by putting me in the danger  
15 zone. And then, I also want the Privacy Commissioner in  
16 Canada to do their job properly, to follow-up on these  
17 cases, with this privacy breach. And do a thorough  
18 investigation, rather than a slap on the wrist and say that,  
19 you know, we're letting this offender go, and you're safe.  
20 Changes need to be made and procedures need to be followed  
21 properly and safely in the institutions when families are  
22 going to the Parole Board because that was hard enough as it  
23 was for my family. Let alone, to deal with the privacy  
24 breach. If things were done properly then, you know, the --



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1 our voices need to be heard as a family.

2 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Thank you. And,  
3 Melodie, what do you hope will happen as a result of your  
4 testimony today regarding the Pathway Initiative, and the  
5 Parole Board, and resources for families?

6 **MS. MELODIE CASELLA:** That I think in the  
7 research that I had done for the Pathway Initiative program  
8 that had been started in Ontario, that it was set up because  
9 we're -- our First Nations People are over represented in  
10 the institutions. And that it was something that was  
11 helping, then they opened the floodgates for everybody to be  
12 a part of this program, and to claim our culture when there  
13 are so many offenders that have violated our Indigenous  
14 people. That that has to be relooked at. And then,  
15 reconsidered seriously so no other family will ever have to  
16 go through what my family did sitting in that room that day,  
17 to be told that there's an Elder-Assisted Hearing. What if  
18 it was a family that didn't know they had rights and they  
19 went and they sat through the process? And had an Elder  
20 sitting next to an offender who murdered -- brutally  
21 murdered their cousin, their mother, their sister, their  
22 auntie, grandmother?

23 That we have to work to look at protecting  
24 our people in our communities by adjusting these programs

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1 that are set up for offenders to be able to fall through the  
2 cracks and slip through the system and end up back amongst  
3 society. Because these issues that my family dealt with,  
4 that -- that I cannot help but go back to, if a family  
5 didn't have somebody that would be strong enough, even  
6 though they didn't feel that strong, to research and do  
7 everything that they could to try and find some form of  
8 justice or answers that my family needed through the Parole  
9 Board of Canada.

10 That you -- like I said, you become the  
11 expert. You know, and I was fortunate to be sponsored to go  
12 get a degree in the university, but it wasn't intended to  
13 become this researcher to fight against Victim Service, the  
14 Parole Board, Correctional Service Canada. And then, later  
15 help my sister with the Privacy Commission of Canada. That  
16 these injustices shouldn't happen after the incarceration of  
17 an offender. Because you're absolutely re-victimized all  
18 over again, and wondering how could we have faith in that  
19 system? So I feel that the changes through that Pathway  
20 Initiative, the "Red Path", that has to be reconsidered.  
21 The Elder-Assisted Hearings has to be reconsidered. And  
22 that the whole assessments that happen with offenders in  
23 institutions, there has to be a better assessment that  
24 will -- if they're going to be doing some kind of programs,

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1 that it should be listed and outlined for a family to be  
2 made aware up front. Not sitting in the next room before a  
3 parole hearing happens.

4 And I think something that I was hoping to  
5 have happen when I attended a Victim Advisory Council  
6 meeting with my mom and Freda, that when a family goes  
7 through a court process, they're not ready in a position to  
8 be registered through Victim Services because of either the  
9 offender's getting a light sentence, but they still have the  
10 right to be registered. But at the time that a -- that a  
11 family is probably not ready to be registered. So I had  
12 suggested to say to the Pacific Region Director of Victim  
13 Services, "Why can't there be a form to have a family member  
14 say, 'Please contact me in six months because I'm not ready  
15 to register. And I may be ready in six months or a year.'"

16 Because at the time, you don't feel ready  
17 because you want to leave that part behind you and start to  
18 move on with your life. But then, we ended up getting  
19 registered, like, just before that parole hearing, my mom  
20 and I. And I wish that we had had that opportunity from the  
21 beginning, well after the -- the court proceedings. But  
22 there was no option to be registered through Victim Services  
23 in six months or a year. So I think after a court  
24 proceeding, that that should be made available to us.

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1           And that the advocacy and support should be  
2           the moment a family member is registered to help and assist  
3           them because if other families want to be a part of it, that  
4           should be made available as well. Instead of from the  
5           distance of what my family had to go through. And I'm sure  
6           that any other family in Canada that's in a rural community,  
7           they probably don't even have a Victim Service office. So I  
8           think that there should be better access to families to get  
9           the supports that they need in preparation for a parole  
10          hearing, and all of the paper work that's to follow.  
11          Because we don't -- some of us don't have the technology to  
12          be scanning things, or even emailing. We -- some can't  
13          afford it, it's too expensive.

14                   **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And do you think that  
15          a clinically diagnosed dangerous offender, who has no chance  
16          of being cured, should be considered for parole on the basis  
17          that you understand to be considered?

18                   **MS. MELODIE CASELLA:** No. Because this  
19          process of what they were doing, like I said, through all  
20          the different programs that happened in the institution,  
21          it's based on the level of risk for escape, not the reality  
22          of diagnosis of what's happening by a psychologist with the  
23          offender. So it has to become a full-type package deal for  
24          assessment, not just based on whether or not they're going

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1 to flee the facility, or run away on a work release program.  
2 There's more to it.

3 From what you've heard today on what he did  
4 to my cousin Cheryl, that was never considered, or never a  
5 part of, or even the psychological reports that I read of  
6 the medium to high risk of reoffending of a sexual nature.  
7 But that's -- doesn't even describe what he did to my cousin  
8 Cheryl.

9 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** And I understand you  
10 wanted to give a message to Canadians about why they should  
11 be concerned, as you are.

12 **MS. MELODIE CASELLA:** The message that I  
13 would like to share, through everything that my family has  
14 gone through, from the moment we found out Cheryl was  
15 murdered up until well after the parole hearing, the people  
16 in Canada have to be afraid of this system that's become a  
17 revolving door of offenders. Because this person who did  
18 this to my cousin was a hockey coach for young boys. He was  
19 implored to -- to be trusted to be with these children. And  
20 then, when you learn about the other offenders that are out  
21 there, they could be the person driving your cab, driving  
22 your bus, walking down the street, somebody that passes you  
23 by without you even knowing it.

24 That everybody in Canada should be scared of

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1 what's happening with Correctional Services Canada, and what  
2 my family has gone through. And with the thoughts of, what  
3 could have happened if -- if we hadn't been a part of that  
4 parole process, and he was out? Because they based it on  
5 the level of risk for him escaping, not the level of risk  
6 of -- of him reoffending and doing this to somebody else.  
7 And having another family going through the grief of what  
8 we've gone through.

9 So I think that with what the opportunity  
10 that we've had to sit here today, that I'm hoping that the  
11 people in Canada will -- will seriously think about what's  
12 happening with Correctional Services Canada because this  
13 isn't right. This isn't justice from when he was sent to  
14 prison.

15 **MR. BREEN OUELLETTE:** Thank you. I will now  
16 ask the Commissioner if he has any questions for the family.

17 **COMMISSIONER BRIAN EYOLFSON:** Thank you very  
18 much. I don't have any particular questions. I think at  
19 this point, I just want to thank each of you for coming and  
20 sharing with us today. For being able to have the strength  
21 to share such a terrible loss, but -- and I just want to  
22 acknowledge your strength and resilience as a family as  
23 well. For -- and thank you for coming here and telling us  
24 about Cheryl and sharing some good things as well. Some

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1 good memories and the -- the photos that were put up. So I  
2 want to thank you for contributing to the work of the  
3 Inquiry, for sharing your truths with not just us, but all  
4 of Canada today.

5 And as an appreciation for you giving that  
6 gift of your truth and sharing it, we have some small gifts  
7 of reciprocity we'd like to share with you before we wrap  
8 up. I'm going to ask the Grandmothers here with me, Blu and  
9 Florence, if they'll -- they'll help with these gifts before  
10 we wrap up.

11 **MS. LAUREEN "BLU" WATERS-GAUDIO:** So on  
12 behalf of -- so on behalf of the Commission, we'd like to  
13 offer you these small gifts. These are eagle feathers which  
14 have come from Thompson. The matriarchs here sent us 500 of  
15 them, and we went through them with families like yourself,  
16 to show respect to you. And to give you a tool that you can  
17 use on your healing journey. So these are eagle feathers  
18 that were collected through Thompson, Manitoba. And as well  
19 as with them there's packages of seeds. And those seeds are  
20 wild strawberries. So we give them to you because number  
21 one, they're a woman's medicine. So in memory of your --  
22 your loved one. And also, to remind you of -- you put those  
23 seeds in the dark and they stay dormant for a long time, but  
24 then they start to grow. And once they see that light, they

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1 flourish, and they come -- they come alive. And your family  
2 is very strong like that. You've come together, very strong  
3 like those roots that exist underground, and we wanted to  
4 thank you for the work and the information you gave us  
5 today. So thank you so much, and we really appreciate that.  
6 Ay ay.

7 (SINGING AND DRUMMING FOR THE FAMILY)

8 MR. BREEN OUELLETTE: Pardon me? Oh, yes,  
9 of course. Commissioner, I'm adjourning this hearing on  
10 your behalf.

11 --- Exhibits (code: P01P15P0402)

12 **Exhibit 1:** Folder of three images on shown during the  
13 public testimony of the family.

14 **Exhibit 2:** Linda Joe video (16.8 MB, 43 seconds, MP4  
15 format.

16 **Exhibit 3:** Letter of Gertrude Pierre to Corrections  
17 Service Canada, dated August 16, 2016.

18 **Exhibit 4:** Letter of Delilah Pierre to Corrections Service  
19 Canada, dated October 25, 2016.

20 **Exhibit 5:** Letter of Trevor Joe to the Parole Board of  
21 Canada (undated).

22 **Exhibit 6:** Letter to Raquel Marjorie Joe (undated and  
23 unsigned).

24 **Exhibit 7:** Second letter of Melodie Pierre to Corrections



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1 Service Canada, dated August 16, 2016.

2 **Exhibit 8:** Corrections Service Canada/Victim Services -  
3 Pacific Region letter to Melodie Casella, dated  
4 January 16, 2017.

5 **Exhibit 9:** Parole Board of Canada Decision re: Day  
6 Parole, Full Parole Denied, dated January 13,  
7 2017 (eight pages including covering letter  
8 addressed to Melodie Casella).

9 **Exhibit 10:** Letter of Patrick Storey, Parole Board of  
10 Canada, to Delilah Pierre, dated January 26,  
11 2017.

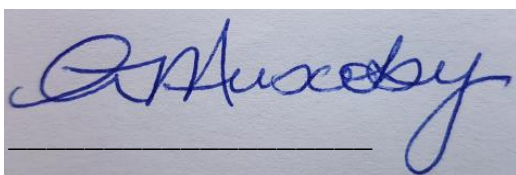
12 **Exhibit 11:** Letter of Jason Trudeau, Office of the Privacy  
13 Commissioner of Canada, to Ms. Pierre, stamped  
14 November 8, 2017.

15 **Exhibit 12:** Letter of Patricia Barkaskas, Academic Director  
16 of the Peter A. Allard Law School Indigenous  
17 Community Legal Clinic, to Delilah Pierre dated  
18 August 23, 2017 (seven pages including  
19 supportin documentation).

20 --- Upon adjourning at 1:32 p.m.

LEGAL DICTA-TYPIST'S CERTIFICATE

I, Amanda Muscoby, 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.



Amanda Muscoby

April 12, 2018